

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

February 2018



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

200 South Main Street
Charles City, IA
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Phone:
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Website:
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“God’s Love in Action”

**Pastor's
Note...**

Let me tell you a story. One day about fifteen years ago, I got an unexpected phone call from my wife. When I answered the phone and heard her voice, I started to worry. It was the middle of the day. Susan was a teacher and rarely had the opportunity to make phone calls during the school day. I immediately assumed something must be wrong. But her voice was calm... almost nonchalant.

"I think I might have just won a trip to New York City," she said.

"What?!" I responded with disbelief.

"Well, I don't know," she said, "it's probably nothing, but I just pulled the lid off my yogurt and it says, 'You are a Grand Prize Winner - Trip for two to New York City.' Do you think it could be real?"

In an instant my worry turned to excitement and I said, "It's gotta be real! How could someone fake that?!"

"Well, I don't know," she said, "It seems too good to be true. The rules say that the chances of winning are over 1 in 7,000,000."

Susan had to go to class, so we ended our conversation, but that evening at home we talked about it a lot. I was excitedly dancing around the house, celebrating my good fortune. I was married to the Yogurt Grand Prize Winner. What more could a guy want from life. Susan, on the other hand, remained cool and still wasn't convinced it was for real. The instructions said that the winning lid had to be sent in by certified mail and, if it was determined to be an "authentic game piece," we would be contacted by someone who'd make the arrangements for us. Susan still believed that the lid would be determined to be a fake, or that if it was real, it only meant that her name was going, with many others, into a grand prize drawing. It was just too good to be true.

This month Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same day. As we share valentines and express our love for each other, we also come to worship to receive a valentine from God ... a cross of ashes on our foreheads to remind us that we are God's forever, even when we die. We remember that we have a God who loves us first and best of all. We have a God who, in Christ, suffered and died for our sins ... a God who gave us eternal life and made us Grand Prize Winners! Just think about it: forgiveness, release from suffering, hope, and joyful life that goes on and on and on. It's a love that sounds too good to be true!

I'm happy to report that this particular moment was one of the few times in our 30-year marriage that I was right, and Susan was wrong. She won! The Yogurt Grand Prize Winner and I took that 6-day trip and had an amazing time! Just because something sounds too good to be true, doesn't mean that it is.

Peace,
Pastor Russ
russleper@yahoo.com

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



Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2018

4:30 p.m. Worship with Communion
6:15 p.m. Worship with Communion &
5th grade 1st Communion

Wednesdays in Lent worship services will be 4:30 & 6:15 p.m.

This year we will feature characters from the Bible during Lent.

February 21st will be Michelle Grob presenting Martha

February 28th will be Erik Hoefer presenting
a regular, everyday Jewish citizen



The glass box that will be in the Narthex starting February 11th is for your **Lenten Offering**. Please consider an extra gift of at least a dollar a day during the approximately 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter.

Family Board's Lent Event will be February 18th

9:05 - 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. This is an opportunity for parents and children to learn a little about Lent and why we observe it and create a "Lent in A Bag" kit together. We will hold this event during the education hour and all families are invited to attend.

If you would like to donate toward the Easter lilies this year, call Kathy in the office at 228-3397.



**Valentine Cupcake Event.
February 10 from 9-12 a.m.**

Women's Ministry would like to invite women of the congregation and girls/teenagers to a Valentine cupcake decorating event. This is meant to be a fun get-together, or even a mother-daughter morning, and maybe a little informative.

There will be a \$5/person fee to cover the cupcakes that you take home. We are limiting the number attending to 25, so if you are interested, please sign up soon in the church office and make your payment at that time.

We have three talented professional cupcake makers (and some enthusiastic amateurs) that will help us make some beautiful cupcakes. It will probably take less than 3 hours for this, but we want you to have plenty of time.

For more information contact Janet Petefish at petefishj@mchsi.com

Two more details 1) bring a box or cake pan to carry your cupcakes home. 2) you will go home with 6, but may be able to purchase a few more, if our supply allows.



Of
Note...



The Stewardship Committee would like to invite you to the **2nd Annual Bean Bags for Bible Camp event on Sunday, February 18th at 11:30 AM in the Parish Hall.** Entry fee will be \$10.00 for a 2-person team. Free-will donation lunch will be provided of chili, hot dogs, dessert, and a drink. If you are interested in playing, please sign up in the church office with Kathy. We are also looking for individuals to bring in bean bag boards to use for our event. If you would be willing to let us use your bean bag boards, please let Kathy know as well. We definitely look forward to this fun event for all ages.



