

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

February 2017



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

200 South Main Street
Charles City, IA
50616-2751

Phone:
641-228-3397

Website:
www.stjohncharlescity.org

“God’s Love in Action”

Annual Meeting, Phase Two, Lent, & Other Matters ...

Our 2017 annual meeting of the congregation is now in the books. Personally, I thought it was very positive, forward-looking and filled with reasons for much gratitude to God and the good people of St. John who have invested themselves in this congregation! The call committee and alternates were voted upon, as well as new council and board members—ready to go into the new year!

As I mentioned at the annual meeting, a council, staff, board, call committee retreat will be held the first weekend in February to help new council leadership complete the final portion of the Ministry Site Profile. When completed, approved by council, and sent in, Rev. Stephen Brackett (Assistant to the NE Iowa Synod Bishop) will be here to help present the profile to the congregation, talk about the call process, answer any questions you have, and meet with the call committee. Specific timing and details will be made known soon. Our goal is to complete all this in the next 30 days if schedules and availability of key players work as planned. If you are wondering about a general schedule of remaining steps involving phase II of the interim process, I invite you to pick up a copy of the annual report and read my annual report article.

Ash Wednesday begins Wednesday March 1st here at St. John. I was originally going to suggest a Lenten series involving dramatic monologues like last year but recently I have had a change of heart and mind and here's why ... over the past year, I have had a number of people (10-12?) approach me or mention casually that they wish our church provided more 'basic' teaching concerning the Christian faith and life—a wonderful request and worthy of consideration! While praying about Lent over the past two weeks and what the Lord would bring to my attention, I am confident as to what direction to take for a Lenten emphasis. Our Lenten series theme will be, "The Elementary Teachings of Christ." This series will be based upon **Hebrews 6:1-2**, which says:

"Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment" (English Standard Version, ESV).

In this Lenten Sermon series, we will unpack each of these six elementary doctrines of Christ as listed in this passage and schedule them as follows ...

March 1: (Ash Wednesday) - "Repentance from Dead Works"

March 8: "Faith toward God"

March 15: "Instruction about Washings"

March 22: "Laying on of Hands"

March 29: "Resurrection of the Dead"

April 5: "Eternal Judgment"

If time permits, I will try to provide some kind of 'follow along' outline for each of these sermon themes throughout Lent.

Cont. next page...

Finally, I will be taking some vacation in February (February 7-18) with my wife now that the annual meeting and call committee initiatives are complete and before the Lenten season begins March 1st. An ELCA pastor will be preaching for me the one Sunday I am gone (February 12). While here, his sermon and ministry will focus upon the work of "Food for the Poor". He will also do an in-service on that ministry between worship services to go more in-depth into what that ministry does.

Continue to keep your new council leaders, staff, boards, and call committee in your prayers. There is much to do over the next 2-3 months and your prayers, support, patience, and understanding are vital, helpful, and very much needed!

Bill Odermann, Interim Pastor



**FOOD FOR
THE POOR**

Sunday, February 12th there will be a guest pastor, Pr. Darrell D. Golnitz, Lutheran (ELCA) Pastor. He will share with us the story of the "Food for the Poor" ministry through a message entitled: "*Choose Life*". You will be invited to participate in this ministry through a special offering."

"Food For The Poor, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy, is the largest international relief organization in the United States. Since its founding in 1982, Food For The Poor has provided more than \$11 billion in aid and has built more than 107,000 housing units for destitute people in need of adequate shelter. More than 95% of all donations go directly to programs that help the poor.

New Council & Board Members – 2017

President:	<i>Jeremy Heyer</i>			
Vice President:	<i>Janet Petefish</i>			
Secretary:	<i>Virginia Titus</i>			
Council:	<i>Kathy Crooks Nancy Heiter Don Holm</i>	Building & Grounds		<i>Kent Hoeft Guy Carpenter</i>
Deacons:	<i>Joyce Boehmer Marlene Holthaus</i>	Communication:	<i>Iyr</i>	<i>Brandi Lantz Brad McKenzie Julie</i>
DeBowe\Family Board:	<i>Lisa Hinz Sabra Lacour</i>	Finance Board:	<i>Iyr</i>	<i>Judy Hughes Karol Carpenter Gina McClintock</i>
Parish Education:	<i>Jessie Holm Yung Feng Liu</i>	Stewardship:		<i>Josh Johnson Ryan Venz</i>
Youth Board:	<i>Sue McDonald</i>	Preschool Board:		<i>Rachel Ginbey Megan Williams</i>

St. John Call Committee

Julie Begemann, Ana Blickenderfer, Kathy Crooks, Greig Grimm, Greg Heidebrink, Carter Johanningmeier, Becky Meyer, John Rima, Shirley Ripley

Alternates: Leonard Erickson, Janet Petefish, Nancy Scherer

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**OF
NOTE...**



Save the Date. Women's Ministries in conjunction with the Arts Center is planning an event March 18, early afternoon. The Arts Center is celebrating the heritage of some of the people who settled our area. Right now, I know that at least German and Scandinavian Heritage will be featured. More information to follow as far as time and event details.

