

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, CORDOVA, NEBRASKA

May, 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.

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A Note from the Elders

Entering the month of May, anticipation begins to build – especially for the young. The days grow longer, the weather warms, and families start looking ahead at the opportunities that lie just around the corner. For many, this time of year represents more than a seasonal shift. It's a chance to celebrate another year of learning, growth, and faithful dedication in school – something we've seen beautifully reflected in our confirmands each year.



So let us pause and reflect on something deeply important – not just about confirmation as one of life's milestones, but about how we often understand milestones themselves. What can feel like an “ending” is almost always meant to be a beginning. Confirmation Day is a perfect example.

Within the life of the Church, confirmation can easily be seen – especially by these young people – as a finish line: classes completed, memory work accomplished, expectations fulfilled. But that perspective misses the heart of what confirmation truly is. It is not a graduation *from* faith; it is a step *into* it.

For us, confirmation marks the moment when individuals – by God's grace – begin to personally proclaim the promises first spoken with or for them in baptism. That shift – from something given *to* them, to something lived *by* them – is profound. And it's not an event limited to youth. Adults, too, are continually called back into that same rhythm of rediscovery – through God's Word, through study, and through the hearing of the Gospel week after week.

What makes this especially meaningful is the reminder that faith is not sustained by a single ceremony or a fixed period of instruction. It grows through an ongoing connection to God's Word – returning to Scripture, wrestling with its meaning, and living it out in daily life. In this, confirmation is not the conclusion of learning, but a focused invitation into a life of trust in Jesus Christ, our Savior, whose promises never fail.

So let us remain joyful. These confirmands are stepping into something living and active – not a static identity, but a dynamic one: rooted in grace, strengthened in community, and continually renewed. And together with them, let us continue to focus on the blessings first given to us in our own baptism – through which may God renew and strengthen us continually with the gift of the Holy Spirit every single day.

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!

And our specialty sessions include even more awesome activities.

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>

Camp Luther Scholarships

For all those interested in a scholarship for attending Camp Luther this summer, please let Tom and Shannon know by May 17th.

Confirmation Sunday

Join us on **Sunday, May 3rd**, as we celebrate a significant milestone in the lives of our youth. During our service, our 8th grade students will publicly profess their faith and become members of St. John's.

Please come to support them with your prayers and presence as they take this important step in their spiritual journey.



Congratulations to our High School Graduates

Bailey Theis

Bailey will continue her academic and athletic career at Concordia, Seward this fall, having earned a scholarship for track and field.

Babe Weber

Babe has been accepted into the Rural Law Opportunities Program and will attend Wayne State College in the fall.

Congratulations to Bailey & Babe on this milestone! We are praying for God's guidance, wisdom, protection and blessings as they start a new life chapter.

St. John's Vacation Bible School

July 27—July 31, 2026 from 5-8 p.m.

Learn more about Jesus, who seeks and saves the lost! On Tropical Trek island, there's so much to explore—a dormant volcano, island caves, and more. You might even spot a sea turtle or island pig! No matter where we find ourselves, we know that Jesus, who "came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10) is by our side. The Bible is full of stories about people who had hard times, just like we do. But God the Father always sought them out and found them in their troubles—and He did the same for us when He sent us His Son, Jesus, to save us! At Tropical Trek VBS, kids will learn five inspiring Bible accounts that show how Jesus finds them in every circumstance.



Build Faith, Have Fun: Volunteer for VBS!

Do you have a heart for helping children grow in their faith? Join our VBS team! VBS is more than just fun and games—it's an opportunity to create lasting memories and share God's love with the next generation. We are looking for committed volunteers to join us from July 27-31, 2026. No matter your skill set, you can make an impact. Let's make this summer unforgettable! **If interested please talk to Norm Lutz.**

Adventure Awaits!

To register your child or children, go to <https://vbsmate.com/stjohnslutherancordova>

Fun Fact:

Cool treats are coming back to St. John's! We are thrilled to host the ice cream truck during VBS on **July 29th from 6:00-8:30 p.m.** This community-wide event is open to everyone, so bring your friends and neighbors for a fun summer evening!

Mother's Day Prayer

Dear Lord,

We thank you for the gift of mothers, for their love, guidance and care. Please bless them with Your grace, strength and wisdom as they continue to nurture and support their families. Surround them with Your love and peace, and let them know how deeply they are appreciated and cherished.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



May Birthdays and Baptism Birthdays

May Birthdays		May Birthdays Continued		May Baptism Birthdays Continued	
Evan Brahmstedt	May 3	Matthew Krause	May 20	Rodney Brejcha	May 20
Allyson Cuevas	May 3	Nancy Weber	May 20	Ashley Logsdon	May 22
Babe Weber	May 3	Brady Pulliam	May 22	Brandey Ryan	May 22
Sadie Brandt	May 4	Quinn Pulliam	May 31	Thais Brejcha	May 23
Jacob Wilkins	May 5			Cheryl Eklund	May 23
Ryan Eastin	May 10			Crystal Henke	May 23
Cheryl Eklund	May 11			Jacob Wilkins	May 23
Eleanor Ludke	May 11			Evan Brahmstedt	May 25
Levi Jurgensen	May 11			Kaitlin Procacina	May 26
Thais Brejcha	May 14			Logan Wilkins	May 28
Grace Ludke	May 14			Dylan Anderson	May 29
Patricia Schwisow	May 16			Devin Harrison	May 29
Jacob Stoll	May 16			Ella Wilkins	May 30
Mitchel Hulse	May 17				

May Baptism Birthdays

Angie Hansen	May 2
Devin Anderson	May 5
Danielle Klenke	May 5
Chelsy Hernandez	May 6
Janet Merrill	May 10
Claire Brejcha	May 12
Hannah Beethe	May 13
Brian Brahmstedt	May 16

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 May

May Acolytes

Reed Pulliam	May 3rd
Dillon Petzoldt	May 10th
Kyler Oldehoft	May 17th
Charlotte Speer	May 24th
Devin Anderson	May 31st

May Lectors

Jordan Ludke	May 3rd & 10th
Norm Lutz	May 17th
Blake Woodburn	May 24th
Norm Lutz	May 31st

May Ushers

May 3rd	
Mike Theis, Mark Kreutzer, and Paul Weiss	
May 10th & 17th	
Don Kranz, Stan Krause, and Tyler Brandt	
May 24th & 31st	
John Chase, Richard Merrill, and Jim Niemeier	

Communion Assistants:

May 3	Bruce Rogers & Brian Brahmstedt
May 17	Tim McDermott & Brian Brahmstedt
May 31	Norm Lutz & Brian Brahmstedt



Spring Roadside Litter Pickup – a Success!

We wish to thank all those members and friends who assisted with the roadside litter pickup in April. Much was gathered and removed from the ditches along our neighboring roadway from Cordova to Hwy #6.

Cheerful thanks are also extended to the staff at the NDOR facility in Dorchester who continually extend their helpfulness. Fear not, if you missed this particular opportunity – there will be more of them in the future.

Back Row: Drew Woodburn

Middle Row: Norman, Blake, Laura, Derek, Dwight, Charlotte and Tim

Front Row: Reed, Devin, Julia, Dylan, & Marri-lyn Nichelson & Evelyn Stahr.



National Day of Prayer

May 7th, 2026

This Year's Theme:

Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the people.
1 Chronicles 16:24

The National Day of Prayer has great significance for us as a nation as it enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions. It stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.

For more information, go to www.nationaldayofprayer.org

National Day of Prayer Events in our area:

- * Nebraska Observance at the Nebraska State Capital in Lincoln on May 7th from 12:00-1:00 pm
- * York Area National Day of Prayer May 7th at the York University Prayer Chapel in York from 5:30-6:30 pm

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** in our campground, in one of our cabins, or in a tree-house! Call (402)-352-5655 or email campluther@campluther.org if you would like to stay overnight! Spaces fill up quickly!

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

The Lydia LWML group met on April 6 with Gail leading the devotion. March minutes were approved, and upcoming schedules for flowers, communion, and Sunday snacks were confirmed.

Preparations are complete for the Young Mothers Event, with eight participants expected. A group of 19 members and youth also participated in the Mercy Meals event, packing 3,240 meals. Church cleaning has been completed, with the parsonage basement to be addressed at a later date. Assistance is still needed to help update the church directory.

Confirmant gifts have been prepared, and several members plan to attend Seek & Serve Day on April 25. Planning continues for the Ice Cream Social on June 14, and a replacement teapot will be donated to the church.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 4 at 6:00 p.m. All congregant women are invited to attend.



Our Shut Ins

Please remember our shut-in

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



Visit St. John's Lutheran Church on the web!
<https://stjohnscordova.com>

Dorcas LWML

The Dorcas LWML met on April 1st, with eight members present.

Jayne presented the devotional. Margaret opened the meeting with our Pledge. Minutes of the March meeting were read and the treasurer's report given. The balance in the account is \$1,347.00.

Jayne has the prayer books for the Confirmants. Margaret read from the Echo publication. Volunteers are needed to make Mercy Meals at the Orphan Grain Train in Lincoln on Monday, April 6th. There will be a Seek and Serve Event held in Columbus on Saturday, April 25th. Registrations are due by April 12th. Contact Gail Effken if interested.

Dorcas will provide flowers for the Altar on Confirmation Day. Jayne reported on cards sent. The meeting was closed. Pastor Shawn Kitzing led the Bible Study continuing in Genesis. Jayne served lunch.

Men's Bible Study Group Continues in May

Please note that the Men's Bible Study group will continue meeting on the first Saturday morning each month. This month's meeting will take place on May 2nd beginning at 7:30 a.m. The guys will continue a journey through Paul's letter to the Philippians looking forward to picking up on the Bible Study and conversations then. Contact any Elder for further information.

Hymn Sing Sunday May 3rd

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!

May Elders Meeting

The May Elders meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7th at 6:00 p.m.

Small Group Study

We will continue discussion of our book *Joining Jesus Show Me How: How to Disciple Everyday Missionaries* on Wednesday, May 13th at 1:30 p.m.

Please read chapter 14-15 as this will be covered in our discussion.

May, 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Men's Bible Study 7:30 a.m.
3 Confirmation Communion Hymn Sing 8:50 No Sunday School or Bible Class	4 Lydia LWML 6:00 p.m.	5	6 Dorcas LWML 2:00 p.m. 5th & 6th Grade Confirmation Class 4:00-6:00 p.m.	7 Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m.	8	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 Trustees meeting	11	12	13 Small Group Study 1:30 p.m.	14	15	16
17 <i>Communion</i> Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30 a.m.	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> 	26	27	29	29	30
31 <i>Communion</i> Church 9:00 a.m. Sunday School and Bible Class 10:3						

St. John's Lutheran Church, Cordova, Nebraska

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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



Address Service Requested

God of the Little Things

Little things matter. When God gets involved in the minutia of life, unmistakably intervening in the smallest details of our day-to-day dilemmas, it means he cares enough to bother with what's bothering us. The God who created the vast universe works through life's circumstances to bring about his good purposes. That's big.

We know, too, that if God is involved in our everyday lives, he's also working on the more complicated situations — the big things. He might just be working behind the scenes.

When troubles come and God seems not to notice, think of times when he's intervened. Recount and revel in them. Rest assured in God's perfect plan for big and small. "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called ording to his purpose" (Romans 8:28, NRSV).

