

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

April 2021



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](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)



Find & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the E-Skinny by  
emailing Kathy at  
[khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto: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](mailto:wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com)



Pastor Russ Leeper:  
[rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com)

Rev. Anita Nuetzman  
Part time Visitation/Preaching Pastor

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.

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Laurie Heidebrink  
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## Pastor Russ Leeper :

A friend of mine, who was a church musician, told me about a funeral he once played for. At the end of the service a recorded message was played for the congregation over the church's sound system. That recording was a message from the deceased, which had actually been taken from someone's answering machine. (I'm not making this up!) So, as the congregation said their final good-byes, they heard the voice of their loved one leaving them with one final bit of telephone wisdom. I'm assuming that the deceased, at the time of leaving the message, had no idea that it would be played at his funeral. I don't know the contents of the message, but I've had fun speculating over the years: "I'm sorry, I can't come to the phone right now as I am ... dead. When you hear the beep, please leave your name and number and I'll call you back after the Resurrection .....[BEEP]....."

It makes me wonder how many of you out there right now have my voice recorded on your answering machine or voicemail. If you do, please erase it immediately and don't even think of playing it at my funeral! It also occurs to me that maybe that's why some of you are reluctant to call the church or leave a message. We promise ... we will NOT play it at your funeral (unless you want us to).

All kidding aside, there are some really good reasons to contact us at the church. Here are a few:

- Your address or phone number has changed. (We want to stay in contact with you!)
- You or a family member has been hospitalized. (We want to offer pastoral care and to pray with you and for you.)
- You or a loved one would like a visit. (As vaccines get into people and the pandemic subsides, we will be able to make more in-person visits. In the meantime, we can still visit by telephone or video chat. If you or a loved one would like a visit, please let us know.)
- You would like to be added to or taken off the weekly prayer list. (Names are automatically taken off after 3 weeks, unless we hear otherwise from you.)
- You have a loved one leaving for the military. (We want to pray for them and you.)
- You are experiencing difficulties in your life or faith or are facing a big decision. (One of your pastors would be glad to offer a caring ear, spiritual insight, and prayer. Sometimes just talking to another person about it and praying can really help. Pastor Anita and I are not trained to do in-depth counseling, but we can refer you to people who are.)
- You would be interested in having a Stephen Minister. (Stephen Ministers are members of St. John who have received training to provide ongoing, confidential, Christian care to those going through difficult times. If you're interested in finding out more, let us know.)
- You need to plan a baptism, wedding, or funeral. (We're here to walk with you through all of life's transitions. Calling us before you make your plans will help us to be on the same page with you and increase the likelihood that we can satisfactorily serve you.)
- You just had a baby! (We love to celebrate with you! And when we're able to do so again, one of the best parts of a pastor's job is getting to hold the newborn babies at the hospital and offer a word of blessing on God's precious new children. Until then, we can still pray with you remotely and for you in worship.)

These are just a few reasons to contact us. There are many more. If we don't answer, please leave us a message. We promise we won't hold onto it for later!

I'm so glad that God doesn't keep our old messages, either. This month we celebrate the Easter season and the fact that we have new life in Christ. All things are new - our past failures and shortcomings are gone - Jesus has erased our old messages. We start fresh again. In the high-pressure, high-expectation world of today it's easy to be hard on ourselves, to compare ourselves to others, and to feel like we don't measure up. But Jesus says, "Be at peace. Don't worry about all of that. My spirit is with you. I love you. Go and share my love with others." Sounds a lot more productive than worrying about the past, doesn't it?

Even if you don't leave the most thrilling messages in the world... so what! You're a beloved, brand-new, spirit-filled, child of God. So, call us!

Peace, Pastor Russ



## HAPPENINGS...

### 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.

#### **Masks & social distancing will also be required.**

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



### **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2021**

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

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED  
Masks & social distancing will also be required.**

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

*The Office is closed Monday, April 5th*

**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.

**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!

**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!**

## People's Page...

### **April birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!**

4/2 Georgie Miller  
4/2 Myron Leraaen  
4/3 Russell Frascht  
4/8 Marcia Olesen  
4/10 Elsie Ferguson  
4/11 Joyce Wood  
4/14 Connie Rasmussen  
4/16 Beverly Sears  
4/17 Harlyn Kolb  
4/20 Leon Hall  
4/24 Dorothy Watson  
4-26 Tootie Kolb



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

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

### **Students taking 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, April 1, 2021: Maundy Thursday**

Talan James Eckhoff  
Benjamin Thomas Hammond  
Cooper Louis Holm  
Rylie John Keyes  
Alison Marie Mehmen  
Jackson Ray Mehmen  
Hailey Jo Wilkens



### **In Sympathy, Death of...**

*Marvin Duane Thompson, 3/3/21*

## **THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (Rite of Confirmation)**

**Sunday, April 11, 2021 11:00 a.m.**

Hannah Raellen Caroline DeVore  
Anna Taylor Herbrechtsmeyer  
Isaac Jacob Hervert  
Sydney Marie Hinz  
Kassey Jo Kakac

Olivia Jean Litterer  
Tyler David Marth  
Kyndra Kay Grace McDonald  
Katherine Elizabeth Prichard  
Teagan Marie Prigge



*One of our St. John youth, Mackenzy Bilharz, a 2020 graduate of Charles City High School, joined the Marines & reported to San Diego, CA for bootcamp in January of 2021. She is one of only 60 women hand picked to go to San Diego rather than Paris Island, SC. (There are 450 men.) This is "history making" for women recruits as it the first-time women have been chosen. Mackenzy is the daughter of Travis & Jolene Bilharz. Please keep Mackenzy in your prayers & thank you St. John members! Her address can be available upon request.*

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

*Margaret Edith Rasmussen Stohr: Cal & Joyce Wood*

*Alan Jay Farmer: Robert Rausch & family, Clara Belle Raymond, Bob & Delores Wright, Delores Tinus, Donna Gelner, Dennis & Deanne Friederich, Sue Ayers, Bob & Bev Friend*

*Mark York Parsons: Sue Ayers, Bob & Bev Friend*

*Marvin Duane Thompson: Cal & Joyce Wood, Lynn & Peg Poppen*

*Sue Baron, Helen Goplerud, Helen Peterson, Leon Isakson: Bob & Bev Friend*

## Youth & Families...

*“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*

*Blessings,  
Laurie Heidebrink*

### **Confirmation**

Starting **Wednesday, April 7**, we are planning to meet in person in the Sanctuary from **6:00pm-6:30pm**. Confirmation Zoom meetings took a break during Lent, so that students could either attend, or watch, our Wednesday evening worship services, and now we are excited to get back together in-person!

### **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.

### **Parish Education 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.

**SAVE THE DATES: VBS - Monday through Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>-July 29<sup>th</sup>.** We would love to have your kids attend each evening! Watch for more information in the upcoming bulletins and newsletters. If you are interested in volunteering with VBS, please contact Laurie.



**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>**.



## St. John Christian Preschool...



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

Spring greetings from your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! Our little ones have been excited to see the signs of spring around our community. It is truly refreshing to see the hope in the eyes of our young friends when the "grumpy" teachers are sure that warm weather is never going to arrive! 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!

Our year is quickly winding down to a close, but we are still very busy at SJCP. We have been doing many fun activities with the letters G, Q, C, and S. It won't be too long until we conclude our year-long study of the alphabet. All the little ones got to easel paint, which is always a class favorite. The older friends are also working on some Kindergarten Readiness Skills!

We will be taking all of our friends on a walk through the church the week before Easter and introduce the concept of Good Friday to them. We are excited to take that same walk on the Monday/Tuesday following Easter to celebrate our Risen Savior and to notice the differences in our church.

We currently have openings left for the 2021-22 school year. Please call 228-7274 or stop by the preschool for more information on the current enrollment.

With HIS love, Whittney Franke



## April 2021 Schedule...

### MONTHLY:

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

**April 21<sup>st</sup>:** Newsletter Deadline

### BOARD MEETINGS:

Building & Grounds: Apr 6, 5:00 p.m.  
 Council: Apr 13, 6:00 p.m. (Zoom)  
 Communication: Apr 19 6:00 p.m. (Zoom)  
 Deacons: Apr 11, 10:00 a.m. (Zoom).  
 Family Board Apr 11, 9:45 a.m.  
 Finance Board Apr 8, 5:30 p.m.  
 Parish Ed Apr 18 5:30 p.m.  
 Stewardship Apr 20, 2:30 p.m.  
 Youth Apr 15, 5:30 p.m.

## Events of Note...

**Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>: Maundy Thursday**  
**6:00 p.m. In-person Worship/Comm.,**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Communion**  
**Re-commissioning of**  
**Communion Givers**

**Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Good Friday**  
**6:00 p.m. In-person Worship**

**Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>: Easter Sunday**  
**8:00 a.m. In-person Worship/Comm**  
**(Must be registered)**  
**10:00 a.m. In-person Worship/Comm**  
**(Must be registered)**

Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>: Office Closed.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

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