

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

February 2020



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

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“God’s Love in Action”

As part of the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017, I had the great experience of traveling to see the Martin Luther Exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. It was amazing to see so many artifacts and works of art from the time that our church was just being born. I was particularly thrilled to see the pulpit where Martin Luther had preached his last sermon. Years ago, I stood in that very pulpit in Germany and now here it was in Minneapolis!

Another highlight for me was getting to see both an indulgence box and a common chest. Both of these boxes are very important symbols of the Reformation, though for different reasons. Indulgences were pieces of paper, issued by the pope, that people bought to ensure their loved ones would make it to heaven. When indulgences were purchased, money was inserted into the locked indulgence box to pay for it. The slogan was: "When a coin in the coffer rings, another soul from purgatory springs!" Luther detested the sale of indulgences and the indulgence box. In addition to the obvious theological issues, he deplored the socio-economic effects of indulgences. It was, essentially, a tax on the poor. People who could barely feed themselves and their families were buying indulgences instead of food.

So, Luther and other reformers brought out a different kind of box ... the common chest. The common chest, like the indulgence box, was a locked chest where money was deposited by many people. Funds came from donations, remaining assets in church foreclosures, and other sources. Instead of going to fund the Church, as indulgences did, this money was used to help people in need. Money from the common chest was used to feed the hungry, give no-interest loans to those in dire circumstances, and to help marginalized people in the community. It was the opposite of the indulgence box.

At a recent meeting, I was fortunate to hear a presentation by Ryan Cumming. He is the program director for ELCA World Hunger. Being fairly new to his position, he talked about recently attending a national meeting of U.S. organizations who are involved in feeding the hungry in our country. He felt like a small fish in a big pond rubbing shoulders with the movers and shakers of his field. So, he turned to the person sitting next to him, stuck out his hand and said, "Hi, I'm Ryan Cumming from ELCA World Hunger." The person's face lit up and they said, "Oh, you're ELCA World Hunger ... thank you! I'm from Second Harvest in California. You gave us a grant to expand our program!" A few minutes later he introduced himself to someone else who said, "You're ELCA World Hunger? Thank you! I'm from Meals on Wheels in Dallas. You gave us a grant to buy another truck!"

Ryan said it went on and on like this for the whole meeting. It seemed like nearly every person he met said, "You're ELCA World Hunger? Thank you!" He was truly humbled and amazed to see how far-reaching our concern for the hungry is and how much we're woven into the fabric of our nation, caring for the poor and hungry. Ryan Cumming isn't ELCA World Hunger, we're all ELCA World Hunger.

You can make a gift at any time to ELCA World Hunger through St. John by marking it for "ELCA World Hunger" or going directly to their website at community.elca.org/givenow. I'm proud to be part of a church that, over 500 years later, continues to lift up the importance of the common chest and I'm so grateful for all who contribute to it!

Peace,
Pastor Russ



**Ash Wednesday
February 26, 2020**

4:30 p.m. Worship with Communion

**6:15 p.m. Worship with Communion &
5th grade 1st Communion**

The signup charts for Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcasts for 2020 are in the office. There are still several radio dates to be signed up for. Those of our members who cannot make it to worship appreciate being able to listen to the service on Sunday mornings! Please consider signing up for one of the open dates.

St. John Lutheran Card Ministry will meet February 10th at 1:00 p.m.

ALTAR GUILD –FEBRUARY 2020
Mary Augustin & Peg Poppen

Do Day Quilters
Meets February 13 & 27

Wednesday Night Supper

February 5: NO SUPPER

February 12: Pork loin, cheesy potatoes, corn, fruit, peach crisp

February 19: Hot beef sandwich (adults), Mac & Cheese and hot dogs (kids), mixed vegetables, salad, angel food dessert

February 26: Pizza burgers, French fries, candy carrots, applesauce, ice cream bars



The St. John book club will meet **February 24th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside room and will review the book *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls. A tender, moving tale of unconditional love in a family that, despite its profound flaws, gave the author the fiery determination to carve out a successful life on her own terms.

Change Your Life...Volunteer! Bridging the generations for 46 years

The Foster Grandparent Program may be a perfect fit for you! FGP is for men and women age 55 years or better who would like to volunteer to spend time with children. Volunteers are assigned to classrooms, preschool and daycare programs in Chickasaw, Cerro Gordo, Floyd and Mitchell counties. If you would like more information on volunteering as a Foster Grandparent or have a group interested in learning more, please call Sarah Merrifield at (641) 257-6327 or stop by the office at 624 North Main St. Charles City and become the mentor you wish you had growing up!



New Council & Board Members – 2020

President:	Greg Buenger	Council:	Doug Holm
Vice President:	Josh Johnson		Ron James
Secretary:	Karol Carpenter		Dennis Sande
Building & Grounds:	Craig Begemann Tyler Kubik	Deacons:	Ryan Venz Scott Hansen
Family Board:	Jenisha Garden Sue McDonald	Finance:	2 Yr Kurt Hoeft Greig Grimm Al Brandau
Parish Ed:	Julie Taylor Linda Johnson	P. Communication:	Linda Lindaman Kierstin Heim
Stewardship: 1Yr	Kathy Crooks James Grob Gaylen Hicok	Youth board:	Jessie Holm Brandi Lantz
Preschool Board:	Brittany King Lezlie Weber		

*Thank
you!*

February Birthdays

2 nd	Marvin Thompson	21 st	Duane Ortmayer
3 rd	Don Knowlton	28 th	Marilu Wohlers
4 th	Marian Johnson		

February Anniversaries

February 1, 1969	Dale & Helen Bond
February 10, 1950	Russel & Sylvia Frascht
February 14, 1960	Jim & Donna Gambaiani
February 14, 1964	Lenis & Nadonne Buseman
February 14, 1969	Steve & Diane Barr

Celebrated...

The baptism of...

Parker Jean Hicks, January 12, 2020
Ledger James Hicks, January 12, 2020

With sympathy...

The Funerals of

Marion "Jack" Eugene Kamm, January 7, 2020
Nelson "Bud" Brahn, January 20, 2020
Virginia Huffman Brahn, January 20, 2020

Memorials were given in memory of...

Marion "Jack" Eugene Kamm: Kurt & Kathy Hoeft, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Leona Howe, Marian Hoeft

Charles Krumwiede: Monte & Kathy Waldorf

Pat Mehmen: Helen Schmidt

Verna Gray: Karen Streich

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 – Lori Gassman & Judy Hughes. Thanks to our January caller **Diane Loudermilk**, and to all who provided food and served.

HELPERS – Ellen Brewer, Jenisha Garden, Lori Gassman, Laurie Heidebrink, Judy Hughes, Marcia Jacobs, Ann Kabele, Julie Kisch, Janet Petefish, Shirley Ripley, Shortie Veen, Ann Voelker, Laura Walker

Winter is in full swing and while the days ARE getting longer – the weather sometimes doesn't cooperate with us. If school is cancelled or dismissed early on a Wednesday (due to weather) we will NOT hold the After-School Program or Confirmation classes or have ANY of our Wednesday night activities.

Even though some of us may not enjoy the cold and wish we could skip winter – we can take some comfort in the fact that we know it will warm up again eventually. And we can take comfort in the consistency of the changing of the seasons every year.

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” Genesis 8:22

Blessings, Laurie

Family Board

The Family Board is planning our annual large-group Lent Event for Sunday, March 1st for children and their parents in the Parish Hall during the Education hour. We have also scheduled the Ladies' Luncheon for Sunday, March 22nd, so put that on your calendars.

Confirmation

Our third Session of classes concludes this month and the twenty-eight students in our Confirmation program are currently taking either *The Apostles' Creed*, *The Lord's Prayer*, or *Everybody Always*. The fourth Session of classes begins midway through the month and the students will be taking either the Sacraments or learning about the disciples Paul and Luke and the Acts of the Apostles.

Sunday School News

Attention: **5th Grade Parents!** The 1st Communion **parent/student/pastor instructional classes** will be February 9th and 16th at 9:15am. Please put these two dates on your calendar now.

February is SOAP MONTH here at St. John. Please send donations of soap/shampoo with your Sunday School students each week of February. Donations will be taken to Karleen's Closet at Charles City High School for kids who don't have access to the hygiene products they need at home. Thank you to all who feel called to donate to this worthy cause!

Youth

Youth Group is planning to meet on Wednesday, February 19th at 7pm.

After School Program

We have 30 kids enrolled in our After-School Program, which is each Wednesday from 3:35-5pm. We have a snack, watch a short video, and then do a craft project or play games each week. Thank you to everyone who donated snacks and supplies! The After-School Program will take a break for Lent beginning on February 26th, and will resume after Easter.



St. John Youth

February 2020

Greeter/Offering Assistant: Natalie Keyes

Worship Assistants (Acolyte & Communion Assistant)

8:00 –Hayden Heyer, Katie Prichard, Taylor Quade

10:15 – Annemarie Hansen, Olivia Kreger,

Ash Wednesday, February 26 4:30: Anna Herbrechtsmeyer, Tyler Marth

6:15: Kyndra McDonald, Isaac Hervert

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



Attention: **5th Grade Parents!** The 1st Communion **parent/student/pastor instructional classes** will be February 9th and February 16th at 9:15am. Please put these two dates on your calendar now.

Sunday School Reminder:

February is Soap Month! All Sunday School students are asked to bring individually wrapped bars of soap to be donated to Karleen's Closet at Charles City High School for kids who don't have access to the hygiene products they need at home.!



Youth Group!

Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Coming in March...

March 1st, large group Lent event at 9:00 a.m.

March 22nd, The Ladies Luncheon at 11:30 in the Parish Hall. More information for this event to come!



**“God’s
Love
in
Action”**

Love is definitely in the air at St. John Christian Preschool, but perhaps not in the way that you traditionally think of during this month of greeting cards and chocolate. We feel honored to be able to share God’s love with each of our 45 little ones each and every day. And you know what the really AWESOME thing is? It doesn’t take very long before our little ones start sharing God’s love right back!

January was very full of new and exciting things to explore. We learned all about the letters A, O, Q, and G; how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. Our younger friends are working on Shape Recognition by making Shape Buddies and our older friends are working on Character Traits. In our 4-yr-old classes, we started working on our Kindergarten Readiness Skills: how to quietly walk in a line down the hall, sitting on the listening rug quietly and raising our hand if we have something to share, and writing our names all by ourselves! The list goes on and on! In all classes, we worked on our self-help skills by working on putting on our coats, zipping them up, and putting on our backpacks! We’re all doing quite well!

We are continued to be blessed with a preschool board of six, hard working, dedicated women. At our December meeting we said goodbye to Rachel Ginbey and Megan Williams. They served the preschool board for 3 years and will be missed. But we did add two NEW members to our board in January! We welcomed Lezlie Weber and Brittany King. We reallocated positions and are looking forward to another great year with this board. The support they each provide is invaluable to the success of our program!

SJCP would like to announce that we are holding our annual Book Fair here at the preschool, as well. The Book Fair will be Monday, February 10 – Friday, February 14 from 8:00am – 4:00pm. This event is open to the community and the proceeds go straight to the preschool.

Can you believe it is that time already?! We are gearing up for our 2020-21 Fall Registration and we would like to thank you for choosing SJCP for your little one’s earliest educational experience. Current families (those with children currently enrolled in the 2019-20 school year) will begin registration on Tuesday, February 18. New families will begin registration on Monday, February 24. Registration will run from 7:30am-4:00pm. Children who will be 3 on or before September 15 and all children 4 and 5 years old are welcome. Scholarships are available. A minimum registration fee of \$25 is due at time of registration. Please call 228-7274 or email us at wfranke@stjohncharlescacity.com for more information.

Last, but certainly not least, we are blessed with the many forms of support that the St. John congregation provides us. From financial gifts to prayers to the smiles that we receive when we pass a member of the congregation in the hall, we feel loved. In a world full of many difficulties, thank you for sharing your support with our youngest friends and making them feel special, needed and important.

With HIS love,
Whittney Franke



SJCP BOOK FAIR

February 10 – 14th, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. outside the Preschool



February 2020 Birthdays!!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Meghan Korbel
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Marvin Thompson Rylee Van Horn	Donald Knowlton	Carter Kellogg Paula Kruthoff Kyndra McDonald Laurel Schlump	Carol Bauer Melia Lantz Karmen Mehmen Rusty Rogotzke David Wessel		Liz Hamm Angel McKenzie Diane Niezwaag Sandie Quade	Amber Hicks
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Isaac Hervert		Cody Van Horn		Viva Boerschel Samantha Prigge Judy Wessel		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Kathy Waldorf	Brian Ulrichs	Brayton Quade		Kierstin Heim Cassie DeBower Andrew Miller Ron Venz	Duane Ortmyer	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Ella Johnson	Dennis Petefish	Shirley Holm Chelsea Lumley	Keaton Schmidtke Algie Slindee		Greg Buenger Michael Exline Lori Gassman Marilu Wohlers	Shelley Hansen

FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Communion Sunday	3	4	5	6	7	8
Installation of Council & Board members 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 		6:00 p.m. Council	Wednesday Night Schedule NO Supper	7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry		
9	10 SJCP Book Fair	11 SJCP Book Fair	12 SJCP Book Fair	13 SJCP Book Fair	14 SJCP Book Fair	15
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 9:15 a.m. Pastor meets with 1st Communion class 10:15 a.m. Worship	1:00 p.m. Card ministry		Wednesday Night Schedule	9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters		
16 Communion Sunday	17	18	19 Newsletter Deadline	20	21	22
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education Hour 9:15 a.m. Pastor meets with 1st Communion class 10:15 a.m. Worship		7:30 a.m. SJCP Current Family Registration 11:00 a.m. Compassion fund meeting 6:00 p.m. All Boards meeting	7:30 a.m. SJCP Current Family Registration Wednesday Night Schedule	7:30 a.m. SJCP Current Family Registration	7:30 a.m. SJCP Current Family Registration	
23	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28	29 Leap Day
8:00 a.m. Worship 9:05 a.m. Education hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 1:00 p.m. Cub Scout Blue & Gold Banquet 	7:30 a.m. SJCP New Family Registration 7:00 p.m. Book Club	7:30 a.m. SJCP New Family Registration	7:30 a.m. SJCP New Family Registration 10:00 a.m. Assemble newsletters 4:30 p.m. Worship/Comm 6:15 p.m. Worship/Comm & 5th grade 1st Comm	7:30 a.m. SJCP New Family Registration	7:30 a.m. SJCP New Family Registration	