

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

October 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
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Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary: Kathy Hoeft
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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 Johanninger
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Youth & Family Coordinator:
Laurie Heidebrink
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Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor's Note

This is a true story. I know, because it happened to my cousin and her husband.

One day Evonne and Josh were out driving around town in their little Toyota, when all of a sudden ... CRASH! They were hit from behind by a driver in a very expensive-looking car. In the conversation that followed the accident, the driver of the fancy car asked Evonne and Josh not to report it to the insurance company. Instead, he said that he would pay for the repairs himself, make sure they had a rental car while it was happening, and, on top of all that, give them \$25,000 for their trouble!

Well, you know what their first reaction was: "This is too good to be true! What's this guy up to?" The driver told them that he wasn't up to anything shady, he just doesn't like hassling with insurance companies and he's willing to pay for the convenience of not having to do it. Evonne and Josh decided to go for it and they took the money and they agreed to let him fix the car. But, just to be sure, they looked him up on the internet. As it turned out, the man was extremely wealthy and did everything he said he would do. They got their car fixed. They got a free rental car. The only problem they had was figuring out to spend their \$25,000!

Sometimes things come along that seem too good to be true. We have to be skeptical in today's world because there are so many people out there who want to manipulate or take advantage of us. But good things aren't always a hoax. Like the deal that Jesus offers us: eternal life, forgiveness, never-ending love and what does it cost? Nothing. This is too good to be true! What's this guy up to?!

But, as it turns out, Jesus is God and God is very wealthy and powerful, too. God doesn't like to hassle with sin and is willing to pay to get rid of it. The price the Father paid was His Son on a cross. He paid his Son, we pay nothing.

Sounds too good to be true, but it IS true. And we celebrate that unbelievable deal every week ... on the radio, on the internet, and in person. Join us! Don't let other people have all the luck.

Peace,
Pastor Russ



Our Generosity in August

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

8% of our regular August offering (\$2186.02) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In August (\$701.44) was given to the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA to help victims of the Derecho disaster in that part of the state.

The Finance Board designates the 8% of the total Thank Offering quarterly. A total of \$2093.31 from the second quarter was also given to the Southeastern Synod to go towards disaster relief.

In addition, donations of \$1425.00 were given by our members for recovery from the Derecho disaster.

Gifts for disaster relief are still being accepted.

Things to know...

Members and Friends of St. John Lutheran,

The Church Council has made the decision to begin offering a weekly in-person worship option in addition to our weekly online and radio services. **We will have one, in-person service on Sundays at 9 AM.**

Pastor Russ has put a video on the St. John YouTube channel to inform you of the In-Person Worship Safety Procedures. Go to the St. John website – www.stjohncharlescity.org, click on the Worship & Sermon tab, then choose YouTube.

The following instructions were taken from the in-person worship plan and are intended to help make the in-person worship experience meaningful and safe:

- There will be a limit of 50 people for each worship service to maintain social distancing.
- All worshippers will need to register by 4 PM on Thursday before the Sunday service by calling the church office. Only registered worshipers will be admitted.
- Entry and exit will be through the main doors which will open at 8:45 AM Sundays. Worshipers will need to check-in with a greeter as they enter the building.
- Face masks will be required for those five years and older. We will provide a face mask for anybody who needs one.
- All worshipers will be ushered to their seats to maintain physical distancing between family groups.
- Communion will be offered at every service so that it's available whenever worshipers are able to attend.
- We will not be singing or speaking in unison, any singing and responsive readings will be pre-recorded.
- Please read the full plan for additional information. **The full plan is available on the St. John website: www.stjohncharlescity.org.**
- The nursery will not be available during the service.

**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 if you would like her to help you set up Simply Giving.

OR...

On the St. John Website is a Digital Simply Giving tab which will allow you to manage your electronic giving from home! You can decide how much you would like to give, the frequency and which fund you would like your donation to go to.

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.

“Drive Through Communion”

On October 4th between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. we will have “Drive Through Communion. We also plan to offer this communion on the 1st Sunday of each month. We will ask that you enter the parking lot at the top. You will proceed down to the canopy where you will be handed a disposable communion cup with wafer. Next you will proceed to the pastor to partake of communion. Gluten free cups will be available.

Backpack Blessing: During the October 4th online service & drive through communion, Pastor Russ will bless the backpacks of students and teachers!



Coats for Kids

St. John will be holding Coats for Kids October 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. & October 11th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Due to social distancing rules the event will be by appointment. To make an appointment call Lori Janssen at 641-330-2044 or Lisa Kreger (after 4:30 p.m.) at 641-330-0696.



Adults & children 5 years & older are required to wear a mask.

If you have new or gently used coats, boots, snow pants, hats, mittens, etc. to donate, bring them to the church. Outside the Narthex door there is a plastic tote to put your donations in.

A note from the Stewardship Board: We cannot thank you enough for the support of the Kans for Kids project started earlier this year.

For those of you not familiar with this project, a collection point for recyclable cans – yes, even your beer cans! – has been erected at the top of the parking lot next to the little storage unit. With your contributions, it is our intention to support our youth in any way, and we hope many different ways. This isn't meant to be used as a foundation for any budget item. This is a fund to add a little of the unexpected to our youth's participation, a fund to help relieve a sudden challenge in funding occasionally, a fund to help with the expenses of trips and excursions possibly, and a way of showing our youth that their church family care about them and support them.

The money from your generous donations of “kans” has been growing and we are hoping to be able to assist our youth in many ways to show we care about them and encourage them as they learn and grow in their knowledge of, and love for, our Savior. Our youth recently returned to St. John Christian Preschool or started a new year in our schools. This year is very different from what they are used to and we gave them a little support with “Welcome Back” messages and McDonald's Happy Meal coupons for the preschoolers, or Subways meal certificates for our Sunday School students from their St. John family. This is just the beginning. We will keep you updated – stay tuned!

“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 begin on **October 7, 2020**. Due to the majority of our confirmation students being split into groups while attending school, we have chosen to start the confirmation program year online and start meeting in person at the church at a later date. Parents of 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students will be receiving emails about when each grade will be meeting via Zoom, so check your emails!

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY has been postponed temporarily. We will publicize that date when it is decided.

PARISH EDUCATION

ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL is in full swing. I am leading the lessons via a weekly video on our Facebook page and the students who registered are following along and doing the activities with their families at home.

The First and Fourth Grade St. John Sunday School students will be **receiving their Bibles** during the month of October. We will be blessing those that have received Bibles during the online and in-person worship service on Reformation Sunday, **October 25, 2020**.

Parish Ed News

Online Sunday School began September 20th.

We have 36 kids from 18 families enrolled!

Confirmation is scheduled to begin October 7th online via Zoom.

Confirmation Sunday is postponed & will be scheduled for a later date.





Fall greetings to you all from your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! We have already been in school for five weeks and we've gone from wearing shorts and tank tops to long sleeves and jackets! 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. It is amazing to see how confident and comfortable our friends have become with their preschool routine. We thank God for His constant presence in our preschool center.

Our beginning unit was called: All About Me! We learned that God created each of us in His image and that we are all special because of that! We also focused on learning the names of our teachers and friends. We practiced number recognition, completed some projects that helped develop our small motor muscles, and also practiced patterning. (Patterns are very important in helping us learn how to make predictions, which is a very useful skill!)

We also started our five-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!"

Each day is full of new challenges, new experiences, and new chances to share God's love with our little ones. Thanks for 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, Whitney Franke

October Activities for Families:



Play Pumpkin Bean Bag Toss: For a creative DIY craft and fun family game all in one, carve pumpkins that you can use to play a bean bag toss game. After you're done playing, you can use the pumpkins as festive Halloween decorations.

Roasted Pumpkin Seeds: Preheat oven to 350°F. Toss 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups whole pumpkin seeds with 2 Tbl. melted butter and a $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp of salt. Spread the seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet and bake for about 45 minutes or until golden brown; stir occasionally



People Page...

October birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

2 nd	Bernice Voelker	17 th	Jim Reysack
7 th	Marcia Jacobs	17 th	Wanda Sprout
13 th	Phyllis Hillis	19 th	Marilyn Isakson
14 th	Ruthanne Ellis	22 nd	Donna Patten
16 th	Russell Ball	28 th	Norma Overlee
16 th	Rodney Ellis	29 th	Allen Cross

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

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



First & Fourth Grade students receiving Bibles in October

First Grade:

Nathalia Esther Dean
Nathan Michael Korbel
Laker James Kubik
Abigail Jo Lacour
Melia Jocey Lantz
Cameron William Lessin
Anna Maye Mehmen
Addison Grace Merrifield
Olive Kate Tracey

Fourth Grade:

Graham James Hansen
Sierra Lynn Hinz
Ajay Ryan Johnson
Tyler James Parish
Owen William Prichard
Riley Jean Quade
Benjamin Henry Tracey
Isaiah Keaton Watkins



With sympathy...

The Funeral of

Glenda Jane Otto Link, 9/22/20
Carol Mae Koebrick Chestek, 9/25/20

Celebrated the baptisms of ...

Lauren Jodi Page, 8/30/20
Finlee Jean Marie Pahnisch, 9/19/20
Oaklynn Marie Nordmeyer, 9/20/20

Memorials were given in memory of...

Margaret "Meg" Louise Haugland Tjaden: Ruth Farmer, John & Jean Rima, John Hayes, Christine Tjaden, Leland & Kris Boyd

Glenda Jane Ott Link: Helen Goplerud, Alvin & Shirley Davidson, Ruth Farmer

Carol Mae Koebrick Chestek: Helen Goplerud, John & Myrna Culbertson, Gladys Kellogg

OCTOBER 2020 CALENDAR

MONTHLY:

Sundays: 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion – 50 total attendance

1st Sunday of month 10:00 – 12:00: Drive through Communion

October 21: Newsletter Deadline

EVENTS OF NOTE:

October 7th: Zoom Confirmation starts

October 10th 9:00 – 3:00: Coats for Kids

October 11th 12:00 – 3:00: Coats for Kids

October 25th Reformation Sunday

Blessing of Bibles given to 1st & 4th grade students.

BOARD MEETINGS:

Building & Grounds: Oct 6, 5:00 p.m. (Zoom)

Council: Oct 13, 6:00 p.m. (Zoom)

Communication: Oct 15, 6:00 p.m. (Zoom)

Deacons: Oct 11, 10:30 a.m. (Zoom)

Family Board Oct 14, 4:15 p.m. (Email)

Finance Oct 13, 4:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Parish Ed Oct 14, 5:15 p.m. (Zoom)

Stewardship Oct 11, 11:00 a.m. (at Quade's)

Youth Oct 8, 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)



OCTOBER BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

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