

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

February 2019



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

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“God’s Love in Action”

Waxing Romantic

This time of year diehard romantics, like myself, begin to turn their thoughts to love: Valentine's cards with chubby, little Cupids precociously drawing back their bows, candlelight dinners for two, heart-shaped boxes of candy, and roses. I freely admit that I've used all of these, on occasion, to express my love. But, by far, the most original expression of love that I have ever offered anyone is the "Hair Candle".

When Susan and I were courting at Wartburg College, she often told me how much she liked my thick, brown hair. I took this fact to heart one day as I was racking my brain to come up with the perfect way to express my love for her. As luck would have it, I was just then on my way to get a haircut. I remembered how my mother kept a lock of my baby hair tucked nostalgically into an envelope in the cedar chest at home.

So, as I was getting my haircut, I asked the cosmetologist if she wouldn't mind taking a bit of my hair and putting it in an envelope for me to take home. When she asked me what on earth I needed it for, I simply told her it was "for someone special." Sensing romance in the air, she willingly fulfilled my request, though not without first whispering to her co-workers who all laughed while pretending not to look at me.

Once home, I set to work creating the perfect presentation for this gift of love. According to logic that could only make sense to a lovesick, hormone-filled college student, I decided that making a candle out of my hair would be very romantic. So, I placed my hair inside of a plastic cup along with a wick. I melted a scented candle and poured the wax into the cup of hair. Soon, when the wax had cooled and hardened, I broke away the plastic cup to reveal the perfect expression of my love for Susan: the "Hair Candle."

"Candles are very romantic," I thought to myself, "and a candle containing a part of me, especially a part that she loves, is ... well ... just too romantic for words."

Susan looked delighted when I handed it to her, or at least as delighted as one can look after having just been handed something roughly resembling a fuzzy lollipop. She smiled for quite a while and managed to keep a good sense of humor ... until ... the fateful moment when I, trying to be romantic, suggested we light her new candle. Seconds after having lit the "Hair Candle" for the first and last time, I suddenly realized the terrible flaw in my plan. Burning hair stinks!!!

Nearly gagging, I blew out the candle and we both ran to open the windows in order to vent out the terrible stench. After airing out Susan's dorm room for quite a while, Susan turned to me and, in her very diplomatic way, let me know that though she thought the gesture was sweet, in the future a simple card would be fine. I nodded in understanding as I tried, in vain, to smile.

"Love is patient; love is kind . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:4a

We have a God who loves us unconditionally ... even when we do dumb things. As we remember that forgiving love, may we be inspired to be patient with each other, as well.

Peace,
Pastor Russ

Scripture Readers:

February 3

8:00 – Bennett Hansen

10:15 – Whittney Franke

February 10

8:00 – Cassie Schiesher

10:15 – Linda Johnson



February 17

8:00 – Annemarie Hansen

10:15 – Karen Hagarty

February 24

8:00 – Kiki Connell

10:15 – Linda Hughes

Our Generosity in December

Your offerings to St. John were shared beyond our walls in December in the following ways:

8% (3449.69) went to support the mission of the larger church

2% (\$1,326.69) went to support *Floyd County Ministerium for the Fuel Fund*

And 8% of your Fourth Quarter Giving went to:

Coats for Kids - (\$1,000.00)

Charles City Community Schools Sports Complex - (\$1,000.00)

Fossil & Prairie Tosanak handicapped accessible cabin (1294.69)

Thanks for your monthly generosity to the mission and outreach of St. John!



2019 Sound & Video support

What an exciting time for St. John! Through many months of meetings and deliberation, the Sound & Video Task Force, Church Council, and Congregation have decided to pursue a significant upgrade in our sound and video system for the Sanctuary. With a project cost of \$125,000, we are relying on the generous support of the congregation to secure donations towards and commitments of support (pledges) for this project. With a goal to be operational by Easter on April 21. Your prayerful consideration is very much appreciated!

Pledges of Support (paid at a future date):

Myself and/or my family are committing to support this project by indicating our financial support, which can be fulfilled over two years (2019 & 2020).

Total Support: _____

I/we prefer to pay the balance as follows...

One Time Gift Annually Monthly Weekly

Name: _____

Date: _____

Email or phone: _____

Thank you for your support of this project!

Of
Note...



Dartball Champions!

The St. John Dartball team won the annual tournament at Clarksville on January 27th with a record of 6 wins & 1 loss!

Pictured at left are Don Tieskotter, Dennis Sande, Kurt Hoeft, Paul Augustin, Gene Heitz, Lee Hoeft, & John Rima. (Absent Craig Begemann, Brian Squire)



The Stewardship Committee would like to invite you to the **2nd Annual Bean Bags for Bible Camp event on Sunday, February 17th 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 hot dogs, chips, 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.



St. John youth & families (4th grade & younger must be accompanied by an adult) interested in going to a **Waterloo Blackhawk hockey game on February 9th,** you need to sign-up/pay in the office by February 3rd. Cost is \$15.00. Pizza will be at 5:30 p.m. & we depart at 5:50 p.m.

The Parkinson's Support group
NO meeting in February. Next meeting will be March 7th.

ALTAR GUILD –FEBRUARY 2019
Mary Augustin & Peg Poppen

Do Day Quilters
Meets February 14 & 28

St. John Lutheran Card Ministry will meet February 11th at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Supper



February 6: Pizzaburgers, French fries, scalloped corn, cottage cheese, pineapple cake

February 13: Tater Tot Casserole, green beans, applesauce, butterscotch dessert

February 20: Spaghetti, lettuce salad, garlic bread, fruit, "Pokie" cake

February 27: Chicken & ham casserole, glazed carrots, Jello, banana dessert



The St. John book club will meet February 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside room and will review the book *Britt-Marie was Here* by Fredrik Backman. "Funny and moving, observant and humane, *Britt-Marie was Here* celebrates the unexpected friendships that change us forever, and the power of even the gentlest of spirits to make the world a better place."

New Council & Board Members – 2019

People
Page...

President:	<i>Brad Bailey</i>	Council:	<i>Iyr</i>	<i>Jeanne Hansen</i>
Vice President:	<i>Greg Buenger</i>			<i>Jodi Heyer</i>
Secretary:	<i>Kurt Hoeft</i>			<i>Carol Brahn</i>
				<i>Kathy Waldorf</i>
Building & Grounds:	<i>Michael Quade</i>	Deacons:		<i>Liz Hamm</i>
	<i>Jeremy Heyer</i>			<i>Kim Watkins</i>
Family Board:	<i>Laura Walker</i>	Finance:		<i>Mike Brown</i>
				<i>Monte Waldorf</i>
Parish Ed:	<i>Mike Hammond</i>	P. Communication:		<i>Kady Korbel</i>
	<i>Michelle Grob</i>			<i>Yolanda Van Ausdall</i>
Stewardship:	<i>Sandie Quade</i>	Youth board:		<i>Lee Hoeft</i>
	<i>Bev Selvig</i>			<i>JoAnn Hervert</i>
Preschool Board:	<i>Jessica Hoeft</i>			
	<i>Lydia Klinkel</i>			

February Birthdays

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

February Anniversaries

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

With sympathy...

The Funerals of

Irene Rachel Helen Oeltjenbruns Mehmen, December 29, 2018
Wilma Marie Koebrick Handt, January 12, 2019
Lester William King Jr., January 23, 2019

The Death of

Emma Marie Loten Seckar, January 10, 2019

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.

Memorials were given in memory of...

Brad Swant: *Kay Tjaden*
Irene Rachel Oeltjenbruns Mehmen: *Kip & Judy Hauser*
Robert & Evelyn Fitzgerald: *Lorna & Dave Scrimger*
Wilma Marie Koebrick Handt: *Barbara Fuls, Arlene Thomas, Tom & Joan Daiker, John & Myrna Culbertson, Russell & Betty Ball, Tilleen Litterer, William & Doris Fenholt, Karen Thomas, Mrs. Willis Handt, Bob & Bev Friend, Bob & Eunice Tommingo, Glenn & Diann Jacobson*

FEBRUARY FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:

CALLER – Lori Gassman. Thanks to our January caller **Joyce Boehmer**, 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, Janet Petefish, Shirley Ripley, Shortie Veen, Ann Voelker, Laura Walker



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

Saturday, February 9th, we will be taking the church bus to Waterloo for a hockey game! We will meet at the church for pizza at 5:30pm and leave at 5:45pm for 7:05 puck drop. Cost is \$15, which is due by February 3rd. All St. John students 5th grade and older and all families are welcome to attend. (4th grade and younger need an adult to accompany them.)

Sunday, February 24th, at the 10:15am worship service 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 on attending with a parent on this special day!

Confirmation

Our third session of classes continues this month and the 26 students in our Confirmation program are taking either *The Apostles' Creed*, *Upside Down*, or *Chronicles of Narnia*.

Sunday School News

Attention: **5th Grade Parents!** The 1st Communion **parent/student/pastor instructional classes** will be *February 10th and 24th* at 9:05am. Please put these two dates on your calendar now.

February is SOAP MONTH here at St. John. Please send donations of soap with your Sunday School students each week of February. Donations will be taken to Northern Lights/New Beginnings Men's and Women's Shelters in Mason City. Thank you to all who feel called to donate to this worthy cause!

After School Program

We have 24 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 Scotch tape and snacks. The kids especially like crackers, fruit cups, pretzels, cheese balls/puffs and apple juice. Thank you!



St. John Youth

February 2019

Greeter/Offering Assistant: Madison Lensing

Acolytes: 8:00 a.m. – Tyler Marth, Sydney Hinz
10:15 a.m. – Kassey Kakac

Communion Assistants, Crucifer, & Banner Bearers

8:00 a.m. Tino Tamayo, Colton Crooks, Alyvia Vance
10:15 a.m. Koen Tibbitts, Keaton Schmidtke

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



Sunday School Reminder:
February is Soap Month! All Sunday School students are asked to bring individually wrapped bars of soap to be donated to the women's & men's shelter in Mason City!



Attention: **5th Grade Parents!** The 1st Communion **parent/student/pastor instructional classes** will be February 10th and February 24th at 9:15am. Please put these two dates on your calendar now.



Milestone Ministries!

On February 24th at the 10:15 worship service, we will celebrate the milestone of receiving a Driver's License in the past year! Parents and their new drivers will be asked to come forward.

Save the Date!
St. John VBS will be July 30 - August 2 & VBS will sing at St. John on August 4th.





“God’s
Love
in
Action”

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 44 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 M, N, T, & V; how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. In our 4-yr-old 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 Kady and Heather. They served the preschool board for 3 years and will be missed. But we did add two NEW members to our board! We welcomed Lydia Kinkel and Jessica Hoeft. 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 11 - Friday, February 15 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 in March, 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 2019 Birthdays!!

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

FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						
3 Communion Sunday	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Stewardship 9:00 a.m. Deacons 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Parish Ed	6:00 p.m. Scouts	5:00 p.m. Building & Grounds	Wednesday Night Schedule			5:30 p.m. Hockey trip
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Pastor meets with 1st Communion class 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 a.m. Youth board	1:00 p.m. Card ministry 6:00 p.m. Scouts	5:00 p.m. Finance 7:00 p.m. Council	Wednesday Night Schedule 5:15 p.m. Family board	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters 		
17 Communion Sunday	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 p.m. Bean Bags for Bible Camps			Wednesday Night Schedule			
24 Driver's License Milestone	25	26	27	28		
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education hour 9:15 a.m. Pastor meets with 1st Communion class 10:15 a.m. Worship 1:00 p.m. Scout Blue & Gold Banquet	7:00 p.m. Book Club		10:00 a.m. Assemble newsletters Wednesday Night Schedule	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters		

Wednesday Night 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