

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

February 2021

The 2020 Annual
Report is available
online & at St. John.



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

Pastor Russ Leeper:
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Rev. Anita Nuetzman
Part time Visitation/Preaching Pastor

Website: www.stjohncharlescity.org



Find & like us on Facebook!

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

Worship service broadcasted on
KCHA FM 95.9 at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

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

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke
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Youth & Family Coordinator:
Laurie Heidebrink
lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor's Notes...

Giving Up

Years ago, while attending a renaissance festival, my Celtic blood rose up within me and I decided that I needed to learn how to play the great highland bagpipes. Over the next several years I studied with various teachers and numerous fellow students in two different states. Apparently, feeling the primordial “call of the pipes” is not an uncommon experience among Celtic ancestors. I was in good company. But, as it turns out, learning to play bagpipes is a slow and arduous process. Not only does it take musical prowess and physical fitness, but it also requires a great deal of time and patience. Finally, I was able to work my way up from a beginner’s practice chanter to full-fledged bagpipes.

Bagpipes aren’t cheap, so family members pitched in to help me purchase my very own set. But it was like starting all over again. Playing actual bagpipes was nothing like the little practice chanter I was used to. It took so much more practice and so much more time. I stuck with it for a while, but soon my busy schedule left me unable to practice the way I needed to and unable to attend lessons or band practice. Before I knew it I was an out-of-the-loop, non-playing bagpipe owner... and then we moved again.

I thought that someday I would get back into it ... that I would magically find a new teacher in my new home and time for lessons and practicing and I would just pick up the pipes and start where I had left off. But, of course, it never happened, and I felt kind of guilty about that.

Then one day, my old bagpipe teacher contacted me out of the blue. I hadn’t talked to him in years. He wondered if I was still playing. Somewhat shamefully, I told him that I wasn’t playing but hoped to get back into it someday. Knowing better, he said, “If you’re not playing anymore, I was wondering if you might be willing to sell your bagpipes. I have a student who’s going to be needing a used set soon.”

His question hit me like a ton of bricks. Here was my very own bagpipe teacher asking me to sell my bagpipes! I was done with them and he knew it. I knew it, too, but was having trouble admitting it to myself. The thought of giving up that dream was a difficult one. But the more I thought about it, the more I realized there were some really good reasons to sell: 1) instruments are made to be played. I never played mine, 2) I would be helping a fellow bagpipe lover achieve his or her dream, 3) there would be a little more space in our storage closet, 4) I could put the money toward our church’s mission trip to Africa that summer, and 5) I could finally shed the guilt I felt about not playing anymore.

“Sure,” I said when I got back to him, “I really enjoyed the experiences I had while learning, but I think it’s time to give up that dream for good.”

We’ve had to give up a lot over the last year ... and not by our own choice. This month we begin the season of Lent again. People often give things up during Lent, but this is a different kind of giving up ... it’s a voluntary giving up in order to make room for good in our lives and world. I’m wondering if this year you’d be willing to give up something “for good.” Maybe it’s a past failure or shortcoming or habit that makes you feel guilty. Maybe it’s an item (or items) in your home that you never use but could be very beneficial to someone else. Maybe it’s a dream whose time has passed. Maybe it’s an old grudge that eats away at your soul. Maybe it’s an item that, if sold, could help finance an experience far more valuable than the thing itself. Giving up something this Lent could set you free and it could make someone else’s life better, too. Sometimes giving up is a good thing, especially if you’re giving up “for good.”

Peace, Pastor Russ



HAPPENINGS...

From the Congregation President,

Welcome to 2021! As we begin a new year, we continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. The St. John Church Council has been discussing the pandemic at each month's council meeting since last March, deliberating our next steps, monitoring the numbers in Floyd County and the 7- and 14-day rolling positivity averages, and if there is a post-holidays surge in January before reaching a decision on reopening. At the January meeting, the Council recommended starting **in-person services again on January 31**. That could be adjusted depending upon what happens in the next weeks. We have been trying to balance reopening for in-person church activities with keeping everyone safe. Our hope is that vaccinations will keep moving forward and offer additional protection for those most susceptible to the virus. We know that we have members who are very hesitant to return to in-person activities and we have members who are very eager to return to in-person activities. Our thinking through all of this has been to make sure we open safely so our members will be comfortable returning to in-person services.

It hasn't been easy to strike a balance between being overly cautious and not cautious enough. The St. John annual meeting has typically been held in January when the congregation approves the 2021 ministry support plan, new board members, and conducts other church business. Due to the current state of the pandemic, we are postponing the annual meeting until it is safe for us to meet as a congregation and allow as many members as possible to participate. The St. John Church Council has reviewed and approved the 2021 ministry support plan and new board members in the interim, pending final congregational approval at the annual meeting. **The annual report is available online or at the St. John door.**

We ask for your understanding and your prayers—prayers not only for our church staff and Council but for our congregation members (especially those who are most vulnerable to the virus and to the effects of the on-going isolation being caused by the virus) and our community. Please let me know if you have any concerns or comments.

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...

Electronic Giving – this is an option that has been added to the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church website in recent months. You can use this option to set up your giving on a weekly, monthly or yearly plan. But it is also convenient if you want to use it for one-time transactions – to give to specific funds, events, or memorials for instance. You can give through your personal accounts or credit cards. Just remember that if you use your credit card, unless you specifically indicate the service charge be taken from your account, St. John will be assessed that charge. This means of giving has seen some activity and we are really excited to be able to give you this option. Please keep in mind electronic giving as you plan your budgeting needs. At <http://www.stjohncharlescity.org/>, you will find Digital Simply Giving on the blue menu bar at the top of the page; that is your link to electronic convenience!

Our Generosity in December

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

8% of our regular December offering (\$2654.67) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In December (\$205.00) was given to Janet Petefish help with expenses for the new "Blanket Ministry" and (\$749.07) was given to the Messiah Food Pantry.

The Fourth Quarter 8% of the Thank Offering (\$ 2504.67) was designated to the following:

\$750 to the Floyd County Ministerium fund, \$1000.00 to the Floyd County Friends of Cancer fund and \$754.67 to the Messiah Food Pantry.



**Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021**

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Drive-thru Ashes & Communion

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. In person service: Pre-registration required.

Pre-recorded service posted on YouTube, Facebook & podcast

**Worship & Communion
February 7th**

During in-person worship we will be celebrating communion. For those watching online the all-in-one communion cups St. John uses can be picked up to use at home. Your own bread & wine/juice can also be used.



Cookies & Cocoa!

The St. John Youth board will be offering homemade cookies & cocoa.

February 7th during the Drive through Communion

to those who would like to have a treat!

“Drive Through Communion”

On February 7th between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. we will have “Drive Through Communion. 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.

SHARE THE LOVE DRIVE-THRU MEAL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

Beginning 11 a.m. – Until food is gone

ALL ARE WELCOME/FREE WILL DONATION

Donations will be used to support the St. John scholarship fund.

MENU: Lasagna, Breadstick, Scotcharoos Bar

Catered by: U2BBQ

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH PARKING LOT

200 S. Main St. Charles City, IA

FOR HOME DELIVERY CALL: 641-228-3397

(Please call by Friday, noon, February 12, 2021)

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

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



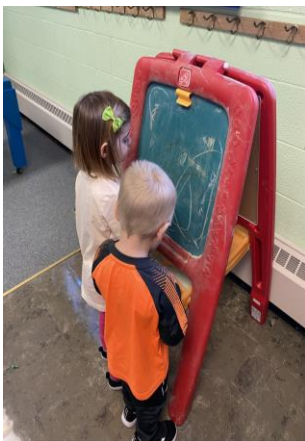
Prayer Shawl & Blanket Ministry.

As an addition to the Prayer Shawl Ministry we have now included fleece blankets. The Blanket Ministry started with giving fleece blankets to patients at the hospital at Christmas. We think we should continue this ministry. Blankets can be given to the same people that prayer shawls are appropriate for, stocked in the clothing room for needy people and possibly as something the pastors could use for people that might be blessed by one at a visitation.

