



ST JOHN LUTHERAN e-NEWS

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14/15 February 2026



Seward, Nebraska

Key Ministry Announcements: see below

- Special Voting Assembly - Feb. 15, 10am, fellowship hall
- Ash Wednesday is Feb. 18 - communion worship at 10am & 6:30pm

General Announcements are Located in Lower Portion of eNews

RECEIVE



This Week's Worship

Sermons

Livestream

Sunday Bible Studies

Lenten Midweek Series: The Battle of the Soul

Services Wednesdays, Feb. 18 – Mar. 25, 10am & 6:30pm; meals at 4:45pm
Ash Wednesday Communion Worship with Imposition of Ashes 1/2 hour prior to each service.
[Click here](#) to see meal and worship schedule (The Mar. 11 Wednesday meal is unspoken for. If you/your group would like to claim this date, please contact the church office.)

"Abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul." (1 Peter 2:11)
You get cut off and rage leaps forth. A friend's vacation pictures stir resentment. A third drink seemed fine, until you snapped at your kids. In a world of constant comfort and distraction, we can forget that our hearts are a spiritual battleground. This Lent we explore the ancient tradition of virtues and vices, uncovering how sin deforms our desires and how the Spirit of Jesus frees us to bear the fruit of faith.

Behold Your King - Lutheran Hour Ministries Lenten Devotions

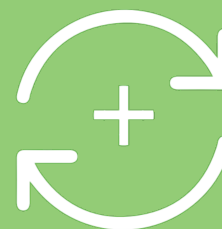
[Click here](#) to receive it electronically or read it online.

Midweek Lenten Lunch & Devotion (hosted by Seward Ministerial Association)

Wednesdays, Feb. 25 - March 25, 12-1pm, Seward Civic Center

Come and enjoy a light lunch (sponsored by a different church each week) and a lay-led devotion - all are welcome!

RELATE

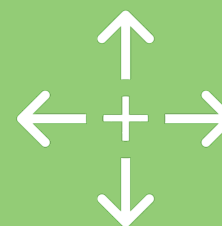


Easter Term rGroups

rGroups will pick up again April 12 - May 17

rGroups are taking a break during Lent, but they will start again on April 12. Sign-up will open at least one week in advance. If you would like to preregister for a group you were previously in, contact Esther Langness: esther.langness@stjohnseward.org.

RESPOND



Rooted in Faith, Growing for the Future Update

[Click here](#) for details about the building project

On December 22, a subcommittee of the Building Committee interviewed four construction contractors, Hampton, BD, Beckenhauer, and Sampson, and unanimously recommended Sampson Construction. On January 6, the Ministry Operation Board interviewed Sampson and approved the recommendation. Sampson will start putting together detailed estimates based on the architects' plans. Our architects continue refining the plans based on input from faculty and staff. On January 6, the architects presented updated plans to the Building Committee including some details on HVAC, electrical systems, and exterior designs. The architects plan to finish the next major step of the designs in late January. Sampson Construction will then work with subcontractors to get initial (high) estimates of costs. Once this step is done (probably by late spring or early summer), the Building Committee will present to the congregation refined drawings, updated costs, and possible timelines for Phase 1. At that time, we will ask the congregation for approval to proceed with the plans for Phase 1. No groundbreaking date has been set or will be set without the congregation's approval. Please contact the Building Committee chair Brian Albright, brian.albright@cune.edu, with any questions.

We give thanks to God that gifts and pledges for the building project now total just over \$9 million. Your generosity is a tremendous blessing and an encouragement as we take these next steps together.

Rooted in Faith, Growing for the Future *General Chairs:*

Matt & Adrienne Geidel; Brady & Jill Johnson; Bob & Lana Urban; Max & Melanie Wake

Building Project Committee:

Brian Albright; Ron Aring; Debbie Brutlag; Brian Freeman; Andy Langewisch; Stan Obermueller; Barb Mertens;

You can participate in the capital campaign through a gift from your estate. This is one way to bless the future generations of students and youth with a new and expanded ministry facility. Craig Stirtz, with the LCMS Foundation and Gift Planning, can assist you in planning a future gift to the campaign. His service is of no cost to you or St. John. You may reach him at: 402-616-0312 or craig.stirtz@lfnd.org.

Building a Bridge to the Pew - Rides Needed

Contact [Deaconess Jeri](#) or call 402-643-2983

We currently have two members in Seward who need rides to Sunday Worship and Bible Class. While they are mobile with walkers and independent once they arrive, they simply need a way to get here. **We believe more members would benefit from this ministry once they know it's available.** By volunteering now, you aren't just giving a ride; you're helping us launch a vital lifeline for our church family.

