

St. John celebrates 125 years of ministry



St. John Lutheran Church in Farmersburg will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a special worship service, program and dinner on Sunday, June 29. (Submitted photo)

St. John Lutheran Church in Farmersburg will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a special worship service, program and dinner on Sunday, June 29. Bishop Kevin T. Jones, bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, will lead the worship at 10 a.m. Special music and former pastors will be part of the service. The story of St. John Lutheran Church begins before its formal organization. Starting in 1883, Rev. F. W. Seifert of Zion Lutheran in Clayton Center conducted German Lutheran services every other Sunday afternoon in Farmersburg, using

either the city hall or the old schoolhouse. Seeking a more permanent arrangement, the community moved a church building into town from a nearby farm. Driven by the desire for a dedicated place of worship and weekly pastoral leadership, a group formally organized the “German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Farmersburg and Surrounding Territory” on April 22, 1900. The constitution was adopted on May 6, 1900, with 44 charter members. Henry Oelke, Sr. served as the first president, Charles Hinsch as secretary and Louis Fuel-

ling, Sr. as treasurer. Rev. Fred Braun became the first pastor of the newly organized congregation, conducting regular Sunday morning services. In 1908 the congregation decided to construct a new church building. With \$3,311.50 pledged and stone donated by Henry Henning, the members contributed time, money and labor. By the fall of 1908, the new frame church, measuring 60-foot-by-36-foot with a distinctive 100-foot tower, was completed at a cost of about \$6,000. Its bell, purchased from the E.W. Vanouzen Co. and cast by the Buckeye Bell Foundry in 1908, still rings out today. Rev. Jeremy Wolfe is the current pastor at St. John. He started as a lay pastor in 2020. He studied with the TEEM Ministry certificate program through Wartburg Seminary to become a minister. Rev. Wolfe was ordained on July 28, 2024, the first minister to be ordained at St. John Farmersburg, and was installed as minister of the joint parishes of Farmersburg and Luana on Aug. 25, 2024. The community is invited to join St. John in celebrating the ministry of St. John. Worship will be at 10 a.m., followed by a program and then a dinner.

The Friends of the Elkader Public Library will hold their regular monthly meeting on July 10, 2025 at 4 pm at the library.

Pastor’s Pen

By Pastor Linda Hauschild

Psalm 118: 24: “This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” As I sit in my office this afternoon and look out the window, I see the trees swaying in the wind—back and forth producing a nice breeze. It brings to mind the thought of the Holy Spirit and how it moves wherever it wishes. The trees seem to be dancing and having a good time. A few hours later, it is very still—no movement in the trees, the flag hangs straight. Yet, we are not alone. The Holy Spirit stays with us at all times. Let us take time to recognize the Holy Spirit in our lives and how it leads, directs, guides, convicts and stimulates. Other times after a nice rain shower, I look for the rainbow, a beautiful



Pastor Linda Hauschild

arched rainbow to appear. Even though I have never located the pot of gold at the end, I like rainbows. In Genesis 9:13, we have a promise, “I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.” Rainbows are colorful, radiant and brings hope. Think of how it arches to connect heaven and earth. God created a wonderful world and we are here

to preserve and take care of the land and all creatures. Sitting on my deck, I can listen to all the birds chatter in their own dialect. Seeing the hummingbird feed on flowers with the noise of their wings. What a magnificent creature. We are blessed with honey from the honey bees and maple syrup from the maple trees. We have wonderful wildlife in northeast Iowa: deer, turkeys, pheasants, squirrels, rabbits, opossum, ground hogs and maybe even a bear. We have fish in the rivers, ponds and lakes and seafood in the oceans. Each day, there is reason to give thanks, there is reason to praise God. Let us take time to notice and acknowledge the world around us that God has created. Let us rejoice! Linda Hauschild is pastor of First Congregational Church in Elkader.

The Northeast Iowa Quilters’ Guild will meet on Tuesday, July 1

The Northeast Iowa Quilters’ Guild will meet on Tuesday, July 1, at 2 & 7 pm for its monthly meeting. The meeting will be held at the Robey Memorial Library (401 1st Ave. NW) in Waukon. All quilters love their notions and gadgets! We all also love supporting our local quilt shops but sometimes we need to save our money for the amazing fabric there and find some better deals somewhere else. Menards is a surprisingly great source for quilting tools according to our program presenters, Jen Hertrampf and Kelley Foehrkolb. Jen is from Elkader, Iowa, and is quite passionate about collecting fabric

and trying new quilting methods. She joined the guild as a way to meet like-minded people and a way to get out of the house, she loves the retreats as a way to get projects done. She is married with 2 teenagers and 3 dogs at home. She started purchasing quilting tools at local hardware stores after borrowing her husband Matt’s tools. Kelley Foehrkolb is from New Prague, Minn., and has been quilting for many years. She is a part of the guild after coming to some retreats with Lynette Matter (guild president), who she worked at Ewalu with. She lives with Greg who helps support the shopping at Menards through rebates from his

contracting company! The meeting can also be viewed virtually via zoom, and the link will be sent out to members closer to the meeting date. For more information, please check out the NEIQG home page (www.neiqg.com) and the NEIQG Facebook page (Northeast Iowa Quilters’ Guild). The Northeast Iowa Quilters’ Guild is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that meets on the first Tuesday of the month, with meetings at 2 and 7 pm. A short business meeting is followed by announcements, show-and-tell, and a program or presentation. New members are always welcome.

Iowa State honors spring graduates

Nearly 4,600 graduates received degrees from Iowa State University this spring. Graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies were held May 15-17. Larry Buss and John “J.R.” Robinson received honorary degrees during spring ceremonies. Following are graduates from the area:

Edgewood, Iowa
Olivia Christina
Welsh, Bachelor of Science, Biology
Farmersburg, Iowa
Lucas Joseph Asche, Bachelor of Science, Forestry
Garnavillo, Iowa
Mackenzey Morgin Ruff, Bachelor of Science, Agricultural Studies, Summa Cum Laude
Mackenzey Morgin Ruff, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science, Summa Cum Laude

Luana, Iowa
Denzel Decker, Bachelor of Science, Apparel, Merchandising, and Design
Strawberry Point, Iowa
Madeline Marie Harford, Bachelor of Science, Animal Science, Magna Cum Laude



HPV VACCINATION Help Protect Against Cancer

Human papillomavirus (HPV) infections may be common. Fortunately, the HPV vaccine prevents the virus and the cancers it can cause.

WHO SHOULD GET VACCINATED?
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the HPV vaccine for boys and girls, starting as early as age 9 and through age 26.

IOWA Health and Human Services Source: cdc.gov 4/25

Ask your child’s healthcare provider about the HPV vaccine.

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