This ministry does come with a cost, however. **The St. John Church Council approved an account being set up for monetary donations for fleece. Any amount you could donate would be appreciated.** It can be designated as a memorial too. You could also make a donation of a 2-yard section of fleece, or if you wish you can make one yourself. Instructions for making these single layer blankets can be found on the St. John website: www.stjohncharlesciv.org. This ministry strives to make them for \$7.00 or less, so we have to be on the lookout for sales. *Note: a 2.5-yard piece of fleece can also make 2 youth-size blankets if the pattern allows for a sideways print.*

We are interested in hearing from people willing to sew. Several yards of fleece has been purchased to share with anyone willing to sew a few up. Please contact me at petefishj@mchsi.com.

We can always use Prayer Shawls. So, if you knit, crochet, sew, or quilt you can make a prayer shawl. You can drop a completed one off or pick one up at the church office.



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD –

Kans for Kids - This is a project that just keeps giving and recycling! Thank you has been used so many times with this project but you have contributed so much to this fund that we just can't stop expressing our appreciation.

We are so happy to share with you what your "recycling" has been able to provide for the little people at our preschool. We were able to purchase 2 easels for our St. John Christian Preschool.

Can't you just see the artistic ideas in the minds of these little ones?

Angel Tree 2020

Words cannot express how truly grateful we are for the generosity to Angel Tree, again this year. Whether you purchased gifts, donated toward the program, or prayed for those in the program... Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! Your help and generosity touched the hearts of many people, proving that we are "God's Love in Action"!

Shirley Holm & Jessie Holm



We extend a big thank you to Linda Klemesrud, Kay Tjaden, Mary Augustin, Judy Thornton, Judy and Kip Hauser, Diane Melrose, and Shirley Platte for making phone calls to check in with our St. John members. If you didn't receive a call, please contact the church office to update your phone number.

People's Page...

February birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

2/2 Marvin Thompson
 2/3 Donald Knowlton
 2/21 Duane Ortmyer
 2/28 Marilu Wohlers



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

February 1, 1969 Dale & Helen Bond
 February 14, 1960 Jim & Donna Gambaiani
 February 14, 1964 Lenis & Nadonne Buseman
 February 14, 1969 Steven & Diane Barr

In Sympathy, Death of...

Helen Marie Nysven Goplerud, 12/24/2020
Sue Claire McDowell Baron, 1/13/21

2021 Offering Envelopes: Are available.
 Call the office at 228-3397 to arrange picking yours up.

In Sympathy, Funerals of...

Helen Irene Lewison Peterson, 1/13/21
Norma Jean Kamin Kamm, 1/21/21
Margaret Edith Stohr, 1/29/21

Altar Flower & Radio Sign-up: If you would like to sign up to sponsor the Altar flowers &/or the radio broadcast contact Kathy in the office at 641-228-3397! We will continue to have flowers as they are on the online service & the radio broadcast reaches many of our at home congregation!

Memorials were given in memory of...

Helen Marie Nysven Goplerud: Gladys Kellogg, Leon & Jan Mulford, Dennis & Janice Brinkman, Lynn & Peg Poppen, Kay Tjaden, Virginia Young, Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall, Arlene Thomas, Leona Howe, Betty Gullickson, Don & Shirley Holm, Cherie Schafer, Karen Streich, Cal & Joyce Wood

Helen Irene Lewison Peterson: Don & Shirley Holm, Kay Tjaden Arlene Thomas, Mike & Clarice Leraaen, Lynn & Peg Poppen, Tilleen Litterer, Cherie Schafer, Dale & Helen Bond, Georgie Miller, Ron & Connie Rasmussen, Leon & Jan Mulford, Kip & Judy Hauser, Karen Streich, Marilyn Isakson

Sue Claire McDowell Baron: Al & Betty Manning, Kay Tjaden, Cherie Schafer, Bruce & Brenda de Buhr, Lynn & Peg Poppen, Mary Ann Townsend, Lorna Scrimger, Edna Stott, Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall, Gladys Kellogg, Linda Hughes, Mary Jean Zilm, Karen Streich, Cal & Joyce Wood, Arlene Thomas, Marilyn Isakson, Barb Fuls

Norma Jean Kamin Kamm: Kurt & Kathy Hoeft, Dennis & Jan Brinkman, Cal & Joyce Wood

New Council & Board Members – 2021

Council:	1Yr	Connie Swant Kathy Rogotzke Judy Hughes Jake Gassman	Finance:	Helen Hagen Richard Oleson
Building & Grounds		Rusty Rogotzke Ana Blickenderfer	Parish Ed:	Lisa Hinz Rae Lynn Chase
Communication B.		Ina Heitz Darci Tracey	Stewardship: 2Yr	Kathy Crooks Diane Loudermilk David Lindaman
Deacons:		Diane Sande Kip Hauser	Youth board:	Ann Prichard Lydia Johnson
Family Board:		Sonja Cotton _____	Preschool Board:	_____ _____



Youth & Families...

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 a virtual Lent Event for Sunday, February 21st for children and their parents on Facebook. We will have Lent in a Bag kits for members of the congregation to pick up before that day, so be watching the bulletin for details about when the kits can be picked up.

Confirmation

Our confirmation classes continue to meet virtually every Wednesday night for discussion and activities.

Sunday School

Sunday School is offered online currently and will continue to be through the end of April. Parish Education Board is working on the plans for offering in-person classes once the building reopens and it is safe to meet in groups.

Youth

The Youth Board is planning to offer homemade cookies and hot cocoa during drive-through communion on Sunday, February 7.

St. John Christian Preschool...



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 42 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!

We learned all about the letters M, N, T, and V: how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. In our 4-year-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, hardworking, dedicated women. At our January meeting we said goodbye to Sarah Merrifield and Cassie Michael. They served the preschool board for 3 years and will be missed. We will soon be reallocating 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!

We would also like to remind everyone that the preschool is still selling Kwik Star, and Kmart gift cards. Please stop down or call if you are interested in purchasing a gift card (228-7274.) The preschool receives 5% of the card's face value.

SJCP would like to announce that we are holding an ONLINE ONLY Book Fair this year. With the continued closure of the church to walk-in traffic, we have decided to just hold the online portion of our annual book fair. The Book Fair will be Wednesday, February 3 - Tuesday, February 16. This event is available to the community and the proceeds go straight to the preschool. You can find our online fair here:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/stjohnchristianpreschool>. We will also be starting our Scratch Cupcake "all school" fundraiser in March, so be on the lookout for that information!

Can you believe it is that time already?! We are gearing up for our 2021-22 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 2020-21 school year) will begin registration on Tuesday, February 16. New families will begin registration on Monday, February 22. Registration will run from 7:30am-4:00pm each of those weeks, and then will go to 8am-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 \$30 is due at time of registration. Please call 228-7274 or email us at wfranke@stjohncharlescity.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



You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax all you need is a book!
Dr. Seuss

February 2021 Schedule...

MONTHLY:

9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary: Masks required & social distancing.

1st Sunday of month 10:00 – 11:30: Drive through Communion

February 24th: Newsletter Deadline

BOARD MEETINGS:

Building & Grounds:	Feb 2,	5:00 p.m.	(Zoom)
Council:	Feb 9,	6:00 p.m.	(Zoom)
Communication:	TBD	6:00 p.m.	(Zoom)
Deacons:	Feb 14,	10:00 a.m.	(Zoom).
Family Board	Feb 3,	7:30 p.m.	(Zoom)
Finance Board	Feb 11,	5:45 p.m.	(Zoom)
Parish Ed	Feb 2,	5:30 p.m.	(Zoom)
Stewardship	Feb 14,	11:00 a.m.	Meal
Youth	Feb 4,	5:30 p.m.	(Zoom)

EVENTS OF NOTE

February 7th: Worship & Communion

February 7th: Cocoa & cookies during drive through communion.

February 14th: Stewardship Board's "Share the Love" drive through meal

February 17th: Ash Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Drive thru Ashes & Communion, 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. in person worship (Pre-registration required) Service also posted on YouTube, Facebook & podcast



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Meghan Korbel	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	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Liz Hamm Angel McKenzie Diane Niezwaag Sandie Quade	Amber Hicks	Isaac Hervert		Cody Van Horn		Viva Boerschel Samantha Prigge Judy Wessel
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Kayla Streich		Kathy Waldorf		Brayton Quade		Kierstin Heim Cassie DeBower Andrew Miller Ron Venz
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Duane Ortmyer	Ella Johnson	Dennis Petefish	Shirley Holm Chelsea Lumley	Keaton Schmidtke Algie Slindee		
28	29 during Leap Year					
Greg Buenger Michael Exline Lori Gassman Marilu Wohlers	Shelley Hansen					