

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

October 2019



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

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“God’s Love in Action”

**Pastor's
Note...**

The animals are very busy right now. A cold nip in the air has, yet again, triggered the autumnal starting gun. It's sudden-yet-not-unexpected blast has reverberated in the gut of animals throughout the Northern Hemisphere and the annual preparation for winter has begun. Animals are returning: flying south, growing furrer and more feathery, gathering and storing food, looking for dens, digging, swimming, running, burying, working, living. Yet, no one told them to do it. No one taught them how to do it. They just do. It's there, an instinct that God put in inside of them, imprinted on their DNA, carved into their souls. They can't explain this instinct, this mystery, this fire that ignites in them each fall. It just feels right.

And our church is busy right now, too. The seasonal change has triggered the fall start-up. Human animals who have, throughout the summer, ventured away to different pursuits and activities are now feeling the instinct to return. Classes are being taught, meals are being prepared, boards and committees are meeting, people are serving, musicians are making music, laughter is erupting, plans are being made, pews are filling, gatherings are happening, people are yearning for this place, returning home, settling in, working, living. They can't explain why. It's just a feeling, an instinct, a fire within them. It feels right.

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

In his book The Trail Home: Essays, John Daniel writes:

But we are animals, too, born into a world of animals. We share the same sun, the same wind and rain, grass and trees, the same hospitable surface of this planet that became alive. Separate and together, we are born of mystery into mystery, expressions of a single miracle. It lives in the raccoon's quick paws and lively strength, in the bear's glance and the red squirrel gripping the limb, in the cries of the coyote, the gaze of the deer, the honeybee's dance. It swims in rivers and sea, flies on wings through the ocean of air, it stirs in the stillness of the forest - it burns in the screech owl and it burns in me, the same brief fire, shining from eyes to other eyes.

We're all part of the mystery of our God who lives in flesh ... who lives in animals, especially human animals. At the center of our souls this fall is the instinct, the fire, the mystery of God calling us back, calling us home, calling us to Christ, calling us to live.

A wise animal follows its instinct.

Peace,
Pastor Russ

Our Generosity in August

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

8% (\$2,369.48) went to support the mission of the larger church

2% Community Benevolence (\$756.04) was given to Sam Sindlinger to support her mission work with orphans in Mexico.

8% Second Quarter Thank Offering (\$2,754.55) was designated to the following:

\$1000.00 to the Charles City YMCA for programming needs

\$1000.00 to the Floyd County Fair Board for rebuilding the fairgrounds

\$754.00 to Washington School for playground improvements.

**Please
Note...**

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship board has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Church Council President,



Consecration Sunday Co-Chairperson,



Consecration Sunday Co-Chairperson,



Pastor,



**"God's
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Of
Note...



You are invited to join the Stain Glass Ministry in the dedication of the restored Ascension Window which will be on Reformation Sunday, October 27. They will also sell some stained-glass items in the Narthex on that day. They have worked very hard on the stained-glass items over the last few months either in the making, packaging or simply cleaning the glass to be used. They are not professional artisans, but they have been enthusiastic crafters. Thank you so much to those that helped: Jennifer Lessin, Lori Janssen, Barb Tommingo, Mary Augustin, Mariah Ohlendorf, Kathy Waldorf, Judy Kelly, Peg Poppin, Sue Erickson and anyone else that may have been forgotten. A special thanks to Greg Heidebrink and those who helped with the frame, back light and hanging of the window.

Those of you that didn't get a piece of our historical glass last year will be able to purchase a piece on Dedication Sunday. The proceeds will be used for the 2022 anniversary year activities. If you could help with the sale of these items, just contact Janet in person or at petefishj@mchsi.com. We will need help before, between and after the services that day. The Anniversary committee would also appreciate donations towards the activities!

We hope you will enjoy celebrating the restoration of the Ascension Window and finding a special item at the sale that your family can enjoy as a piece of St. John's heritage. Janet Petefish, Stained Glass Ministry coordinator.

On August 14th, the Stewardship Committee of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church held its annual golf outing with all proceeds benefitting the Floyd County Cancer Fund. This year, due to the generosity of donors and golfers the outing raised \$2,573.06. Pictured is Ryan Venz (left), representative of the Stewardship committee, and Pastor Russ Leeper (right) as they present Jan Osier (center), board member of the Floyd County Cancer Fund with the proceeds. The committee would like to thank everyone involved for making this event successful.



The St. John book club will meet October 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside room and will review the book *The Seat Beside Me* by Nancy Moser. That strange, snoring, legroom-invading person next to you on the airplane -- have you ever imagined owing your life to him? Nancy Moser tells the gripping story of five passengers and their seatmates who get casually acquainted -- then plunge headlong into an icy river in a sudden plane crash. The moments that follow are more intense than any they have ever lived, changing the way the passengers see God and the meaning of life itself. This book reveals the eternal impact a brief interaction can have and the drastic measures it takes for some to reexamine their souls.



Wednesday Night Supper

October 2: Baked chicken, whipped potatoes & gravy, corn, cottage cheese, "Pokie" Cake

October 9: Maidrites, French fries, candy carrots, fruit, ice cream

October 16: Meatloaf, baked potatoes, baked beans, lettuce salad, Éclair dessert

October 23: Scalloped potatoes & ham, basil green beans, fruit salad, bread pudding

October 30: Chili & potato soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, doughnuts

St. John Lutheran Card Ministry will meet in October 14th at 1:00 p.m.

The Parkinson's Support group Will meet October 3rd at 1:00 p.m.

Do Day Quilters
Meets October 10th & 24th

Final St. John photo session days are fast approaching! To get your free 8x10 portrait and church directory, grab your calendar & set up your photo session soon! Choose your way: 1) go to the Lifetouch link on the church website & self-schedule, 2) call Kathy in the church office, 3) Communication board members will be available after each service on October 6th to schedule.

It's Operation Christmas Child gift time!

Boxes will be available in the Narthex October 20th & 27th. You may designate your box for a girl or boy for one of the following age groups: 2-4 years, 5-10 years, or 10-14 years. Fill the box with gifts, fun toys, school supplies--a list of gift suggestions is available at: samaritanspurse.org/occ A recommended donation of \$9 is to be placed in the designated envelope inside the box to cover shipping.

Return to St John by Sunday, Nov 17, as that week our volunteers will be taking the boxes to our regional drop off. Please remember there are custom regulations prohibiting candy, chocolate, food, or toothpaste. Other items not allowed are: liquids, lotions, toy guns, knives, military figures, medications, vitamins, aerosols, glass, or used or damaged items.

"The Greatest Gift" Gospel booklets will be added. You can be a part of this worldwide effort to grow the Kingdom of God even in places where the Gospel has never been heard.

Coats for Kids

Coats for Kids is fast approaching and will be October 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

If you would like to donate gently used or new coats, boots, hats & mittens, or snow pants you can bring them to the church office. Coats and snow pants of all sizes are welcome, but we usually run out of sizes 6 through 14/16 very quickly for both girls and boys and would love more of those sizes.

We also will need volunteers to help set up the Friday before and the day of to help distribute these items to these excited children. Please contact Lisa Kreger at 330-0696 or Lori Janssen at 330-2044. Thank you for your continued support. We could not do this ministry without your generosity.

Lisa Kreger and Laura Janssen



THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

(Rite of Confirmation)

**Sunday, October 13, 2019 at the
10:15 a.m. Worship service**

2019 Confirmation class

- Kaleb Craig Bilharz*
- Brandon Michael Ignacio Castillo*
- Deven Anthony Ignacio Castillo*
- Kaleb Michael Cotton*
- Colton Leroy Crooks*
- Brayton Robert Quade*
- Keaton Ellis Schmidtke*
- Celestino Ismael Tamayo Baez*
- Koen James Tibbitts*
- Alyvia Lynn Vance*



Scripture Readers:

October 6

- 8:00** – Connie Swant
- 10:15** – Georgie Miller

October 13

- 8:00** – Brenda Bailey
- 10:15** – Quinn Heidebrink

October 20

- 8:00** – Liz Hamm/Kaleb Davis
- 10:15** – Ryan Venz

October 27

- 8:00** – Kathy Crooks
- 10:15** – Linda Hughes

Celebrating...

The Wedding of

*Seth Nordmeyer & Alex Holbach,
September 21, 2019*

The baptism of

Elijah Patrick Lumley, September 22, 2019

Memorials were given in memory of...

Harold, Irma & Lorraine Meyers:

Eldon & Lynn Meyers

Andrew Melrose Jr: Karen Streich,
Lynn & Peg Poppen, Arlene Thomas,
Leon & Marilyn Isakson, Bob Thomson
& family, Margie Jensen & family

With Sympathy...

The Funerals of

Matthew David "Matt" Doll, September 20, 2019

Andrew Melrose Jr., September 28, 2019

October Birthdays

- 2nd Bernice Voelker
- 2nd Leon Isakson
- 14th Russell Ball
- 14th Ruthanne Ellis
- 15th Shirley Davidson
- 16th Rod Ellis
- 17th Wanda Sprout
- 21st Shirley Jacobson
- 28th Norma Overlee



October Anniversaries

- October 2, 1960 Jim & LaVonne Reysack
- October 19, 1957 Wendell & Donna Patten
- October 27, 1963 Roger & Kathy Michael



OCTOBER 2019

Linda Reit
Kathy Crooks

OCTOBER FUNERAL CALLERS & HELPING HANDS:

CALLER – Kathy Waldorf. Thanks to our September callers **JoAnn Hervert & Lori Janssen**

HELPERS – Angie Ayers, Lyneen Brunsting, Janice Dana, Jean Evans, Marcia Grimm, Jeanne Hansen, Jodi Heyer, Kari Klemesrud, Renee Koenigsfeld, Rose Lamprecht, Karmen Mehmen, Diane Melrose, Janet Petefish, Margaret Schultz, Diane Tommingo, Carol Tyler, Kathy Waldorf





“God’s
Love
in
Action”

Fall greetings to you all from your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! We have already been in school for five weeks and STILL haven't gone from wearing shorts and tank tops to long sleeves and jackets! Haha! It's definitely been a warm fall so far! It is amazing to see how confident and comfortable our friends have become with their preschool routine. We have come from a few tears (from both child and parent 😊) to friends who are excited to come in and see what the preschool day will hold for them. We thank God for His constant presence in our preschool center.

The first two weeks of school were spent learning all about different animals we might see on a Safari! We learned that God made all kinds of animals, big and small, and all different colors. We also learned all the different sounds they make! We made several projects that we hung up at school so all our families could see the hard work we put into our projects. Our small motor muscles definitely got a workout those two weeks! 😊

We also started our three-week Color Unit! During this unit, we decorate the preschool in the matching colors of the week and the classes all get to dress in those colors, as well. Our younger friends are assigned a color and get to bring something of that specific color to add to our Color Bulletin Board! It's fun to see all of the creative things we get! Stop down sometime to see our colorful board and “Consider God's Wonders!”

The Preschool staff and board members wanted to let everyone know that Kwik Star gift cards are always available for purchase at the preschool. Since you need to purchase gas anyway, why not help out our ministry all at the same time? Feel free to stop by and purchase at your own convenience. Please let us know if you have any questions, and as always, thank you for your support!

Each day is full of new challenges, new experiences, and new chances to share God's love with our little ones. Thanks for the all of the support that you provide that enables us to provide a great educational experience within a loving, Christian environment. For many little ones, this is the only opportunity they have to hear of God's great love and see what it can do!

Blessed,

Whittney Franke



“For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our ruler, the Lord is our king; he will save us.”

Isaiah 33:22

Blessings,

Laurie Heidebrink

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION CLASSES began on **September 18**. The courses currently being taken by our 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students are The New Testament, The Ten Commandments, and Martin Luther & the Reformation.

CONFIRMATION students will be travelling to Waterloo on October 9, 2019, to participate in a Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack event. This is a wonderful organization working to alleviate hunger in the world.

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

We are inviting the congregation to come and visit with our 10th grade confirmands about their “Faith Boards” in the Parish Hall at 6pm. It will be similar in style to a science fair and is a great chance to show our confirmands that the members of the congregation care about them and about this part of their faith journey. And there will be snacks!

10th Grade students being confirmed, will be meeting with the pastor at **9:00am** in the Sanctuary on **October 13th** to rehearse before the worship service begins.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism on **October 13, 2019 at 10:15 a.m.**

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM begins on **October 2, and it’s NOT too late to join us!**

This is a fun program from 3:30pm-5pm on Wednesdays for 4year olds (that are attending preschool) through 5th grade students.

Older students are welcome as helpers.

Registration forms are available in the office.

The St. John bus will again be available to pick students up from school to bring them here.

The cost is \$10 per student.

PARISH EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL is in full swing. Class is from **9:05am – 10am**. And it’s never too late to start!

On **October 27th** the First and Fourth Grade St. John Sunday School students will be **receiving their Bibles** during worship, so if you have a loved one enrolled in Sunday School at St. John in one of those grades, please come and be a part of this milestone in their lives.

YOUTH NEWS

We have started a Youth Group for 10th-12th grade students at St. John and their friends. If you missed the September 25th meeting, keep an eye on the bulletins and newsletter for upcoming meeting times.

**First & Fourth Grade students who will be receiving
Bibles on October 27th**

First Grade:

Kynsie Ann Eckhoff
Lela Jean Hammond
Hazel Grace Hansen
Dax Leon Johnson
Kaylie Marie Keyes
Austin Richard Lacour
Blair Thomas Walker

Fourth Grade:

Talan James Eckhoff
Benjamin Thomas Hammond
Cooper Louis Holm
Rylie John Keyes



**AFTER SCHOOL: Begins October 2nd at 3:30 -
5:00 p.m. for Preschool through 5th grade students.
You can stop in the office to register! The St. John
bus will be available to pick up kids at the schools.
Cost is \$10.00.**

CONFIRMATION FAIR

Wednesday, October 3rd after Wednesday Night Supper

The congregation is invited to attend this event in the Parish Hall. The Confirmands will have display boards featuring their Faith Statements, reflections on their baptism and favorite service projects. The Confirmands will be on hand to answer questions about their displays!



October 2019

Greeter/Offering Assistant: Kylie Parsons

Worship Assistants (Acolyte & Communion Assistant)

Hannah DeVore, Hayden Heyer, Kasey Kakac, Annemarie Hansen,
Olivia Kreger,

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



October 2019 Birthdays!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Katie Hoeft Kerrigan Venz	Leon Isakson Bernice Voelker		Kathy Crooks Addyson Vance	Carol Quade Rhonda Schmidtke Doris Toebe
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Donn Schafer	Jan Brinkman Marcia Jacobs	Brianna Tieskotter	Shelly Parson		Dennis Sande	Alysha Bilharz Christie DeBower
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Ina Heitz Phyllis Hillis Olivia Kreger	Russell Ball Ruthanne Ellis Joshua McDonald Leon Mulford	Shirley Davidson Beverly Jensen Jason McDonald	Rodney Ellis Annabel McDonald Katlyn Parson	Wanda Sprout	Laurie Heidebrink James Moon	Regan Connell Marilyn Isakson
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Lela Hammond Ron James Grace Kendall	Kinleigh Bahe Shirley Jacobson Renee Koenigsfeld	Susan Erickson Donna Patten	Pat Petersen Simon Schmidtke	Roger Regel	Savannah Baldus Scott Hansen Bryce Walker	
27	28	29	30	31		
Whittney Franke	Ron Hoffman Norma Overlee	Allen Cross Kassey Kakac Josh Marth Dawn Schweizer	Cory Janssen Jaxon McDonald	Luke Delap Leonard Erickson		

OCTOBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		5:00 p.m. Building & Grounds	Wednesday Night Schedule 3:30 p.m. After School starts 6:00 p.m. Confirmation fair	1:00 p.m. Parkinson's Support group 5:30 p.m. Scouts 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry training	9:00 a.m. Bible study	
6 Communion	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Stewardship board 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 9:15 a.m. Deacons 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:20 a.m. Parish Ed		9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study 5:10 p.m. Communication board 6:00 p.m. Council	Wednesday Night Schedule 5:15 p.m. Family board	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters 5:30 p.m. Scouts 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry training	9:00 a.m. Bible study	8:00 a.m. Coats for Kids
13 Affirmation of Baptism	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:00 a.m. Confirmation meeting 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship - Rite of Confirmation 11:30 a.m. Youth board 	1:00 p.m. Card Ministry 	6:30 p.m. Preschool board	Wednesday Night Schedule	5:30 p.m. Scouts 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry training	9:00 a.m. Bible study	Wedding - Phan & Van Ausdall
20 Communion	21	22	23 Newsletter Deadline	24	25	26
Christmas Child Shoeboxes out 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education hour 10:15 a.m. Worship		9:30 a.m. Women's Bible study	2:00 p.m. Photo Directory Wednesday Night Schedule	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters 2:00 p.m. Photo Directory 5:30 p.m. Scouts 7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry training	2:00 p.m. Photo Directory	10:00 a.m. Photo Directory
27 Reformation Sunday	28	29	30	31		
Christmas Child Shoeboxes out Ascension Window dedication 1st & 4th grade Bibles 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education hour 10:15 a.m. Worship	7:00 p.m. Book Club		10:00 a.m. Assemble newsletters	5:30 p.m. Scouts 		