

# *THE GOOD NEWSLETTER*

*September 2019*



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

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**“God’s Love in Action”**

A few years ago, my wife and I had the privilege of leading a mission trip to Tanzania. It was the first time we'd been back to Tanzania since my internship from 1990-1991. We were pleased to see that conditions had greatly improved since we were last there and that, unlike in the U.S., the Lutheran church was growing rapidly and filled with young adults. It was a real joy to see that the work of so many in the past was having a huge pay off now.

We ended our trip with a 3-day safari to Taringire and Ngorongoro National Parks. Going on safari, besides being totally amazing, supports the tourism industry on which many Tanzanians rely, and it shows that we're interested in seeing the natural beauty of their country. Tanzanians are very proud of their national parks, and well they should be. The Ngorongoro Crater is often referred to as the “8th Wonder of the World.” We were very privileged to be able to visit!

But clearly, we were not the first American Midwesterners or Lutherans to have visited. The evening before we visited the park, we checked into a safari lodge in a nearby town. As my wife, Susan, and I sat in lawn chairs relaxing with others in the lodge's comfortable and well-manicured grounds, something caught our eyes. The lodge staff was checking in another group that had come in after us and one of the staff members was very kindly wiping the dust from the group's luggage with a rag. The rag was bright orange and very clearly bore the name and logo of Wartburg College. Someone in Tanzania was dusting luggage with a t-shirt from our alma mater in Iowa!

We speculated that someone from Wartburg must have left the shirt behind. It was through Wartburg College that I went to Tanzania for my first time. Could that be my t-shirt from 1987?!

It wasn't. But still, seeing it that day gave us a sense of pride. We really liked the fact that Wartburgers with a sense of adventure and a calling to do good in the world were still heading off to far-flung corners of the world. We were also proud that a shirt from one of our Lutheran colleges was being used for a humble act of service. I doubt that the original owner of the shirt intended it to be a dust rag in Tanzania, but how wonderful that it was still being used to show consideration and kindness to weary travelers and their dusty luggage.

We all leave things behind in this life and sometimes it's not the things we expected to leave. But don't worry. God is at work in ways we don't expect and may never even see. We try our best to do good in the world and trust God to use it in spite of our shortcomings. Sometimes it's the little things, the unintended things that make the biggest impact. We have peace knowing that we have a God who turns rags into riches!

Peace,

Pastor Russ

### **Our Generosity in July**

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

8% (1,710.77) went to support the mission of the larger church

2% of all offerings (620.05) went to support community services. (\$300.00) was given to the National Child Safety Council through the Floyd County Sheriff's Office for providing drug prevention education materials for children and parents of Floyd County. (\$320.00) will be added to the money raised from the golf tourney for the Friends of Cancer in Floyd County.

The First Quarter 8% of the Thank Offering (\$ 2754.55) was divided among three designees. (\$1000.00) to the Charles City YMCA to support programing, (\$1000.00) to the Floyd County Fair to help offset damages from the May tornado, and (\$745.55) to Washington School to help with expenses for the new playground equipment that was installed this Summer

Of  
Note...

**FALL WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE  
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>  
8:00 a.m. Worship  
10:15 a.m. Worship  
9:05 a.m. Education hour will  
start SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>.**



**RALLY DAY!**  
Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>!  
Worship: 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.  
Picnic lunch & registration  
for Sunday School/After  
School program  
in Parish Hall at 11:30 a.m.  
Games will be set up in the  
blue parking lot

**Wednesday Night Schedule:**  
**September 11<sup>th</sup>**  
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Orientation  
**September 18<sup>st</sup>**  
5:00 p.m. Supper  
5:45 p.m. Carol Choir  
6:00 p.m. Confirmation  
7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir

**BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>!  
Both Worship services:  
8:00 & 10:15 a.m.  
All students, teachers and support staff  
are encouraged to participate by  
bringing your backpacks to be blessed!

**Wednesday Night Supper**

**September 18:** Pork loin, scalloped potatoes, green beans, applesauce, chocolate cake  
**September 25:** Lasagna, mixed vegetables, garlic bread, lettuce salad, apple crisp  
Adults are \$4.00/Students \$2.00. This meal is for everyone! (Take out is available)



**MUSIC AT ST. JOHN**

**Trinity Choir** will start rehearsals on Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00 pm. Trinity Choir will plan to sing about twice a month. Any new members, as well as past members are welcome to join us. Anyone from 7<sup>th</sup> Grade up is welcome. Students may use this for silver cord hours. This group is very non-threatening and enjoys having a good time while praising God. Please come join us. We would really like to see our numbers grow. Come and bring a friend. Any questions may be directed to Melanie Johanningmeier, 641-330-0963.

**Carol Choir** will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 18 at 5:45. We are very excited to have Lydia Johnson directing and Susan Leeper Co-directing Carol Choir this year. Carol Choir welcomes any children (Kindergarten - 6<sup>th</sup> grade) to join Carol Choir. They will rehearse from 5:45-6:10. They typically sing at about one service per month. Any questions may be directed to Lydia Johnson, 319-240-1522.

**Wind Ensemble** will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 18 at 5:30 pm. If you play an instrument, you are encouraged to come and join this group. Wind Ensemble rehearses each Wednesday evening from 5:30 pm-6:00 in the Sanctuary. Wind Ensemble provides prelude/offertory music for services about once a month. They also do some community service by touring the nursing homes at Christmastime. This group occasionally accompanies worship. Any questions may be directed to Dr. David Schweizer.



Simply Giving is a stewardship program that allows anyone from St. John the chance to give their offering through electronic transfer directly from their checking or savings account. **Simply Giving forms can be found on the glass case in the Narthex**

**Plans and priorities have changed**, and we will not be having a Fall Festival. The good news is we will reschedule for after the first of the year, but perhaps closer to Valentine's Day with a special event, to be announced at a later date. If you have brought in items for the Fall Festival, you can pick them up in the Church office, until then. We will still have a silent auction at this later event, but it would be better if you were responsible for these items until that time. Just think, you have more time to make some things or think about your talent to share. "You can't change the direction of the wind, but you can adjust your sails."

**Good News!** Greg Heidebrink is going to start working on framing the Ascension Window. When the Ascension Window is hung in the Narthex, there will be a dedication of the window. At the time of the dedication the Stained-Glass Ministry will be selling items they have been making over the summer. God's Love **IS** in Action at St. John and there is so much to look forward to as the seasons change.

The Board of Deacons would love to get more members of our congregation involved in our Sunday Services. We need Readers for both services. We are asking anyone who would be interested to be a Reader to please sign up in the back of the church beginning September 8 on Rally Day! You may also sign up on the back of your pink attendance slip or contact anyone on the Board of Deacons. Thank you for helping us!

**St. John Lutheran Card Ministry** will meet in September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**The Parkinson's Support group** Will meet September 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**Do Day Quilters**  
Meets September 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

**Be a part of the 2019 St. John Photo Directory!** There is still time to sign up for your photo appointments on September 19 – 20 & October 23 – 26. You can sign up on the St. John website by following the link on the front page or call Kathy in the office for appointments.

### **Coats for Kids will be coming October 12<sup>th</sup>**

As you ready your children for the coming cold winter please consider donating new or gently used coats, snow pants, boots, mittens or hats. There are many children in Charles City who will love getting a "new" coat for winter!

**The St. John book club** will meet **September 23<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside room and will review the book *Loving Frank* by Nancy Horan. Elegantly written and remarkably rich in detail, *Loving Frank* is a fitting tribute to a courageous woman, a national icon, and their timeless love story.



**Scripture Readers for September:**

**8:00:**

Sep. 1 – Carol Brahn  
Sep. 8 – Lydia Johnson  
Sep. 15 – Josh Johnson  
Sep. 22 – Gassman Family  
Sep. 29 –

**9:30/10:15:**

Monte Waldorf  
Michelle Grob  
Linda Johnson  
Cherie Schafer  
Annemarie Hansen



**SEPTEMBER 2019**

Peg Poppen  
Arlene Thomas

**September Birthdays**

6<sup>th</sup> Larry Adelmund  
6<sup>th</sup> Bob Tommingo  
10<sup>th</sup> Bill Berns  
11<sup>th</sup> Peg Poppen  
11<sup>th</sup> Dave Ripley  
12<sup>th</sup> Vera Hinz  
17<sup>th</sup> Larry Brewer  
21<sup>st</sup> Geraldine Spurbeck  
22<sup>nd</sup> Harold Begemann  
22<sup>nd</sup> Wendell Patten  
27<sup>th</sup> Doris Thorson  
28<sup>th</sup> Donna Stewart



**With Sympathy...**

**The Funerals of**

*Jean Ellen Laird Semelhack, August 2, 2019*  
*Darla Kay Ritter Davidson, August 3, 2019*



**September Anniversaries**

September 1, 1968 Gary & Sandy Marth  
September 4, 1965 Bill & Sharon Bledsoe  
September 8, 1956 Glenn & Diann Jacobson  
September 19, 1959 David & Helen Hagen  
September 22, 1964 Jim & Bev Jensen

**Memorials were given in memory of...**

**Jean Ellen Laird Semelhack:** Helen Goplerud, Karen Streich, Diane Melrose, Larry & Donna Stewart

**Helen Leymaster Youngerman:** Kathleen Schilling

**Marietta Sylvester:** Karen Thomas

**Matt Doll:** Arlene Thomas, Lynn & Peg Poppen, John & Jean Rima



**SEPTEMBER FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:**

**CALLERS – JoAnn Hervert & Lori Janssen.** Thanks to our August callers  
**Rhonda Schmidtke, Jean Rima.**

**HELPERS –** Mary Augustin, Carol Bauer, Nadonne Buseman, Wendy Castillo, Brenda de Buhr, Marian Dight, Lori Griffin, Liz Hamm, JoAnn Hervert, Doris Hibbs, Vicki Hoffman, Arlene Hollar, Jessi Holm, Mary Mooberry, Kay Tjaden, Doris Toebe, Marilyn Venz, Judy Wessell



*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."* Jeremiah 29:11

Blessings,  
Laurie Heidebrink

### **PARISH ED NEWS**

**RALLY SUNDAY** will be **September 8, 2019**

There will be a meal provided by the Family Board, and registration forms for Sunday School and After School Program in the Parish Hall following 10:15am worship. We will be celebrating the Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone during both services. There will be games in the blue parking lot (weather permitting.)

**SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS** on **September 15, 2019.**

**Class from 9:05am – 10am**

**Installation of Teachers at both services**

**We will be celebrating the Entering Sunday School Milestone with the 3-year-olds at both services.**

### **CONFIRMATION**

**CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION** will be **September 11, 2019** at 6pm

Registration fee is \$10. This helps cover the cost of curricula and supplies.

**ENTERING CONFIRMATION MILESTONE** will be celebrated on **September 15<sup>th</sup> at both services.**

We will be recognizing the milestone of starting our confirmation program with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at both services.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES** begin on **September 18, 2019**

**CONFIRMATION FAIR** will be **October 2, 2019**

We are inviting the congregation to come and visit with our 10<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands about their "Faith Boards" in the Parish Hall at 6pm

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** will be **October 13, 2019**

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade students being confirmed, and their parents, will be meeting with the pastor at 11:20am in the Sanctuary on October 6<sup>th</sup>.**

### **FAMILY BOARD**

**CHILDREN'S CLOTHING SWAP & SALE** in the Parish Hall on **September 28, 2019**

This event will be held from 1pm-3pm and offers gently used children's clothing for 50 cents per item. Consider donating any items your children don't need anymore because donors get 10 tickets for 10 free items and get in early at 12:30pm!

### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM** begins on **October 2, 2019**

This is a fun program from 3:45pm-5pm on Wednesdays for 4year olds (that are attending preschool) through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Older students are welcome as helpers.

Registration forms will be available on Rally Sunday in the Parish Hall.

The St. John bus will again be available to pick students up from school to bring them here. The cost is \$10 per student.

**Youth  
News!**



**August 2019**

**Greeter/Offering Assistant:** Taylor Quade (8:00)

**Acolytes:** 8:00 a.m. – Hanna DeVore

9:30/10:15 a.m. Anna Herbrechtsmeyer, Tyler Marth, Isaac Hervert

**Communion Assistants**

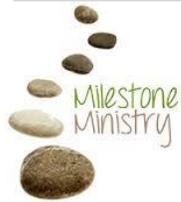
8:00 a.m. Deven & Brandon Castillo

9:30/10:15 a.m. Deven & Brandan Castillo

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

**Milestone Ministries!**

3 Year Olds Entering Sunday School & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Entering Confirmation will be celebrated Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at both services.



**Children's Clothing Swap & Sale!**

Do your kids need affordable back to school clothing? Don't forget to mark your calendars for this great event! Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Where: St. John Parish Hall, Cost: All items will be 50 cents.

(Seeking donations of size newborn - 14/16. Those who donate will receive 10 tickets for 10 free items and will get in early to shop at 12:30 a.m.)

For details, please contact Laurie Heidebrink



**AFTER SCHOOL:** Begins October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. for Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Registration will be during Rally Day activities or you can stop in the office! The St. John bus will be available to pick up kids at the schools. Cost is \$10.00.



“God’s  
Love  
in  
Action”

It's back to school time at St. John Christian Preschool and we began our first day on Monday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. We are excited to have many new and returning little ones with us this year. We are also excited that we got to open up a SECOND 3/4-year-old class this summer! The year started with a little apprehension and even some tears, but as time went on, we quickly moved on to many more smiles and giggles! ☺ We will be starting off the school year with a Safari theme. We here at SJCP are “Wild About Jesus!”

Although August 26<sup>th</sup> was the first day of school for our little ones, we already held two successful parent meetings back on August 13<sup>th</sup>. We offered these meetings for each class to give parents an opportunity to network with one another, to get to know the preschool staff and to learn about the preschool's policies.

We also welcomed all of our families to St. John Christian Preschool at our Get Acquainted Open Houses on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. It was exciting to have all of our little ones stop by the preschool with their families and friends to drop off school supplies and to get his/her school picture taken.

Preschool is a big step for our 3, 4, and 5-year olds, but it is also a big step for parents. As a preschool staff, we consider our job one of utmost importance. Not only are we helping our little ones expand their academic, social, and developmental skills that will guide their paths in life, but also for some of them, we are teaching them about God's love for the very first time. We ask you for your prayers to help us along the way and we thank you for your continuing support of our ministry!!

In closing, we currently have spots available in our two-day, morning, 3-yr-old program and in our afternoon 4/5-year-old program. If you know of someone still in need of a preschool for his or her little one, please give us a call at 228-7274 and we will try to help out!

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!  
Whittney Franke





# September 2019 Birthdays!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sondra Coen Aaron Garden	Samantha Heyer	Hallie Kubik	Kari Klemesrud Yolanda Van Ausdall		Mackenzy Bilharz Seth Nordmeyer Bob Tommingo Emersyn Unga	Gloria Carr Lauren Connell Kylie Parson
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Ravyn Knecht Norma McLean	Lynn Brown Dax Johnson Stanley Mehmen	Bill Berns Carolyn Marth	Marcia Grimm Peg Poppen David Ripley	Kendra Buenger Vera Hinz Brandon Holthaus Brad McKenzie	Jim Reysack	Ethan Voelker
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Brenda Stone Matt Wolf	Dennis Brahn Larry Brewer Jenisha Garden Leland Lumley	Larry Coen JoAnn Hervert Becky Meyer	Frank Anderson Alex Litterer Malayne Meyer Jadyn Van Horn		Lyneen Brunsting Tom Heddens
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Harold Begemann Wendell Patten	Bob Brede Cindy Davidson	Justin Heyer Kent Hoeft Kurt Hoeft		Jack Murray Jean Rima	Sarah George	Kristin George Carleen Laue Jolene Patterson Donna Stewart
29	30					
Isaac Gassman						

# SEPTEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Worship	Office Closed Labor Day 	5:00 p.m. Building & Grounds		1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support group		
8 Rally Day/Bless Backpacks	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Deacons 9:00 a.m. Stewardship board 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 Rally Day activities, meal & Sunday School/After School sign up	1:00 p.m. Card Ministry	6:00 p.m. Council	5:00 p.m. Communication board 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Orientation	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry		
15 Communion	16	17	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20	21
Installation of Sunday School Teachers Entering Sunday School & Confirmation milestone 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 p.m. Youth board		6:30 p.m. Preschool board	5:00 p.m. Supper 5:15 p.m. Family board 5:30 p.m. Carol Choir 6:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir	2:00 p.m. Photo Directory 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry	2:00 p.m. Photo Directory Wedding Rehearsal	3:30 p.m. Wedding Nordmeyer & Holback
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship	4:30 p.m. SJCP Conferences 7:00 p.m. Book Club 	4:30 p.m. SJCP Conferences	10:00 a.m. Assemble newsletters 4:30 p.m. SJCP Conferences Wed. Night Activities	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry		12:00 p.m. Family board Children's clothing swap
29	30					
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship						