

Dear Friends,

The hailstorm here the other evening ripped through our foliage. I have never seen hail with such intensity. But another thing—we were robbed of the many leaves which were never given a chance to change colors. Thing 2—I am reminded that change is inevitable.

Here is something to chew on—we have often seen God as remaining unmovable and unchangeable. In the Bible, we find that God is one who works with and through change—navigating time and space like an experienced sailor. People such as Jacob, Joseph, Ruth and Naomi, David and Bathsheba—yes, even that “Bath Person” (as she is referred to in Confirmation)—have experienced the transforming power of God who has taken their brokenness and made them whole again. God does not recreate them as they were—but is able to take the broken pieces of their lives and selves—and create something breath-taking.



We see change all around us. Some wish that things would never change. Others wish to have things back the way they were before. But God knows we are facing an unknown future—and we need all available hands and feet to help us move forward. By the grace of God, we move forward. By God’s strength, we move ahead. As we tread into the future, God goes with us—meeting us at every crook in the road—every flat tire, every icy patch—God is there.

May God find a way into all your nooks and crannies—embracing all your grief and pain. May God transform your life—your mission into something outstandingly beautiful.

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

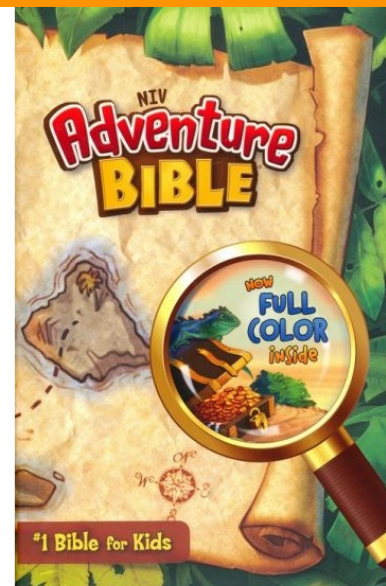
CHURCH WORSHIP:
5:30 PM - Saturday
10:15 AM - Sunday

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:
stjohnsoffice@alpinecom.net

Our Website:
www.stjohnsguttenberg.com



3rd graders will receive their Bibles this month. Pastor will be send a form home very soon for your personal touch in your child's Bible. The meeting will take pace on October 24 with presentation on October 29. Please save the dates!!!



**CANDY, DECORATIONS, FOOD,
MUSIC, AND TONS OF FUN!**

SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN PARKING LOT
OCTOBER 31ST, 2023
5PM-- ???

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!





-PLEASE PRAY FOR-

Keep in your prayers: Ross Abbott, Vera Ashman, Owen Aulwes, Bev Bahls, Cecil Bahls, Kay Becker, Ron & Kay Bahlmann, Lois Davis, Marvin Dean, Bob Ferguson, Tammy Goodman, Jerry Kolker, Brayton Kuhse, Richard Larson, Juanita Loven, 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, 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, Judith Olson Ed & LaVonne Rodenberg, Virginia Roth

Guttenberg Care Center: Shirley Moore, Shirley Moser

Ennoble Nursing Care: Dennis Roth

Garden View Place, Monona: Terry Thein

Tower Ridge, Garnavillo: Cathy Handke

Homebound: (SJ) Bill Tielbar



CARE CENTER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

GUTTENBERG CARE CENTER: Every 1st, 3rd, 4th Monday at 10:00 AM

RIVER LIVING CENTER: Thurs. Oct. 5- 10:30 AM

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.

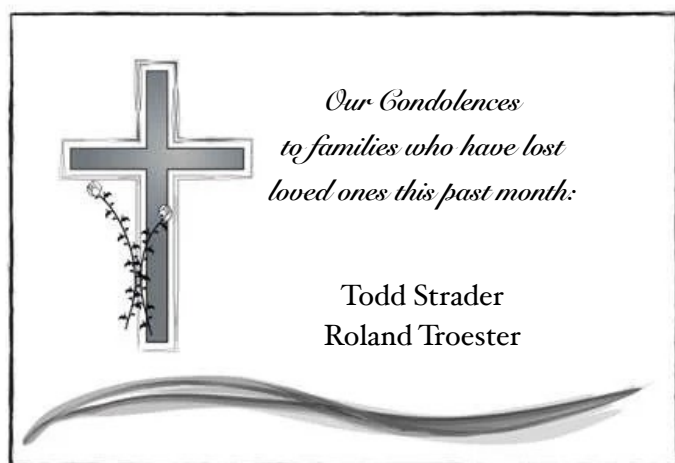
Sept. 11 - Larry Friedlein, to honor Derick Friedlein's birthday

