

# *THE GOOD NEWSLETTER*

*March 2018*



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

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**“God’s Love in Action”**

## Wow!

Just in case you've been busy lately watching basketball or feeding your Spring Fever by careening through seed catalogs and checking out travel websites, I want to remind you that we're in the middle of the season of Lent. You remember Lent... it's that season that some people give things up for. But don't worry, I'm not going to guilt you into giving something up; If you haven't done it by now, you've missed the starting gun, anyway. No, I want to tell you about someone else I know who did make the seasonal sacrifice.

Sydney is the daughter of friends from college. When she was six years old, Sydney chose to give up wearing jewelry for Lent. This was no easy sacrifice for her. Sydney is the kind of girl who lays out necklaces and bracelets with each outfit before going to bed at night. When her mother asked her how her first day with no jewelry had gone, this is what Sydney said:

*"I complimented Kyra on her necklace. She asked me why I didn't have jewelry on. I told her because it was Lent. She said, 'What's that?' I told her, 'It's when we give up something for a lot of days to remember that Jesus died on the cross for us.'*

*Kyra said, 'Wow!'"*

Wow is right! It's always a 'wow moment' when we realize that it's working... that faith is being passed on to a new generation of believers. At the age of six, Sydney was already so committed to Jesus that she would voluntarily give up something she loves in order to know and love Him better. Not only that, but she was already sharing her faith with others... wow!

These things don't happen by accident or osmosis, you know. Sydney was part of an ELCA Lutheran congregation where her Sunday School teachers, VBS teachers, pastor, and others have cared about her and taught her about Jesus. She lives in a Christian family where those church lessons are reinforced daily. Having a relationship with Jesus is modeled by her parents and grandparents. Because of that, for now, believing in Jesus and talking about him with others seems like the most natural thing in the world.

Someday Sydney will question her faith. Someday, in a healthy quest to form her own identity, she's going to wonder if she really believes in Jesus or if she just does it to make her parents happy. And when that time comes her church family will still be there to care about her, talk about her questions with her, and teach her more new things. And then one day, hopefully, all-grown-up Sydney will be at church teaching and caring about kids, and one of those little kids will tell her what they're giving up for Lent. With a little, joyful tear in her eye Sydney will say to herself, "Wow!"

This is what it's all about! Give thanks to God for the people who sacrificed some time and shared faith with you! A big "Thank you!" to all of you who teach and care about the kids and youth of St. John! And to those of you who don't know the power and joy of the 'wow moment', come and experience it for yourself. The kids are here and anxious to spend time with you!

Peace,  
Pastor Russ

The logo for "WOW!" features the word "WOW!" in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters are colored: 'W' is red, 'O' is orange, and 'W' is blue. The exclamation point is yellow.

**Wednesdays in Lent worship services will be 4:30 & 6:15 p.m.**  
This year we will feature characters from the Bible during Lent.

**March 7<sup>th</sup>: Mary Magdalene by Linda Hughes**

**March 14<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m.: Holden Evening Prayer**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>: A Man Gives His Donkey by Wayne McClintock**



**Holy Week & Easter 2018**

Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday

**8:00 & 10:15 a.m. Worship**

Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup> – Maundy Thursday

**4:30 & 6:15 p.m. Worship/Comm**

Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday

**7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service**

Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Easter Sunday

**6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. Worship**



Easter Morning Worship

The glass box that will be in the Narthex starting February 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

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



**YOUTH PALM/PASSION SUNDAY BREAKFAST**

**March 25<sup>th</sup> - from 7:00 - 10:30 a.m.**

The youth will be hosting a Palm/Passion Sunday breakfast this year & not an Easter breakfast. This will allow them to enjoy Easter with their families! The youth will be making & serving the breakfast

**Menu: eggs, ham, hash browns, pancakes, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk, and coffee (Free will donation)**

Of  
Note...



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
BEGINS  
MARCH 11!  
DON'T FORGET TO  
"SPRING AHEAD"!**



**Save the Date!**  
Family board will host a  
**Ladies' Luncheon**  
April 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.  
Watch the bulletin & April  
newsletter for more information!



**EWOK (Evening Without Kids)**

The Family Board is sponsoring an EWOK evening on March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.!  
St. John youth will provide free childcare for your evening out. Please sign-up in the office!

**ALTAR GUILD –MARCH 2018**  
Kathy Crooks, Kathy Waldorf

**Do Day Quilters**  
Meets March 8

**St. John Lutheran Card Ministry** will  
meet March 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

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



Unable to come to Sunday worship? Would you like to listen to the service? If so, go to the St. John website: [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org) under the Watch & Listen tab, click on podcast & choose the date of the service you would like to hear!

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

St. John scholarship applications for non-Lutheran colleges are available from Kathy in the office. Email her at [khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com). Completed applications should be emailed to the office by **April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**MEET AND GREET FOR PASTOR RUSS AND SUSAN**

During the call process, our congregation went through opportunities to more firmly guide us in the path we should go - both in the choice of our new pastor and the future we hope for in our church. Part of that process identified expectations we had for Pastor Russ, and ways that we, the congregation, could support and encourage him to accomplish those expectations during his first year. One of our promises was to organize meet and greet opportunities for Pastor Russ and Susan.

Pastor Russ and Susan have been here for 6 months! They want to get to know us a little better - more than a "good morning" on Sundays. These past 6 months have been very busy for Pastor Russ and Susan and they have appreciated this time to get to know how our church functions and get settled in their new community. Now they want to meet members of our congregation, and anyone who is thinking about returning or joining our congregation, on a more personal level. Pastor Russ and Susan want to get to know us more than a "Good morning" after church.

With this promise to him and Susan in mind, meet and greet opportunities will be scheduled in the near future. Since the cottage meetings were so successful, that is the type of scheduling we will use. Morning, afternoon and evening times will be identified by Pastor Russ according to his schedule and you will be given the opportunity to choose a date and open your homes to any size group you feel comfortable with. Watch for more information in the very near future. This is an excellent opportunity to expand friendships in our congregation and get to know Pastor Russ and Susan a little better. Please consider being a host/hostess for one of these events.

Kathy Crooks, Call Committee Chair

**March Birthdays**

7 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Seckar	15 <sup>th</sup>	Charlene Fisher
9 <sup>th</sup>	Larry Stewart	19 <sup>th</sup>	Andy Melrose
10 <sup>th</sup>	Ivabelle Stevenson	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Maxine Vetter
11 <sup>th</sup>	Eileen Wegner	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Judy Thornton
13 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Peterson	28 <sup>th</sup>	Shirley Madsen

**March Anniversaries**

March 2, 1958	Russell & Betty Ball
March 11, 1955	Loyal & Norma McLean
March 26, 1960	Louis & Sharon Streich

*Celebrated...*

*The Baptism of Jiles Wayne Lantz the child of Daniel & Brandi Lantz!*

**Funerals:**

February 16, 2018	Craig Martin Schmidt
February 18, 2018	Lainie Manning

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](mailto:jillconnell@hotmail.com).

**MARCH FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:**

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

**HELPERS –** Jeanette Anderson, Becky Boerschel, Rita Booker, Shirley Davidson, Elsie Ferguson, Helen Hagen, Katie Hammond, Teresa Knecht, Gina McClintock, Becky Meyer, Jolene Patterson, Carol Quade, Wanda Sprout, Virginia Titus, Darci Tracey, Wendy Vance



The month brings the official beginning of spring so hopefully the weather will reflect what the calendar says!!  
"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 Envelope, Please...** The Youth Board is sponsoring a fundraiser to help pay for the six of us who are going to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. This is an amazing experience for those attending and because of all it offers, the cost is considerably higher than a regular mission trip.

Please prayerfully consider taking an envelope off our donation wall and filling it with at least the amount listed on the front of the envelope. Please return filled envelopes by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

The Youth will be hosting a **Palm Sunday Breakfast** on March 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be serving from 7am-10:30am. The menu is eggs, ham, hash browns, pancakes, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk and coffee. Put this on your calendars now and plan on attending! All free-will donations will go into the individual accounts of the youth working at this event. (We are changing this breakfast from Easter Sunday to allow more of the workers to be able to attend Easter Worship services.)

### Confirmation

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.

### Family Board

The Family Board hosted a large group Lent Event on February 18<sup>th</sup> during the education hour. It was great to see all the Sunday School students and their families working together to create their Lent-In-A-Bag kits! We had 60 people attend this fun event!

The Family Board has rescheduled the EWOK event for Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 5:30-8pm. Hopefully the weather will be more cooperative this time!

The Family Board will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>** for children up through 5th grade & their families! There will also be a few crafts & other activities, including some hard-boiled eggs to color. The fun begins at **9:00 a.m.** in the Parish Hall!

### Sunday School News

There will be NO Sunday School on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> due to Spring Break.



**SAVE THE DATES:** July 31-August 3, 2018 for VBS. Plan on having your kids attend Tuesday-Friday from 5:30pm-8pm! Look for more information in the upcoming newsletters.

**Family Board's Easter Egg Hunt**

**Saturday, March 31, 9:00 a.m.**

**St. John Parish Hall**

Children up through 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
& their families!

Crafts, activities & egg dyeing

(Donations of wrapped Easter candy  
by the congregation would be  
appreciated!)

**NO Sunday School**  
**March 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**During Spring Break week**

**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 5<sup>th</sup>



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

They are asking for the congregation's help to fund this trip.

There will be a donation wall with envelopes denoting varying dollar amounts  
written on the front. Please take one or more envelopes and bring the amount  
back to St. John by April 15<sup>th</sup>!