EWOK (Evening Without Kids)

The Family Board is sponsoring an EWOK evening on February 9th from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.! St. John youth will provide free childcare for your evening out. Please sign-up in the office by February 7th with the number and ages of your children.

Women's Bible Study

A new study will begin **February 13th starting at 9:30 a.m.** The study is "The Women of Easter" by Liz Curtiss Higgs. We will have 4 sessions and we meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month.

Wednesday Night Supper

February 7: Scalloped potatoes & ham, mixed vegetables, applesauce, butterscotch cream dessert

February 14: Chicken, cheesy casserole, corn, cottage cheese, strawberry cake

February 21: Pork loin, twice baked potatoes, glazed carrots, angel food dessert

February 27: Beef stroganoff & noodles, basil green beans, fruit, ice cream

St. John Lutheran Card Ministry will meet February 12th at 1:00 p.m.

Do Day Quilters
Meets February 8

ALTAR GUILD –FEBRUARY 2018
Mary Augustin & Peg Poppen

The Parkinson's Support group will be on February 1st at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church. Questions? Call Carol Quade at 641-228-5053 or 641-330-3268





Fifth Grade First Communion

*Savannah Christina Baldus
Ali Ann Blickenderfer
Elizabeth Delaney Gassman
Quinn William Heidebrink
Harley David Hinz
Natalie Irene Keyes
Tayleigh Jane Lantz
Annabel Faith Ann McDonald
Isaac Dean Oetken
Kylie Kae Parsons
Addison Elizabeth Tracey
Jadyn Marie Van Horn*



February Birthdays

2nd Marvin Thompson 9th Evelyn Radmacher
3rd Don Knowlton 21st Duane Ortmayer
4th Marian Johnson 28th Marilu Wohlers



February Anniversaries

February 10, 1950 Russel & Sylvia Frascht
February 14, 1960 Jim & Donna Gambaiani
February 14, 1964 Lenis & Nadonne Buseman

Memorials have been given in memory of:

Ricky Lee Reysack: Leon & Marilyn Isakson,
Kathleen Schilling
Gordon Fred Niemann: Gary & Sandra Quade

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.

Funerals:

January 12, 2018 Gary Dean Hedrick
January 15, 2018 Randal Scott Schilling
January 20, 2018 Ricky Lee Reysack
January 26, 2018 Gordon Fred Niemann

FEBRUARY FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:

CALLER – Arlene Thomas. Thanks to our December caller **Arlene Thomas**
and to all who provided food and served.

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



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

Sunday, February 25th, 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, plan to attend with a parent on this special day!

Confirmation

Our third Session of classes continues this month and the 32 students in our Confirmation program are taking either *The Sacraments, Journey Through Genesis, God's Story, or Grace.*

Sunday School News

On February 11, I will be baking unleavened bread with the 5th grade students to serve during Holy Communion on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. This will be the first time our 5th grade students will be taking communion.

Family Board

Friday, February 9th, from 5:30-8pm, there will be an EWOK Night. The Family Board is sponsoring an evening of free childcare for those who sign up by February 7th in the church office. We will be providing a meal for the kids and the helpers. The parents will then be able to have an **Evening With Out Kids**.

Date night? A supper where you don't cut any food but your own? Grocery shopping? Cleaning the basement? The ways to spend your kid-free time are endless!! Get signed up early!

Sunday, February 18, will be the Family Lent Event in the Parish Hall. This is an opportunity for parents and children to learn a little about Lent and why we observe it and create a “Lent in A Bag” kit together. We will hold this event during the education hour, and all families are invited to attend.

After School Program

We have 33 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 12 oz. styrofoam bowls for snacks, 9 oz. paper cups for drinks, washable markers, scotch tape and some more snacks. The kids especially like crackers, fruit cups, pretzels, cheese balls/puffs and apple juice. Thank you!



St. John Youth

February 2018

Bulletin Stuffers: Hannah DeVore

Acolytes: 8:00 a.m. – Kaleb Cotton,
10:15 a.m. – Tino Tamayo, Keaton Schmidtke

Ash Wednesday, February 14th: 4:30 p.m. Colton Crooks, Keaton Schmidtke
6:15 p.m. Kaleb Cotton, Brayton Quade

Lent Wednesdays, February 21 & 28th: 4:30 p.m. Colton Crooks, Keaton Schmidtke
6:15 p.m. Kaleb Cotton, Brayton Quade

Communion Assistants, Crucifer, & Banner Bearers

8:00a.m. Justin Heyer, Rosie Baldus, Kayla Kellogg, Madisyn Millermon

10:15 a.m. Cory Marth, Rosie Baldus, Josh Laue, Cameron Kakac

Ash Wednesday, February 14th: 4:30 p.m. Cory Marth, Josh Laue

6:15 p.m. Cory Marth, Justin Heyer

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



Confirmation

Wednesday Lenten worship services begin on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Confirmation students are expected to attend **Lenten services** each week in place of regular Confirmation classes. Students, please make sure to fill out the purple attendance slips that is in the bulletin and drop it in the offering plate. Worship services are at 4:30 and 6:15pm on Wednesdays.

Milestone Ministries!

On February 25th we will celebrate the milestone of receiving a Driver's License in the past year! Parents and their new drivers will be honored at either of the worship services.

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.



BIBLES BEFORE BOOKS

Bibles Before Books meets the first Tuesday of each month. Arrive at 6:00 to 6:30 a.m., Bible Study: 6:30 – 7:15 a.m., Breakfast: 7:15– 7:35 a.m., to School: 7:35 - 7:45 a.m. If school is delayed or canceled, BBB will not be held! All students & their friends, 5th grade & above are welcome. Mr. & Mrs. Erik Hoefler's house:
2985 Wedgewood Estates, Cell: 330-4456





“God’s
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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 55 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!

We learned all about the letters T, V, W, and X; how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. In our MWF classes, we started working on our Kindergarten Readiness Skills: how to quietly walk in a line down the hall, sitting on the listening rug quietly and raising our hand if we have something to share, and writing our names all by ourselves! The list goes on and on! In all classes, we 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 Sheena. She served the preschool board for 3 years and will be missed. But we did add one NEW member to our board! We welcomed Sarah Merrifield. Cassandra Michael had filled in and finished a term for a previous board member, so she wanted to do a complete term. 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 12 - Friday, February 16 from 8:00am - 4:00pm. This event is open to the community and the proceeds go straight to the preschool. We will also be starting our "all school" fundraiser soon so be on the lookout for that information!

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 2018 Birthdays!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Meghan Korbel	Marvin Thompson Rylee Van Horn	Donald Knowlton
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Carter Kellogg Kyndra McDonald Laurel Schlump	Carol Bauer Melia Lantz Karmen Mehmen Rusty Rogotzke David Wessel	Megan Vance	Robert Frascht Liz Hamm Angel McKenzie Diane Niezwaag Sandra Quade Derick Unga	Amber Hicks Payton Reams	Isaac Hervert Evelyn Rademacher	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Cody Van Horn		Viva Boerschel Samantha Prigge Judy Wessel		Kailee Janssen	Kathy Waldorf	Brian Ulrichs
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Kayden Hillegas Brayton Quade		Cassie DeBower Andrew Miller Ron Venz	Duane Ortmyer		Ella Johnson	Dennis Petefish
25	26	27	28	29		
Shirley Holm Chelsea Lumley	Keaton Schmidtke Algie Slindee		Greg Buenger Michael Exline Lori Gassman Weston Wink Marilu Wohlers	Shelley Hansen		

FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support group		
4 Communion Sunday	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Deacons 9:00 a.m. Stewardship 9:00 a.m. 5th grade Communion class 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Parish Ed	6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	6:00 a.m. Bibles Before Books 7:00 p.m. Building & Grounds	Wednesday Night Schedule 5:15 p.m. Family Board	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters	5:30 p.m. EWOK	9:00 a.m. Women's Ministry Cupcake decorating
11 Transfiguration of our Lord	12	13	14 Ash Wednesday	15	16	17
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Youth bake bread 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Youth board	1:00 p.m. Card making 6:00 p.m. Scouts	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 6:00 p.m. Council 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts	4:30 p.m. Worship/Comm 5:00 p.m. Supper 6:15 p.m. Worship/Comm & 5th grade 1st Communion 	9:00 a.m. Women's Ministry/Prayer Shawl		
18 Communion Sunday	19	20	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Family Lent Event 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 p.m. Bean Bags for Bible Camps			Wednesday Lent Schedule 4:30 p.m. Worship 6:15 p.m. Worship			
25 Driver's License Milestone	26	27	28	1-Mar	2	3
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	7:00 p.m. Book Club	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 1:30 p.m. Assemble newsletters 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts	Wednesday Lent Schedule 4:30 p.m. Worship 6:15 p.m. Worship	1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support group		

Wednesday Lent Schedule:

4:30 p.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Supper

5:30 p.m. Carol Choir

5:30 p.m. Wind Ensemble

6:15 p.m. Worship

7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir