

# *THE GOOD NEWSLETTER*

*May 2018*



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

200 South Main Street  
Charles City, IA  
50616-2751

Phone:  
641-228-3397

Website:  
[www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)

**“God’s Love in Action”**

### Breathing Lessons

"Take slow, deep breaths." That's what Don, our instructor, told me to do at Discover Scuba class years ago. You see, I was kind of freaking out a little bit. Breathing underwater was just a little bit scarier at first than I thought it would be. But once I took Don's advice and started to breathe deeply and slowly, I relaxed, and it turned out to be very fun!

"Take slow, deep breaths." That's what Adam, my former bagpipes instructor, used to tell me, too. I had been having trouble learning how to blow evenly and steadily. As a result, my face always turned an alarming shade of red, the pitch of the bagpipes wavered all over the place, and I was seldom in tune. But once Adam showed me how to breathe deeply and slowly, filling and squeezing the bag was much less distressing on my respiratory system ... and on listening ears.

In the long run, neither scuba diving nor playing the bagpipes became a regular hobby as I had hoped they would be. Sometimes life takes other turns and we have to let some things go. But I don't regret the opportunities to try out something new and I especially don't regret my breathing lessons.

Even though scuba diving and playing the bagpipes are two very different activities, the key to doing both of them successfully is the same: taking slow, deep breaths. And the more I think about it, the more I realize that that's pretty much the key to doing life successfully, too. As I write this on April 18th, we're experiencing yet another significant snowfall. I'm finding that taking slow, deep breaths is helping me deal with the anxiety that spring may never come!

This month marks two very important events in the life of the church. May 10<sup>th</sup> is Ascension Day. On that day we remember how, after his resurrection, Jesus ascended into the clouds and was no longer visible to his followers. But he didn't abandon us. Instead, he promised to send his Holy Spirit to be with us, so that we would know and experience his presence in our lives even though we can't physically see him. And May 20<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost Day. On that day we remember how Jesus kept his promise and his Holy Spirit came and filled his followers.

The Hebrew word for spirit is "ruach," and it literally means "breath." Though we can no longer see him, Jesus is as close to us as the air we breathe. That's good to know in a world full of scary, distressing, and painful things. The key to managing it all successfully is to keep taking slow, deep breaths. Breathe in the Spirit of Christ and breathe him in deeply. Breathe him in through prayer and meditation. Breathe him in through worship and friendship. Breathe him in through the Bible and Bible study. Breathe him in through service and caring. Take slow, steady breaths of Christ and he'll help you stay relaxed and in tune with God.

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you ... And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"  
John 20:21-22

Peace,  
Pastor Russ

Of  
Note ...



## SUMMER WORSHIP HOURS

Begins May 6, 2018

Worship times will be

8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

### 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.



#### ALTAR GUILD –MAY 2018

Joyce Wood, Mary Mooberry

#### Do Day Quilters

Meets May 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

#### St. John Lutheran Card Ministry will

meet May 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

#### The Parkinson's Support group

will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church. Questions?

Call Carol Quade at 641-228-5053 or 641-330-3268

**The St. John book club will meet May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** in the Fireside room and will review the book *The Grapes of Wrath* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald's third book, stands as the supreme achievement of his career. This exemplary novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. It is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.



**CCCares**, an organization in Charles City, is collecting bicycles to donate to kids in need at the Bike Rodeo on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have a bike that is just sitting around you can call Carol at 563-379-4290 or Kim at 641-330-5441 to donate them. CCCares will clean them up and fix them before donating them.



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2018

*Nathaniel Marcel Baltes  
Gavin Michael Connell  
Luke Austin Delap  
Madison Rebecca Fisher  
Jacob Christopher Hallett  
Lee Wayne Hoeft  
Felyn Elizabeth Knecht*

*Derek William LaBarge  
Hana Ann Laue  
Dylan Craig Parsons  
Payton Danielle Reams  
Macy Jo Ross  
Evan Brian Schmidtke  
Carter James West*

*Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (NIV)*

**May Birthdays**

9 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Lockwood	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Alvin Davidson
11 <sup>th</sup>	Evelyn Fitzgerald	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Edna Stott
11 <sup>th</sup>	Marilyn Obermeier	29 <sup>th</sup>	Ed Benedict
16 <sup>th</sup>	Marilyn Scholle	29 <sup>th</sup>	Herbert Hinz
19 <sup>th</sup>	Alice Wolff	31 <sup>st</sup>	Margaret Schultz

*Celebrated...*

*The Baptism of Laura Ann Marth, the child of Joshua & Carolyn Marth, on April 22<sup>nd</sup>..!*

**May Anniversaries**

May 3, 1958 Leon & Shirley Hall  
May 28, 1960 Cal & Joyce Wood

*Funeral service held for...*

*Eileen LaWanda Meyer Wegner on April, 21, 2018  
Shane Allen Wiltse on April 26, 2018*

*Memorials were gave in memory of...*

*Eileen LaWanda Meyer Wegner by Helen Goplerud, Cal & Joyce Wood, Russell & Betty Ball, Tilleen Litterer, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Karen Streich, Leona Howe, Bob & Bev Friend, Gary & Sandie Quade, Ruth Farmer*

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.

**MAY FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:**

**CALLER** – Arlene Thomas. Thanks to our April caller Arlene Thomas.

**HELPERS** – Sue Ayers, Denise Bledsoe, Carol Brahn, Chasity Engelhardt, Judi Funfar, Sandi Hicks, Kathy Hoeft, Judy Kelly, Lisa Kreger, Wendy LaBarge, Sarah Merrifield, Jody Milleson, Heidi Neilson, Colleen Ortmayer, Cherie Schafer, Ivadelle Stevenson



*“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ And he laid his hands on them and blessed them.”*

Matthew 19:14-15

Blessings,

Laurie Heidebrink

### **YOUTH NEWS**

The Youth Board would like to say thank you to all those who donated during our “Envelope Fundraiser”. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! We met our goal by Easter! The donations will cover the cost of our registration fees, our food, our hotel rooms, our bus fuel and all those other expenses for our trip to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas from June 26- July 2, 2018. The extra donations (beyond our goal) will go to help reduce the out-of-pocket cost for the youth participating in our Middle School Mission trip to Wisconsin July 5-8, 2018.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped make this such a great fundraiser at St. John!

### **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation classes finished April 25<sup>th</sup>, and **May 2<sup>nd</sup> is the Study Session** for all the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders and **May 9<sup>th</sup> will be the assessment** over the required classes taken this year. All students are required to attend the study Session and assessment dates in May.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

The last day of Sunday School is Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. The Parish Education board would like to thank all our Sunday School teachers, substitutes, helpers and all the parents who brought their children to Sunday School classes. You have **all** made a difference in these kids’ faith journeys.

**SAVE THE DATES: July 31-August 3** will be **Vacation Bible School!** Registration will begin at 5:15pm on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

- Plan on having your kids attend from 5:30pm-8:00pm on Tuesday-Friday!
- We will serve a light supper for the kids each evening.
- VBS is open to kids in Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Our theme this year is **“Shipwrecked – Rescued by Jesus”**
- The cost for VBS will be \$5 per child with a maximum family fee of \$15. Look for registration forms in the bulletins coming soon.
- Our hope is that having VBS in the evenings will make it more accessible for those who work during the day, both parents AND volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at VBS, please contact Laurie.

### **FAMILY BOARD**

Twenty-four children got to go on an Easter Egg Hunt at St. John on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The Family Board hid many eggs and our youngest friends searched in the choir room while the older children went on a scavenger hunt to find eggs of a certain color to fill their card and then claim a “goody bag”. We also had assorted crafts and activities for the families to participate in while here, including dyeing eggs to take home. Much fun was had by all!

### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The After School Program wrapped up this program year on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the St. John bus drivers who safely delivered the students to us each Wednesday– without the bus many of our friends wouldn’t have been able to attend. Thank you to all the Middle School helpers. Thank you to all those who donated snacks for our hungry friends. And thank you very much to all the parents/guardians/grandparents who brought and picked up kids every Wednesday. We had a great year!

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

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>.

VBS is for kids in Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

Cost: \$5.00/child with a maximum family fee of \$15.00



Theme: **Shipwrecked - Rescued by Jesus**

**Spark Imagination with Faith-Building Fun!**

**Venture onto an uncharted island where kids survive and thrive. Anchor kids in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms.**

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

**Off to Houston!**



St. John Middle School  
Mission Trip to Wisconsin  
**July 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>**

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



## WIYLDE

(Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipling Event)

June 10 - 13 at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa

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

## May 2018

**Bulletin Stuffer:** Katie Prichard

**Acolytes:** 8:00 a.m. - Tino Tamayo, Brayton Quade, Koen Tibbitts

9:30 a.m. - Brandon Castillo, Tino Tamayo, Colton Crooks

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

8:00a.m. Kiki Connell

9:30 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.*





“God’s  
Love  
in  
Action”

How quickly time can fly by!?! We have already made it through another great year at St. John Christian Preschool. Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> will be our last day of the 2017-2018 school year. We are hoping to be blessed by some nice weather so that we can spend our last days of school outside enjoying God's beautiful world! As sad as it is to see our older friends go off to Kindergarten, we know that they will be given a whole new and exciting learning experience.

Our preschool friends ended their school year with a number of fun activities. Our older friends had the opportunity to walk to the Police Station and get a tour of the facility from Officer Ollendick. He also came to SJCP to visit our younger friends. In addition, each class was able to make a special trip to the library. It is always fun to explore our town with our friends.

On our last day, we will be taking our younger friends to Andres Park for a day of fun. It is always remarkable to see how much fun little ones can have with nothing more than a large area of grass. From sidewalk chalk to kicking balls, we will have a great day. Our older friends are hoping to end the year with a field trip to Lion's Field Park. This is always a fun and exciting part of the year because EVERYBODY gets to ride the all-famous TAXI! ☺ We'll have to see what the weather holds!

We have also started to work on beginning plans for the 2017-2018 school year. We have been blessed with a great start to our registration and currently have openings in our morning 3-year-old classes, and only a couple openings in our afternoon 4-year-old class but are filling up fast. If you know someone who is interested in attending, please encourage them to call us at 228-7274. We thank God that our ministry dedicated to providing a loving, Christian, educational environment for little ones is still going strong and we thank you for helping us spread the word!

Lastly, we would like to thank all of you who purchased some of our Spring Candy for our fundraiser!! We are able to purchase our new curriculum, ABC Jesus Loves Me! We appreciate all of your continued support for our program!

Have a great summer and THANK YOU for all that you do!

With HIS love, Whitney Franke

Then followed that beautiful  
season... Summer....  
Filled was the air with a dreamy  
and magical light; and the  
landscape  
Lay as if new created in all the  
freshness of childhood.  
~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow





# May 2018 Birthdays!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Kiki Connell	Anastasia Baldus Colton Baldus Wolfgang Baldus Kaleb Bilharz	Ellie Lantz	Jacob Greenzweig	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Stacey Vance	Joseph Heidebrink	Norma Breitbach Cooper Johnson Finley Johnson	Helen Lockwood	Denise Griffin Amy Kubik	Evelyn Fitzgerald Brandon Franke Eric Johanningmeier Marilyn Obermeier Sara Sharp Michael Tracey Brooke Vance Blair Walker	Jennifer Davidson Kirsten Dietrich Joel Holthaus Larry Tommingo Roger Townsend
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Joshua Dean	Larry Bohner Scott Vance	Bryce Caffrey Dennis Carr Breanna Stone	Kaleb Cotton David Schweizer	Mary Augustin Brad Bailey Marian Dight Virginia Titus	Larry Michehl	Martha Brunner Tyler Hicks Dorothy Parson Alice Wolff
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Joyce Boehmer Candice Lumley	Darrell Sherbon	Al Davidson Madilyn Lessin Edna Stott		Addison Merrifield	Taylor Quade Wendy Vance Jeff Wink	Marjorie Gardner Steve Head Russ Leeper Sandra Link
27	28	29	30	31		
Matt Selvig Patricia Townsend	Brandon Castillo Deven Castillo	Edwin Benedict Herbert Hinz Cole Reams Tino Tamayo	Jacqueline Moon Emma Prichard	Gaylen Hicok Randall Kreger Betty Manning Margaret Schultz		



# MAY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		6:00 a.m. Bibles Before Books 5:00 p.m. Building & Grounds 6:00 p.m. Personnel Committee	9:00 a.m. Records Sort 2:00 p.m. Meet & Greet at Klemesrud 5:30 p.m. Technology Committee	1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support group  		
6 Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:20 a.m. Parish Ed 10:30 a.m. Stewardship board		9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 6:00 p.m. Council 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts	5:15 p.m. Family board	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters 6:00 p.m. SJCP Open house	5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. SJCP Open house & Step Up Ceremony	3:30 Wedding of Breanna Stone & Greg Wood
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:00 a.m. Worship - 9:30 a.m. Worship  	1:00 p.m. Card making	2:00 p.m. Meet & Greet at C&J Woods 6:30 p.m. SJCP Board	9:00 a.m. Meet & Greet at Thomas	9:00 a.m. Women's Ministry/Prayer Shawl meeting		
20 Communion	21	22	23 Newsletter Deadline	24	25	26
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship	7:00 p.m. Book Club	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Meet & Greet at Hagens		9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters		
27 Graduation Sunday	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31	1-Jun	2
8:00 a.m. Worship & Graduation service 9:30 a.m. Worship	OFFICE CLOSED  		10:00 a.m. Assemble newsletters  			7:00 p.m. Meet & Greet at Lamprechts