

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

July 2020



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

“God’s Love in Action”

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
200 South Main Street
Charles City, IA 50616-2751
Phone: 641-228-3397

Website: www.stjohncharlescity.org



Find & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the E-Skinny by
emailing Kathy at
khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary: Kathy Hoeft
khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Linda Hughes
lhughes@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

Youth & Family Coordinator:
Laurie Heidebrink
lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor's Note

Fireworks and Father's Love

As of this writing, the Charles City Fireworks are back on and will be done in a way that allows us to watch them safely from our vehicles. I'm glad to hear that. One of my favorite summertime memories from childhood is watching fireworks on the Fourth of July. Each year Dad, Mom, my sister, and I loaded the blanket, lawn chairs, and sparklers into the family car and headed to a park in Waterloo or Cedar Falls to watch the event. Because I was so young, I don't remember much of what happened on those outings. What does stick out in my mind, though, is the way my father always became visually impaired during the fireworks.

When the fireworks began, Dad would say things to my sister and me like, "What color was that one? I couldn't tell." or "I didn't see that one... my eyes were closed.... what was it shaped like?" So, it became our job to describe to Dad what colors the fireworks were and how they looked. At the time I thought it was funny that Dad couldn't tell what color the fireworks were. Now, as I look back, I see a tender, loving father putting aside his own abilities so that his children would talk to him. Dad knew way more about the fireworks than we did, but he humbled himself just because he wanted to have a relationship with his children.

Our Heavenly Father did the same thing. He put aside his own divine abilities and became human ... just because he wanted us to talk to him. Our Father humbled himself in human flesh just because he wanted to have a relationship with us. He came and spoke to us in Jesus not because He needed our help, but just because He loves us.

As you gaze up into the heavens watching fireworks from your car this Fourth of July, enjoy the shapes and colors, and also remember your Heavenly Father's tender love for you. Talk to him. Tell him what's going on. He already knows, but he really wants to hear it from you!

Peace,
Pastor Russ
russleeper@yahoo.com



Our Generosity in May

Your offerings to St. John were shared beyond our walls in May in the Following ways:

8% of our regular May offering (\$3174.77) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In May (\$990.19) was given to the Northeastern Iowa Food Bank.

St. John is enacting Phase 1 of our reopening plan. This means that we will...

- Maintain worshiping through radio and internet services.
- Funerals and weddings may occur in the sanctuary should they be permitted by law (but will be encouraged to occur outdoors). These gatherings are limited to ten people or less in the entire facility.
 - Persons participating in a funeral or wedding are required to certify verbally they are not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 as outlined by the CDC. They are required to verbally certify they have not been with anyone who is sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 as outlined by the CDC.
 - Do not attend or visit the church if you are feeling ill, have been exposed to COVID-19, have a compromised immune system, or are at high risk of exposing others. You are responsible for your own health and also that of your neighbor.
 - A record of the people attending the funeral or wedding will be kept to help with contact tracing should one of the attendees become ill.
 - Participants are to maintain proper social distancing of six feet or more.
 - **Participants are to wear a face mask at all times when in the building.**
 - Participants are to practice proper hand hygiene (soap and water or 60%+ alcohol hand sanitizer) immediately upon entry into the building.
 - The church will be cleaned and sanitized after the event.
- **The church office will continue to operate; however, the church building will remain locked to visitors.** If a visitor is invited into the building, any people present must adhere to the guidelines above in relation to a funeral or wedding.
- If any visitor to the church becomes ill, they must inform the church so others who may have had contact with the visitor may monitor their own health.
- Church council and board meetings must occur electronically.

Does CDC recommend the use of facemask or face coverings to prevent the coronavirus disease?

In light of new data about how COVID-19 spreads, along with evidence of widespread COVID-19 illness in communities across the country, CDC recommends that people wear a cloth face covering to cover their nose and mouth in the community setting. This is an additional public health measure people should take to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in addition to (not instead of) social distancing, frequent hand cleaning and other everyday preventive actions. A cloth face covering is not intended to protect the wearer, but may prevent the spread of virus from the wearer to others. This would be especially important in the event that someone is infected but does not have symptoms. A cloth face covering should be worn whenever people must go into public settings (grocery stores, for example). Medical masks and N-95 respirators are reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

FYI...

As of now...

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, click on the Worship & Sermon tab & then on YouTube. From there just click on the service you would like to watch!

Though the St. John building is closed to the public, you can call the office with any questions or concerns. Kathy is in the office from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. You can also reach her by emailing khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com.

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

If you would like to sign up for Simply Giving, the program that allows you to give to the church through electronic transfer, call Linda at 228-3397. The Simply Giving form is on the following page and can be filled out & sent to Linda at St. John.

Pastor Bauer Retirement



Pastor Norm Bauer has notified the St. John Church Council that he is now officially retired from on call ministry as a Rostered Leader in the ELCA. As his congregation, we want to thank Pastor Bauer for his many years of faithful service in the ELCA and particularly for the care, teaching, and inspiration he has provided for us here at St. John. We wish Pastor Bauer and Carol a blessed and joy-filled retirement.

**For those who would like, cards can be mailed to:
Pastor Norm and Carol Bauer
1103 Allison Street, Charles City, IA 50616**

Music at St. John!

If you have a favorite hymn or song (including Praise songs from the radio) let Melanie know and she will include the song in summer worship services!
You can call 641-228-3397 with your favorites!

A thank you from Hope for Life: Dear friends at St. John, Thank you so very much for your financial & prayer support of Hope for Life Pregnancy Center. Your gift was incredibly timely as we were able to continue serving some of the most vulnerable during this unprecedented time. God is good & his people are king ~ Thank you! We are so blessed to be a part of this beautiful community of believers. Gayle Opp

Kans for Kids: Stewardship wants to thank everyone who contributed in making our Kans for Kids Kickoff a success! We had 15-20 vehicles stop with their cans and we had one call where we went to the home and picked up the cans. The weather held until it came time to load Sandie's horse trailer. We got drenched! Thank you to John Selvig and Gary Quade for their help. On Wednesday, June 24, Sandie and Gary picked up more cans from the kennel and took all the cans collected to BS Recycling in Nashua. The horse trailer was full! BS is a mother/daughter business (Bobbie and Stacy). Several suggestions as to where this money will go were for Preschool projects, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, paying for kids to eat at Wednesday Night Suppers, Bible Camp and Mission Trips. The can "kennel" will be up all year so everyone is encouraged to place their cans and plastic bottles in plastic bags and tie them before throwing over the fence.

Additional Note: Additional note: GRAND TOTAL FOR KANS FOR KIDS KICKOFF WAS.....\$602.95!! That is 12,059 cans and plastic bottles!! AWESOME!!

Simply Giving Form

The St. John Stewardship Board would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a simple way you can guarantee your offering to God. **It's called Simply Giving.**

Simply Giving is a stewardship program that allows anyone from St. John the chance to give their offering through electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly from their checking or savings account.

You determine the amount you want to give and the frequency of your giving. Want to give \$50 every week? Perfect! Wish to donate \$125 every other week? You got it! Perhaps you'd like to give \$200 once a month? Absolutely!

It's easy to set up. Fill out this form, attach a voided check or savings deposit slip, put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office.

Simply Giving assures your offering to God is given as you see fit. It's easy, convenient and helps assure that St. John can meet its financial obligations.

For more information, please contact Linda at 641-228-3397.

St. John Lutheran's Simply Giving "God's Love In Action"

Your Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email Address _____
Telephone _____

Contributions:

- ___ 1. **Enroll in Simply Giving with my giving going to:**
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| St. John Ministry Support Plan | \$ _____ |
| Other | \$ _____ |
| Total Contribution | \$ _____ |
- ___ 2. **I would like to *change my contribution**
to the following amount \$ _____

**Changes can be done by a phone call, a voided check or deposit slip is not required*

Effective Date of First or Changed Contribution _____ / _____ / _____

Frequency of Contribution (Total Contribution divided as indicated)

- \$ _____ Per Week on Mondays
\$ _____ Semi-monthly - 1st & 15th
\$ _____ Monthly on the 1st
\$ _____ Monthly on the 15th

Checking/Savings Account Authorization *Please Debit my...*

- ___ Checking account (Attach voided check)
___ Savings account (Attach voided deposit slip)

Routing # _____

Valid routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3

Account # _____

I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to the above account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / ___



Youth & Family

*“I lift my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made the heavens and the earth.”
Psalm 121:1-2*

I am sitting here, at home, in front of my computer trying to think of what I should write in this month's newsletter article when I don't really have any new news. I wish I could be writing about the mission trip and VBS plans and decorations, and preparations for Rally Sunday, but to be honest, we just can't safely hold VBS in person with 70 kids in attendance and another 20 adult, middle school, and high school helpers and station leaders. And we can't pack 29 people together into a bus for a 12-hour ride to a different state. And we don't know yet if we will be able to safely join together for a meal the weekend after Labor Day. It makes me sad. But then I think about a plaque I have sitting in my office that says, "I don't know what tomorrow holds, but I know who holds tomorrow." And it reminds me that whatever we DO get to do and whatever we DON'T get to do, God is with us and holding us and will continue to be with us. So, I continue to learn more each day to make myself a better confirmation teacher, and I plan the lessons and crafts for After School Program in hope that we can be together on Wednesday afternoons this fall, and I pray for all the youth and families that I am not seeing in person right now. That's what faith is right now for me. It's not knowing what tomorrow holds, but knowing He loves us and holds us and will be with us through ALL of it.

Blessings, Laurie Heidebrink

St. John Christian Preschool



Things have been so quiet around St. John Christian Preschool for so long, but we are still keeping busy! We are excited to be gearing up for the new school year with some cleaning projects around the preschool and assembling our family packets.

We know there are a lot of questions about the upcoming school year due to COVID-19. More information will be coming soon! But until then, please know we DO plan on starting the 2020-2021 school year on time (August 31). There could be some changes to the way we operate, but please know that the health and safety of all of our staff and students is our utmost priority.

Families will need to pick up their information packets during the last full week of July: July 27-31. These packets are full of information for the upcoming school year! Our parent information meetings will be in August, so look for that information to come later. These meetings are a great opportunity for question and answer sessions and for our families to get to know the other families that will be in their child's class. Open houses will also be in August and we look forward to seeing all the littles with their families!

Carleen and I would also like to take a moment to thank the preschool board members who work so very hard to keep our program running smoothly: Cassandra Michael, Sarah Merrifield, Lydia Klinkel, Jessica Hoeft, Brittany King, and Lezlie Weber. It is with their dedication and hard work that our preschool program continues to thrive! THANK YOU!

Thank you for the many blessings that you bestow upon our preschool program. Without your prayers and support we would not be able to do what we do. We love sharing God's love with our friends and we thank you for helping us share that important message!

In closing, we do still have a few openings in our program. Our morning classes are open to any child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15, 2020. Our afternoon classes are open to any child who will be at least 4 on or before September 15, 2020. Please call the preschool (228-7274) or email me (wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com) if you would like more information.

With HIS Love, Whitney Franke

**July birthdays of our members
who are 80 & older!**

- 4th Judy Troge
- 8th Lola Vest
- 9th Bob Peterson
- 13th Evelyn Schmidt
- 13th Carl Johnson
- 14th Tilleen Litterer
- 21st Patty Miller
- 24th Glenda Link
- 24th Karen Streich
- 25th Helen Goplerud
- 29th Glenn Jacobson
- 31st Anna Mae Woolworth



**July anniversaries of our members who have
been married 50 or more years!**

- July 10, 1970 Eugene & Ina Heitz
- July 12, 1969 Paul & Mary Augustin
- July 16, 1966 Jerry & Carol Meader
- July 29, 1968 Ronald & Vicki Hoffman

Memorials were given in memory of...

Sylvia Frascht: Dennis & Jan Brinkman, Florence Beck

Donald L. Handeland: Myron & Clarice Leraaen

Donald Poppen: Kay Tjaden, Lynn & Peg Poppen,
Arlene Thomas

Doug Watson: Arlene Thomas

Gertrude Irene Remley Fry: Paul & Yolanda
Van Ausdall

With sympathy...

The Funeral of

Kathleen Juanita Rex Schilling, July 1, 2020

Outdoor Games for Families:

Hopscotch

Use chalk to draw a hopscotch pattern on the ground or use masking tape on the floor. Create a diagram with eight sections and number them. Each player has a marker such as a stone, bottlecap, shell, button, etc. For younger children simply hopping across the single versus double squares can provide hours of fun. The first player stands behind the starting line to toss his or her marker in square one. Hop over square one to square two and then continue hopping to square eight, turn around, and hop back again. Pause in square two to pick up the marker, hop in square one, and out.

Then continue by tossing the stone in square two. All hopping is done on one foot unless the hopscotch design is such that two squares are side-by-side. Then two feet can be placed down with one in each square. A player must always hop over any square where a marker has been placed. Getting out: A player is out if the marker fails to land in the proper square, the hopper steps on a line, the hopper loses balance when bending over to pick up the marker and puts a second hand or foot down, the hopper goes into a square where a marker is, or if a player puts two feet down in a single box. The player puts the marker in the square where he or she will resume playing on the next turn, and the next player begins.



Frozen Tag (Freeze Tag)

Depending on where you grew up, you may call this game by either name, but in the years of Disney's *Frozen*, why not go for the moniker that inspires a few choruses of "Let It Go?" In this version of the classic game Tag, if the person who is *it* tags a player, that person must freeze in place until tagged and set free by another participant. When the one who is *it* tags everyone, the last person caught becomes *it*. And perhaps belts out, "The cold never bothered me anyway!"

JULY 2020 CALENDAR

MONTHLY:

Sunday: Worship services cancelled at this time

EVENTS OF NOTE:

July 3, 2020 Office Closed – 4th of July holiday

BOARD MEETINGS:

- Building & Grounds: July 7, 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- Council: July 14, 6:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- Communication: TBD
- Deacons: July 12, 10:30 a.m. (Zoom)
- Family Board July 5, 10:30 a.m. (Email)
- Finance July 8, 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)
- Parish Ed July 8, 5:15 p.m. (Email)
- Stewardship July 12, 11:00 a.m. (at Quade's)
- Youth July 12, 10:30 a.m. (Email)



July Birthday Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Jeanette Anderson Meg Tjaden	2 Susan Shankland	3 Wayne McClintock Loyal McLean	4 Judith Troge
5 Chris Hoeft	6 Quinn DeBower June Kehret	7	8 Mark Kabele John Rima Lola Vest	9 Bob Peterson	10 Jodi Milleson	11 Jeanne Hansen LaVonne Reysack
12 Lisa Garden Devon Murray Ed Platte Emma Wolf	13 Carl Johnson Evelyn Schmidt	14 Tilleen Litterer	15 Jacquie Watson	16 Don Holm Rylie Keyes	17	18 Katherine Ortmyer David Seckar
19	20 Craig Begemann Dewey Chase Joslyn Cotton James Jensen Marron Murray Shirley Ripley	21 Madelynn Hoeft Patricia Miller Scott Kendall	22 Rosie Baldus Gloria Hulbert	23 Todd Prichard	24 Wendy Castillo Aaron Lacour Karen Streich	25 Helen Goplerud
26 Linda Girken Harley Hinz Allen Manning	27	28	29 Glenn Jacobson	30 Ana Blickenderfer Lori Griffin Michael Quade	31 Kayden McDonald Hannah Menken Anna Mae Woolworth	