

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

November 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”

Nothing But the Grace of God

*Pastor's
Note...*

The sky was a perfect, cloudless blue. Morning fog had turned into afternoon frost which clung stubbornly and generously to trees in the grove as if they'd been dipped in divinity. Heading away from the church on a cold December day, my uncle and I walked the center of a deserted road in Butler County. Snow and gravel crunched beneath polished, black shoes ... funeral shoes. Great Uncle Lester was dead.

We were both thinking the same thing: "What'll happen to the farm?" We wondered if maybe Great Aunt Doris would sell it and move into town. But it didn't seem possible. That little piece of Iowa prairie belonged to Leepers. It had been in our family for well over 100 years, ever since my great, great grandfather struck the first match to burn away its wild grasses and reveal rock-strewn fields. Ever since my great, great grandfather and his neighbors bent over to heave away mighty boulders and make smooth, level soil for plowing, that land had been ours.

And yet, we knew that there had been others on the land before us. When I was a child, and then later as an adult, Great Uncle Lester used to take me out beyond the gravel pit to a swatch of land which he and his father and his father before him had taken great care to preserve in its original state.

"You see there?" he'd say to me as he pointed downward into the short prairie grass. "See those two ruts? Those are wagon wheel tracks. They were left here a long time ago by pioneers pulling their wagons west. This spot might have been a resting place on their long journey."

And as I'd still be trying to comprehend pioneers and wagons, Great Uncle Lester would point in a different direction and say, "See there? See those little hills? There used to be a native village here and those mounds are where they built their homes." And then Great Uncle Lester would launch into his collection of treasure-finding tales ... times he'd discovered arrowheads, bowls, animal bones, and other things. And I would stand in the stiff prairie wind trying to picture the many others who had stood on that same spot before me. We were just a few of the many, many people who had used and taken care of that land.

Eventually Great Aunt Doris did sell the farm and move into town. It was a good decision. She sold part of the land and gave the rest of it to the county as the Leeper Prairie Preserve. It's located in Butler County on Ridge Avenue, just south of Highway 3. I'm so thankful for Doris' generosity and that, because of it, I can still go visit a piece of the old Leeper Farm.

But, you know, as much as I miss that place of many childhood memories and imaginings, the land never really belonged to our family ... or to any other person before us. That land, like everything else on earth, always has and always will belong to God. We own nothing. We're all temporary managers of what God has created and owns, nothing more and nothing less. In the end, we have nothing ... nothing but the grace of God.

Peace,
Pastor Russ

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

Our Generosity in September

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

8% (\$1,873.81) went to support the mission of the larger church

2% Community Benevolence (\$656.22) was given to "Be the Match Foundation", the National Bone Marrow Donor program

Please
Note...



**Daylight savings
time ends
NOVEMBER 3rd!**
Turn your clocks
BACK one hour!

**The office will be closed
November 28th & 29th
For the Thanksgiving Holiday**



**Operation Christmas Child
shoeboxes:** please returned filled
boxes by November 17th.

Dartball at St. John

Dartball is a team activity at St. John. Matches are played at St. John and other participating churches. For more information call Dennis Sande at 228-4113. A full schedule can be picked up in the St. John office.

Matches start at 7:00 p.m. & dates are:

November 20th at St. John vs. Baptist
December 4th at Methodist
December 11th at St. John vs. Clarksville Lutheran
December 18th at Pleasant Hill
January 8th at Immanuel
January 15th at St. John vs. Nashua Lutheran
January 22nd at Pleasant Valley

Wednesday Night Supper

November 6: Yummy chicken/hash brown casserole, mixed vegetables, applesauce, banana dessert

November 13: Pork loin, garden pasta bake, fruit salad, pudding

November 20: Turkey, dressing, whipped potatoes & gravy, squash, pumpkin bars

Quilt Sunday – November 17th

The Do Day Quilters will display the quilts on the back of pews during worship on November 17th. The quilts will be going to the Women's Shelter in Mason City to be given to the women and children that the shelter serves. They extend an invitation to anyone who would like to come help on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. each month. You do not need to be a skilled quilter. There are jobs for ALL skill levels!

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On Sunday, November 24, Angel Tree tags will be available in the Narthex before and after both services. Angel Tree provides gifts for children of incarcerated parents, food and religious materials for their families, and Bibles for the prisoners. Please support the program again this year. Angel gifts should be returned by December 8th.

The St. John book club will meet November 25th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside room and will review the book *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed when she picks up a single object, partially hidden in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, left behind there by accident, and it is her first act of book thievery. So begins a love affair with books and words, as Liesel, with the help of her accordion-playing foster father, learns to read. Soon she is stealing books from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times. When Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, Liesel's world is both opened, and closed down.





**The St. John All - a - Board meeting will be
November 19th at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall!**

Last Sunday we dedicated the Ascension Window. Pastor Leeper did a wonderful job explaining its history and blessing it as a beautiful addition to our church. Thank you to everyone that helped in making that possible from restoring it, framing, or making the stained-glass items that were sold to pay for the project. The sale last Sunday cleared about \$2800 which will really help the 150th Anniversary fund. After framing and electrical are paid for we will have at least \$8000 in the 150th Anniversary account. There are still a few items available that can be purchased through the church office until the 17th and then they will be stored.

This account will supply funding for special events and probably a dinner in 2022 to celebrate our congregation's 150-year milestone. We will eventually form a committee to plan those events and it will probably take more money to do some special things throughout that year. Please keep this ministry in your heart as a potential place for memorials or general donations.

Thank you again,
Janet Petefish, Stained Glass Ministry Coordinator

NOVEMBER FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:

CALLERS – Karen Hagarty & Dorothy Parson.

Thanks to our October caller **Kathy Waldorf**

HELPERS – Betty Ball, Sue Baron, Karen Hagarty, Vera Hinz, Leona Howe, Linda Hughes, Lori Janssen, JoAnn Knowlton, Jackie Moon, Dorothy Parson, Ann Prichard, Diane Sande, Edna Stott, Arlene Thomas, Lola Vest, Bev Waddell, Joyce Wood



POINSETTIAS: If you would like to donate toward the poinsettias for Christmas, please notify the church office at 228-3397.



*The Board of
Deacons invites
everyone to St. John
on December 2nd
starting at 5:30 p.m.
to help trim the tree &
decorate the church
for Christmas!*



The Sunday School
Christmas program
will be on
December 8,
2019 during the
10:15 worship
service.

MUSIC SUNDAY

Music Sunday will be held on Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 9:00 am at St. John. We will be joining with Messiah Lutheran Church members to enjoy a service filled with Advent/Christmas music. This service will feature a combined adult choir from St. John Lutheran Church and Messiah Lutheran Church, a combined kids choir from St. John Lutheran Church and Messiah Lutheran Church, special music, hymns and worship. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 15 for Music Sunday.





NOVEMBER 2019
Donn & Cherie Schafer



Do Day Quilters
Meets November 14th at
9:00 a.m.

St. John Lutheran Card Ministry will
meet November 11th at 1:00 p.m.

Scripture Readers:

November 3

8:00 – Brenda Bailey

10:15 – Sue Ayers

November 10

9:00 – Eric Johanningmeier

November 17

8:00 – Hannah DeVore

10:15 – Linda Johnson

November 24

8:00 – Kathy Crooks

10:15 – Anna Herbrechtsmeyer



November Birthdays

7th Wayne Ellertson
8th Cal Wood
17th Diane Melrose
19th Gladys Kellogg
19th Rose Lamprecht
22nd Sue Baron
22nd Sylvia Frascht
23rd Bill Bledsoe
24th Carol Chestek

November Anniversaries

November 1, 1969 Duane & Collen Ortmayer
November 3, 1950 Myron & Clarice Leraaen
November 8, 1951 Alvin & Shirley Davidson
November 8, 1959 Skip & Myrna Ward
November 14, 1959 Allen & Diane Cross
November 16, 1957 William & Arlene Hollar
November 16, 1957 Dean & Doris Toebe
November 21, 1954 Herbert & Vera Hinz
November 23, 1963 Chuck & Bev Waddell
November 29, 1963 Richard & Marcia Oleson
November 30, 1962 Bob & Bev Friend

With Sympathy...

The Funerals of

Marion Alice Wichman Kreger,
October 12, 2019

Celebrating...

The Wedding of

Marten Van Ausdall & Jennifer Phan,
October 19, 2019

Memorials were given in memory of...

Andrew Melrose Jr: Dorothy Rodda, Barbara Fuls, Craig & Julie Begemann, Eric & Melanie Johanningmeier, Linda Hughes, Dale & Helen Bond, Bruce & Brenda de Buhr, Ruth Farmer, Kip & Judy Hauser, Leon & Jan Mulford, Greg & Rosie Pieper, Larry & Donna Stewart, Kay Tjaden, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Marilu Wohlers, Mark & Michelle Bailey, Bob & Bev Friend, O. Jay Tomson, Lorraine Duffy, Warren & Janet Dunkel, Duane & Ileen Jerdee, Larry & Lisa Ashbacher, Clara Iverson, Jamie Voyer, Jeffrey & Cynthia Voyer

Matt Doll: Larry & Donna Stewart

Marion Marie Wichman Kreger: James & Randall Kreger





“God’s
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OUR GOD IS AWESOME! We continue to feel the blessings of God's amazing love each and every day in our preschool center. We are surrounded by eager learners who are not only looking to have excellent educational experiences, but also friends who are looking to start a walk with Jesus or to continue down that path with our Lord and Savior!

October began with BEAUTIFUL weather, which allowed for our friends to have a couple visits from our Charles City Fire Department. The younger friends were able to meet Sparky the Fire Dog while the older friends were able to see the “insides” of a fire truck! Thanks to Sparky, Firefighter Curt Teeter, and Fire Chief Eric Whipple for taking time out of their busy schedules to visit all of our classes.

October was an extra-long month, which gave us extra time for extra fun! We learned about the letters I, T, E and F and even got to play OUTSIDE a lot! We talked about Fire Safety and finished our Color Unit. We ended the month with a trip to the library and our annual Costume Day.

We will be having a Rada Cutlery Fundraiser from Tuesday, October 29 - Thursday, November 14. If you are interested in ordering, you can order online at <https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=3268001.09a024a> or contact the preschool to place your order!

As we enter November, we schedule perhaps one of the most exciting days for our older preschool friends. Our new 4/5-year-old friends will be receiving their very own Bible! They receive this Bible on a very special day, All Saint's Day. It is a wondrous sight to behold when each little one realizes that they are receiving a treasure all their own. We offer many thanks to our congregational members who provide donations through gifts or memorials throughout the year. Those dollars fund this amazing portion of our preschool ministry. To make sure that our Bibles don't become decorations, we ask our older friends to bring their Bibles back to preschool on Wednesday's so we can “read” the story together.

In Christ,

Whittney Franke



Well, autumn is here, and with it comes falling leaves and cool, dark evenings. The days seem short and the hours of darkness seem long. Let's all remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that He wants us to let our lights shine for others.

Ephesians 5:8-10 Maybe then the hours of darkness won't seem quite as dark. ☺

Blessings,
Laurie

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

We have an awesome group at the After-School Program this year! We have 32 kids enrolled and 4-8 Middle School and High School helpers, and our bus needs to make two trips to the schools because we can't fit them all in one trip! How great is that?!? 😊 We could use some donations of washable markers (it seems many of ours have dried up) and small paper plates for snacks and crafts if you feel called to donate.

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION CLASSES changed October 30th, and the new courses being offered are The Lord's Prayer, The New Testament, and Risen.

FAMILY BOARD

Sunday, November 24th, the Family Board will be hosting our \$0.25 Gift Store for children in the Parish Hall from 10am-noon. This is an opportunity for parents to bring children to purchase gifts for siblings, parents and grandparents. We are asking the congregation for donations of Christmas items, crafts, and gently used toys that might be fun gifts for children to purchase. Please bring donations to the church office. The "Store" will be open at 10:00am for Sunday School students and from 10:30am-noon for the public.

PARISH EDUCATION BOARD

November is **Food Month**. We ask that you bring non-perishable food items to Sunday School each Sunday of the month. These items will be donated to the food pantry here in Charles City. Look for more information coming home with your children. Sunday School offering in November will be donated to the food pantry.

There will be NO Sunday School on December 1, 2019 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School Christmas program will be **on December 8, 2019 during the 10:15** worship service.

YOUTH

YOUTH GROUP

Be watching for upcoming dates for High School Youth Group meetings in the bulletins and E-skinny.



NOVEMBER IS FOOD MONTH!

Sunday School students are asked to bring a non-perishable food item every Sunday in the month of November. The food collected will go to the local food box.

On December 1st there will be NO Sunday School due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

November 2019

Greeter/Offering Assistant: Annabel McDonald

Worship Assistants (Acolyte & Communion Assistant)

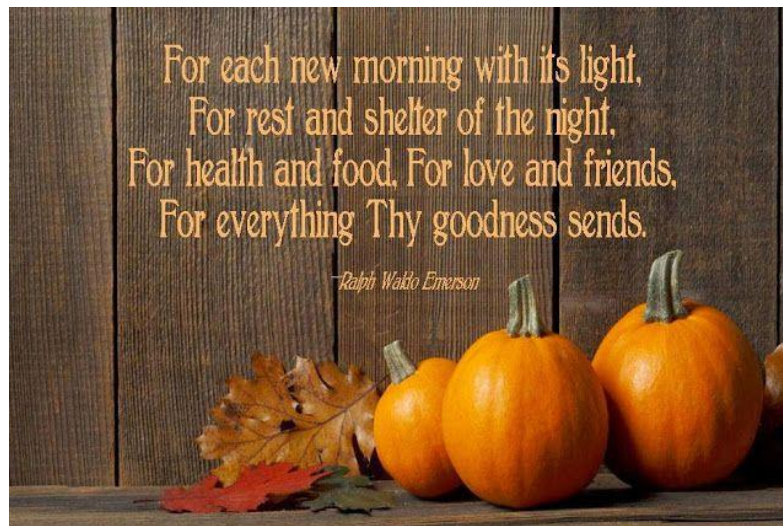
Hannah DeVore, Hayden Heyer, Kasey Kakac,
Tyler Marth, Isaac Hervert

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



THE .25 CENT CHRISTMAS STORE FOR KIDS

will be November 24th! Store hours are 10:30 - noon, St. John Sunday school students can start at 10:00 a.m. Donations of gently used Christmas themed items, craft items, or toys are needed! You can bring your donated items to the St John office by Friday, November 22nd. Thank you!











November 2019 Birthdays!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Susan Ayers Brian Ross	Lori Janssen
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sharon Tieskotter Beverly Waddell Myrna Ward	Saeli Chase			Wayne Ellertson	Susie Harper Calvin Wood	Charles Waddell
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Kayla Kellogg	Henry Marth Teagan Prigge Lincoln Schossow	Bruce Delap Brady Hanson Anna Herbrechtsmeyer		Jacque Brandau Glenn Johlas Nancy Johlas Emersyn Miller	Alex George Michael Laue	Cameron Lessin
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Dan Lantz Diane Melrose Dylan Parsons	Chad Kellogg Suzie Ross	Mark Davidson Gladys Kellogg Rose Lamprecht Lorna Scrimger David Watson	Zuri Franke Brian Schmidtke	Rodney Hinz Isaac Wink	Sylvia Frascht Gary Marth Sarah Merrifield Alex Nordmeyer	Sue Baron Bill Bledsoe Riley Quade
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Carol Chestek Linda Lindaman	Graham Hansen Addisen Lantz	Beverly Selvig	Lydia Johnson	Sandra Marth	Richard Lacour	

NOVEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion - All Saints	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 	6:00 p.m. Scouts		Wednesday Night Activities	7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry training		
10 Consecration Sunday	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 a.m. Worship/Comm followed by a meal	1:00 p.m. Card Ministry 6:00 p.m. Scouts 	9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 5:00 p.m. Bus committee 6:00 p.m. Council 	Wednesday Night Activites	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters 7:00 p.m. Stephen Minsitry training		
17 Communion	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23
Quilt Sunday 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education hour 10:15 a.m. Worship	6:00 p.m. Scouts	6:00 p.m. "All a Board" Meeting Night 6:30 p.m. Preschool board	Wednesday night activities	7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry training		
24 Angel Tree Tags	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:30 a.m. .25 cent Store 10:15 a.m. Worship 	6:00 p.m. Scouts - Raingutter Regatta 7:00 p.m. Book club	9:30 p.m. Women's Bible study	10:00 a.m. Assemble newsletters	Office Closed Happy Thanks giving 	Office Closed	