

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

May 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 Anita Nuetzman:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Does anyone remember making May baskets? Maybe you still do! Until we moved back to Iowa from North Carolina in 1996, I'd forgotten all about it. So, I was caught totally by surprise when these little handmade creations filled with popcorn and candy suddenly began showing up at our door. The neighborhood children took great delight in ringing our doorbell and escaping unseen. But then, I remembered how we used to give them out when I was a kid. Some were plain; just a paper cup with a pipe cleaner handle. Others were more elaborate.

One year, my mom and I even crafted a squadron of tiny airplanes out of Life Savers, sticks of gum, and Tootsie Rolls.



How can such a simple gesture produce so much joy for both the giver and the receiver? Maybe it's because God's love is like those May baskets in some ways. We give it away, even though we're getting the same thing in return from one another, without keeping score.

The best part of the May baskets tradition was that it wasn't based on reciprocity, like so many other things are in our society, where we expect to get something in return for what we give. We didn't keep a list of who we got baskets from because we didn't know! So, it was never about who deserved to receive one; we just gave as many away as we could make!

Sometimes, I think we can get way too caught up in worrying about whether other people are worthy of receiving grace and love, in whatever form that takes. But, if we remember that we have received the very same grace and love from God, independent of our doing anything to deserve it, we are freed to experience so much more joy, both in giving and receiving.

***For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—
Ephesians 2:8 (NRSV)***

Thanks be to God! Happy May to all!
Pastor Anita



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HAPPENINGS...

In Person Worship...

St. John's in-person worship & communion on Sundays is at 9:00 a.m.

Reservations will NOT be required. Masks & social distancing will be required.

Come worship together and even *SING* a hymn or two!



“Drive Through Communion”

On May 2nd between 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.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.



Spring Cleanup Day!

Come join the Building & Grounds board on May 1st from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.! We plan to clean up leaves, sticks, and debris from the landscaping as well as remove the debris left over from the snow piles at the top of the parking lot. So grab your rakes/shovels & spruce up St. John for Spring!

Compassion Fund

Like a lot of things, the Compassion Fund was temporarily suspended because of Covid-19. It now appears safe enough to resume this ministry. With this thought in mind, we are going to reactivate this program on Tuesday, June 1, 2021.

Would you be interested in being part of this team? Time commitment is only an hour for each day the Compassion Fund is open, and we schedule things according to individual schedules. The more who are willing to help, the more flexibility we have!

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!

People's Page...

May birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

5/11 Marilyn Obermeier
5/16 Marilyn Scholle
5/22 Alvin Davidson
5/22 Edna Stott
5/26 Marjorie Gardner
5/26 Sandra Link
5/29 Herbert Hinz
5/31 Jerry Meader
5/31 Margaret Schultz



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

May 3, 1958 Leon & Shirley Hall
May 17, 1969 Sherman & Diane Loudermilk
May 28, 1960 Cal & Joyce Wood

Celebrating Baptisms...

Asher Gregory McDonald, April 18, 2021
Orlando Scott Schmidt, April 25, 2021

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021



RoseMarie Lou Baldus
Camryn Jill Connell
Ryan Delton Hallett
Josiah Glenn Hervert
Justin Harvey Heyer
Cameron James Kakac
Kayla RaeAnn Kellogg

Joshua Michael Laue
Cory James Marth
Madisyn Nicole Millermon
Danielle Taylor Reetz
Brianna Lee Ross
Sydney Marie Ross
Mandi June Sande

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (NIV)

Our Generosity in March

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

8% of our regular March offering (\$2437.41) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In March (\$756.87) was given to “Project Rise” a food assistance program for High School students.

The First Quarter 8% of the Thank Offering (\$2128.35) was designated to the following: \$1064.17 to the Messiah Food Pantry and \$1064.17 to the Floyd County Rent Assistance Program that is being organized by Todd Pritchard.

Youth & Families...

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ And he laid his hands on them and blessed them.”

Matthew 19:14-15

Blessings,

Laurie Heidebrink

GRADUATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 30, we will be celebrating with the St. John students who will be graduating this year.

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth Board is working on plans for some local service project days this summer for youth. Be watching for details!

PARISH EDUCATION

On **Sunday, May 23**, right after worship, the Parish Education board is hosting a **Sunday Fun-day!** We all miss the fellowship that being together during Sunday School brings, so we want to offer families a chance to get together to play some games, have some fun, and enjoy themselves on this Sunday morning at the church. There will be a variety of games in the parking lot for families to participate in from **10am-11am**. Please join us!

(And we'll be drawing a racetrack in the blue lot, so feel free to bring your RC, remote control, car if you have one!)

The last day of online Sunday School was Sunday, April 25th. The Parish Education board would like to thank all the parents who helped their children participate in online Sunday School classes.

VBS

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

- Registration will be online. Details on that will be coming in the near future.
- VBS is open to kids in Preschool-5th grades.
- Our theme this year is **“Rocky Railway – Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through.”**
- If you are interested in volunteering at VBS, please contact Laurie.



St. John Christian Preschool...



How quickly time can fly by!?! We have already made it through another great year at St. John Christian Preschool. Friday, May 7th will be our last day of the 2020-2021 school year. We are hoping to be blessed by some nice weather so that we can spend our last days of school outside enjoying God's beautiful world! As sad as it is to see our older friends go off to Kindergarten, we know that they will be given a whole new and exciting learning experience.

Our preschool friends ended their school year with a number of fun activities. All of our friends had a visit from the Police Department. We had the opportunity listen to the Officer Ollendick and we even got to see the inside of his police car! In addition, each class was able to make a special trip to the library. It is always fun to explore our town with our friends.

On our last day, we will be taking our younger friends to Andres Park for a day of fun. It is always remarkable to see how much fun little ones can have with nothing more than a large area of grass. From sidewalk chalk to kicking balls, we will have a great day. Our older friends are hoping to end the year with a field trip to Lion's Field Park. This is always a fun and exciting part of the year because EVERYBODY gets to ride the all-famous TAXI! ☺ We'll have to see what the weather holds!

We have, also, started to work on beginning plans for the 2021-2022 school year. We have been blessed with a great start to our registration and currently have openings in both of our 3/4-year-old classes and 4/5-year-old classes but are filling up. If you know someone who is interested in attending, please encourage them to call us at 228-7274. We thank God that our ministry dedicated to providing a loving, Christian, educational environment for little ones is still going strong and we thank you for helping us spread the word!

We would, also, like to thank all of you who purchased from our All-School Scratch Cupcake Fundraiser!! We appreciate all of your continued support for our program!

Lastly, we would like to let everyone know of a Retirement Card Shower we are throwing for our Foster Grandparent Evelyn Schmidt. Grandma Evelyn served SJCP as a Foster Grandparent for 30 years before her retirement in November 2020. Please shower her with retirement cards! She would love to hear from current and former students! Please send her a card to:

Evelyn Schmidt
39 Cedar Terrace South
Charles City, IA 50616.

Have a great summer and THANK YOU for all that you do!

With HIS love,
Whittney Franke

May 2021 Schedule...

MONTHLY:

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

1st Sunday, May 2nd: Drive Through Communion

May 19th: Newsletter Deadline

BOARD MEETINGS:

Building & Grounds: May 4, 5:00 p.m.
 Council: May 10 6:00 p.m.
 Communication: May 17 6:00 p.m. (Zoom)
 Deacons: May 9 10:00 a.m. (Zoom).
 Family Board May 19 5:00 p.m.
 Finance Board May 13 5:00 p.m.
 Parish Ed May 16 10:00 a.m.
 Stewardship May 18 2:30 p.m. (Quade's)
 Youth May 12 5:00 p.m.

Events of Note...

Sunday, May 9th: Family Board's Celebrating Women Day

May 23rd: Sunday Fun Day by the Parish Ed board

Monday, May 31: Office Closed.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Kiki Connell
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Anastasia Baldus Colton Baldus Wolfgang Baldus Kaleb Bilharz	Ellie Lantz	Jacob Greenzweig Hudson Hinz		Stacey Vance	Joseph Heidebrink	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Helen Lockwood	Amy Kubik	Brandon Franke Eric Johanningmeier Marilyn Obermeier Sara Sharp Michael Tracey Blair Walker	Jennifer Davidson Joel Holthaus Damon Sickman Larry Tommingo Roger Townsend	Joshua Dean	Larry Bohner Scott Vance	Bryce Caffrey Dennis Carr
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Kaleb Cotton David Schweizer Henry Sisson	Mary Augustin Brad Bailey Marian Dight Brinlee Merrifield	Larry Michehl	Martha Brunner Tyler Hicks Dorothy Parson	Joyce Boehmer Candice Lumley		Al Davidson Madilyn Lessin Edna Stott
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Addison Merrifield	Taylor Quade Wendy Vance Jeff Wink	Marjorie Gardner Russ Leeper Sandra Link	Matt Selvig Patricia Townsend	Brandon Castillo Deven Castillo	Herbert Hinz Tino Tamayo
30	31					
Jacqueline Moon Emma Prichard	Gaylen Hicok Randall Kreger Betty Manning Margaret Schultz					