

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

April 2019



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

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“God’s Love in Action”

**Pastor's
Note...**

On the morning after Good Friday 2017, I woke up to find a bent shepherd's hook on our deck and broken birdfeeders in the backyard and I knew a that a new season had begun. The bears were awake and spring, with all of its new life, growth, and beauty, was on its way. But first, there was a mess to clean up.

Holy week is kind of like that, too. We know that Easter is coming with its new life, growth, and beauty ... but first there was a mess to clean up... the mess of sin. Like a marauding bear looking to fill its belly, sin sneaks into our lives and takes what it wants leaving a path of destruction behind: broken relationships, broken bodies, broken spirits. But during Holy Week we see Jesus, our Good Shepherd, stand up to that bear for the sake of his sheep (us). The Shepherd's hook is bent, his body is broken, and his sheep all run away. But the Shepherd doesn't back down and the bear ultimately takes the Shepherd's life ... sin takes the Shepherd's life. Everything is a mess. It looks like the bear has won. But on Easter morning, the Shepherd wakes up from death. With the scars of the battle still on his hands and feet and side, the Shepherd goes out to gather his sheep again and to show them that nothing can separate them from him ... not sin, not death, not anything! A new season has begun ... a season of new life ... a season of eternal life.

Now that we're in Iowa, we don't have to worry about the northern, springtime tradition of bringing in the birdfeeders. But even though bears aren't a problem here, sin still is. But the good news is that, even though that old bear, sin, has probably been tromping in and messing things up in your life, the Shepherd is getting ready to go to the cross for you again. And Easter's coming. I hope you'll join the flock on April 21 as we gather to hear the story and celebrate the beginning of a new season in Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Russ

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

**LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
U.S. FLOODING**

MARCH 2019

ELCA.org/disaster



Heavy rainfall has caused rapid snow melt that has resulted in major flooding across at least four states. So far, three people have died and hundreds of homes and businesses have been affected. Mandatory and voluntary evacuation orders remain in place. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 200 miles of levees have been compromised in four states and historic flood levels have been recorded at 42 locations across six states. Though water is receding, more rain is

anticipated in many areas, along with warmer weather that may melt snow and ice and raise water levels further.

Lutheran Disaster Response is responding to this emergency through congregations, synods and our affiliates across Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin and Missouri.

Gifts to "U.S. flooding" will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those affected by flooding until the response is complete. Please give today.

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St. John Lutheran will be collecting donations to send to Lutheran Disaster Response for flood relief. Donations can be mailed or dropped off in the church office (checks payable to St. John Lutheran) or use the envelopes available in the Sunday bulletins. Please give your donation by Sunday, April 14th (Palm Sunday). The amount donated will be announced on Easter Sunday, April 21st.

Our Generosity in January and February

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

- 8% (3,165.62) went to support the mission of the larger church
- 2% (549.83) went to support the *North East Iowa Food Bank for the Charles City Schools Backpack program*
- (267.65) went to support the *Parkinson's Support Group*
- (267.65) went to support the *Alzheimer's Support Group*

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

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

The theme for Wednesday Lenten services is
"Cultivating & Letting Go"

April 3rd: "Letting Go of Hurts to Cultivate Peace"

April 10th: Letting Go of Doubt to Cultivate Hope"



Holy Week & Easter 2019

Sunday, April 14 – Palm Sunday

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

Thursday, April 18 – Maundy Thursday

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

Friday, April 19 – Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 21st – Easter Sunday

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



Easter Morning Worship

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

April 14th - from 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

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

The glass box that will be in the Narthex starting March 10th 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.

Stained Glass Ministry: I haven't forgotten this but decided that I will need some dedicated help to continue this ministry. If anyone would like to be involved with this, please let me know at petefishj@mchsi.com. I will also wait until some of our snowbirds return from the south to get started, but I need more help this time to make it resume.

My vision of this is to make small crosses to send with some of our Stephen Ministry people when that gets started and also to make a few more items for people that didn't get sun-catchers and jewelry last time. Money from this would go into the 150th Anniversary fund. Lori Janssen and I can show you how to do the stained glass, with the intention that some crosses get made, but also so you can make something for yourself. This could be done at a minimal cost because we have the glass, but the jewelry findings and special solder has a cost. If that interests you, consider signing up when we get that all figured out. Just a heads up for now.

Janet Petefish



Save the Date!

Family board will host a
Ladies' Luncheon
April 28th at 11:30 a.m.
Sign up in the church office
to attend.



There are also sign up
sheets to provide salads &
desserts!

The Parkinson's Support group
Meets April 4th at 1:00 p.m. in the
St. John Parish Hall

ALTAR GUILD –APRIL 2019
Betty Manning, Linda Reit

Do Day Quilters
Meets April 11 & 25

St. John Lutheran Card Ministry will
meet April 8th at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Supper

April 3: B.B.Q. meatballs, twice baked potatoes, green bean casserole, pudding

April 10: Chicken noodle casserole, mixed vegetables, fruit, ice cream

April 17: NO Supper, Holy Week

April 24: Goulash, basil green beans, lettuce salad, "Poke" cake

The St. John book club will meet **April 29** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside room and will review the book *Running Away To Home* by Jennifer Wilson. A typically sane middle-aged mother of two reinvents herself and her family with a spontaneous sabbatical to her central European origins.



The Stewardship Committee would like to **THANK** the entire congregation for their generosity during our annual Noisy Bucket Sunday. The first service collected \$582.10 and the second service collected \$364.11 for a grand total of \$946.21. These funds will go directly to the youth summer mission trip to South Dakota. We couldn't continue with our ministries without your help. Once again, **THANK YOU** for your donations. It is very much appreciated.



April Birthdays

2 nd	Georgena Miller	17 th	Harlyn Kolb
2 nd	Mike Leraan	20 th	Leon Hall
3 rd	Russell Frascht	23 rd	Kathleen Schilling
10 th	Elsie Ferguson	24 th	Dorothy Watson
14 th	Connie Rasmussen	25 th	Marilyn Kolb
16 th	Beverly Sears		

Scripture Readers:

April 7

8:00 – Anastasia Baldus

10:15 – Kaleb Davis

April 14

8:00 – Rosie Baldus

10:15 – Marcia DeVore

April 21 – Easter Sunday

6:30 – Eric Johanningmeier

8:00 – Kaylee Michael

9:30 – Judy Hauser

April 28

8:00 – Karen Hagarty

10:15 – Liz Hamm

April Anniversaries

April 7, 1968 Leonard & Susan Erickson

April 20, 1963 Donald & JoAnn Knowlton

April 26, 1959 Rodney & Ruthanne Ellis

Celebrated...

The baptism of

Zuri Grace Franke, March 20, 2019

The wedding of

Ashley Vance & Nicholas Decker,

March 9, 2019

Memorials were given in memory of...

Wilma Handt: Wanda Sprout

Jovina Lechtenberg: Don & Sharon Tieskotter

Darwyn Meyer: Larry & Sondra Coen



Adult Sunday School –

9:05 a.m. in the Chapel

Susan Leeper will lead the study on

“Miracles of Jesus”

April 6, 14, 28, & May 5

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.

FEBRUARY FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:

CALLER – Darci Tracey. Thanks to our March caller **Sandie Quade**, and to all who provided food and served.

HELPERS – Sharon Bledsoe, Viva Boerschel, Sondra Coen, Judy Hauser, Marilyn Isakson, Diann Jacobson, Tami Jakel, Linda Klemesrud, Brandi Lantz, Carleen Laue, Angel McKenzie, Sandra Miller, Pat Peterson, Connie Rasmussen, Shirley Regel, Donna Stewart, Pat Townsend, Darci Tracey, Myrna Ward, Arlene Wegner



“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish My purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10-12

Blessings,
Laurie Heidebrink

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth will be hosting a **Palm Sunday Breakfast** on April 14th. 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.)

WIYLDE registration forms are available in Laurie’s office for any 8th-12th grade St. John student wishing to attend. WIYLDE will be held this year at Wartburg from June 16-19. Registrations are due to St. John by April 26th, so we have time to get them mailed in by the deadline of May 1st.

Summer Mission Trip 2019 – We will be going **to the Black Hills of South Dakota July 8-13, 2019**. This trip is open to St. John students that have completed 6th-12th grades and their friends. Get these days on your calendar now and be watching for additional information in upcoming newsletters, bulletins, etc.

PARISH EDUCATION NEWS

The PreK-2nd grade Sunday School students will be singing on **April 7th at the 10:15am** worship service.

SAVE THE DATES: VBS - Tuesday through Friday, July 30th – August 2nd. We would love to have your kids attend Tuesday-Friday from 5:30pm-8pm each evening! We will also be singing on Sunday, August 2th. Look for more information in the upcoming bulletins and newsletters. If you are interested in volunteering with VBS, please contact Laurie.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Well, the After-School Program will soon be starting back up after taking some time off for Lent. We will meet starting the Wednesday after Easter from 3:30-5pm on the third floor. We will wrap up our year on May 1, 2019. Thank you so much for the donations we received for snacks! The hungry tummies of our students (AND the middle school helpers!) are very grateful.

FAMILY BOARD

The Family Board will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 20th** 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!

The Family Board will be hosting a Ladies’ Luncheon on Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. All St. John ladies and their friends are welcome! This fun event will include fellowship, lunch, dessert, a short program, and a pretty “photo booth” to snap a few cute pictures of your group! Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for girls ages 6-18. Under 6 is free. Tickets may be purchased in the church office until April 24th.



April 2019

Greeter/Offering Assistant: Olivia Kreger

Acolytes: 8:00 a.m. – Sydney Hinz, Kyndra McDonald

10:15 a.m. – Isaac Hervert, Anna Herbrechtsmeyer, Teagan Prigge

Lenten Wednesday 4:30 p.m.: Tyler Marth

6:15 p.m.: Anna Herbrechtsmeyer, Olivia Litterer

Good Friday 7:00 p.m. – Kyndra McDonald

Easter Sunday: 6:30 a.m. Sydney Hinz, 8:00 a.m. Kyndra McDonald, 9:30 a.m. Anna Herbrechtsmeyer

Communion Assistants, Crucifer, & Banner Bearers

8:00 a.m. Colton Crooks, Tino Tamayo

10:15 a.m. Keaton Schmidtke, Koen Tibbitts

Maundy Thursday 4:30 p.m. _____, 6:15 p.m. Brayton Quade

Easter Sunday: 6:30 a.m. _____, 8:00 a.m. Brayton Quade, 9:30 a.m. Koen Tibbitts

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

Family Board's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 20, 9:00 a.m.

St. John Parish Hall

Children up through 5th grade
& their families!

Crafts, activities & egg dyeing

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

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

July 8 - 13

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

More information to come!

**St. John VBS will be July 30 - August 2 & VBS
will sing at St. John on August 4th.**



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

St. John scholarship applications for non-Lutheran colleges can be emailed to you and should be emailed to the office by **April 1st**.

WIYLDE

(Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipling Event)

June 16 – 19 at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa

8th – 12th Grade students interested in attending can pick up registration forms in Laurie's office. Registration deadline is April 26!





“God’s
Love
in
Action”

“We all clap and sing. The stone is rolled away,
Jesus is alive and He is with us every day!”

Spring greetings from your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! Our little ones have been excited to see the signs of spring around our community. It is truly refreshing to see the hope in the eyes of our young friends when the warm weather starts to arrive, and we FINALLY get to go outside and play! It is hard to imagine that we are getting close to the end of another great year at St. John Christian Preschool. The time has gone by so fast!

Our year is quickly winding down to a close, but we are still very busy at SJCP. We have been doing many fun activities with the letters D, P, R, & G. All the little ones got to easel paint, which is always a class favorite. It won't be too long until we conclude our year-long study of the alphabet.

We will be taking all of our friends on a walk through the church the week before Easter and introduce the concept of Good Friday to them. We are excited to take that same walk on the Monday following Easter to celebrate our Risen Savior and to notice the differences in our church.

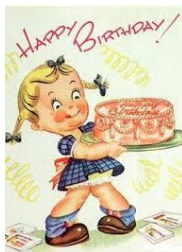
We are currently running our All-School Fundraiser. We are selling Scratch Cupcakes! Mmmmm! ☺ This fundraiser will run until Friday, April 5th. Delivery will be Thursday, April 25th from 3:30-5:00pm. **This current fundraiser will directly benefit the school, as a whole, by allowing us to purchase many supplies and equipment for all the children to use.** We are hoping to purchase another new book shelf, a printer, a copier, and we'd also like to replace some of our more "loved" books. Any remaining profit will also help with updating our many toys/manipulatives and help with the basic funding of our program! **Our goal is to raise at least \$2,000.** The items are between \$15-\$20 and we earn 40% on all the orders. We know sometimes it gets overwhelming with all of these fundraisers, so if you would like to pass on purchasing an item but would still like to help us reach our goal, please feel free to give a monetary donation. Either way, we greatly appreciate your support!

We currently have openings left for the 2019-2020 school year. Children who will be 3 on or before September 15 and all children 4 and 5 years old are welcome. A minimum registration fee of \$25 is due at time of registration. Scholarships are available. Please call 228-7274 or stop by the preschool for more information on the current enrollment.

With HIS love, Whitney Franke

"Spring shows what God can do with a drab
and dirty world." - Virgil A. Kraft





April 2019 Birthdays!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Colton Crooks	Myron Leraaen Georgena Miller	Imhuicha Bohner Russell Frascht	Richard Harrington Koen Tibbitts Marilyn Venz	Greig Grimm Michael McKenzie Sarah Murray	Colin Johanningmeier Shirley Platte
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jolene Bilharz Blake Dean Cooper Holm Carter Johanningmeier	Linda Hoy Marcia Olesen	Curt Hallet	Al Brandau Elsie Ferguson Diane Loudermilk Keith Westergard	Torey Buenger Brian Voelker Joyce Wood	Bennett Hansen Ann Kabele Falyn Knecht	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sydney Hinz Laker Kubik Connie Rasmussen	Owen Prichard Tammy Quade	Beverly Sears	Harlyn Kolb Mariah McKenzie	Cameron Hanson Carter Hanson Pamela Lumley Nancy Scherer Shannon Venz	Linda Hughes Kaylie Keyes	Leon Hall Donaven Sande Emilee Sande
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Jodi Heyer	Cora Crooks Callie Hammond	Kaylee Michael Kathleen Schilling Matt Vance	James Merrifield Dorothy Watson	Jessica Hoeft Abigail Lacour Heidi Nielsen Darci Tracey	Marilyn Kolb	
28	29	30				
Dennis Kreger	Paul Augustin Paul Veen	Bruce Boerschel				

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		5:00 p.m. Building & Grounds 6:00 p.m. Communication board	Lent Wed. Activities 4:30 & 6:15 p.m. Worship	1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support group		
7 Communion	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Stewardship 9:05 a.m. Education hour 9:15 a.m. Deacons 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 a.m. Parish Ed	1:00 p.m. Card Ministry	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 6:00 p.m. Council	LentWed. Activities 4:30 & 6:15 p.m. Worship 5:15 p.m. Family board	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters		
14 Palm Sunday	15	16	17	18 Maundy Thur.	19 Good Friday	20
7:30 a.m. Youth breakfast 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education hour 10:15 a.m. Worship		6:30 p.m. Preschool board		4:30 & 6:15 p.m. Worship/Comm	7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service 	9:00 a.m. Altar Guild 9:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
21 Easter/Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27
6:30 a.m. Worship 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship		9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study	Newsletter Deadline Wednesday Night Activities	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters 5:00 p.m. Finance		
28	29	30	1-May	2	3	4
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Ladies Luncheon	7:00 p.m. Book Club		10:00 a.m. Assemble newsletters Wednesday Night Activities 5:15 p.m. Youth board	1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support group		

Lent Wednesday Night 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

After School & Confirmation begin April 24th.