

Dear Friends,

This coming month is my Birthday... Yes, I am old...well, old enough to make some really difficult decisions. The first is more of a realization—that I have fewer years ahead of me than ever before. Along with this came the thought that I need to start unloading some of my books. Books have been the better part of my life. I have carted books around since my college days—picking up books here and there—now and then with the full intention of reading.



So, it is with great sadness that I begin to depart with these books—I am selling them on AbeBooks.com. But also a sense of sadness also comes with this —a potent reminder that I am limited—that my time here is just that—limited. All those projects and dreams of my youth are becoming a distant dream—along with the ideas of romance, retirement, and sleep. Every time I send a book to a new owner, I am reminded that hopefully some of my dreams will go along with.

We all hit those crossroads in our life—the points at which we are expected to make some choices and decisions going forward. While we may not realize it, we encounter these moments on a daily basis—point where we make decisions that will ultimately affect the rest of our lives.

While we make these decisions, we often feel like we are flying solo—taking on more responsibility. Some days we make the wrong choices. Other days are better. While God gives us these choices, God is also one who works with and through the choices we make. If want to experience just how much God can accomplish, look at the many ways God works through ordinary people.

May God's gentleness work with you each day—so that with God's strength and guidance, we will be able see visions and dream dreams (Joel 2, Acts 2). With God's assistance, may we continue to do ministry. Amen.

God bless,

Pastor Mike

St. John's Lutheran Church PO Box 819 203 Pearl Street Guttenberg, IA 52052

Pastor Michael Ashman 319-231-6440 mikepstr64@gmail.com **CHURCH WORSHIP:**

5:30 PM - Saturday 10:15 AM - Sunday

Church Office Hours:

Tues: 7:00AM - 3:00 PM Wed & Fri: 7:00AM - 12:30 PM Thursdays 12:30-3:30 PM Church Phone: 563-252-2355

Church Email:

stiohnsoffice@alpinecom.net

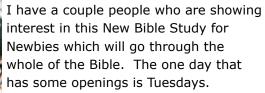
Our Website:

www.stjohnsguttenberg.com





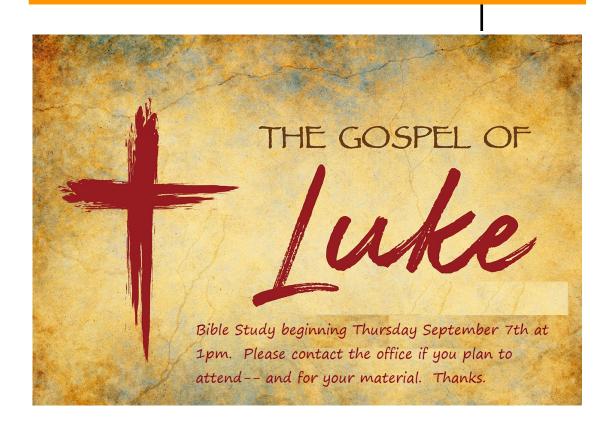
the greatest story



If you are interested in joining this venture, please let me know as far as what days and times work for you. We will try to get a group going as soon as we can.



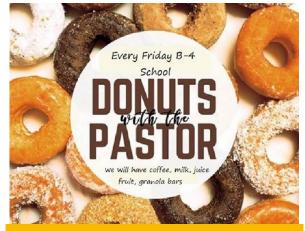
Thanks.



- Kids' Stuff-







Donuts and much more!

Every first Friday of the month starting
Sept 1st, we will have a hot breakfast in
the Fellowship Hall before school.
Other Fridays, we will offer donuts,
juice, fruit and cereal.

Friends and younger sibs are more than welcome - tell your friends!



Classes will begin on Septmber 6th -- 2pm and 5:30pm. Students are able to begin their sermon notes-- and complete other requirements at this time.



