

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

April 2018



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

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“God’s Love in Action”

**Pastor's
Note...**

I remember when I got my first a laptop computer. It was amazing! Ever since I had started in college, using a computer had always meant the same thing: sitting in a chair at a desk or table. But all of a sudden, with my new laptop I could rest in my favorite recliner while I worked or in a lawn chair on the patio or on the couch in front of the TV or anywhere else at home (o.k... maybe not in the shower). But why stay home? I could type away at the library or the park or the coffee shop or traveling in the car (though, I did find it was easier when I let my wife drive). My new laptop gave me great freedom to break out of old habits and breathed a little fresh air into my daily routine. Smartphones, tablets, and wireless data plans have only increased that freedom.

And yet, with all of this freedom that I have, do you know where I do most of my computer work? Sitting inside on a chair at a desk or table. Old habits are hard to break, aren't they?

Easter is about freedom. It's about getting out of old ruts and breathing in a breath of fresh air. Jesus' resurrection is the definitive rut-breaker. We have incredible freedom because we no longer have to fear death. We're free to put our thoughts and energies into other things. We can look at life with a fresh sense of adventure and creativity. Why should we limit ourselves to doing things the way we've always done them? Jesus showed us that change is good!

So, let's celebrate Easter this year by enjoying our freedom from death! Break out of that rut! What will you do? Take a dance class? Visit a place you've always wanted to see? Serve egg rolls at Easter dinner? Dig out that old bike and start riding it again? Talk to strangers? Read a book of the Bible? Take a nap even though it makes you feel guilty? See how long you can pray before you fall asleep? Make up flattering and fun nicknames for your co-workers like "Spunky" and "Dr. Jolly?" Be creative. Be at peace. Know that you are God's forever, and nothing can separate you from God's love. Enjoy the fresh air of freedom in Christ!

Peace,
Pastor Russ



Easter Morning Worship

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1ST

Services are at

6:30 a.m.,

8:00 a.m.,

9:30 a.m.

**"God's
Love
in
Action"**

Of
Note ...



MEET AND GREET FOR PASTOR RUSS AND SUSAN

To the GUESTS of the Meet and Greet opportunities:

Our host and hostesses have chosen their dates and now is your opportunity to sign up for a little fun and relaxation along with getting to know Pastor Russ and Susan a little better. But just as important, Pastor and Susan will get to know you and your family a little better, too.

Signup sheets will be available in the Narthex or Kathy's office so please check your calendars and get your names on the lists! Warm weather is coming, and this is a perfect time to get those get-togethers started!

There are a few dates still open, so if you were considering hosting, please check things out. There is always room for more.

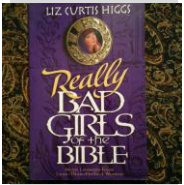


Help Wanted! The Finance Board allocates 8% of the thank offering it receives to worthy causes, groups, charities etc. at the end of every calendar quarter. We are looking for suggestions from the Congregation as to where we could designate the thank offering. Please call the church and provide your suggestions to either Kathy or Linda or simply write your suggestion on the back of your attendance slip. Thank you

Women's Bible study will begin on April 10th at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel featuring

***"Really Bad Girls of the Bible"* by Liz Curtis Higgs**

Through a unique combination of contemporary fiction, gentle humor, and biblical exposition, Liz Curtis Higgs brings these women's stories to life. Whether they were Bad and Proud of It, Bad for a Good Reason, found themselves under a Bad Moon Rising, or were Bad but Not Condemned, these eight Really Bad Girls demonstrate one life-changing truth: God rules the lives of those He loves with grace, compassion, and hope.



Prayer Shawls are available for distribution. We have 2 totes that are filling up, but very few shawls going out. This is an opportunity for you to take one to someone you know that has an illness, sadness in their life or a personal crisis. They are stored in the associate pastor's office and can be checked out during office hours. We just keep track of who is receiving them, so we don't double up. Shawls (and some lap-robos) are available that are suitable for a woman or man. A visit to someone in need with one of these can brighten their day. We have heard this over and over from people and hope you can help in this ministry.

Calendar policy: Any staff, board or ministry who would like to put an event or meeting (other than regular scheduled meetings/ministries) on the calendar must fill out a detailed Use of Building form. Details to include are your name, contact number, date, time, number of expected participants, room needed, setup date & hours, equipment needed etc. You can get a form from Kathy in the office during business hours. After business hours there will be a binder in the mailboxes in the hallway with blank forms and completed/approved forms. After hours put your completed form next to the binder. Your event will be put on the calendar and if there are any conflicts you will be notified.



Noisy Bucket Sunday - Bring your loose change to church on Sunday, April 8th, when the Stewardship Board will be hosting a "Noisy Bucket" offering. This offering will be taken separately and apart from the traditional offering and all coins (or dollars if you prefer) will be collected in tin buckets and gathered in one large bucket at the front of the church. All the "noise" received will go to Bible Camp Scholarships. Kids young and old can enjoy this giving and fun event. Let's see if we can fill the bucket!



Save the Date!

Family board will host a **Ladies' Luncheon**
April 29th at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.



All St. John ladies and their friends are welcome! This fun event will include fellowship, lunch, dessert, a short program, and a pretty "photo booth" to snap a few cute pictures of your group! Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for girls ages 6-18. Under 6 is free. Tickets may be purchased in the church office until April 25th.



APRIL Meals On Wheels

There are sign-up sheets on the glass case for Meals on Wheels. Drivers are needed for the weeks of April 16 -20 & April 23-27!

Wednesday Night Supper

April 4: B.B.Q. meatballs, potatoes, bean salad, apple cake

April 11: Oven baked chicken, whipped potatoes & gravy, green bean casserole, pudding

April 18: Meat loaf, baked potatoes, baked beans, bread pudding

April 25: Pizza burgers, tater tots, corn, applesauce, ice cream sandwich

ALTAR GUILD –APRIL 2018

Betty Manning, Linda Reit

Do Day Quilters

Meets April 12

The Parkinson's Support group
will **NOT** meet in April.

St. John Lutheran Card Ministry will
meet April 9th at 1:00 p.m.

The St. John book club will meet **April 23rd** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside room and will review the book *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. Daniel James Brown's robust book tells the story of the University of Washington's 1936 eight-oar crew and their epic quest for an Olympic gold medal, a team that transformed the sport and grabbed the attention of millions of Americans. The sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers, the boys defeated elite rivals first from eastern and British universities and finally the German crew rowing for Adolf Hitler in the Olympic games in Berlin, 1936.



“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish My purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10-12

Blessings,
Laurie Heidebrink

YOUTH NEWS

Thank you to all who attended the Youth Board’s Palm Sunday Breakfast. The free-will donations are going into the individual accounts of the youth who worked that event and will be available for them to use for St. John events, like mission trips and hockey games. We are so very grateful for your support!

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our “envelope fundraiser” so far. We ask that all envelopes be filled and returned by April 15th. We are blessed to have such a supportive congregation! 😊

WIYLDE registration forms are available in Laurie’s office for any 8th-12th grade St. John student wishing to attend. WIYLDE will be held this year at Wartburg from June 10-13. Registrations are due to St. John by May 9th so we have time to get them mailed in by the 15th.

Middle School Mission Trip 2018 – We will be going to **Wisconsin July 5-8, 2018**. This trip is open to St. John 6th-8th grade students and their friends. Get these days on your calendar now and be watching for additional information in upcoming newsletters, bulletins, etc.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The PreK-2nd grade Sunday School students will be singing on **April 8th at the 10:15am** worship service.

SAVE THE DATES: VBS - Tuesday through Friday, July 31st - August 3rd. Plan to have your kids attend Tuesday-Friday from 5:30pm-8pm each evening! We will also be singing on Sunday, August 5th. Look for more information in the upcoming bulletins and newsletters. If you are interested in volunteering with VBS, please contact Laurie.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Well, the After-School Program will soon be starting back up after taking some time off for Lent. We will meet starting the Wednesday April 4th from 3:30-5pm on the third floor. We will wrap up our year on April 25, 2018. Thank you so much for the donations we received for snacks! The hungry tummies of our 33 enrolled students (AND the helpers!) are very grateful.

