

May 2026 Messenger



Greetings from Pastor Todd:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 explains that there is a season for everything and a time for every matter; a time to be born, a time to die; a time to plant, a time to harvest; a time to weep, a time to laugh; a time to mourn, a time to dance; a time to love and a time to hate.

The month of May is full of new opportunities, new beginnings. For our younger generations (and their families) school will soon be ending for the summer. For some this means never stepping foot into a classroom again and instead, becoming part of the workforce. For others, there are many more years of formal education ahead.

For many more, the daily grind of work continues and yet there is the promise of warmer weather ahead and outdoor activities; perhaps even a vacation to look forward to. For those living the dream of retirement, May brings with it plenty of chances to see family members and enjoy the precious moments of life with grandkids.

Whatever describes you and your situation, scripture reminds us that every day is a gift from God. Every good experience we have is an example of God's blessing upon us, and every difficulty we face can be seen as a way for us to grow closer to God and feel His loving presence with us as he guides us through the pain we are experiencing. Amen.

Daring Joy by Deacon Jackie

For many people, the Easter season is filled with bright colors, joyful music, and the triumphant message that *Christ is risen!* But for those who are grieving the loss of someone they love, this season can feel complicated. The alleluias may feel too loud. The lilies may feel out of place. And the empty chair at the table can make even the most joyful celebration feel tender.

If you are walking through grief this Easter, you are not alone.

The first disciples knew this feeling well. Before they ever saw the risen Jesus, they walked away from His tomb with heavy hearts. They believed the story had ended in tragedy. Without the resurrection, the cross would have been nothing but despair—a heartbreaking ending to a beautiful life.

But Easter tells us *the rest of the story*.

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!”

— *Luke 24:5–6*

The resurrection does not erase our grief, but it transforms it. It tells us that death does not have the final word. It tells us that God’s love, grace, and mercy reach farther than the grave. It tells us that the One who died for us has defeated death once and for all.

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

— *1 Corinthians 15:54*

When we lose someone we love—especially during the Easter season—the message of the resurrection becomes even more precious. It reminds us that our tears matter to God. It reminds us that Jesus Himself wept at the tomb of His friend. And it reminds us that because Christ lives, those who die in Him live also.

Easter hope is not a denial of our pain. It is God’s promise spoken *into* our pain.

So if this season finds you grieving, may you hear the gentle truth of Easter in a new way:

The story is not over.

Love is stronger than death.

And the risen Christ walks with you, even on the hardest days.

May God’s peace surround you, may His comfort hold you, and may His resurrection promise give you strength for each new morning.

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed.

Alleluia

Church News

St. John Lutheran Church
 Sunday Worship Service 8:30 a.m.

Pastor Todd Burrichter
 (641) 228-0235
 pastortoddburrichter@gmail.com

Deacon Jackie Schilling
 (319) 504-6583
 jschilling610@gmail.com

Church Secretary: Lisa Acton
 Office email: stjohnlutherannashua@gmail.com
 Website: www.stjohnnashua.org
 Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnlutherannashua>

Council Members

President: **Tom Franzen**
 Vice President: **Zach Huffman**
 Council Secretary: **Angie Dietz**
 Building & Grounds: **Jermey Wolf**
 Technology: **Zach Huffman**
 Worship & Music: **Burce Bruns**
 Additional members:
Greg Henn, Roger Garbes, Connor Sullivan, Christopher Kalvig, Lisa Acton

Additional Leaders

Finance: **Mark Rodruck**
 Treasurer: **Jo Henn**
 Agape: **Ann Senner**
 Jubilee: **Bruce Bruns**
 Custodians: **Rod & Beth Wilson**
 Organists: **Ann Senner & Hannah Pederson**

April 2026 General Fund Report:

Balance 3/01/2026	14,531.61
Receipts	16,076.60
Expenses	21,462.18
Transfers	(210.00)
Balance 3/31/2026	8,936.03

General fund is down \$5,596 for the month and up \$8,892 for the year.

Plan ahead for June 9th from 12:30-5:00pm for the blood drive. You can reach Myrna at 641-435-4804 or visit: RedCrossBlood.org and search Sponsor code Nashua to make an appointment. Your help is greatly appreciated.



Feeding His Sheep in Nashua

Compass Center; Lunches; **Every Tuesday** Free-Will Offering 11:30-12:30 p.m.
Nashua Food Pantry: 115 Woodbridge St.; Downtown Every Friday; 9-11 a.m. & on Call.
Mobile Food Pantry: **March 19th**.....(Every 3rd Thursday)..... 4-5:30 p.m.



The Community Pantry At St. John Lutheran Church Use North Door Entrance At 300 Merrill St; Nashua

Monday.....9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Tuesday.....9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Wednesday.....9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Thursday.....9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Closed Friday
 Saturday.....By Appointment

Other times by Appointment: Call 641-435-2396

Graduation News

St. John is proud to celebrate a remarkable group of young adults who have reached an important milestone in their lives—graduation. This season marks not only the culmination of years of dedication and hard work, but also the beginning of exciting new journeys filled with opportunity and purpose.

Graduating from Nashua-Plainfield High School are Karson Chyma, Grace Dietz, Landon Foelske, Kami Hanneman, Sam O'Neill, and Trent Rodruck. From Waverly-Shell Rock High School, we recognize Harleigh Regenold for this achievement.

Continuing their educational accomplishments, Dawson Demro has graduated from Hawkeye Community College, and JR O'Neill from Kirkwood Community College. Drew Rodruck celebrates graduation from the University of Northern Iowa, and Mackenzie Foelske from Wartburg College.

Each of these graduates has demonstrated commitment, perseverance, and growth, and their community at St. John shares in the joy of their success. As they step forward into the next chapter of their lives—whether that means further education, careers, or new adventures—they carry with them the support and pride of those around them.

Please keep these graduates in your prayers as they begin this new step in their life journey. May they be guided with wisdom, strengthened with courage, and blessed with opportunities to use their gifts in meaningful ways.

Homebound Members

Liz Arends: Accura Healthcare, New Hampton

Burton and Edna Dietz: Clarksville Assisted Living Ctr.

Virginia Kraft: Cedar Vale, Nashua

Phyllis Kunzman: 11th St. Chautauqua, Charles City

June Marth: West Des Moines, Iowa

Don Niemeyer: Clarksville Skilled Nursing & Rehab Ctr.

Mary Lou Phyfe: Clarksville Skilled Nursing & Rehab Ctr.

Beth Waller: Maquoketa, Iowa

Verna Wiebke: Linden Place, Bartels, Waverly



- 11 Angie Baldwin
- 13 Drew Rodruck
- 14 Cindy Frost
- 14 Sarah O'Neill
- 15 Janet Pagel
- 15 Gary Olsen
- 16 Ken Haut
- 16 Sarah Sudol
- 18 Thomas Lindloff
- 19 Bob Beck
- 19 Trent Rodruck
- 19 Kendall Miller
- 21 Jeanett Schluter
- 26 Don Niemeyer
- 28 Kelsey Poppe
- 28 William Lindloff

“Movie Music Magic” Recital to Delight Audience at St. John Lutheran Church



Music and movie lovers alike are invited to enjoy an afternoon of familiar tunes and youthful talent at the upcoming “Movie Music Magic” recital. Hosted by Laurie Kristiansen and her students, the event will take place on Sunday, May 3, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. John Lutheran Church.

The recital will showcase both piano and guitar students performing selections inspired by some of their favorite films. Audience members can look forward to recognizable music from classics such as *The Sound of Music*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Star Wars*, among others. In addition to instrumental performances, the program will include vocal numbers, adding even more variety to the afternoon’s entertainment.

The recital will conclude with a group finale featuring “I Believe in Music,” a well-known song by Mac Davis, bringing all performers together for a memorable ending.

This free event is open to both the congregation and the public, offering a wonderful opportunity to support local students and enjoy a selection of beloved movie music in a welcoming community setting.

Pantry News



Community Pantry Earns High Marks, Invites Public to Open House

The Community Pantry in Nashua continues to make a meaningful impact for local families, recently earning a 97% approval score during an inspection conducted by the Northeast Iowa Food Bank (NEIFB). The evaluation, led by Community Programs Manager Tia Gutierrez, assessed key areas including organization, food variety, labeling, data collection, volunteer engagement, and overall cleanliness. Out of a possible 100 points, the pantry's 97th percentile score reflects its strong commitment to quality service and community care.

The pantry is currently well stocked, offering a wide selection of essential items such as frozen meats, vegetables, milk, eggs, beverages, fresh produce, canned goods, and snacks. Individuals and families who may be concerned about having enough food are encouraged to visit. After completing a brief registration process, clients can select items with the help of friendly volunteers, ensuring a supportive and personalized experience.

In recognition of World Hunger Day, the Community Pantry will host a public open house on Thursday, May 28, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Community members are invited to stop by, tour the facility, and learn more about its services. Volunteers and representatives from the Northeast Iowa Food Bank will be available to answer questions and share information about local hunger relief efforts.

Regular pantry hours are:

- Monday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Tuesday: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Thursday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Saturday: By appointment only (641-435-2396)

The Community Pantry remains a vital resource in the Nashua area, dedicated to ensuring no neighbor goes without access to nutritious food.

Sunday Servants:

	3-May	10-May	17-May	24-May	31-May
Head Usher	Tom Franzen	Tom Franzen	Tom Franzen	Tom Franzen	Tom Franzen
Lector	Katie Burrichter	Lori Bruns	Joan Lore	Linda Becker	
Sound	Kif Richmann	Jeff Trost		Troy Stille	
Video	Joan Lore	Wyatt or Lyla Burrichter	Carter Hennick	Katelyn Wolf	
Greet/Offering	Myrna Ross	Deniss/Zelda Demro	Huffman Family	Tom & Joy Krieger	
Communion	Matt Hannemann	Rod & Beth Wilson	None needed	None needed	None needed

Camp News

2026 SUMMER CAMP

EWALU

As a Lutheran outdoor ministry, Ewalu offers a variety of programs all summer for youth in grades 1 to 12, guided by trained counselors. Adults and younger kids can join in with Family Camp and Grandparent Camp! **Our "tiered pricing" makes camp more affordable than ever. No child is turned away for reasons of financial need—details and request form online.**

REGISTER NOW!

See all our programs, the summer schedule and pricing online:
www.Ewalu.org/Summer-Camp

More questions? Check out our FAQs at the link above, or contact the camp office at Office@ewalu.org or 563-933-4700.

EARLY DISCOUNTS

Register by **FEBRUARY 28** and take **\$40 off** all full-week overnight youth programs (take \$20 off shorter and family programs).
 Register by **APRIL 15** and take **\$20 off** full-week overnight programs (\$10 off shorter programs).
Details online. Works with any tier!

THIS YEAR'S THEME:

37776 Alpha Ave., Strawberry Point, IA 52076
 563-933-4700
 camp@ewalu.org
 www.ewalu.org

HYMNS AND HITS WITH LOVE & THE OUTCOME

SPARROW

T O U R



SCAN TO BUY TIX



AUGUST 14, 2026
DOORS 6PM / 7PM SHOW

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 MERRILL STREET
NASHUA, IOWA 50658

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26 8:30am Nashua Jubilee Service 10am Senior Breakfast Following se 10:30am St. John (Stapleton)	27 9am Food Pantry	28 9am Food Pantry 9am Megan office	29 8am Megan office 9am Comm Pantry 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun	30 Jackie out of office 9am Pantry 3pm Megan Office	May 1 Pantry Closed	2 7am Men's Breakfast
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 8:30am Nashua Jubilee Communion 10:30am St. John (Stapleton)	11 8am Megan office 9am Food Pantry 5:30pm Cub Scouts	12 9am Food Pantry	13 9am Comm Pantry 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun 6:30pm Baccalaureate	14 9am Pantry	15 Pantry Closed	16
17 8:30am Nashua Trad Service 10:30am St. Peter (Richfield) 3:30pm Graduation	18 9am Food Pantry 5:30pm Cub Scouts	19 9am Food Pantry	20 9am Comm Pantry 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun	21 9am Pantry 9:30am Book Club 4pm Mobile Food Pantry of Chickas	22 Jackie out of office Pantry Closed	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Jun 1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am Nashua Traditional service	Pastor Food out of office 9am Food Pantry 5:30pm Cub Scouts	9am Food Pantry	9am Comm Pantry 5pm Worship with Bible Study 5pm Food, Family, Fun	9am Pantry 3pm Open House	Pantry Closed 9am Pantry	7am Men's Breakfast

St. John Lutheran Church

300 Merrill St.

P.O. Box 575

Nashua, IA 50658