-PLEASE PRAY FOR-

Ross Abbott, Vera Ashman, Owen Aulwes, Cecil Bahls, Ron & Kay Bahlmann, Kay Becker, Lois Davis, Marvin Dean, Bob Ferguson, Tammy Goodman, Jerry Kolker, Brayton Kuhse, Richard Larson, Juanita Loven, Fritz Lutz, Kathy Meskimen, Jenny Meyer, JoLynn Moore, Merlin Moser, Randy Moser, Shirley A. Moser, Shirley M. Moser, Tiffany Moser, Jean Pensel, Mick Pierce, Shelby Preston, Zander Purman, Denny Reth, Pat Rodenberg, Denny Roth, Natalie Schmelzer, Rich Schmelzer, Renee Schubart, Jim Solomon, Mary Sundermeier, Terry Thein, Bill Tielbar, Arthur Tomkins, Al Ullerick

River Living Center: Bob Ferguson, Nell Stone, Arlene Tackman, Mae Jetter, Janet Lundt,

Ed & LaVonne Rodenberg, Virginia Roth, Judith Olson

Guttenberg Care Center: Shirley Moore, Shirley Moser

Ennoble Nursing Care: Dennis Roth
Garden View Place, Monona: Terry Thein

Tower Living Center, Garnavillo: Cathy Handke

- Please contact the church office to make updates to the prayer list. -



CARE CENTER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

GUTTENBERG CARE CENTER: Every Monday at 10:00 AM RIVER LIVING CENTER: Thurs. Sept. 7 - 10:30 AM



Believing God is the cure-giver,
Guttenberg Stephen Ministers provide
confidential listening and caring to
individuals experiencing a life change.
Visits are for about an hour once a
week or as individually arranged.
To request a Stephen Minister for
yourself or someone else, please call
the church office.





NorthEastern Iowa Synod

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING



September 30

Call office or see Web Site for more information.



Worship with the German Band -- September 24th at 10:15. Bring your friends and family as we worship with some "oom pah pah!!"

Pastor is planning a traditional German meal following worship with Brats, sauerkraut, German Potato Salad...

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Camera Ministry



SUNDAY

Sept. 3 - Gavin Stoerp

Sept. 10 - Jovi Allyn

Sept. 17 - Natalie Thomas

Sept. 24- Nash Reimer



SATURDAY SUNDAY

Sept. 2 - Sept. 3 - Delaney Brown

Sept. 9 - Sept. 10 - Nash Reimer

Sept. 16 - Sept. 17 - Madi Thomas

Sept. 24 - Lennox Moser Sept. 24 - Wyatt Kremer





If you would like to join, or know someone interested in finding a church home, please let us know.

We are also very flexible – you are welcome to join on any weekend—

just contact Pastor Mike!

SEPTEMBER Stewards

	Ushers	Lector
Sept. 3	Paul & Joni Talsma	Nancy Heitman
Sept. 10	Don & Julie Schmelzer	Craig Tuecke
Sept. 17	Stephanie & Jon Thomas	Stephanie Thomas
Sept. 24	LeAnn Walke & Mary Streich	Ammi Hugo

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As I write this message, I am very thankful for the community of St. John's. I also feel blessed to be your president and the last 2 plus years have been a wonderful experience. After our semi-annual meeting, I want to update you on a few matters that are important to our church.

Many thanks to Craig Tuecke and Diane Thiese who will serve a second term in their current positions on the council. Lynda Schaefers will also be taking over the Fellowship committee's duties. Lynda will be succeeding Lorna Moser. We still have three openings to fill. The openings are for the Public Relations, Property and Children and Youth committees. Chuck Hemann, Frank Davis, and Forest Brown are the current members serving in these positions.

Being on the council involves a general meeting each month, which is on the second Thursday of each month. In addition, each committee usually meets once a month to work on the areas for which they are responsible. I would ask that you prayerfully consider serving and if you have any questions, please contact me or the other council members.

On an incredibly positive note, the basement remodeling is completed. A proposed maximum budget of \$305,000 was approved by the congregation at the January annual meeting. I am pleased to let you know that the final cost for the project was \$259,717.58. That said, we still have \$27,510 of outstanding pledges. When these pledges are received, they will be deposited into the improvement fund to replenish that account, as it was used to pay the bills as they came in for the project.

The remodeling project feedback has been positive and what has been done will serve the church and community for many decades to come. I cannot thank the committee and the congregation enough for their time and support for this project.

God Bless You All,

Brian Rodenberg, President.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF HEALTH KITS

Sarah Circle will be collecting items and assembling health kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief this fall. If you would prefer to donate cash, it will be used to purchase bulk supplies to complete the kits. If you

have questions, contact Cindy Niehaus or Diane Schilling.

Items needed are:

- Large Bath Towels light- or medium-weight dark colored towels, which are easier for kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space
- Bath size bars of soap in original packaging
- Adult size toothbrushes in original packing.

St. John's American Evangelical Lutheran Church Thursday, July 13, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes

Members present: Craig Tuecke, Deb Preston, Lorna Moser, Michele Von Handorf, Sherry Oliver, Brian Rodenberg, Chuck Hemann, Penny Rausch, Mary Streich

Members Absent: Frank Davis, Diane Thiese, Forest Brown

Staff Present: Pastor Ashman, Rabecca Hennessey

Call to Order: President Brian Rodenberg called the meeting to order at

7:05pm.

Devotions & Prayers: Pastor Ashman led with an opening reflection and

prayer.

Secretary's Report: The council reviewed minutes of the July council meeting. No additions or corrections were noted. Michele motioned to approve the minutes. Chuck made a second to the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Craig reviewed the July income and expenses. Chuck made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Mary made a second to that motion.

General Fund:	\$20,039.60
Benevolence:	\$24,656.67
Improvement:	\$49,673.43
Memorial Fund:	\$ 5,428.81
Benevolence Savings:	\$15,778.06
Sunday School:	\$ 1,072.41
Organ Fund:	\$ 1,842.83
Scrip:	\$ 4,083.68
Luther League:	\$ 5,673.59
Ending Balance:	\$128,249.08

Pastor's Report: A written report was presented by Pastor Ashman highlighting last month's activities. Approximately seventeen confirmation students are enrolled this fall. Pastor and Forest accompanied two students to the Dubuque Mission to assist with projects.

Outreach Ministries: No report.

Educational Ministries: Penny met with her committee. Sunday School will resume on September 10th which is also Rally Day. All staff positions are filled. On September 17th, Preschool Bibles will be handed out. On September 24th, students will sing during the German service.

Children & Youth Ministries: Pastor again highlighted the mission trip to Dubuque and that they would like to incorporate this into the confirmation class. Forest is seeking a volunteer as his replacement to chair this committee.

Public Relations: No report. Chuck is seeking a volunteer to replace him as chairperson of this committee.

Stewardship Ministries: Sherry and the Stewardship Committee met. Craig was a guest at their meeting and discussed the remodeling project. November 11th and 12th is designated as Stewardship weekend.

Worship & Music Ministries: Mary highlighted the several special upcoming services which include Worship in the Park in August, German Service in September, and Thanksgiving and Christmas service plans.

Property Ministries: No report. A volunteer is needed to chair this committee.

Parish Fellowship: Lorna discussed the Worship in the Park service on August 27th. Desserts and coffee will be served. Coffee sales continue at the Farmer's Market. She discussed having a German meal served and prepared by the Confirmation students.

V.P. Report: No report.

Old Business:

Pledge Update – Craig reviewed the pledges received thus far for the remodeling project as of August 10th.

Office window coverings- Mary and Rabecca will work together to pick new window coverings for the office.

Building update – The project is complete. Costs were less than budgeted. Lights in rose window and narthex – Brian has contacted the school to use the lift for changing bulbs.

Landscaping – Brian has contacted Keppler Landscaping to review the landscaping needs of the church and parsonage.

New Business:

Open Committee positions – Volunteers are needed for three open committee chair positions which include Building and Grounds, Children and Youth, and Public Relations.

Elevator Repair — The elevator needs repair. Schumacher Repair was contacted. Repair costs will be \$3620. Craig made a motion to approve funds for the repair. Mary made a second to the motion.