Sept. 12 - Rick & Mary Allyn, in memory of Mary's father, Cornelius Tuecke

Sept. 13 - Rick & Mary Allyn, to honor Rick Allyn's birthday

Sept. 13 - in memory of Marlys Friedlein's passing

Sept. 17 - Rick & Mary Allyn, to honor their granddaughter, McKenna Maliecki's birthday



YOUTH MINISTRIES

Camera Ministry



SUNDAY

Oct. 1 -
Oct. 8 - Madi Thomas
Oct. 15 - Alayna Judkins
Oct. 22 - Abby Duwe
Oct. 29 - Wyatt Kremer

SATURDAY

Sept. 30 - Lennox Moser
Oct. 7 - Gavin Stoerp
Oct. 14 -
Oct. 21 - Wyatt Kremer
Oct. 28 - Gavin Stoerp

SUNDAY

Oct. 1- Mason Hinzman
Oct. 8 - Jovi Allyn
Oct. 15 - Nash Reimer
Oct. 22 - Myka Bries
Oct. 29 - Caleb Bittner



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!

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I believe the beauty of living in Northeast Iowa is the changing of the seasons. As we approach the season of fall with the pumpkin patches now open, corn mazes and pumpkin flavored everything, we can see the wonder of God's creation as the trees drop their leaves to grow them back in the spring and crops are readied for the harvest to feed the world. As time passes quickly, it will not be long before our annual meeting, which will be held at the end of January.

I mention this matter for you because we are still seeking to fill three church council positions. These positions would take on their duties in February of 2024 and would serve for two years. The council positions that are open are Property, Public Relations and Children and Youth. The duties of the Property Committee would be to monitor the church's property, which includes the church, parsonage, and grounds. The Public Relations Committee is responsible for the taping of the service to be shared with those at home, keeping the electronic message board updated, and working with the local paper to notify the public of church activities. The Children and Youth Committee are responsible for the youth programs outside of Sunday School and confirmation.

Frank Davis, Chuck Hemann and Forest Brown have faithfully served the congregation in these capacities, and I thank them for their service. The role of the chairperson of the committees is expected to organize a meeting on a periodic basis and report back to the council as to the workings of the committee.

I would ask you to consider serving if you have been asked or read this and think that you have a skill set that would serve your church. If you have any questions, please ask me or any other council member about these open positions.

Again, I want to thank the council members and our staff for the work we have done for the vision of our church. I also want to thank the members for their continued support of the work of the church, specifically, the financial support for the basement remodeling and HVAC updates, and all the volunteer hours that are worked for the good of our community.

God Bless you All,

Brian Rodenberg, Council President



WELCOME TO YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL 2023

Featuring | Frank Davis | Property

I grew up in...

the Guttenberg area most of my life. However, when my father was in the Navy we spent three years in Hawaii. When we returned to the area we basically lived on the family farm near Osterdock. I have seven siblings and I am the youngest. In order from the oldest: Jackie, Bernie, Barb, Ken, Andrew, Richard, Theresa, and me. Growing up on the farm after we returned, my three oldest sisters were already gone and Ken and Andy were only around for one year. After that it was Rich, Theresa, and I that lived and helped out on the farm. All of us kids did chores, such as, feeding animals, cleaning out stalls, during hay season you bailed, raked and stacked.

My most meaningful accomplishment in high school...

was being selected as Honorable Mention in vocal performance at the Dorian Festival held at Luther College. My director was the late David Wilson and I was a part of the choir during my high school years. I was in many high school plays and musicals, also. One of my favorite roles I performed was Dr. Seward in Dracula. My first eight years of schooling I attended St. Mary's School then went on to Guttenberg for high school. In high school I played football because I enjoyed the sport not because I excelled in it like my brothers. I met my future wife, Julie, and we began dating in high school. Thinking back during those years, my dad's philosophy was either you were busy with sports or music or he would have you busy on the farm, but no goofing around!

