

# *THE GOOD NEWSLETTER*

*April 2020*



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
— LUTHERAN CHURCH —

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**“God’s Love in Action”**



This is the weirdest spring ever. As temperatures increase and volunteers from last year's garden begin to peek through the soil and a greenish hue slowly begins to creep back over the Iowa countryside, I know I should feel joyful, but it's hard this year. The coronavirus pandemic and the economic challenges that have come with it have turned our lives upside down. At a time when we usually all breathe a collective sigh of relief and optimistically look toward time spent outdoors, we find ourselves hunkered down inside filled with worries and fears.

We are butterflies reluctant to come out.

And so my thoughts turn to one of nature's more unusual creatures, the *mourning cloak butterfly*. Early naturalists gave it that name because they thought that its purple-black pattern with yellow trim looked a lot like a cloak that would be worn by someone who is in mourning. The mourning cloak butterfly is usually the first butterfly to emerge from winter sleep. It typically shows up in late March and early April.

It's unique among butterflies in that it's one of the few butterflies that hibernates as an adult. Most butterflies survive the winter as eggs, caterpillars, or chrysalises and in the spring they're transformed into something new. But the mourning cloak butterfly hangs out behind the bark of a tree or in a crack. Large segments of its body actually freeze solid in the winter. But when spring comes, the mourning cloak's wings work like little solar panels absorbing energy from the sun to reheat its frozen body. Then it flutters off to visit maple trees for a taste of spring sap ... still its same old self ... just happy to have survived the winter.

The mourning cloak reminds us that, in this life, we can't always change our situation and we can't always be transformed. Sometimes the best we can hope for is just to survive. So, as we go through this most unusual Easter season, I raise my glass to you ... the survivors! Here's to all of you who cannot change your situation, but still manage to wake up and greet the world with hopefulness. Here's to you who have faced the icy grip of death and returned to appreciate the sweetness of this life. Here's to you who have been frozen by financial downturn and yet spread your wings, confident that better, warmer days are coming. Here's to all of you who manage to soar, even in a mourning cloak. May you find strength in our risen Lord knowing that one day, no matter how impossible it seems, we will all be reborn ... all of us ... even you.

Peace,  
Pastor Russ





**Worship services & activities at St. John are cancelled...However...**

Worship services are being recorded for you to listen to and watch. The Sunday service will be available on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. or a few minutes later on KCHA Fm 95.9. You can also go to [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org), click on "Watch & Listen", then podcast, then choose the date of the service you want to listen to. To watch the service go to the St. John Facebook page or to YouTube, (search St. John Lutheran, Charles City, Iowa). The E-skinny also provides a link.

**It has been recommended by the Governor of Iowa that all those who can work from home SHOULD work from home.** St. John has the technology that enables the staff to do so. Kathy's work computer has been connected to her home computer. When you call the office please leave a message for Kathy. All messages will be relayed to Kathy. You can also reach her by emailing [khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com).

**Your offering can be mailed to:  
St. John Lutheran  
200 S Main St  
Charles City, IA 50616**

**Also happening...**

- The Synod Assembly in June has been postponed. An alternate date of August 22<sup>nd</sup> has been selected for the main purpose of electing a new bishop.
- The St. John Executive Board is recommending that all boards plan to have an April meeting to discuss their board's direction and upcoming activities. This will need to be done remotely in some manner.
- Music at St. John: due to the extension of the "Social Distancing" recommendation of April 30<sup>th</sup> by the federal government, all St. John choirs will not reconvene until the Fall season. However, Melanie asks that if you have a favorite hymn or song that you would like to be part of our electronic worship service or summer worship service when we can come together again as a congregation, to let her or Kathy in the office know. You can reach the office at 641-228-3397 or email Kathy at [khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com)
- There will be no Palm Sunday breakfast or other youth activities. We still hope to be able to go on the mission trip & have Vacation Bible School later this summer. See the Youth & Family Coordinator's newsletter article for more information.

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

St. John scholarship applications for non-Lutheran colleges can be emailed to you and should be emailed to the office by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.



### April Birthdays

|                  |                  |                  |                    |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Georgena Miller  | 17 <sup>th</sup> | Harlyn Kolb        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Mike Leraan      | 20 <sup>th</sup> | Leon Hall          |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> | Elsie Ferguson   | 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Kathleen Schilling |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | Connie Rasmussen | 24 <sup>th</sup> | Dorothy Watson     |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Beverly Sears    | 25 <sup>th</sup> | Marilyn Kolb       |

### April Anniversaries

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| April 7, 1968  | Leonard & Susan Erickson |
| April 20, 1963 | Donald & JoAnn Knowlton  |
| April 26, 1959 | Rodney & Ruthanne Ellis  |



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](mailto:jillconnell@hotmail.com).



### Memorials were given in memory of...

**Leon Allen Isakson:** Russell & Betty Ball, Miriam Peton, Karen Thomas

**Fred Alan Miller:** Leona Howe, Helen Goplerud, Arlene Thomas, Marilyn Isakson, Karen Streich, Ron & Connie Rasmussen, Dennis & Jan Brinkman, Ruther Farmer

**Naomi Bienfang:** Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall

*“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

Well, an awful lot has changed around here since last month’s newsletter! We have all had to change the ways we do things, stop going the places we normally go, and change the way we “spend time with” our friends and family. But we will get through this, and we will get to gather at our church building to be the church again, I am confident.

Blessings,  
Laurie Heidebrink

### **YOUTH NEWS**

The Youth will not be hosting the **Palm Sunday Breakfast** on April 5<sup>th</sup>. We WILL try to host a meal once we get the chance. It might be a “6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter Breakfast”, it might be a “4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Breakfast”...who knows?!?! But we will gather for food and fellowship again!

WIYLDE has been postponed because Synod Assembly has been postponed. I will advertise the new date as soon as I know when it is.

Summer Mission Trip 2020 – We hope to still be going to **North Dakota July 22-26, 2020**. This trip is open to St. John students that have completed 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades and their friends. Get these days on your calendar now and be watching for additional information in upcoming newsletters, bulletins, etc. for updates.

### **PARISH EDUCATION NEWS**

**SAVE THE DATES:** July 28-31, 2020 for VBS. We are really hoping we can have all your kids attend Tuesday-Friday from 5:30pm-8pm! Look for more information and updates in upcoming newsletters.

### **FAMILY BOARD**

The Family Board had to postpone the Ladies’ Luncheon that was scheduled for March. We will let everyone know as soon as we get that event rescheduled. (If you have already paid for tickets, but can’t attend on the new date, we will refund your money.)



"We all clap and sing. The stone is rolled away,  
Jesus is alive and He is with us everyday!"



"God's  
Love  
in  
Action"

Spring greetings from your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! 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!

As everyone is aware, our preschool has been closed since March 6. March 9-13 we were on Spring Break, and then the Coronavirus pandemic forced all of the schools in the state to shut down until April 13. Online learning has become our new normal! We created a new weekly schedule with different daily themes: Make It Monday (crafts/projects), Story Time Tuesday (we read 3-4 stories associated with the theme of the week), Worship Wednesday (devotion/praise music), Thinking Thursday (learn something new/ STEM experiments), and Foodie Friday (kitchen creations)! All lessons are done LIVE daily on our Facebook page between 1-3pm! Join us!!

We also read the Bible story every day and post a daily devotional for all ages, using Sarah Young's, Jesus Calling series! Pastor Russ also joins us LIVE every Wednesday to read the Bible story to our young friends!! We are so glad to keep this tradition going!

We are so bummed that we won't be able to take our friends on a walk through the church the week before Easter and introduce the concept of Good Friday to them. We'll just have to make it a virtual tour!

We are currently running our All-School Fundraiser. We are selling Scratch Cupcakes! Mmmm! This fundraiser will run until Friday, April 3rd. As of now, delivery is still scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd from 3:30-5:00pm. You can pick up your order in the choir room. **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 new large foam blocks, new baby dolls, and some new play mats. 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 several openings left for the 2020-2021 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,  
Whittney Franke





# APRIL 2020 Birthdays!!

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