Wednesday Night Supper

February 1: Hamburger stroganoff, mixed vegetables, fruit, pudding

February 8: Pizza burgers, French fries, fruit cocktail, broccoli, ice cream

February 15: Chicken enchiladas, pasta salad, applesauce, butterscotch dessert

February 22: Goulash, green beans, lettuce salad, angel food delight

ALTAR GUILD – FEBRUARY

Mary Augustin, Peg Poppen

Women's Bible study

Meets February 14th & 28th

Alzheimer's Support Group will meet February 21st with a program at 3:00 p.m. and the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

February 16th 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Knit/crochet group

Parkinson's Support group

NO meeting in February. The next meeting will be March 2nd.

Save your plastic bags for a special project for Women's Ministry

We are going to have an event in February or March where we will cut plastic bags and learn how to crochet or knit them into sleeping mats for the homeless, possibly for Haiti or closer to home. This will be a learning event and perhaps be ongoing. **IT TAKES A LOT OF BAGS!** Keep us in mind before discarding. You can learn more by using this link to a video. <https://vimeo.com/4887139>

FEBRUARY FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:

CALLER – Bev Selvig

HELPERS – Ellen Brewer, Jenisha Garden, Lori Gassman, Helen Goplerud, Laurie Heidebrink, Judy Hughes, Marcia Jacobs, Ann Kabele, Julie Kisch, Kailee Janssen, Pat Mehmen, Janet Petefish, Shirley Ripley, Dorothy Rodda, Carol Rowe, **Bev Selvig**, Shortie Veen, Ann Voelker, Laura Walker, Eileen Wegner

Thanks to our January caller Donna Gambaiani and to all who helped provide food or helped serve.

The St. John book club will meet February 27th at 7:00 p.m.

They will be reviewing the book *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins Rachel, devastated by her recent divorce, spends her daily commute fantasizing about the seemingly perfect couple who live in a house that her train passes every day, until one morning she sees something shocking happen there and becomes entangled in the mystery that unfolds



**“God’s
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in Action”**

2017 Lenten Schedule

Our Lenten series theme will be, "The Elementary Teachings of Christ." This series will be based upon Hebrews 6:1-2 "Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment" (English Standard Version, ESV)

Worship during Lent will be 4:30 p.m. and 6:15 p.m.

Ash Wednesday (Worship/Comm) March 1st - Sermon theme: "Repentance from Dead Works" **First Communion for 5th grade will be at the 6:15 p.m. worship**

March 8th: Sermon theme – "Faith Toward God"

March 15th: Sermon theme – "Instruction about Washings"

March 22nd: Sermon theme – "Laying on of Hands"

March 29th: Sermon theme – "Resurrection of the Dead"

April 5th – Sermon theme – "Eternal Judgement"



February Birthdays

3rd Don Knowlton
4th Marian Johnson
9th Evelyn Rademacher
21st Duane Ortmayer
28th Marilu Wohlers



February Anniversaries

February 10, 1950 Russell & Sylvia Frascht
February 14, 1960 Jim & Donna Gambaiani
February 14, 1964 Lenus & Nadonne Busemann

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.

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Memorials have been given in memory of:

Andrea Rae Bartman DeVore: John & Bev Selvig

Leona Frances Milhan Arndt: D.L. & Sandra Pepper

Rudolph John Mehmen: Arlene Thomas

Craig Alan Tjaden: Lynn & Peg Poppen, Arlene Thomas, Donn & Cherie Schafer, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Gary & Sheryl Carlson, Paul & Pat Heddens & Catherine Kroh, Kip & Judy Hauser, Leon & Jan Mulford, Donald & Erika Alpern, Norma Cassidy, Maurice & Joanne Ellison, James & Cheryl Erb, Ruth Farmer, Timothy & Vanessa Hallihan, M/M J. R. Herbrechtsmeer, Leon & Marilyn Isakson, Clara Iverson, Charles & Alice Krumwiede, Andy & Diane Melrose, Thomas & Gail Russell, Douglas & Janice Saunders, John & Galene Sobolik, Larry & Donna Stewart, Carla Stoffel & William, Marilu Wohlers, David & Carol Rush, Marian Hoeft & HNI Corporation

Willard Fred Wolf: Lynn & Peg Poppen, Helen Schmidt, Leona Howe, Karen Streich, Dale & Sandy Miller, Kathleen Schilling, Kent & Lorie Hoeft

Deaths:

January 5, 2017 Rudolph John Mehmen

Funerals:

January 18, 2017 Craig Alan Tjaden

January 20, 2017 Willard Fred Wolf

Winter is in full swing and while the days ARE getting longer – the weather sometimes doesn’t cooperate with us. If school is cancelled or dismissed early on a Wednesday (due to weather) we will NOT hold the After-School Program or Confirmation classes or have ANY of our Wednesday night activities.

Even though some of us may not enjoy the cold and wish we could skip winter – we can take some comfort in the fact that we know it will warm up again eventually. And we can take comfort in the consistency of the changing of the seasons every year.

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” Genesis 8:22

Blessings, Laurie

Youth News

The end of January, I was fortunate enough to attend the ELCA Youth Network Extravaganza in Louisville, Kentucky with my husband, Greg. This event is held annually at varying locations throughout the United States. It is a conference for pastors, youth workers, and laypeople, and a great opportunity to attend many workshops and hear speakers from across the country. (I actually turned this newsletter entry in to Kathy before leaving, so will tell you all about it in my March newsletter article!)

We usually attend a Waterloo Black Hawks game in February, and this year is no different. We will meet at the church at 5:30 for pizza and leave around 5:50pm. Watch the bulletins for information on the date and time we will go this year.

Sunday, February 26th, at both services we will be celebrating the milestone of receiving a driver’s license with all those who have gotten their license in the last year. If you received your driver’s license in the last year and didn’t receive an invitation to this event, please contact Laurie so we can add you to the list!

Confirmation

Our fourth session of classes under the new format is starting this month and the 35 students in our Confirmation program are taking either *Journey Through Genesis*, *The New Testament*, *Miracles of Jesus*, or *Revelation*.

Sunday School News

On February 26, I will be baking unleavened bread with the 5th grade students to serve during Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, March 1st. This will be the first time our 5th grade students will be taking communion.

Family Board

Sunday, March 5 will be the Family Lent Event in the Parish Hall. This is an opportunity for parents and children to make a clay prayer pot and some additional crafts together. We will hold this event during the education hour, and all families are invited to attend.

After School Program

We have 22 kids enrolled in our After-School Program, which is each Wednesday from 3:35-5pm. We have a snack and do a craft project and watch a short video each week. The After-School Program could use some donations of Styrofoam bowls for snacks, washable markers, pencil sharpeners for our colored pencils and some more snacks. The kids especially like muffins (mixes are fine), pudding cups, applesauce cups, pretzels, cheese balls/puffs and apple juice. Thank you!



FEBRUARY 2017

Bulletin Stuffer: Tino Tamayo

Acolytes: Madisyn Millermon, Cory Marth, Kayla Kellogg, Josiah Hervert

Worship Assistants: Joslyn Cotton, Cassie DeBower, Brooke Vance, Lexi Vance, Alex Litterer

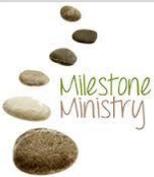
Wednesday night supper: Kaleb & Mackenzy Bilharz, Kaleb & Joslyn Cotton, Tino Tamayo

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

MILESTONE MINISTRIES:

On February 26th, at both services, we will celebrate the Driver's License Milestone with all those who have received their driver's license in the last year. Those reaching this milestone will be given a small gift to commemorate the occasion.

On March 1st, Ash Wednesday, we will celebrate the First Communion Milestone with the 5th Grade class. They will be making their Communion Banners, and will be baking the communion bread with Laurie Heidebrink on February 26th.



"God's
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COMING MARCH 5TH!

FAMILY BOARD'S LENT EVENT

9:05 - 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Parents and their students will be making clay prayer pots and other crafts!

The After-School Program could use some donations of Styrofoam bowls for snacks, washable markers, pencil sharpeners for our colored pencils and some more snacks. The kids especially like muffins (mixes are fine), pudding cups, applesauce cups, pretzels, cheese balls/puffs and apple juice. Thank you!





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Love is definitely in the air at St. John Christian Preschool, but perhaps not in the way that you traditionally think of during this month of greeting cards and chocolate. We feel honored to be able to share God’s love with each of our 40 little ones each and every day. And you know what the really AWESOME thing is? It doesn’t take very long before our little ones start sharing God’s love right back!

January was very full of new and exciting things to explore. We learned all about Outer Space. We talked about the stars and constellations, and Ursa Major and Minor. We even learned about the forces push and pull, and how they help things move. We worked on our small motor skills by using scissors to cut our very own stars and we did a lot of writing (in our older classes) to help with some Kindergarten Readiness skills. We also worked on our self-help skills by working on putting on our coats, zipping them up, and putting on our backpacks! We’re all doing quite well! ☺

We are continued to be blessed with a preschool board of six, hardworking, dedicated women. At our January meeting we said goodbye to Brandi Lantz. She served the preschool board for 3 years and will be missed. But we did add one NEW member to our board! We welcomed Rachel Ginbey. We reallocated positions and are looking forward to another great year with this board. The support they each provide is invaluable to the success of our program!

We would also like to remind everyone that the preschool is still selling Kwik Star, and Kmart gift cards. Please stop down or call if you are interested in purchasing a gift card (228-7274.) The preschool receives 5% of the card’s face value.

SJCP would like to announce that we are holding a Book Fair here at the preschool, as well. The Book Fair will be Monday, February 13 - Friday, February 17 from 8:00am - 3:30pm. This event is open to the community and the proceeds go straight to the preschool. We will also be starting our “all school” fundraiser the week of February 6th! We will be selling Scratch Cupcakes! The preschool will receive 40% of the profit! Be on the lookout for more information soon!

Last, but certainly not least, we are blessed with the many forms of support that the St. John congregation provides us. From financial gifts to prayers to the smiles that we receive when we pass a member of the congregation in the hall, we feel loved. In a world, full of many difficulties, thank you for sharing your support with our youngest friends and making them feel special, needed and important.

With HIS love,
Whittney Franke



February 2017 Birthdays!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Meghan Korbel	Jaycee Knutson Marvin Thompson Rylee Van Horn	Donald Knowlton	Carter Kellogg Kyndra McDonald Laurel Schlump
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Melia Lantz Karmen Mehmen Rusty Rogotzke David Wessel	Megan Vance	Robert Frascht Liz Hamm Angel McKenzie Sandra Quade Derick Ungs	Payton Reams	Isaac Hervert Evelyn Rademacher		Cody Van Horn
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Viva Boerschel Samantha Prigge Judy Wessel	Eric Bailey	Kailee Janssen	Kathy Waldorf	Talan Eckhoff Brian Ulrichs	Kayden Hillegas Brayton Quade
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Cassie DeBower Andrew Miller Ron Venz	Duane Ortmyer		Ella Johnson Samantha Knoke Jodi Watson	Dennis Petefish	Shirley Holm Chelsea Lumley Danny Marth
26	27	28				
Betty Ferch Keaton Schmidtke Algie Slindee		Greg Buenger Michael Exline Lori Gassman Deborah Schilling Jolene Wilts Weston Wink Marilu Wohlers				

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Wednesday Night Schedule 5:30 p.m. Training for Deacons 6:00 p.m. Stewardship board	6:00 p.m. Fitness class 	Council, Call Committee, Staff, Boards Retreat	
5 Communion Sunday	6	7 Pastor Bill vacation - 18th	8	9		10
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 9:15 a.m. Deacons 9:15 a.m. Youth board 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Communication board 1:00 p.m. Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby	7:00 p.m. Building & Grounds	8:30 a.m. CC Mom's group 5:00 p.m. Women's Ministry 6:00 p.m. Fitness class	Wednesday Night Schedule	6:00 p.m. Fitness class		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 a.m. Family board	1:00 p.m. Card making at St. John 6:00 p.m. Finance 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 6:00 p.m. Fitness class 7:00 p.m. Council 	Wednesday Night Schedule	9:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl group 6:00 p.m. Fitness class		
19 Communion Sunday	20	21	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24	25
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 a.m. Parish Ed 11:30 p.m. Bean Bags for Bible Camps	6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 	8:30 p.m. CC Mom's group 3:00 p.m. Alzheimer's Support group 6:00 p.m. Fitness class 6:30 p.m. Preschool board	Wednesday Night Schedule	6:00 p.m. Fitness class		
26 Driver's License Mileston	27	28	Mar 1 - Ash Wednesday	2	3	4
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Education hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 1:00 p.m. Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet	6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts 7:00 p.m. Book club <i>SJCP current registration starts</i>	1:30 p.m. Assemble newsletters 6:00 p.m. Fitness class	4:30 p.m. Worship/Comm 5:00 p.m. Supper 5:30 p.m. Wind Ensemble 6:15 p.m. Worship/Comm & 5th grade 1st Communion	1:00 p.m. Parkinson's support group 6:00 p.m. Fitness class		

Wednesday night Schedule:

3:30 p.m. After School	5:30 p.m. Wind Ensemble	6:00 p.m. Confirmation
5:00 p.m. Supper	5:30 p.m. Carol Choir	7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir