

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

June 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



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
lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor Russ Leeper :

All-Terrain Faith

Superman has his cape. Samson had his long hair. I have my hiking boots!

In 2018, Susan and I celebrated our 30th Anniversary with a walking tour in Northern Ireland. It was an amazing trip due, in large part, to my hiking boots. Regular walking shoes just wouldn't have had the support and traction I needed to effectively and safely traverse the trails, hills, and sand dunes we would encounter on our 8-day tour.

So, I bought a new pair of boots. They were perfect for the trip and I still love them. They have the power to transform me. In walking shoes I'm just a regular guy, but when I put on my HIKING BOOTS, I become Tarzan of North Iowa!

My sturdy boots, with their breathable Gore-Tex® lining (pulls moisture away from my skin ... kind of like a diaper), give me the confidence to ascend and descend hills that, in mere street shoes, would make me cower. Wearing hiking boots is like having 4-wheel-drive for your feet. They give a person the confidence to overcome nearly any obstacle:

"Sorry, Sir, I'm afraid you're gonna have to take the long way around. You see, the bridge is washed out, there's six feet of new snow, we just had a rock avalanche, and the ranger saw a herd of 200 elk camping on the road. What's that? You've got 4-wheel-drive? Well then, no problem! Have a nice trip!"

Of course, the thing about 4-wheel-drive and hiking boots is that they can take you places that, once you get there, you wonder why you wanted to go there in the first place. I thought about that once as I stood in Rocky Mountain National Park at 11,000 feet, on top of a very high, steep rock at the end of the Tundra Trail with wind battering against me at 50-60 m.p.h. My hiking boots had given me the confidence to come to this precarious promontory ... but why?! But when I stopped thinking long enough to just turn around and look, I knew why. The view was incredible!

A well-used, sturdy faith in God is like a pair of good hiking boots; it can get you over many obstacles and give you the confidence to know that whatever falls in your path, with God, you can get through it. And, once in a while, faith may even take you places you don't really want to go ... but in the end, these are the experiences that we often end up treasuring the most.

So, what are you waiting for? We're here every Sunday. Put on your faith and slip into your hiking boots or rev up the 4-wheel-drive. Trek on over and join us this summer!

Peace, Pastor Russ



OF NOTE...

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL'S ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

From the Council President:

Hi everyone! The recent easing of Covid-19 restrictions by the CDC means that it is time to hold the 2021 St. John annual meeting. The annual meeting was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic preventive measures in place earlier this year. The agenda includes the ministry support plan, election of officers and board members, and discussion/vote of extending a 30% call to Pastor Anita Nuetzman. Pastor Brackett from the Northeast Iowa Synod will describe the process for making a partial call.

Please attend the St. John annual meeting at 10:00 am on Sunday, June 13, 2021 in the sanctuary.

Greg Buenger, Congregation President

COMPASSION FUND – We're back!!!!

The purpose of the Compassion Fund is to help struggling individuals and families with food when the cupboards are getting empty and/or gas to get to jobs or appointments. Many of us have had times when the month was longer than our paychecks were, or had unexpected expenses and the worry of how to pay that bill and still put food on the table.

It has been a real struggle for the volunteers working with the Compassion Fund, too. You have probably seen or heard of those in our community who are trying to make ends meet, who have had significant cut-backs to their income because of shut-downs or job loss, and those who have fought health issues and now have unexpected expenses – all because of a virus called Covid-19. And because of Covid-19 and the need to put health and safety concerns first, the Compassion Fund was temporarily unavailable to anyone. Our Compassion Fund is now able to begin helping those who are struggling in our community again. Finally.

But I am thankful, too – thankful for this outreach. The Compassion Fund has touched many lives in many ways that we will never understand.

I am thankful for the giving hearts of our congregation - The Compassion Fund is operated entirely from the contributions of our church members. I am so thankful to those who prayerfully and generously give to this outreach and have continued to do so even when we could not pay it forward these past months. Thank you.

I am thankful for the volunteers who give of themselves to visit with the people who are struggling and asking for help. These volunteers want to give their time to help in any small way they can. Thank you.

The Compassion Fund is a great way to start getting involved with volunteering. I would like to expand the list of volunteers I could contact to keep the Compassion Fund going in the future. Many hands make light work!! At present, the time commitment is 1 hour a week on Tuesday mornings. Right now, volunteers commit to a month at a time but that can change to meet the needs of the volunteers. Time is flexible, we may add extra days to our schedule and plan accordingly. Anything is possible! If you are being called to volunteer somewhere in some way, maybe this would be a good place to start.

If you would be interested in being a volunteer, please call the church office and leave your name with Kathy Hoeft at 641 228-3397. If you want to visit with me more about this opportunity, please give me a call.

Kathy Crooks
Compassion Fund
641 228-6927

HAPPENINGS...

Following CDC guidance,
masks are **NO** longer required for fully vaccinated people in the building.

However, those who are not fully vaccinated or at high risk from the COVID-19 virus are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.

Our Generosity in April

Everyone is welcome!

Your offerings to St. John were shared beyond our walls in April in the following ways:

8% of our regular March offering (\$2161.68) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In April (\$804.28) was designated for the Floyd County Rent Assistance Program that is being organized by Todd Pritchard. **Drive Through Communion June 6th 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. This will be the last scheduled time.**
Call the office at 641-228-3397 to schedule an appointment time with Pastor Russ or Pastor Anita if you would like to receive car side communion!

During the pandemic St. John had provided worship by video on our Website & YouTube.
Attendance at in person worship has been rising and it has been decided that starting in June we will provide videos 2 times per month.

Videos will be provided on June 13, June 27, July 11, July 25, August 1 & August 15.

The radio broadcast will continue EVERY Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Anniversary of Marriage - Recognition & Blessing

When a couple marries, a wide community of family and friends typically celebrates the relationship. However, the *anniversary* of this special day tends to be marked only by the couple themselves (with the exception of the 25th or 50th).

What's more, many wedding *ceremonies* are religiously affiliated, either through location in a church or by the presence of ordained clergy. But fewer and fewer couples are continuing to be part of a faith community *beyond* the wedding day.

This month at St. John, we want to lift up the gift of marriage within the worshipping community, recognizing God's ongoing presence in the years *after* the vows are taken, in the midst of all the ups and downs, offering our love and support as a congregation. That's why we're inviting anyone who is celebrating a wedding anniversary in 2021 that ends in a "0" (10, 20, 30 years and so on) to come to worship on Sunday, June 27 for a special gift and blessing.

Please respond to Pastor Anita by Sunday, June 20 if you're able to take part. pastoranita@outlook.com

~adapted from Milestones Ministry Manual: For Home and Congregation – Adult Milestones

People's Page...

June birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

6/1 Jim Gambaiani
6/4 Roger Jacobs
6/6 Bob Dight
6/15 Louis Streich
6/21 Clarice Leraaen
6/23 Lynn Poppen
6/24 Helen Schmidt
6/25 Shirley Hall
6/26 Mary Lindaman



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

June 26, 1948 Bob & Eunice Tommingo
June 30, 1957 Ron & Connie Rasmussen



After Worship Social Time!

Coffee & a treat will be served outside the Narthex doors each Sunday (weather permitting). Enjoy a moment to reconnect with each other!

With Sympathy...

The funeral of

James "Jim" Lyle Zirbel

Memorials were given in memory of...

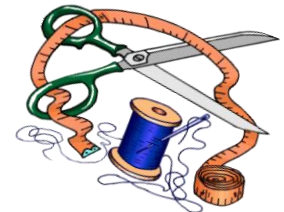
Sue Baron, Norma Breitbach, Helen Goplerud & Donn Schafer: Wanda Sprout

Arlene Tebben: Edna Stott

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.

Do Day Quilters

St. John has a group called "Do Day Quilters". They make tied quilts to donate to the local homeless shelters. They will begin meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (June 16) from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (bring a sack lunch). All are welcome to come! You don't need to be an experienced quilter to help out! If you are interested in joining the quilters, call Kathy in the office at 641-228-3397 for more information!



Vacation Bible School is coming July 26 - 29th!

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Who: Preschool age - 5th grade

Theme: "Rocky Railway - Jesus Loves to Pull Us Through"

Cost: Free! Thanks to Stewardship Board's Kans for Kids program!

Registration information will be available soon.

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...

*“I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.”*

Psalm 121:1-2

Blessings,

Laurie Heidebrink

FAMILY BOARD NEWS

The Family Board celebrated the women of St. John on May 9th. We were happy to hand out approximately 45 seed packets to all these women of God!

“God is in all creatures, even the smallest flowers.” – Martin Luther

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Board is sponsoring a youth service opportunity on Saturday, June 12, 2021 from 9-11am. We will be helping out at the Bayou Bend Park area. We invite our St. John Middle and High School students and any of their friends to meet at St. John at 8:45am and we will walk to the park area together and do some community service.

PARISH ED NEWS

SAVE THE DATES: July 26- 29 will be Vacation Bible School!

- Plan on having your kids attend from 5:30pm-7:30pm on Monday-Thursday!
- VBS is open to kids in Preschool-5th grades. We will serve a light supper for the kids each evening.
- Our theme this year is **“Rocky Railway – Jesus Love Pulls Us Through”**
- There will be no cost for VBS again this year. Look for registration information in the bulletins coming soon.

Be watching for our VBS donation requests coming this summer. I can’t thank this congregation enough for how supportive you are when we ask for supplies! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



St. John Christian Preschool...



It's hard to be unhappy when God blesses us with a beautiful springtime world! While it was sad to say good-bye to our little ones who are moving on to Kindergarten, it is a blessing to be able to continue touching the lives of new friends who will enter our preschool in the fall.

We are excited to welcome many of our preschool friends back for the afternoon MWF classes next year and are also anxious to meet many new friends. We do have openings in our program, but spots are filling up fast! Our **morning** class is open to any child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15, 2021. So please let us know if you or someone you know is looking for a preschool for his/her 3-year-old! Our **afternoon** classes (there is a 3-day and 5-day option) are open to any child who will be at least 4 on or before September 15, 2021. Please call the preschool (641-228-7274) if you would like more information.

We would also like to let everyone know that the preschool will be starting up our Kwik Star gift cards fundraiser at the end of July! We will have amounts from \$5-\$100. The preschool receives 5% of the card's face value. If you'd like to order any gift cards, please contact the preschool by calling the number found above or emailing us at wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com.

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 HIS Name,

Whittney Franke



Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day, listening to the murmur of the water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is by no means a waste of time. John Lubbock

June 2021 Schedule...

MONTHLY:

9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

June 6th: Drive Through Communion

June 23rd: Newsletter Deadline

BOARD MEETINGS:

Building & Grounds:	6/2	5:00 p.m.	
Council:	6/8	6:00 p.m.	
Communication:	6/21	6:00 p.m.	(Zoom)
Deacons:	6/6	11:30 a.m.	(Zoom).
Family Board	6/23	5:00 p.m.	
Finance Board	6/10	5:30 p.m.	
Parish Ed	6/2	5:30 p.m.	
Stewardship	6/15	2:30 p.m.	(Quade's)
Youth	6/9	5:00 p.m.	

Events of Note...

June 1st – 5:00 p.m. Communion givers meeting

Sunday, June 6th: Pastor Anita preaches

June 12th: Synod Assembly

June 13th: 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting in the Sanctuary

June 27th: Wedding Recognition Sunday



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Jim Gambaiani Mikaela Kreger	2 Melanie Johanningmeier	3 Mike Cotton Randy Evans Sara Titus	4 Roger Jacobs	5 Lindsay Wiltse
6 Angela Ayers Bob Dight Greg Heidebrink Morgan Kellogg Kash Kubik Roger Michael	7	8 Annemarie Hansen Jacob Vance	9 Janice Dana	10 Kyleigh McDonald	11	12 Alvin Marth
13	14 Linda Frascht	15 Joshua Johnson Louis Streich	16 Hallee Hoeft Tyler Parish	17	18 Kip Hauser Cory Marth	19 Isaac Oetken
20	21 Gary Dana Randy Heise Clarice Leraaen	22 Gavin Connell Quinn Heidebrink Jeremy Heyer Lorne Johnson Addison Tracey	23 Christian Kreger Sue McDonald Colleen Ortmyer Dennis Petersen Lynn Poppen	24 Sarah Bauer Mandi Sande Helen Schmidt	25 Shirley Hall Kay Slindee John Swiggum	26 Brent Hinz Tyler Kubic Brandi Lantz Mary Lindaman Kari Ungs
27 Dennis Brinkman	28 Sonja Cotton Benjamin Tracey	29 Wendy LaBarge Diane Sande	30 Madisyn Millermon Gary Quade			