**Off to Houston!**



**St. John Youth**

**March 2018**

**Bulletin Stuffers:** Kassey Kakac

**Acolytes:** 8:00 a.m. – Tino Tamayo, Colton Crooks

10:15 a.m. – Brandon Castillo, Keaton Schmidtke

**Lent Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21:** 4:30 p.m. Colton Crooks, Keaton Schmidtke,  
6:15 p.m. Brayton Quade, Alyvia Vance, Brandon Castillo

**Maundy Thursday, March 29** 4:30 p.m.: Colton Crooks, Keaton Schmidtke  
6:15 p.m.: Alyvia Vance, Brandon Castillo

**Good Friday, March 30** 7:00 p.m.: Alyvia Vance, Koen Tibbitts

**Communion Assistants, Crucifer, & Banner Bearers**

8:00a.m. Cory Marth, Kayla Kellogg, Madisyn Millermon, Rosie Baldus, Kiki Connell

10:15 a.m. Madisyn Millermon, Rosie Baldus, Josh Laue, Josiah Hervert

**Maundy Thursday, March 29:** 4:30 p.m. Cameron Kakac

6:15 p.m. Josh Laue, Josiah Hervert

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



“God’s  
Love  
in  
Action”

HAPPY SPRING! Maybe if I say it enough, it'll actually come. HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY SPRING! Our small friends are so eager to get outside, but we are still having a blast inside the preschool learning about and celebrating God's love!

Our little friends were certainly busy during the month of February. We learned all about the letters Y, Z, B, & D; how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. Our 5-day friends are continuing to learn more sight words and are already showing great beginning skills for reading!

February was also a very exciting month for our preschoolers as each class was able to host its own Valentine's Day Tea Party. Every small friend was allowed to invite one tall friend to our class for cold cocoa, hot cider and some yummy treats. We ended our day reading Valentine's in the laps of our tall friends. What a wonderful way to share the love that God first shared with us.

The Book Fair was quite a success this year! The fair ran from February 12-16 and was beneficial to have during our Valentine's Day Teas. The preschool earned 40% of our total and we are using the money towards free books and other supplies for the classroom!

We have loved having the privilege of getting to know our many friends and their amazing families this school year, but it is already time to start thinking about registration for the fall semester and welcoming some new families to our preschool program. Please feel free to pass on the following information to anyone who may be interested.

Our registration began on Monday, February 19, for our families who are *currently* enrolled. Registration for *new* families began Monday, February 26, and will continue until all of our classes are full. Families who have a child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15 can register for one of our two morning classes. The 2-day class meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-11:30 and the 3-day class meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday mornings from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Families who have a child who will be at least 4 on or before September 15 can register for one of our afternoon classes. The 3-day session meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. and the 5-day session meets EVERY day from 12:30-3:30 p.m. A non-refundable registration fee is due at the time of registration. Families may choose to pay \$40 for the entire year or \$25 per semester. Please call Whittney Franke for any further information: 228-7274.

In HIS name,  
Whittney Franke





# March 2018 Birthdays!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					Rita Booker	Norman Bauer Helen Bond Rae Lynn Chase Phyllis Foxen
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Diane Barr Deena Downs Jared George Linda Johnson		Xander Chase Jean Evans	Emma Seckar	Sandra Miller	Abby Ayers Larry Stewart	Janet Delap Hana Laue Ivadelle Stevenson
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Eileen Wegner	Ajay Johnson Kara Schilling	Helen Peterson	Matt Ross	Charlene Fisher Tyler Marth	Hunter Hinz Barbara Johnson	Mija Cotton Dan DeBower Danielle DeBower
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Ian Hallett Amy Titus	Carol Brahn Ellen Dix David Hagen Andrew Melrose	Nathalla Dean Danielle Hillegas Dan Kehret	Hayden Koenigsfeld	B. J. Gifford	Brenda Bailey Myla Meyer Janice Mulford Angie Parsons Kathy Rogotzke Judy Thornton	Leslie Becthold Isaiah Knecht
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Isaah Eppley Jacob Hallett	Marlene Holthaus Cherie Schafer		Nadonne Buseman Douglas Holm Tayleigh Lantz	Michael Kreger	Jessie Holm Hayden Janssen

# MARCH 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				1:00 p.m. Parkinson's support group	5:30 p.m. EWOK	
4 Communion Sunday	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Stewardship 9:15 a.m. Deacons 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 a.m. Parish Ed	6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	6:00 a.m. Bibles Before Books 7:00 p.m. Building & Grounds	<b>Lenten Wednesday Night Schedule</b> 4:30 p.m. Worship 5:15 p.m. Family board 6:15 p.m. Worship	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters		
11 Daylight Savings	12 Spring Break	13	14	15	16	17
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Finance board 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	5:30 p.m. Worship	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 10:15 a.m. Worship	6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts	6:30 p.m. Preschool board 	<b>Lenten Wednesday Night Schedule</b> 4:30 p.m. Worship 6:15 p.m. Worship			
25 Palm/Passion Sunday	26	27	28	29 Maundy Thursday	30 Good Friday	31
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 7:00 - 10:30 a.m. Youth breakfast 	6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts 7:00 p.m. Book club	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 10:00 a.m. Assemble newsletters 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts	No Activities	4:30 p.m. Worship/Comm 6:15 p.m. Worship/Comm 	7:00 p.m. Tenebrae service 	9:00 a.m. Family board Easter Egg Hunt

**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