FAMILY BOARD

The Family Board will be hosting a Ladies’ Luncheon on Sunday, April 29, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All St. John ladies and their friends are welcome! This fun event will include fellowship, lunch, dessert, a short program, and a pretty “photo booth” to snap a few cute pictures of your group! Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for girls ages 6-18. Under 6 is free. Tickets may be purchased in the church office until April 25th.

Youth &
Family



REMINDER: Those students attending a Lutheran college who would like to receive an EPIC grant must notify the church by **May 1st**.

St. John scholarship applications for non-Lutheran colleges are available from Kathy in the office. Email her at khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com. Completed applications should be emailed to the office by **April 1st**.

Save the Date!

St. John VBS will be July 31-August 3, 2018 from 5:30-8pm and we will sing during the 9:30am worship service on August 5th.

St. John youth will be going to the
**2018 Youth Gathering
in Houston, Texas
June 27 - July 1st!**

Remember to bring your envelope amount from the donation wall back to St. John by April 15th!



St. John Middle School
Mission Trip to Wisconsin
July 5th - 8th

This trip is open to 6th - 8th grade students and their friends. Watch the bulletins & newsletters for more information!

Off to Houston!



WYLD

(Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipling Event)

June 10 – 13 at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa

8th – 12th Grade students interested in attending can pick up registration forms in Laurie's office. Registration deadline is May 9th!

April 2018

Bulletin Stuffer:

Acolytes: Easter Sunday, April 1 – 8:00 a.m. Brayton Quade, **9:30 a.m.** Alyvia Vance
8:00 a.m. – Koen Tibbitts, Brayton Quade
10:15 a.m. – Tino Tamayo, Keaton Schmidtke

Communion Assistants, Crucifer, & Banner Bearers

Easter Sunday, April 1 – 6:30 a.m. Kayla Kellogg, **8:00 a.m.** Kiki Connell, **9:30 a.m.**
Cameron Kakac, Josiah Hervert

8:00a.m. Madisyn Millermon, Kayla Kellogg
10:15 a.m. Josiah Hervert, Cory Marth, Josh Laue

Dates & times when the youth are serving are posted on the bulletin board outside the Business Manager's office.



St. John Youth



"We all clap and sing. The stone is rolled away,
Jesus is alive and He is with us everyday!"

"God's
Love
in
Action"

Spring greetings from your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! Our little ones have been excited to see the signs of spring around our community. It is truly refreshing to see the hope in the eyes of our young friends when the "grumpy" teachers are sure that warm weather is never going to arrive! It is hard to imagine that we are getting close to the end of another great year at St. John Christian Preschool. The time has gone by so fast!

Our year is quickly winding down to a close, but we are still very busy at SJCP. We have been doing many fun activities with the letters P, R, G, Q, C, S, U, & J. It won't be too long until we conclude our year-long study of the alphabet. All the little ones got to easel paint, which is always a class favorite. The older friends are also working on some Kindergarten Readiness Skills!

We took all of our friends on a walk through the church the week before Easter and introduced the concept of Good Friday to them. We are excited to take that same walk on the Tuesday/Wednesday following Easter to celebrate our Risen Savior and to notice the differences in our church.

We currently have openings left for the 2018-2019 school year. Please call 228-7274 or stop by the preschool for more information on the current enrollment.

With HIS love,
Whittney Franke

April

Rain has such fun in April, it patters through the trees
Talking to all the leaf buds and robins that it sees
It splashes through the puddles and skips along the walks
Goes coasting down the grass blades and dandelion stalks
It dips in all the flowers and when the clouds blow by
It paints with flower colors a rainbow in the sky.

~ Author Unknown ~



April Birthdays

2 nd	Georgie Miller	16 th	Beverly Sears
2 nd	Mike Leraan	17 th	Harlan Kolb
3 rd	Russell Frascht	20 th	Leon Hall
3 rd	Beverly Wolff	23 rd	Kathy Schilling
8 th	Annabelle Grimm	24 th	Dorothy Watson
13 th	Sharon Aringdale	26 th	Marilyn Kolb
14 th	Connie Rasmussen		



April Anniversaries

April 7, 1968	Leonard & Susan Erickson
April 20, 1963	Donald & JoAnn Knowlton
April 26, 1959	Rodney & Ruthanne Ellis

Funerals: *March 21, 2018 Ellen A. Rygh Meyer*

St. John's Parent Support Group will be meeting on an **as needed basis ONLY**.
Anyone who needs to meet should contact Jill Connell at 319-215-8252 or
jillconnell@hotmail.com.

APRIL FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:

CALLER – Arlene Thomas. Thanks to our March caller **Diane Loudermilk.**

HELPERS – Sharon Bledsoe, Viva Boerschel, Helen Bond, Sondra Coen, Judy Hauser, Marilyn Isakson, Diann Jacobson, Tami Jakel, Linda Klemesrud, Brandi Lantz, Carleen Laue, Angel McKenzie, Sandra Miller, Deb Montagne, Pat Peterson, Connie Rasmussen, Shirley Regel, Donna Stewart, Pat Townsend, Myrna Ward, Arlene Wegner



As you go on your way, God goes with you.

He goes before you to show you the way;

He goes behind you to encourage you,

Beside you to befriend you;

Above you to watch over you;

And within you to give you peace.

Go in Peace...



April 2018 Birthdays!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Colton Crooks	Myron Leraaen Georgena Miller	Imhuicha Bohner Russell Frascht Beverly Wolff	Richard Harrington Koen Tibbitts Marilyn Venz	Greig Grimm Michael McKenzie Sarah Murray	Colin Johanningmeier Shirley Platte	Jolene Bilharz Blake Dean Cooper Holm Andrew Janssen Carter Johanningmeier
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Annabelle Grimm Marcia Olesen	Curt Hallet	Al Brandau Elsie Ferguson Diane Loudermilk Keith Westergard	Torey Buenger Brian Voelker Joyce Wood	Bennett Hansen Ann Kabele Falyn Knecht		Austin Hicks Sydney Hinz Laker Kubik Connie Rasmussen
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Owen Prichard Tammy Quade	Beverly Sears	Harlyn Kolb Mariah McKenzie	Cameron Hanson Carter Hanson Pamela Lumley Nancy Scherer Shannon Venz	Linda Hughes Kaylie Keyes	Leon Hall Mariel Kilby Donaven Sande Emilee Sande	Jodi Heyer
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Cora Crooks Callie Hammond Julie Vance Carter West	Kaylee Michael Kathleen Schilling Matt Vance	James Merrifield Kaitlyn Ross Dorothy Watson	Jessica Hoeft Abigail Lacour Heidi Nielsen Darci Tracey	Marilyn Kolb		Dennis Kreger
29	30					
Paul Augustin Paul Veen	Bruce Boerschel					

APRIL 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunday	2	3	4	5	6	7
6:30 a.m. Worship/Comm 8:00 a.m. Worship/Comm 9:30 a.m. Worship/Comm <i>HE IS RISEN</i> <i>alleluia</i>		6:00 a.m. Bibles Before Books 5:00 p.m. Building & Grounds	Wednesday Night Activities			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Stewardship 9:05 a.m. Education hour 9:15 a.m. Deacons 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 a.m. Youth board	1:00 p.m. Card making at St. John	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 6:00 p.m. Council 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts	Wednesday Night Activities 5:15 p.m. Family board	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters		6:00 p.m. Lock in
15 Communion	16	17	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education hour 10:15 a.m. Worship	6:00 p.m. Scouts		Wednesday Night Activities	9:00 a.m. Women's Ministry		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Finance 9:05 a.m. Education hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 a.m. Communication board	6:00 p.m. Scouts 7:00 p.m. Book Club	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts	10:00 a.m. Assemble newsletters Wednesday Night Activities	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters		
29	30	1-May	2	3	4	5
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Ladies Luncheon				1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support group		

Wednesday Schedule:

3:30 p.m. After School
5:00 p.m. Supper

5:30 p.m. Carol Choir
5:30 p.m. Wind Ensemble

6:00 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir