

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, CORDOVA, NEBRASKA

June, 2026 Newsletter

Rev. Shawn Kitzing
Interim Pastor



“Serving Christ in
our Communities,
Nation and World”

Welcome

Join us for Worship
Services Sundays at
9:00 a.m. or on
Facebook.

Inside this issue:

Interim Pastor Office Hours	2
Voting to Call Pastor	
Hymn Sing June 7th	
Confirmants & Verses	
Happy Father's Day	
VBS Needs You	
VBS Registration	
June Birthdays & Baptism Birthdays	3
Serving in God's House in June	
Elders Meeting	
York Pregnancy Needs	
Camp Luther Camps	
Our Shut-Ins	
Men's Bible Study	
Camp Luther Weekend	4
Lydia LWML	
Ice Cream Social	
Dorcas LWML	
Small Group Study	
Offerings & Designations	
June Calendar	5
A Prayer to Our Omnipotent God	6

St. John's Vacation Bible School

In less than two months, we will be hosting a week-long Vacation Bible School for children ages 3–12, on **July 27–31, from 5:00–8:00 p.m.**



One of our Bible stories for this week is about Naomi and Ruth. Naomi and her husband and two sons had left Bethlehem because of a famine where they lived and traveled to the land of Moab. While living there, her two sons married Moabite women (Ruth and Orpah). Then Naomi's husband and both her sons died.

After living there ten years, Naomi learned that the famine they had fled had ended, so she made plans to return to Judah. Her two daughters-in-law planned on going with her, but she wanted them to stay in their homeland. Ruth refused to leave Naomi's side, saying:

“Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.
Your people will be my people and your God my God.”

Think of the loss both of these women had been through. Naomi had lost her husband and her two sons. Ruth had also lost her husband. Sometimes in loss and loneliness we lost hope, and we wonder if God is with us or for us. God found both Naomi and Ruth in their loneliness, and brought them into His family.

God also welcomes us into His family. He is always with us. Our faithful God welcomes us into His family and gives us new hope through faith in Jesus.

Isaiah 41:10

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

We are looking for volunteers for Vacation Bible School the last week of July. Most of us will never travel as missionaries to a foreign land. This week of VBS we can share the good news of the Gospel with the children that attend. Prayerfully consider helping by volunteering if you can.

People ask me why I care about VBS so much. I always tell them when I was little someone cared enough to put on VBS for me, and taught me about God's love.

Interim Pastoral Office Hours

We are blessed to have our Interim Pastor, Pastor Kitzing continuing to guide our congregation.

Starting Wednesday, June 3rd, at 1:00 p.m., he will be setting aside Wednesday afternoons to meet with members. Whether you are going through a difficult time, would like to discuss a personal matter, or simply want to chat, please know he is available.

Please feel free to stop by the church.

Voting to Call a New Pastor

At this time the call committee has chosen 2 candidates for a new pastor. We plan to vote on this matter at a special voter meeting to be held on Sunday, June 28th, at 11:00 am following Bible Study.

Please plan to participate. More information about the candidates will be available soon.

Hymn Sing Sunday June 7th

Hymn Sing Sunday is every first Sunday of the month. Come early at 8:50 a.m. and pick out your favorite hymn and sing with us!

Our 2026 Confirmands & their Confirmation Verses

Crosby Everett Oldehoeft

Son of Chad & Kendra Oldehoeft

Verse: John 3:17 (ESV)

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Mason John Vyhnaelek

Son of Steve & Sarah Vyhnaelek

Verse: Job 23:12 (ESV)

"I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food."

Lynn Aubrey Jurgensen

Daughter of Paul & Amy Jurgensen

Verse: Luke 1:37 (ESV)

"For nothing will be impossible with God."

Myles Patrick Vyhnaelek

Son of Steve & Sarah Vyhnaelek

Verse: Psalm 62:2 (ESV)

"He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken."



God's Blessings to our 2026 Confirmands

Pastor Kitzing,
Crosby Oldehoeft, Mason Vyhnaelek,
Lynn Jurgensen, Myles Vyhnaelek

Happy Father's Day!



St. John's VBS Needs You!



We are tracking through the jungle for an unforgettable week on **July 27-31!**

To make this adventure happen for our kids (ages 3-12), we need an amazing volunteer crew.

Whether you want to lead a crew, help with jungle crafts, or serve island snacks, there is a spot for you! No experience needed.

How to sign up: Head over to the table by the west door and write your name on the position you're interested in on the sign-up sheet.

Questions? See Norm for details!

Register Now for "Tropical Trek" VBS!

You can sign up your child or children in two ways:

Online: Register at vbsmate.com/stjohnslutherancordova

In-Person: Pick up a paper registration form on the table by the west door.

Visit St. John's Lutheran Church on the web!

