

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

March 2021



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
TIME BEGINS
MARCH 14!
DON'T FORGET TO
"SPRING AHEAD"!



"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

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

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Rev. Anita Nuetzman
Part time Visitation/Preaching Pastor

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
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Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor Anita Nuetzman:

Receiving

Last month, Pastor Russ shared a great story about the spiritual practice of “giving up.” He listed failures, shortcomings, habits, unused items, unfulfilled dreams, and grudges as examples of things that take up space in our hearts which could be better utilized for God’s good purposes. So, I spent some time thinking about what happens *after* we open our hands to let go of sin --- things that interfere with our relationship with God.

The result is a kind of spiritual housecleaning, and we all know how good that can feel, right? In fact, one of the Lenten disciplines I’ve recently heard about is giving away 40 items in 40 days. It not only frees up room in your home and your heart, but also benefits others in the process.

I know a little bit about that myself.

After receiving my first call as a pastor, I had to begin preparing to move into a parsonage that was significantly smaller than the home my husband and I had been living in for the previous 14 years. Not only did we have our own “stuff” to deal with, but also our three grown kids! So, *lots* of stuff went to the local resale store, some was sold, and some just went in the trash.

It certainly wasn’t easy. Some of the other “things” we had to let go of were relationships; parents, teachers and community members we’d come to know as our kids grew up, being known by name at local businesses, service providers we could rely on. If you’ve ever moved, you know what I’m talking about.

But letting go of those things made it possible for me to take the next step toward doing what God was calling me to do. And I grew in my new role as a pastor. I met and loved new people. The move created an opportunity for my husband to become self-employed. We began spending time together on my days off, discovering beauty in places we’d never been before.

God was filling our empty hands with new joys.

Martin Luther once wrote, *“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God’s hands, that I still possess.”*

There is no more powerful example of this than the cross, where Jesus gives up everything--- his dignity, friendships, the comfort of his Father’s presence, and finally, his life. Arms open wide, he is utterly exposed and emptied.

We know what comes next for Jesus. After his suffering and death comes the Resurrection, right? But the challenge for us is to trust that *God will fill our empty hands as well*. While we have all given up many things willingly over the past year, among them the freedom to gather inside the church to worship together, we have lost a great deal *unwillingly* as well... loved ones, jobs, our favorite leisure activities... many of the things that bring happiness to our lives.

Even so, God promises that what we give up now pales in comparison to what will be received. (Philippians 3:8)

Will you pray with me?

Dear God, who will I be when I stand before you with empty hands? Please help me to gradually open my hands and to discover that I am not what I own, but what you want to give me. And what you want to give me is love---unconditional, everlasting love. Amen. ¹

¹ *With Open Hands* by Henri J. M. Nouwen

<http://a.co/8oyaZdo>



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HAPPENINGS...

In Person Worship...

St. John has resumed in-person worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Reservations will NOT be required. Masks & distancing will be required. On entering a Deacon will sign you in for attendance & contact tracing purposes.

Also, St. John boards and committees can meet in person at the church. Boards meet one per day and are required to wear masks and social distance. For members who are not comfortable meeting in person, each board needs to make arrangements such as Zoom so absent members can participate.



Lenten Wednesday Devotional Service

“Back to the Psalms”

A brief devotional service featuring a different Psalm each week.

March 3rd – Psalm 27

March 10th – Psalm 63

March 17th – Psalm 32

March 24th – Psalm 126

In-person worship will be at 5:30 p.m. with NO pre-registration

Will be pre-recorded and posted on our YouTube channel; Facebook & audio will be available under podcast on the website. www.stjohncharlescity.org

Holy Week 2021

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021:

Drive through communion 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

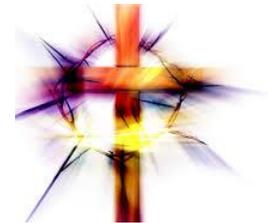
In person worship 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2, 2021

In person worship 6:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

In person worship 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.



ALL SERVICEW WILL REQUIRE PRE-REGISTRATION

Masks & social distancing will also be required.

Services will also be available to view on our YouTube channel or to listen to on our podcast.



If you would like to donate toward Easter Lilies for St. John

Call the office at 641-22-3397

The Family Board has put together **“Lent in a Bag”** kits, which feature six symbols you might use to start a conversation and lead prayers as we begin the Lent season. **There are still some bags (1 per household) to pick up if you would like to participate.** Be watching the St. John Facebook page **each Sunday during Lent** as we talk about the symbol for that week.

