

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

May 2019



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”

**Pastor's
Note...**

A couple of weeks ago my wife and I had the opportunity to enjoy the Wartburg College Wind Ensemble at their Pre-Tour Concert. Very soon the ensemble will be taking off on a tour in Japan and being at that concert brought back a lot of memories for me.

You see, as a freshman at Wartburg, I spent May of 1985 touring Europe with the Wartburg College Concert Band. It was an expensive trip, but my parents scraped the money together for me to go. It was also a challenging trip in which I was forced into all kinds of unfamiliar situations without the foggiest idea of what to do next. It was a long trip ... nearly a month. I'd never been so far from home for so long. But it turned out to be an amazing experience. That trip changed my life in many ways. Staying with European families in their homes, I realized that Dutch, German, and Norwegian people are full of hopes, sorrows, and dreams, just as I am. I understood better the history of the Church as I stepped into ancient cathedrals and felt the presence of spaces where people have been worshipping Christ for centuries. Martin Luther became a real person for me as I walked around the same castle in which he hid for his life from the pope. I learned what a blessing freedom is when we went behind the "Iron Curtain" into East Germany. I experienced an unforgettable swell of patriotism as we played "America the Beautiful" for people in faraway lands and received standing ovations. And, on that trip, I began a friendship with a woman who, three years later, would become my wife.

I can't imagine what my life would be like today if I hadn't gone on that trip. I might not be married to Susan. I probably wouldn't have had the courage to travel alone to Tanzania two years later and then go back for internship three years after that. And without all that fascinating church history and global experience of the Body of Christ, who knows, I might not have become a pastor or be your pastor at St. John right now!

We like to stick to familiar places, talk to familiar people, and do familiar activities. It's hard to leave our comfort zone sometimes. And yet, it's in those uncomfortable places that God often seems to work most powerfully in our lives.

Whether you're talking to the stranger across the globe or the stranger across the street ... whether you're sitting in a faraway land or just in a different pew, taking the risk to step outside of your comfort zone can be tough sometimes, but your life may never be the same! May you know the blessings of being uncomfortable.

Peace,
Pastor Russ
russleeper@yahoo.com

Our Generosity in March

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

8% (2,266.00) went to support the mission of the larger church

2% (885.58) went to support the *Messiah Food Pantry*

A total of \$6,179.00 was raised for Lutheran Disaster Response for the flood victims in Nebraska. The Church Council has also voted to give the designated 2% offering for April to the Disaster Relief Fund. This final amount will be determined after the April 28 offering

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

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

Informational Update:

The Church Council has accepted and approved the resignation, and subsequent retirement, of John Swiggum as our Head Custodian. Thank You, John, for your dedication to your responsibilities over the last seven years.

In light of John's retirement, the Personnel Committee has, with Council approval, put into action a plan to find a replacement for John. A Search Team has been convened by the Personnel Committee. The Search Team is made up of five members of the Congregation, from the following Boards: Building & Grounds, Finance, Personnel, At-Large Council member and Pastor Leeper. Currently, as of this writing, resumes and cover letters are being accepted at St. John Lutheran Church by the Personnel Committee. The next steps would be to have the Search Team review the resumes and then select candidates to interview. This process and the time table is up to the Search Committee to determine, but the Council would like to have someone hired to begin in June so that John may train them prior to his final day on June 30th, 2019.

Thank you all for your support during the search for John Swiggum's replacement.

Sincerely,
Bradford J. Bailey
Council President
St. John Lutheran Church

St. John Lutheran Church in Charles City is seeking a

Head Custodian/Maintenance

Candidate must implement, coordinate and direct all work assigned to custodial staff, ensuring that the facilities and grounds are clean, well maintained and secured. And other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- High School Diploma or equivalent
- Experience as a custodian or demonstrated similar skill set (3+ years)
- Able to lift and or carry up to 50 pounds
- Is familiar with HVAC, plumbing, electrical and other core skills needed to maintain the church facility and grounds in a safe and professional manner.

**Send Resume and Cover Letter to:
St. John Lutheran Church, Personnel Committee,
200 South Main Street, Charles City, IA 50616
Accepting Resumes until filled**

Of
Note...



Building & Grounds will be holding a “clean-up” day for the outside areas of St. John on May 18th at 8:30 a.m.! Anyone wishing to help spruce up the St. John grounds for Spring are welcome to come help out!

Stained Glass Ministry

will meet Thursday, May 16 & 30 at 1:00 p.m. to get organized and will add evenings in June depending on the preferences of those who sign up. Janet plans to make small crosses to send with Stephen Ministry people as well as other pieces. She & Lori Janssen will show you how to make the stained-glass pieces. There will be a minimal cost for some supplies.

Money raised will go into the 150th Anniversary Fund. Please contact Janet at petefishj@mchsi.com or call the office at 641-228-3397 if you are interested in being involved with this project!



If you are interested in joining **Altar Guild** or being a part of the **Prayer Chain**, please call Kathy in the office (228-3397).

ALTAR GUILD –MAY 2019
Joyce Wood, Mary Mooberry

The Parkinson’s Support group
Meets May 2nd at 1:00 p.m. in the
St. John Parish Hall

Do Day Quilters
Meets May 9 & 23

St. John Lutheran Card Ministry will
meet May 13th at 1:00 p.m.



The St. John book club will meet **May 20** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside room and will review the book *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah. Meredith and Nina Whitson are as different as sisters can be. One stayed at home to raise her children and manage the family apple orchard: the other followed a dream and traveled the world to become a famous photojournalist. But when their beloved father falls ill, Meredith and Nina find themselves together again, standing alongside their cold, disapproving mother, Anya, who even now, offers no comfort to her daughters. As children, the only connection between them was the Russian fairy tale Anya sometimes told the girls at night. On his deathbed, their father extracts a promise from the women in his life: the fairy tale will be told one last time - and all the way to the end. Thus begins an unexpected journey into the truth of Anya's life in war-torn Leningrad, more than five decades ago. What they learn is a secret so terrible and terrifying that it will shake the very foundation of their family and change who they believe they are.



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2019

Anastasia Dawn Baldus
 Colton Francis Baldus
 Wolfgang Allen Baldus
 Cora Rae Crooks
 Samantha Lyn Heyer
 Carter Jon Johanningsmeier
 Christian Michael Kreger
 Jack Clarence Litterer

Mariah Ann McKenzie
 Cole Stephen Reams
 Madison Paige Ross
 Cassandra Leigh Schiesher
 Amy Jo Titus
 Kelly Dylan Ward
 Abbie Lane Wilts

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 th	Helen Lockwood	29 th	Ed Benedict
11 th	Marilyn Obermeier	29 th	Herbert Hinz
16 th	Marilyn Scholle	23 rd	Kathleen Schilling
19 th	Alice Wolff	31 st	Margaret Schultz
22 nd	Alvin Davidson	31 st	Jerry Meader

Scripture Readers:

May 5
8:00 – Larry Michehl
10:15 – Josiah Hervert
May 12
8:00 – Jeremy Heyer
9:30 – Linda Klemesrud
May 19
8:00 – Justin Heyer
9:30 – Marilu Wohlers
May 26
8:00 a.m. Brian Watkins
9:30 a.m. Diane Loudermilk

May Anniversaries

May 3, 1958	Leon & Shirley Hall
May 17, 1969	Sherman & Diane Loudermilk
May 28, 1960	Cal & Joyce Wood

Celebrated...

The baptism of
 Isaac Dean Oetken, April 21, 2019

Memorials were given in memory of...

Jeanne Tomsic: Kip & Judy Hauser

With sympathy...

The Funerals of
 Robert "Bob" Dale Picken, April 13, 2019

The Death of
 Jeanne La Von Tomsic, April 16, 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.

MAY FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:

CALLER – Sandy Hicks. Thanks to our April caller **Darci Tracey**, and to all who provided food and served.

HELPERS – Sue Ayers, Carol Brahn, Sandi Hicks, Jessica Hoeft, Kathy Hoeft, Judy Kelly, Lisa Kreger, Wendy LaBarge, Sarah Merrifield, Jody Milleson, Heidi Nielson, Colleen Ortmayer, Cheri 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

Thank you to all who attended the Youth Board’s **Palm Sunday Breakfast**. The free-will donations are going into the individual accounts of the youth who worked that event and will be available for them to use for St. John events, like mission trips, Bible camps, and hockey games. We are so very grateful for your support!

The Youth Board is sponsoring a **summer mission trip to the Black Hills from July 8-13, 2019**. This trip is open to St. John students who have **completed 6th-12th grades** and their friends. Sign up on the bulletin board outside Laurie’s office.

The Youth Board would welcome any donations toward the cost of fuel for the bus. If you feel called to donate stop in and see Linda in the Business Office, or put **Sunday, June 2nd** on your calendar to attend our **bake sale** in the Narthex. The youth participating in the mission trip will again be baking pies and other goodies to sell between and after worship services.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will finish on May 1st, and **May 8th is the Study Session** for all the 7th and 8th and 9th graders and **May 15th 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, May 5th. 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 30-August 2 will be **Vacation Bible School!** Registration will begin at 5:15pm on the 30th.

- 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-5th grades.
- Our theme this year is **“Roar - Life is Wild*God is Good”**
- 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.
- If you are interested in volunteering at VBS, please contact Laurie.

FAMILY BOARD

Thirty-seven children got to go on an Easter Egg Hunt at St. John on April 20th. The Family Board hid many eggs and our youngest friends searched in the choir room while the older children went on a puzzle hunt to find eggs of a certain color that contained puzzle pieces and then claim a “goody bag” after their puzzle was put together. 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 wraps up this program year on May 1st. 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 and everyone who donated snacks!



May 2019

Greeter/Offering Assistant: Lukas Vance

Acolytes: 8:00 a.m. – Kyndra McDonald, Anna Herbrechtsmeyer, Katie Prichard
9:30/10:15 a.m. Tyler Marth, Teagan Prigge

Communion Assistants

8:00 a.m. May 5th & 19th: Koen Tibbitts, Brayton Quade
9:30/10:15 a.m. May 5th & 19th: Deven & Brandan Castillo

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

**South Dakota Mission Trip
To the Black Hills!**

July 8 - 13

Open to St. John students from
6th to 12th grade & their friends.

Sign up on the bulletin board
outside Laurie's office!

**South Dakota Mission Trip
BAKE SALE**

**June 2nd in the Narthex
between & after worship
services!**

The youth will be making pies &
other baked "goodies" to help
fund their trip!

Donations to help fuel the bus for the Mission trip would also be greatly
appreciated! Bring your donations to Linda in the Business Office.



St. John VBS will be July 30 - August 2 from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

A light supper will be provided each evening

VBS is open to children from Preschool - 5th Grade.

Cost is \$5.00/child with a maximum of \$15.00/family.

The VBS kids will be able to sing at worship on Sunday, August 4th.

Registration forms will be available soon!



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How quickly time can fly by!?! We have already made it through another great year at St. John Christian Preschool. Monday, May 13th will be our last day of the 2018-2019 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.

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 2019-2020 school year. We have been blessed with a great start to our registration! We are currently FULL in our morning 3-year-old class and have started a waiting list. If we do see more families wanting to register their 3-year-olds, we would love to open up a 2-day option, once again! We also have some 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!

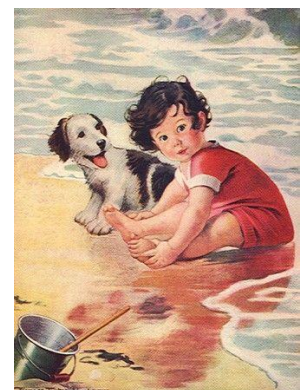
Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who purchased cupcakes from our preschoolers for our All-School fundraiser! We will be able to purchase those items listed from our “Wish List!”

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

With HIS love,

Whittney Franke

In one drop of water are found all the secrets of the oceans. ~Khalil Gibran






May 2019 Birthdays!!

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

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			10:00 a.m. Assemble newsletters 3:30 p.m. After School 5:15 p.m. Youth board 5:30 p.m. Carol Choir 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support group 6:00 p.m. SJCP Open House 	6:30 p.m. SJCP Open House	
5 Communion	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 9:15 a.m. Deacons 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 a.m. Parish Ed		5:00 p.m. Building & Grounds 5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee	5:15 p.m. Family board 6:00 p.m. Confirmation	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters		
12 Mother's Day	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:00 a.m. Worship - 9:30 a.m. Worship 	1:00 p.m. Card Ministry	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 6:00 a.m. Council	6:00 p.m. Confirmation 6:15 p.m. Communication board	1:00 p.m. Stained Glass Group 5:00 p.m. Finance		8:30 p.m. Building & Grounds clean up day 
19 Communion	20	21	22 Newsletter Deadline	23	24	25
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship	7:00 p.m. Book Club	6:30 p.m. Preschool board		9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters		
26 Graduation Sunday	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	
8:00 a.m. Worship & Graduation service 9:30 a.m. Worship	OFFICE CLOSED 	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	10:00 a.m. Assemble newsletters	1:00 p.m. Stained Glass Group		