<https://stjohnscordova.com>



June Birthdays and Baptism Birthdays

June Birthdays

David Hester	June 2
Emily Brahmstedt	June 4
Courtney Ryan	June 6
Steve Vyhnalek	June 6
Betty Zelenka	June 6
Larry Krasser	June 8
Wayne Vossler	June 10
Madalyn Woodburn	June 11
Kathleen Zumpfe	June 12
Jayne Petersen	June 13
April Henke	June 14
Crystal Moore	June 15
Weston Brandt	June 17
Jeana Rogers	June 17
Andrea Woodburn	June 17
Cammie Harrison	June 20
Blake Woodburn	June 21

June Birthdays Continued

Ash Pulliam	June 25
Madison Theis	June 28
Deb Weiss	June 28
Josh Eklund	June 29

June Baptism Birthdays

Hadley Brandt	June 1
Embry Brandt	June 1
Baila Brandt	June 1
Jerry Jensen	June 1
Eleanor Ludke	June 4
Bethany Theis	June 6
Cash Neville	June 8
Shannon Stuhr	June 8
Babe Weber	June 8
Grace Ludke	June 9
Ryan Eastin	June 10

June Baptism Birthdays Continued

Matthew Krause	June 11
Lovelyn Whittington	June 12
Eldon Eklund Jr.	June 14
Chevy Hansen	June 16
Emily Brahmstedt	June 19
Lee Krasser	June 19
Nancy Weber	June 19
Brady Pulliam	June 24
Madalyn Woodburn	June 24
Kayla Gifford	June 25
Andrea Woodburn	June 25
Sadie Brandt	June 26
June Petersen	June 28
Miller Petersen	June 28
Jackson Petersen	June 28

PLEASE NOTE: If we have missed someone's name and birthdate, or if we missed listing your baptism birthday, please accept our sincere apologies and let the church office know. Thank You!

Serving in God's House in June

June Acolytes

Jorge Hernandez	June 7th
Teddy Weber	June 14th
Reed Pulliam	June 21st
Dillon Petzoldt	June 28th

June Lectors

Lee Krasser	June 7th
Jordan Ludke	June 14th
Lee Krasser	June 21st
Chris Effken	June 28th

June Ushers

June 7th & 14th
Don Kranz, Bob Hester,
Lee Krasser

June 21st & 28th
Chris Effken & Bob Bartu

Communion Assistants:

June 7	Bruce Rogers & Tom Stuhr
June 21	Tim McDermott & Tom Stuhr

June Elders Meeting

The June Elders meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4th at 6:00 p.m.

York Pregnancy & Family Resource Center Needs

We are again collecting items for the York Pregnancy & Family Resource Center from Mother's Day to Father's Day.

Their Needs are:

- Diapers (Sizes 3-6)
- Wipes (Individual Packages — Free & Clear Preferred) Example: Huggies Natural Care Unscented
- Toddler Socks-Gender Neutral Sizes 4-10 & Toddler Underwear 2T-6T.

The playpen is set up for items collected and monetary gifts can be placed in the baby bottles. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

Camp Luther Summer Camps

Whatever age you are, and whatever camp session you choose, there is so much fun to be had! Come shoot some archery, go canoeing or kayaking, take a swim, play one of our epic night games, munch on some s'mores, go on a night hike, and most importantly, grow in your faith with Bible Studies and campfire devotions! The cost of camp includes all of the above, plus meals and snacks for the week, as well as lodging, programming materials, and Camp Luther t-shirt!

For more information, go to <https://www.camluther.org/summer>



Our Shut Ins

Please remember our shut-in members with visits, "thinking of you" cards and prayers:

Charles & Lavonne Evans

Heritage Crossings
1320 J Street
Geneva, NE 68361

Jane Lutz

Legacy Square
1621 Front St.
Henderson, NE 68371

Joyce Schmidt

2830 S 51st Street Ct.,
Unit 3
Lincoln, NE 68506

Pat Schwisow

The Gardens
1405 Hickory Ave.
Unit 32
Crete, NE 68333

Carol Sternberg

Hillcrest Shadow Lake
1507 East Gold Coast
Papillion, NE 68046

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study continues every first Saturday morning of the month beginning at 7:30 a.m. This month's meeting will take place on June 6th. The guys will continue their journey through the book of Philippians. This will be the concluding lesson on this letter of Paul to the church. Conversation would be held on what topic(s) are to be considered moving forward. Contact any of the Elders for information.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Cordova, Nebraska

Page 4

Camp Luther Weekend!

Join us for this FREE weekend filled with Christ-centered and family-fun activities!

Dates: June 5-7, 2026

Registration Cost:
None!

Want to stay overnight? Email disciple-ship@campluther.org

Families, friends of camp, and kids of all ages are invited to experience camp during our annual Camp Luther Weekend. Enjoy archery, canoeing, swimming, hiking, disc golf, bounce houses, and other carnival activities. S'mores, music, giant wagon rides, and more!

Join us for the day, or contact us to make arrangements to stay overnight! **NOTE:** Our cabins and treehouses are full, but you can still make lasting memories pitching a tent around camp! Call (402)-352-5655 or email campluther@campluther.org if you would like to stay overnight!

On Saturday, June 6th, there will be a 5K Color Fun Run - have fun running, jogging, or walking in the beauty of God's Creation here at Camp Luther while getting blasted with different colors of powder!

5K Color Fun Run details -

www.campluther.org/5kcolorfunrun

On Sunday, join us for a morning outdoor worship service, followed by our annual luncheon (free-will donation) and afternoon activities for all ages.

Lydia LWML

Lydia LWML met on Monday, May 4th at 6:00pm with 7 members present. President Gail Effken presented the devotion on Acts 6:1-7 provided by Grace Ludke. April minutes were approved. Altar committee assignments were reviewed.

Eight guests attended the Young Mother's Luncheon event on April 11th. A salad lunch was served and a devotion on "The Prepared Meal" was presented by Gail. Guests then went to the kitchen and prepared 3 freezers meals for their families.

Linda will head the ice cream social on June 14th. August 30th will be a 5th Sunday potluck day with card games after the meal.

Discussion was held on a possible Mother Daughter Tea this fall. Possible dates and a speaker were looked at. Members were asked to bring ideas to our next meeting.

Ice Cream Social at St. John's

Join us on June 14, 2026, from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for our annual Ice Cream Social. We will be serving delicious homemade ice cream, pies, and sandwiches. A free-will offering will be received. Invite your family and friends!



Dorcas LWML

Dorcas LWML met on May 6, with eight members present. Deb gave the opening devotion. Margaret led us in prayer and the Bible Study from the quarterly "Overflowing in Comfort."

We recited the LWML pledge. Minutes were read, the treasurer's report was given, and Jayne reported on cards sent.

Margaret told about the Seek and Serve meeting she had attended. We talked about the collection of school supplies we will sponsor in July-August, and the change they have made.

Margaret had purchased the flowers for the altar for Confirmation, and they will also be used on Mother's Day.

We closed with prayers. Lunch was served by Deb.

Small Group Study: Book Wrap-Up & Our Next Book

We are wrapping up our Small Group study of "Joining Jesus Show Me How: How to Disciple Everyday Missionaries" on Wednesday, June 10th, at 12:30 p.m. We will meet at Holy Coffee (511 2nd Street) in Friend to discuss chapters 16-17. Please read these before the meeting.

Whether you are finishing the book with us or thinking about joining the group, please join us for coffee, fellowship, and a preview of our next book options!

- "Letters to the American Church" by Eric Metaxas or
- "The Case for Christ" by Lee Strobel

St. John's Offerings & Designations

ST. JOHN'S OFFERINGS	DESIGNATION
Ash Wednesday, February 18th & Lenten Services, February 25 - March 25th	St. John's Mission Budget
Maundy Thursday, April 2nd	Friend Food Bank
Good Friday, April 3rd	St. John's Mission Budget
Easter, April 5th	St. John's Mission Budget
Thanksgiving Eve, November 25th	York Family Resource Center
Advent Services, December 2nd, 9th & 16th	Camp Luther
Christmas Eve, December 24th	Social Media Ministry
Christmas Day, December 25th	Youth Group
New Year's Eve, December 31st	Mission Family
Door Offering, 1st Sun each quarter	Mission Family
People In Need (PIN) Fund	People in Need
Ascension, May 14th & Reformation, October 31st door offering	Hope Gospel Rescue Mission, York

June, 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Lydia LWML 6:00 p.m.	2	3 Dorcas LWML 2:00 p.m. Pastor Kitzing in church 1:00 p.m.	4 Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m.	5	6 Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m.
7 <i>Communion</i> Hymn Sing 8:50 No Sunday School or Bible Class	8	9	10 Small Group Study 12:30 p.m. at Holy Coffee in Friend Pastor Kitzing in church 1:00 p.m.	11	12	13
14 Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 Trustees meeting Ice Cream Social	15	16 Board of Education 7:00 p.m.	17 Pastor Kitzing in church 1:00 p.m.	18	19	20
21 <i>Father's Day Communion</i> Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	22	23	24 Pastor Kitzing in church 1:00 p.m.	25	26	27
28 Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 Special Voters' Meeting 11:00 a.m.	29	30				

St. John's Lutheran Church, Cordova, Nebraska

Page 6

St. John's Lutheran Church, Cordova, Nebraska

200 Paris Street
Cordova, Nebraska 68330
Phone: (402) 576-3211

Our Website:

<https://stjohnscordova.com>

St. John's Worship Service Time

9:00 a.m. Church Worship
Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday School
and Adult Bible Class



Visit our facebook page.



Address Service Requested

A Prayer to Our Omnipotent God



Remind us, O God, that you are above us, watching over us as a good shepherd. You can see what we cannot see. Remind us that you are below us, ready to lift us up in our weakest moments. Remind us that you are behind us, to give us encouragement when we feel like giving up. Remind us that you are in front of us, calling us to move forward in faith, even when we can't see how things will work out. Remind us that you are beside us, holding our hands, no matter what we're going through. Remind us that you are within us, closer than each breath we take.

Jesus, thank you for being Emmanuel, God-with-us, and for not abandoning us. Thank you for sending us your Holy Spirit, who comes alongside to help us, even when no one else can. As we remember you, O God, strengthen our hope and restore the joy of our salvation. Amen.

— Malcolm Marler, adapted