 $\begin{tabular}{lll} \textbf{Adjournment:} & A motion was made to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. \end{tabular}$

Next regular council meeting: Thursday, September 14th, at 7:00.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deb Preston.

Monthly Stewardship Report Amount Needed Weekly \$2,774

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Offering	July 23	\$1,780
	July 30	\$2,540
	Aug. 6	\$6,444
	Aug. 13	\$2,300

ADOPT A DAY

How would you like to consider adopting a day(s) and paying for St. John's church utilities for that day(s)? This would be above your regular church giving and would be a huge financial plus for St. John's. You choose the day(s). Why not consider adopting a day for your birthday or that of a family member, or an anniversary of your baptism, wedding or all of them and more?

If you would like to adopt a day, just write your information on a piece of paper and enclose it with your payment of \$45 per day.

Aug. 9 - Rick & Mary Allyn, in honor of Borghild Tuecke's birthday

Aug. 20 - Rick & Mary Allyn, in honor of grandson, Keegan Malecki's birthday

Aug. 22 - Vernon & Janice Moser - in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary

Synod to offer Mental Health First Aid Training

The Northeastern Iowa Synod is offering a series of Mental Health First Aid training sessions to help people learn how to identify, understand and respond to someone who is showing signs of mental illness or a substance use disorder,

Just as CPR training helps a person with no clinical training assist an individual following a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid training helps a person provide initial help and support to someone experiencing a mental health crisis until appropriate professional help arrives. The training can benefit any congregation member, especially clergy members, staff, volunteers, parents, and those who work with youth.

Three different in-person sessions will be offered, led by instructors trained through the National Council for

CLERGY APPRECIATION

October is observed as National Clergy Appreciation Month, with Sunday, Oct. 8, set aside as the day to honor rostered ministers. Many congregations use this time to express their gratitude to their pastors, deacons and lay ministers for their contributions and services.

The synod staff would like to share ways that congregations have honored their rostered ministers in the past as part of Clergy Appreciation Month. Please email this information and any photos to hahnm@neiasynod.org.

Mental Wellbeing:

Mental Health First Aid for Rural Communities Monday, Sept. 25, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Bethany Lutheran, Iowa Falls

Youth Mental Health First Aid Thursday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Decorah Lutheran, Decorah

Adult Mental Health First Aid Saturday, Sept. 30, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., St. John Lutheran, Guttenberg, with 2 hours of online pre-work

Each course covers the common signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges, how to interact with a person in crisis, how to connect a person with help, and other information about trauma, substance use and self-care. The youth course will also talk about challenges related to that age group, such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders, attention deficit hyperactive disorder, and social media and bullying.

Participants will learn how to respond to a variety of situations, including when someone is experiencing a panic attack, suicidal thoughts or



behaviors, self-injury, hallucinations or delusions, overdose or withdrawal from alcohol or drug use, or reaction to a traumatic event. An important component of each course is the opportunity to practice the intervention strategy, rather than just learn about it, which can make it easier to apply in a real-life situation.

"This class gave me confidence to speak directly without judgment to people who are experiencing mental health issues and help them find appropriate resources to meet their immediate needs," said Bishop Kevin Jones.

REGISTER BY SEPT. 11

The cost to attend is \$30 per person for each session. To learn more and to register online, visit www.neiasynod. org/2023/08/mental-health-first-aid-training.

Learn more about Mental Health First Aid Training at www.mentalhealth-firstaid.org.

LSI names Interim President and CEO

The Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) Board of Directors recently appointed Dan Dean, vice president of Capacity and Strategy Development, as interim president and CEO for the statewide human services agency. The Board has also established a search committee and initiated the search for the organization's next leader.

Dean has been at LSI for 27 years and has led the agency's personnel, quality improvement and compliance programs across the state. He has also been responsible for strategic planning, development, measurement and oversight of operations at all sites. He replaces John Twardos, who resigned earlier this year.





Leave a Legacy Gift

LSI has responded to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service for over 150 years. During this time, we've created a legacy of lifting up and empowering thousands of our lowa neighbors, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

You can celebrate your lifetime through a legacy gift, to ensure LSI can continue to provide lifesaving services for those in need. Many of our faithful donors want their gifts to continue after their lifetime, and have elected to leave a legacy through LSI's foundation or the ELCA foundation.

Planned gifts to LSI help to create a firm foundation for our ministry and contribute more than \$400,000 each year.

Thanks to the generous compassion of individual donors, congregations such as yours, and our ministry partners at the three synods of the ELCA, we can be confident LSI will be here to meet the changing needs of lowans for years to come.

You Can Make a Lasting Impact

A longtime supporter of LSI turned an appreciated real estate asset into a charitable remainder unitrust agreement with the ELCA foundation. Because of this agreement, they will receive income from the trust for the remainder of their two lives, and subsequently to their two adult children for a twenty-year term. According to the actuarial tables, this gift will finally terminate in about forty years, leaving a very strong and greatly appreciated impact on LSI's future.

Another LSI donor elected to share their investment by directing a required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA directly to LSI. The donor used this contribution to match new or increased gifts during the annual matching gift campaign.

We ask you to consider how you can make a lasting impact and leave a legacy. To learn more about planned giving opportunities, go to LSIowa.org/leave-a-legacy/ or contact Deb Whitford, LSI senior director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563- 676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the Iove of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.Iowa



51. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH				
SEPTEMBER CALENDAR				
Fri. Sept. 1	7:00 am CHURCH OFFI	(SJ) Donuts w/Pastor CE CLOSED		
Sat. Sept. 2	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship		
Sun. Sept. 3	8:00 am 10:15 am	(SP) Worship (SJ) Worship		
Mon. Sept. 4	LABOR DAY - C	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED		
Tues. Sept. 5	1:00 pm 5:30 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God (SP) Council Meeting		
Wed. Sept. 6	1:00 pm 2:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	(SJ) Sarah Circle(SJ) Confirmation(SJ) Confirmation(SJ) Bell Choir Practice(SJ) Choir Rehearsal		
Thur. Sept. 7	1:00 pm	(SJ) Bible Study		
Fri. Sept. 8	7:00 am	(SJ) Donuts w/Pastor		
Sat. Sept. 9.	10:00 am 5:30 pm	(SP) Kid's Bread Baking w/Pastor (SJ) Worship		
Sun. Sept. 10	8:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	(SP) Worship (SJ) Sunday School (SJ) Worship		
Mon. Sept. 11	4:30 pm	(SJ) Stephen Ministers		
Tues. Sept. 12	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God		
Wed. Sept. 13	2:00 pm 5:30 pm 7:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation (SJ) Confirmation (SJ) Choir Rehearsal		
Thurs. Sept. 14	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	(SJ) Bible Study (SJ) Council Meeting		
Fri. Sept. 15	7:00 am	(SJ) Donuts w/Pastor		
Sat. Sept. 16 Sun. Sept. 17	5:30 pm 8:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	(SJ) Worship (SP) Worship (SJ) Sunday School (SJ) Worship - New Member Sunday		
Tues. Sept. 19 Wed. Sept. 20	1:00 pm 2:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God (SJ) Confirmation		
	5:00 pm 5:30 pm	(SJ) Food Pantry Drive-Thru (SJ) Confirmation		
Thur. Sept. 21	1:00 pm	(SJ) Bible Study		
Fri. Sept. 22	7:00 am	(SJ) Donuts w/Pastor		
Sat. Sept. 23 Sun. Sept. 24	5:30 pm 8:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	(SJ) Worship (SP) Worship (SJ) Sunday School (SJ) Worship / German Band		
Tues. Sept. 26	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God		
Wed. Sept. 27	2:00 pm 5:30 pm 7:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation (SJ) Confirmation (SJ) Choir Rehearsal		
Thur. Sept. 28	1:00 pm 4:30 pm 4:30 pm	(SJ) Bible Study (SJ) Stewardship (SJ) Altar Guild		
Fri. Sept. 29 Sat. Sept. 30	7:00 am 5:30 pm	(SJ) Donuts w/Pastor (SJ) Worship		

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is Open: Tues: 7:00 am - 3:00 pm Wed: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm Thurs: 12:30 - 3:30 pm Fri: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm

The church office will be open the week of Sept 17th on
Tues. 9/19 12:30 - 5pm
Fri. 9/22 12:30 - 3:30 pm



Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the mobile food pantry, both pre-packing and distributing.

Mobile Food Pantry is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Truck from the Northeast Iowa Food Bank is scheduled to arrive at 4:30 pm, with distribution from 5 - 6 pm.

The next event will be a drive through event at 5:00 pm on Wed. Sept. 20th -- volunteers needed at 4:30 to unload the truck

If you are able to help, please call the church office and we will add your name to our volunteer list.



THANK YOU to the volunteers from GUTTENBERG INDUSTRIES who assisted with the August Mobile Food Pantry.

September 15 Evelyn Bries

Gerald Glawe

Susan Miller

September 17

September 19

Cole Dugan

Ellie Dugan

Ali Kann

Hayden Dugan

Erikk Peterson

September 22

September 24

September 25

September 26

Janice Moser

Kari Tuecke

Mary Esmann

September 27

Gary Backes

Nicole Backes

September 29

September 30

Mary Streich

Dee White

Emily Blanchard

Paige Grohn

Rick Allyn

Kayla Drewelow

Gail Larson

Penny Sweet-Rausch

Brooklyn Schroeder

Lynn Ertl

<u>SEPTEMBER Baptisms</u>

September 1
Bev Blanchard
Karilyn McArthur
Kolin Severson
Diane Thiese

September 2 Jeff Friedlein LaVonne Rodenberg

September 3 Bradyn Harbaugh

September 4 Zoe Walke

September 5 Chad Esmann Dawn Moser Dakota Olson Tate Moser

September 6 Ruth James

September 7 Judith Moser

September 8 Joe Finnegan

September 11 Taylor Chase

September 12 Terry Thein Grace Franzen

September 13 Jack Grohn

September 14 Linda Horstman Abbie VonHandorf

SEPTEMBER Birthdays

September 1 Linda Noack Dylan Preston

September 2 Mae Jetter Don Schmelzer

September 3 Mary Streich Aubree Glawe

September 5 Gary Bahls Caleb Bittner

September 9 Daxtyn Schroeder

September 10 Judy Torrey Steve Rausch

September 11 Antonio Lee Armstrong

September 12 Gary Hinderberger

September 13 Rick Allyn Pat Jones

September 14 Joan Walke

September 15 Sharon Radabaugh September 16 Ämber Thiese

September 17 Karla Palmer

September 18 Carla Ruegnitz

September 19 Austen Brown

September 20 Connie Backes Carter Esmann Dustin Kelly Dale Linderbaum

September 21 Ellie Davis Carol Lau Gertie Meyer

September 22 Joanne Peters

September 23 Linda Hines Eric Meyer

September 24 Larry Friedlein

September 25 Brayden Reth

September 26 Joe Moser Jessica Bittner

September 27 Vernon Moser Dick Zittergruen

September 28 Alyvia Brown

September 29 Chuck Hemann Jerry Niehaus

September 30 Pastor Mike Ashman

SEPTEMBER Wedding Anniversaries

September 2 Jeff & Carolyn Hoffmann

<u>September 3</u> Richard & Genevieve Balajadia

September 6
Joe & Emily Finnegan

September 7 Jim & Linda Dryer

<u>September 8</u> Brandon & Erin Bries

September 10 Jeff & Kari Friedlein

<u>September 12</u> Don & Julie Schmelzer

September 18 Chad & Robin Esmann Tom & Sheila Johnson Todd & Stephanie Strader

September 19 Tom & Lynn Ertl

September 20 Andy & M.J. Smith Jeff & Lana Troester

September 23 Craig & Kari Tuecke

<u>September 26</u> Todd & Nina Johnson