After high school, I...

After graduating high school...I went into the U.S. Army for three years serving during Desert Storm. When I came back to the area I began working in Dyersville at All American Homes for twenty-three years.



(Continued...)

One year after returning from the army Julie and I were married. Julie had attended the Iowa School of Business in Des Moines and then she began to work at Farmer's Mutual in Gamavillo. We have one daughter, Ellie, now a senior at Clayton Ridge High School. After working in Dyersville those many years I became employed at Meuser Lumber Company and am currently in my seventh year there. For twenty plus years I have been a member of the Opera House Players in Elkader. It is a big time commitment to take on a role and perform, but I enjoy the people I

meet, work with, and the audience. My favorite role was Tito (Peter) Merrelli, a gentleman who sang opera. The play was entitled "Lend Me a Tenor" and I repeated the role in the sequel called "Comedy of Tenors."

One of the biggest life lessons I learned from...

My biggest life lesson I learned...is that life is short so enjoy it. The amount of people you lose over time makes an impact. Whether it is the loss of your father, in-law, cousin or friends you realize what you've missed and you appreciate living your life to its fullest.

To me, grace means...

To me, grace means...basically being in His presence. The essential key to my life is to ALWAYS be in the Lord's presence.

I'm a Lutheran because...

I'm a Lutheran because...when my newborn daughter, Ellie, was to be baptized as a Lutheran I wished for our whole family to be together. I converted from Catholicism to Lutheran at that time. I feel St. John's Lutheran is family oriented, focused on being outgoing, and less inhibited in structure. I feel it is more forgiving and warm in spirit. Thank you for your support during my term as chair of the Property & Buildings for the Church Council.

From the CHURCH COUNCIL

St. John's American Evangelical Lutheran Church
Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023
Council Meeting Minutes

Members present: Craig Tuecke, Deb Preston, Lorna Moser, Michele Von Handorf, Penny Rausch, Diane Thiese, Forest Brown

Members Absent: Frank Davis, Sherry Oliver, Brian Rodenberg, Chuck Hemann, Mary Streich

Staff Present: Pastor Ashman

Call to Order: Vice President Michele Von Handorf called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

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

Secretary's Report: The council reviewed minutes of the August council meeting. No additions or corrections were noted. Due to a lack of quorum, the minutes were brought up for discussion. Michele approved the minutes as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Craig reviewed the August income and expenses. Due to the arrival of a council member, a quorum was met and approval of the treasurer's report was complete with a motion by Diane to approve the report. Penny made a second to that motion.

General Fund:	\$ 8,514.07
Benevolence:	\$27,154.67
Improvement:	\$14,264.07
Memorial Fund:	\$ 5,448.81
Benevolence Savings:	\$15,778.06
Sunday School:	\$ 980.22
Organ Fund:	\$ 1,842.83
Scrip:	\$ 3,701.19
Luther League:	\$ 5,673.59
Ending Balance:	\$ 83,357.51

Pastor's Report: A written report was presented by Pastor Ashman highlighting last month's activities. Pastor highlighted the events of the German service including the German meal. Several confirmation youth and parents are helping to serve that day. Youth breakfast attendance is good. Bible study is going well. Seventeen youth are attending confirmation classes. Two attendance times are offered.

Outreach Ministries: Diane attended the "Future of Area Ministry" led by Pastor McMillin. She reported that it was a great initial meeting to discuss how do we get communities involved in area ministries with the steady decline of members within our small communities. Some congregations are in more need than others currently. The group brainstormed for ideas to be shared with the congregations for further discussion.

Educational Ministries: Penny reported that thirty-six youth are currently registered for Sunday School. September 10th was Rally Day. The new space worked well for the games and activities that were done that day.

Children & Youth Ministries: Forest reported that Trunk or Treat is being planned for October 31st from 5-7 in the St. Johns parking lot. A trivia night was also proposed with the church council interacting with the confirmation classes.

Public Relations: No report.

Stewardship Ministries: No report.

Worship & Music Ministries: No report. We continue to seek a pianist/organist.

Property Ministries: No report.

Parish Fellowship: Lorna is collaborating with Pastor in preparing the German meal. ELCA driven Mental Health training will take place at St. John's. A meal is being provided. Initial planning is being done for the Thanksgiving meal.