Alaska Mission Team Fundraisers

Tuesday, Feb. 17, 5-8pm, Seward Runza

Enjoy eating out at Runza on Feb. 17 while supporting the St. John Alaska Mission Team. Fifteen percent of all sales during this time will be donated to the team

Friday, May 15, 5:30-7:30pm, fellowship hall

Enjoy a Prime Rib Dinner Fundraiser featuring RO's legendary prime rib. Tickets are required (free-will donation, suggested \$50 per plate; ***no*** tickets will be sold the night of the event). For tickets or more information, contact Kurt Baumbach, 402-641-3609; Bernie Nelson 402-641-8418; or Kathy Miller 402-405-2211.

Nominations Are Now Open for Church Board Positions

[Click here](#) for nomination form (submit your name or the name of someone who is a good fit)
Questions can be directed to Jill Johnson: 402-613-8216; drjillj00628@gmail.com

We are seeking nominations for individuals to stand for election in May. We invite members of St. John to prayerfully consider standing for election to the following roles:

- **Board of Christian Life: 3 seats** (All 3-year terms)
- **Board of Education: 3 seats** (All 3-year terms)
- **Board of Elders: 4 seats** (Males only—All 3-year terms)
- **President: 2-year term**
- **Secretary: 2-year term**

Your input is vital in helping us ensure our leadership continues to reflect the mission and values of our congregation. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and commitment to our church community.

Blessings, St. John Nomination Committee

GENERAL



Special Voting Assembly

Sun., Feb. 15, 10am, fellowship hall

Please plan to attend the Voting Assembly on Feb. 15. There will be no Adult Bible Studies or rGroups meeting that day.

Agenda will include:

1. Update on Building Program and Capital Campaign
 2. General giving and ministry funding update
 3. Resolutions to the Synodical Convention
 4. Nominations for President and Vice-Presidents for Synod
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Adult Confirmation

Sun., Feb. 15, during 8:30am worship service

This weekend at the 8:30am service we welcome these individuals into the communicant membership of St. John: Emily Hartshorn; Jennifer Lochhead; Noah Ramirez; Olivia Wiczorek; and Yeabsira Yidnekachew.

Join Our St. John School Hope Squad in the Viewing of *Screenagers*

Tuesday, February 24, 7pm, sanctuary

Please mark your calendars and join the St. John Hope Squad for a FREE community screening of *Screenagers, The Elementary School Edition*. Come hear the latest research, expert insights and advice, specifically tailored for the students, parents, and educators of elementary schools to help them better navigate this digital age. Please join us for this 55 minute film!

Time to Subscribe to or Renew Your Lutheran Witness Subscription

view current and archived editions on-line at www.lcms.org/witness

The Lutheran Witness subscription rate this year is \$23.50 and can be paid at the church office through Wed., March 25 – you can bring your check/cash to the church office on weekdays from 8am-4pm or place in Brenda Rief's mailbox any other time (make checks payable to St. John Lutheran Church).

Summer Horizons - Save the Date!

June 15-19

Registration Opens March 21

Lost and Found Items

Table in hallway by church offices/west entrance

Please stop by and claim any of your lost items.

Do You Have Friends Who Don't Do eMail . . .

If you have friends who never see this email, please let them know a few printed copies of the eNews are available at the welcome center in the narthex (***these are only for people who do not get emails***).

When Bad Weather Hits . . .

Click here for a livestream option on our YouTube channel

When weather or disaster dictates that worship services need to be cancelled, the church office will inform the community through the following means:

- church Facebook page
- Channel 8 website – www.klknv.com (community cancellations)
- Channel 10/11 website – www.1011now.com (community cancellations)

Church Office Hours (Regular)

Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm; 402-643-2983; sjcstaff@stjohnseward.org

Worship Options

Recurring Events/Monthly Reminders



St. John Is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

If you need someone to help you through a difficult time, call any of the following:

- Church Office (402-643-2983)
- Deanna Dowding (402-643-3148)
- Mary Ann Steinbeck (402-499-6618)
- Lana Urban (402-641-3099)

Please send Prayer Requests to sjcstaff@stjohnseward.org

If you know someone who is not getting emails from St. John, please contact brenda.rief@stjohnseward.org.

Newsletters of Interest

- [St. John Lutheran Church](#)
- [St. John Lutheran School's "Parent Bulletin"](#)
- [St. John Child Development Center](#)
- [Nebraska District Lutheran Reporter](#)
- [LFL Life News](#)

[Church Website](#)

[Church Calendar \(public events only\)](#)

[St. John Lutheran School](#)

[St. John Child Development Center](#)

[CUNE Events Link on Website](#)

[St. John's Christ's Cupboard](#)

[Food Bank of Lincoln Food Distribution Schedule](#)

[Orphan Grain Train Lincoln Collection Center](#)

Give Now

[stjohnseward.org]

[402-643-2983]

[sjcstaff@stjohnseward.org]



St. John Lutheran Church | 919 N Columbia AVE | Seward, NE 68434 US

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