“Drive Through Communion.”

On March 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.

**Worship & Communion
March 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.
**March 7th during the Drive through
Communion**
to those who would like to have a treat!



St. John Sesquicentennial 2022. The church we know today as St. John started forming 150 years ago. If you would like to be on a committee and help plan and organize activities for the St. John sesquicentennial, please contact the church office.

Our Generosity in January

Your offerings to St. John were shared beyond our walls in January in the following ways:
8% of our regular December offering (\$2593.81) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In January (\$882.46) was given to the Floyd County Ministerium fund. This fund is used to help those individuals in need of assistance with utilities.

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!

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 donate 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.stjohncharlescivcity.org. I strive 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. Yards of fleece have been purchased and we are willing to share with anyone willing to sew a few up. Please contact Janet Petefish 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.

People's Page...

March birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

3/3 Helen Bond
3/3 Phyllis Foxen
3/9 Larry Stewart
3/10 Ivadelle Stevenson
3/19 David Hagen
3/23 Judy Thornton
3/28 Shirley Madsen



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

March 2, 1958	Russell & Betty Ball
March 11, 1955	Loyal & Norma McLean
March 15, 1970	Norman & Carol Bauer
March 26, 1960	Louis & Sharon Streich

In Sympathy, Funerals of...

Mark York Parsons, February 27, 2021

Memorials were given in memory of...

Helen Marie Nysven Goplerud: Lois Webster, Elaine Davidson, Kent & Lorie Hoeft

Helen Irene Lewison Peterson: Larry & Ellen Brewer, Jim & Donna Gambaiani, Delores Mork

Sue Claire McDowell Baron: Larry & Ellen Brewer, Alvin & Shirley Davidson, Dennis & Jan Brinkman, Marilu Wohlers, Leon & Jan Mulford, Naomi Hanson, Kelly McDowell, Gale & Rhonda Dana, Kip & Judy Hauser, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Dave & Shirley Ripley, Don & Sharon Tieskotter, Don & Shirley Holm, Dixie Decker Saldivar, Lawrence & Doris Hibbs

Norma Jean Kamin Kamm: Alvin & Shirley Davidson, Doug & Jessi Holm, Marian Hoeft

Margaret Edith Rasmussen Stohr: Bob & Marian Dight, Scott Dight, Arlene Thomas

Alan Jay Farmer: Marilyn Isakson

Jack & Norma Kamm & Esther Meyne: Kent & Lorie Hoeft

Mark York Parsons: Arlene Thomas

Wendell Patten: Kip & Judy Hauser

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!

Youth & Families...

The month brings the official beginning of spring so hopefully the weather will reflect what the calendar says!! "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

Youth News

The Youth Board will be hosting Cookies and Cocoa during Drive-thru Communion on Sunday, March 7, 2021.

Confirmation

Confirmation Zoom meetings are taking a break during Lent, so that students can either attend, or watch, our Wednesday evening worship services.

Family Board

The Family Board has Lent in a Bag kits available for congregation members. (It's not too late to pick one up and start!) Bags are available in the Narthex during Wednesday evening and Sunday morning worship services and during business hours from Kathy in the church office. There will also be a short video each Sunday during Lent on our Facebook page to go along with the symbol for that week.

Bible Camp Scholarships

Just a reminder that St. John offers scholarships for all our youth members attending a Christian camp. Scholarships are offered in the amounts of \$25 for a one-day camp, \$50 for camps lasting 2-3 days, and \$125 for camps lasting 4-7 days. Just bring in a copy of your registration to the Business Office for a reimbursement.

Sunday School News

Sunday School lessons continue to be offered on our Facebook page for anyone wishing to watch. These online lessons from the book of Luke will continue through the end of April.

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**.

Easter eggs without a kit!

- Hard-boiled eggs
- Food coloring
- White vinegar



Instructions:

Bring a large pot of water to a boil.

Measure 1/2 cup of boiling water into a canning jar or another heat-safe container. Then, add one teaspoon of vinegar and 10-20 drops of food coloring. Repeat to create additional colors. If you're dyeing eggs with kids, allow the dyes to cool before proceeding.

Soak the eggs in the dye for around five minutes. Flip the eggs halfway through, to ensure both sides are well coated.

Place the dyed eggs back in their carton and allow them to dry before handling.

NOTE:

If you don't have vinegar, use lemon juice, instead, or just leave it out. Eggs dyed without vinegar will be pastel colored.

Place stickers on the eggs before you dye them to create two-toned designs. Remove the stickers once the eggs have dried to reveal the designs.

St. John Christian Preschool...



HAPPY SPRING! Maybe if I say it enough, it'll actually come. HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY SPRING! Our small friends are so eager to get outside, but we are still having a blast inside the preschool learning about and celebrating God's love!

Our little friends were certainly busy during the month of February. We learned all about the letters W, X, Y, & Z; how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. Our 5-day friends are continuing to learn more sight words and are already showing great beginning skills for reading!

February was also a very exciting month for our preschoolers as each class was able to host its own Valentine's Day Tea Party. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we were unable to invite our tall friends, but we still had fun! We had cold cocoa (chocolate milk) and LOTS of yummy treats. We ended our day reading Valentine's from each of our friends. What a wonderful way to share the love that God first shared with us.

We will be running our All-School Fundraiser from March 15-April 2. We are selling Scratch Cupcakes! Mmmmm! ☺ Delivery will be Thursday, April 22 from 3:30-5:00pm. **This 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 baby dolls, a new set of large foam blocks, a new book shelf for our library, and we'd also like to replace some of our more "loved" books. 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 cupcakes 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 have loved having the privilege of getting to know our many friends and their amazing families this school year, but it is already time to start thinking about registration for the fall semester and welcoming some new families to our preschool program. Please feel free to pass on the following information to anyone who may be interested.

Our registration began on Tuesday, February 16, for our families who are *currently* enrolled. Registration for *new* families began on Monday, February 22, and will continue until all of our classes are full. Families who have a child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15 can register for one of our two morning classes. The 2-day class meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30-11:30 and the 3-day class meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday mornings from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Families who have a child who will be at least 4 on or before September 15 can register for one of our afternoon classes. The 3-day session meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. and the 5-day session meets EVERY day from 12:30-3:30 p.m. A non-refundable registration fee is due at the time of registration. Families may choose to pay \$50 for the entire year or \$30 per semester. NEW this year: we will be offering an "Early-Bird Discount!" Register by May 1st and receive \$10 OFF your monthly tuition for the whole year! Please call Whittney Franke for any further information: 228-7274.

In HIS name,
Whittney Franke

March 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

March 24th: Newsletter Deadline

BOARD MEETINGS:

Building & Grounds:	Mar 2,	5:00 p.m.	
Council:	Mar 9,	6:00 p.m.	(Zoom)
Communication:	TBD	6:00 p.m.	(Zoom)
Deacons:	Mar 14,	10:00 a.m.	(Zoom).
Family Board	Mar 3,	7:30 p.m.	(Zoom)
Finance Board	Mar 11,	5:45 p.m.	
Parish Ed	Mar 2,	5:30 p.m.	(Zoom)
Stewardship	Mar 16,	2:30 p.m.	
Youth	Mar 4,	5:30 p.m.	(Zoom)

Events of Note...

Wednesdays in Advent –

“Back to the Psalms”

March 3rd: Psalm 27

March 10th: Psalm 63

March 17th: Psalm 32

March 24th: Psalm 126

Sunday, March 7th: “Cookies & Cocoa” during Drive Thru Communion

Sunday, March 7th: Communion at the in-person & worship & video worship (Communion cups can be picked up at the church)

Sunday, March 14th: Daylight Savings Time starts

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Rita Booker Jada Montagne Karleen Sickman	Norman Bauer Helen Bond Rae Lynn Chase Phyllis Foxen	Diane Barr Deena Downs Linda Johnson		Xander Chase Jean Evans
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Sandra Miller	Abby Ayers Larry Stewart	Janet Delap Hana Laue Lauren Page Ivadelle Stevenson		Ajay Johnson	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Charlene Fisher Tyler Marth	Hunter Hinz Barbara Johnson	Mija Cotton Dan DeBower	Amy Titus	Carol Brahn Ellen Dix David Hagen	Nathalia Dean Dan Kehret
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	B. J. Gifford	Brenda Bailey Myla Meyer Janice Mulford Angie Parsons Kathy Rogotzke Judy Thornton	Leslie Becthold Isaiah Knecht		Isaah Eppley Jacob Hallet Peyton Unga	Marlene Holthaus Cherie Schafer
28	29	30	31			
	Nadonne Buseman Douglas Holm Tayleigh Lantz	Michael Kreger	Sandra Harrington Jessie Holm			