V.P. Report: No report.

Old Business:

1. Pledge Update – 187 pledges have been paid in full. Outstanding pledges – 13
 \$136,903.40 – total amount pledged
 \$118,593.40 – paid pledges
 \$ 24,610.00 – outstanding pledges
 The project is complete.
2. Lights in Rose window and narthex – the narthex lights have been replaced. The rose window lights need to be replaced.

New Business:

1. Determine distribution of annual Benevolence Endowment Funds – Discussion followed. Diane made a motion to designate the Church Council Treasurer, the Church Council Chairperson of the Outreach Committee, and the Church Council Chairperson of the Stewardship Committee to serve as an Advisory Committee to the Congregation Council in matters relating to the annual distribution of funds from all endowment funds held in the name of St. John's Lutheran Church, Guttenberg, Iowa, currently invested with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. Forest made a second to the above motion.
2. 2024 Employee Benefit Program through Portico – Craig reviewed the program and recommended the 2024 Gold Plus Benefit Program through Portico. This is the employee benefit program for Pastor, Rebecca, and Alan. Diane made a motion to select this program and Lorna seconded the motion.
3. Head usher volunteers needed to serve with Penny during October. All dates were filled.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:12pm.

Next regular council meeting: Thursday, October 12th, at 7:00.
 Minutes respectfully submitted by Deb Preston.

Monthly Stewardship Report

Amount Needed Weekly **\$3,774**

Offering	Aug. 20	\$ 2,092
	Aug. 27	\$ 2,839
	Sept. 3	\$ 3,270
	Sept. 10	\$ 7,406
	Sept. 17	\$ 1,602



Host Homes Program

At LSI, we celebrate all the ways professional caregivers help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful connections in their communities. LSI's Host Homes program is an innovative way Direct Support Professionals serve adults with disabilities.

Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected Host Homes Provider who provides 24/7 support for the client.

"Working directly with my clients to help them complete goals and work around obstacles is my favorite part of my job," said Erica Hill Murray, a Host Homes Provider at LSI. "I enjoy showing them that there are people in their lives who care about them, are proud of them, and proud to help them."

Erica has helped many clients in the five years she has provided care at LSI, but one client, in particular, has made great strides under her care.

"I worked with a client who wanted to find a job or volunteer position, but she had two obstacles in her way: she had trouble using a computer, and she wasn't confident in her ability to speak in an interview," said Erica. "I offered to look for positions on the computer with her and to call potential employers to explain what she was looking for. After working with her, we found her a volunteer position for a couple of days a week, and she was delighted."

"She thanked me for helping her and said that she was happy that, for once, someone understood her drive to want to work," said Erica. "I like to make a difference – even if it is small. Helping others, no matter at what level, is impactful. I love working at LSI, and I believe my position as a Host Homes Provider has been my favorite position in life."

Stories like these are possible through our many community partners and generous donors. If you would like to learn more about how you can support crucial programming like LSI Host Homes, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's 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 love 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



*Empowering Individuals.
Strengthening Families.
Building Communities.*



OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sun. Oct. 1	8:00 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday school
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship
Mon. Oct. 2	4:30 pm	(SJ) Stephen Ministers
Tues. Oct. 3	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
	5:30 pm	(SP) Council Meeting
Wed. Oct. 4	1:00 pm	(SJ) Sarah Circle
	2:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
	5:30 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
Thur. Oct. 5	1:00 pm	(SJ) Bible Study
Fri. Oct. 6	7:00 am	(SJ) Donuts w/Pastor
Sat. Oct. 7	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Oct. 8	8:00 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday School
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship
Tues. Oct. 10	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Oct. 11	1:00 pm	(SJ) Sarah Circle
	2:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
	5:30 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
Thurs. Oct. 12	1:00 pm	(SJ) Bible Study
	7:00 pm	(SJ) Council Meeting
Fri. Oct. 13	7:00 am	(SJ) Donuts w/Pastor
Sat. Oct. 14	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Oct. 15	8:00 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday School
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship
Tues. Oct. 17	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Oct. 18	2:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
	5:00 pm	(SJ) Food Pantry Drive-Thru
	5:30 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
Thur. Oct. 19	1:00 pm	(SJ) Bible Study
Fri. Oct. 20	7:00 am	(SJ) Donuts w/Pastor
Sat. Oct. 21	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Oct. 22	8:00 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday School
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship
Tues. Oct. 24	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Oct. 25	2:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
	5:30 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
Thur. Oct. 26	1:00 pm	(SJ) Bible Study
	4:30 pm	(SJ) Stewardship
Fri. Oct. 27	7:00 am	(SJ) Donuts w/Pastor
Sat. Oct. 28	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Oct. 29	8:00 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday School
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship
Tues. Oct. 31	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God

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



NORTHEAST IOWA
FOOD BANK

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

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. Oct. 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
who assisted with the
September Mobile Food Pantry.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2023

OCTOBER Baptisms

Oct. 1
McKenna Hackett
Pat Meyer
Joan Walke

Oct. 2
Allie Esmann
Carter Esmann
Conway Johnson
Joanne Rausch

Oct. 4
Oakley Harbaugh
Richard Newbern

Oct. 5
Bonnie Garlow

Oct. 6
Cody Kulper
Joan Manson

Oct. 7
Courtney Olson

Oct. 9
Dale Linderbaum

Oct. 10
Ben Schmelzer
Amber Thiese
Carl Esmann

Oct. 12
Vayda Anderegg
Harold Heitman
Elijah Radabaugh

Oct. 13
Karla Palmer

Oct. 14
Caden Glawe

Oct. 15
Jacob Kahle
Brianna Lucey
Mary Waterman
Glen Witham

Oct. 16
Eric Meyer

Oct. 19
Caitlin Backes
Hadley Bries

Oct. 22
Alayna Judkins

Oct. 23
Deb Schlueter
Pastor Mike Ashman

Oct. 24
Thomas Anderson

Oct. 25
Cathy Handke
Gertie Meyer
Liam Seevers
Antonio Armstrong

Oct. 27
Dylan Preston
Steve Rausch

Oct. 28
Carla Ruegnitz

Oct. 29
Missy Holohan
Susan Koehn
Destiny Barnhart

Oct. 30
Linda Hines

OCTOBER Birthdays

Oct. 1
Lana Troester

Oct. 2
Jagger Allyn
Abby Schmelzer

Oct. 3
Bristol Augustyn
Hadley Bries
Julie Schmelzer
Jaxson Augustyn
Wayne Thiese

Oct. 4
Lennox Moser

Oct. 5
Cathy Handke
Arlene Tackman

Oct. 9
Becky Kelly
Susan Koehn
Merlin Torrey
Mary Waterman
Sylvia Chase

Oct. 10
Ethan Backes
Kelby Severson
Arlene Tackman

Oct. 12
Nash Reimer

Oct. 13
Jim Johnson
Emily Kraus
Allison Garlow

Oct. 14
Donna Witham

Oct. 17
Julie Finnegan
Todd Johnson
Paul Kraus

Oct. 18
Susan Horstman

Oct. 19
Bristol Allyn

Oct. 20
Kristina Johnson

Oct. 21
Julie Rosacker
Myles Judkins

Oct. 22
Sienna Seevers

Oct. 23
Vera Ashman
Amber Meyer

Oct. 24
Nancy Ruzicka

Oct. 26
Audie Baumgartner

Oct. 27
Keith Friedman

Oct. 29
Carolyn Hoffmann
Zach Hoffmann
Steve VonHandorf

OCTOBER

Wedding

Anniversaries

Oct. 1
John & Karen Anderegg

Oct. 2
Keith & Stacie
Drewelow

Oct. 3
John & Sandy
Lightfoot

Oct. 9
Frank & Julie Davis

Oct. 10
Brian & Vicki Rodenberg

Oct. 13
Joel & Dawn Moser

Oct. 14
Jeff & Jess Hillers

Oct. 17
Nick & Taylor Chase

Oct. 18
Ray & Mindy Stoerp
Pete & Ginger Sakas

Oct. 21
Mike & Lisa Hinzman
David & Dawn Herrmann

Oct. 25
Pat & Robert Jones

Oct. 26
Jim & Jan Solomon

Oct. 27
Bill & Joy Allyn

Oct. 29
Carson & Karla Palmer

