

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

August 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

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## Pastor Russ Leeper :

As I write this, the Floyd County Fair has just ended. While walking around the fair this week and talking to one of our members who was about to participate in the Tuff Truck event, I was reminded of a story that we like to tell in my family.

It happened some years ago when my sister and her family attended the Dodge County Fair in Minnesota. They did all the usual fair stuff, rode on the rides, looked at the animals, ate lots of yummy and not-so-healthy food, and had a great time. But what made the day extra special was having tickets to the evening's main event ... the Demolition Derby!

Now, in case you've never been to a demolition derby, the basic idea is that old cars drive around, smash into other old cars, and whichever old car is still running at the end is the winner. The organizer of this particular derby, however, added a twist. Before the event began, a watermelon was placed on a stand in the middle of all the cars. Once the starting flag was waved, the driver that knocked the watermelon off the stand first won \$50.

Well, you can imagine the scene as the flag dropped and all those cars raced for the easy fifty bucks. There were cars ramming into each other left and right. The sound of loud, crashing metal and the smell of car exhaust filled the arena, until one lucky driver hit the watermelon and turned it into a pile of pink and green mush on the dirt track. At that moment our niece, Brittney, who was about seven years old at the time, let out a groan and sat down in her seat feeling a mixture of shock and anger. In an exasperated tone she said, "That's a waste of good watermelon!" She really loves watermelon and just couldn't understand why they would waste a perfectly good watermelon for a mere 50 bucks!

Did you know that each year in the United States we waste 60 million metric tons of food? I heard that statistic a few years ago at an ELCA National Youth Gathering. To put it into perspective, she told us that *that* much food would fill the football stadium we were sitting in to the brim 292 times! Whoa. She said that one third of the food produced in the world is never eaten and that all of the food wasted in the U.S. is enough to feed every single person who is hungry today. This time we were the ones sitting in our seats feeling a mixture of shock and anger. Hey! That's a waste of good watermelon ... and so very much more.

The speaker went on to tell us that hunger isn't caused by scarcity, it's caused by inequality. But her faith in the One who fed 5,000 people with 2 loaves and 5 fish and who rose from the dead gives her hope that, through Jesus and his Church, the impossible is possible. "We can end hunger!" she said, "Rise up and make a difference!"

This month we'll be re-starting the weekly Children's Offering for World Hunger. Each week, during the offering time, children (and adults) will once again be invited to come forward and put money into our special globe bank for ELCA Good Gifts. Before the pandemic we had collected \$1,430 in the Children's Offering! That was enough to buy farms for 2 families struggling with poverty. Because of our generosity in the Children's Offering, two families in the world received: a cow, 2 goats, 2 pigs, 12 chicks, seeds, farming tools, and training – enough to become self-sufficient farmers and to be able to share with neighbors! It makes my heart so happy to know that we at St. John, especially our kids, made that happen! I look forward to seeing kids of all ages starting to come forward again.

As we enjoy the remaining days of summer harvesting our gardens, picnicing at the campground, chowing down at food trucks, and enjoying the abundance that God gives us, may we also remember the 1 million people who are experiencing hunger today and Christ's call to His Church for us to each do our part to make hunger a thing of the past.

Peace,  
Pastor Russ



## OF NOTE...

### WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN

Worship service will remain at 9:00 a.m. for the foreseeable future. Parish Ed will determine the time for Sunday School. Council is excited about having a fuller sanctuary on Sundays and allowing the whole congregation to be able to enjoy choirs, children's presentations, and special music together. Plus, having one service will continue to foster the sense of community they've been trying to strengthen.

We will no longer have to wait to be ushered out of the pews at the end of service. There will not be a roped off area for social distancing. Also, children will be invited to come forward for Children's Sermon!

Starting in August, we will return to communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Parishioners will have the choice to receive communion up front or use the pre-packaged cups in the pews.

Worship videos will be provided on August 1 & August 15.

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

### **Our Generosity in June**

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

8% of our regular May offering (\$2666.45) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In June (\$701.51) was given to the Charles City Meals on Wheels.

**KANS FOR KIDS** – Wow! Has this ever turned out to be a super special outreach program. Your contributions have provided more than we ever could have imagined. We have received enough cans/bottles that we are able to provide enrollment support for all the children enrolled in our vacation Bible school program this year. That means VBS is FREE to all children who want to attend. How great is that? Thank you! If you haven't signed your children up yet – there is still time! It's a great experience for them as they learn about the love of our generous God and Father.

Please separate glass from cans. Throw tightly bound bags of cans over. However, glass bottles don't bounce! – Please sit them on the outside of the fence line. Please be considerate of the individual gathering your cans/bottles and the recycling people who need to sort them. Please contribute only return deposit items (no water bottles, please). We would ask that you not send us crushed cans. Please – no food waste. We have had cans mixed with food waste and that is not fun to deal with. At our last meeting it was decided that any bags containing food waste would be sent to the dump – regardless of how many cans or bottles are mixed in that mess. Thank you for all the support you have given with this Project. Stewardship Board

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### **God's Work. Our Hands: Coming Sunday, September 12**

On Sunday, September 12, members of St. John of all ages are invited to participate in God's Work, Our Hands Sunday. This event is held every year at ELCA congregations across the country. We'll have teams of St. John members head out into the community to serve in different ways. There will be sign-ups in the narthex so you can choose your opportunity to serve! More information to come, so watch the E-Skinny, bulletin, Facebook page, and announcements at church!

### **God's Work. Our Hands: The t-shirt!**

If you'd like to order a God's Work, Our Hands t-shirt, you'll be able to do so after church on Sundays, August 1, 8 and 15. They are \$7.75 each (and if you'd like to round up to \$8 and save the change, that's fine with us!). They will have our congregation's name on the back. You don't need to wear one of these t-shirts to volunteer that day, and if you aren't available on September 12, you can still order one!



## People's Page...

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

8/14 Ruth Farmer  
8/18 Delbert Ward  
8/18 William Hollar  
8/21 Diane Cross  
8/22 Elaine Eckebrecht  
8/23 Bob Friend  
8/27 Harlan Reints  
8/28 Rosie Pieper  
8/29 Marian Hoeft  
8/29 Arlene Hollar  
8/31 Helen Hagen  
8/31 Diann Jacobson



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

August 11, 1962	Al & Betty Manning
August 22, 1959	Lynn & Peg Poppen
August 23, 1969	John & Geneva Rima
August 26, 1967	David & Judy Wessel
August 28, 1965	Mike & Rebecca Panter
August 31, 1963	Roger & Shirley Regel

### **After Worship Social Time!**



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

### **With Sympathy...**

#### **The death of**

*Susan Kay Andresen Erickson, 7/7/21*

#### **The funeral of**

*Stephen Allen Martin, Sr., 7/10/21*

**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!

*Many thanks to everyone who remembered me on my 91st birthday. Thank you for the cards, gifts and coming to the party. It was an awesome day! I miss not seeing everyone, every Sunday morning. May God bless all of you, love Tilleen.*

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

*James Lyle Zirbel:* Leon & Jan Mulford

*Donn Schafer:* Karen Thomas

*Wendell Patten, Joey Patton Brennan, & Steve Patton:* Karen Thomas

*Katheryn Head:* Helen Schmidt family

*Susan Kay Erickson:* Karen Streich, Brenda de Buhr, Marilyn Isakson



The next meeting for the Sesquicentennial Committee will be Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:15 a.m. All are welcome to come!

### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month (August 18) 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!



## Youth & Families...

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

*Psalm 121:1-2*

Blessings,  
Laurie Heidebrink

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

Planning has begun for fall activities! We are planning to have Sunday School in person at 10am. We are planning to have our 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation students meet on Wednesday nights. We are planning to have After-School Program start up this fall. We are planning to work on getting youth group going. We are planning to have the meals and events we haven't had for so long. And I, for one, am loving all this planning!

### **CONFIRMATION**

Those students who have finished the third year of our confirmation program will be writing their personal faith statements to put on their display board for the Confirmation Fair on Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. The students will be receiving the information about these faith statements soon.

The congregation is invited to attend this event in the Parish Hall after supper to ask the confirmands about their faith boards. The writing of these faith statements will hopefully give the students an opportunity to reflect on what they have learned, what they believe, and how their faith will affect the way they live their daily life following Confirmation Sunday. The display boards will also contain some other information such as reflections on their baptism and their favorite service project.

Confirmation Sunday is October 10, 2021.

### **PARISH ED NEWS**

**July 26-29** was **VBS!** Our theme this year was **“Rocky Railway – Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through”**

We were so glad to be in-person and see the smiling faces of the **58** kids that attended from 5:30pm-7:30pm on Monday-Thursday evenings!

I can't thank this congregation enough for how supportive you are when we ask for supplies! We received **all** the supplies we asked for on our donation board! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

## Rally Sunday!



**Sunday, September 12!**



## St. John Christian Preschool...



We are off to explore another year, here at St. John Christian Preschool and we couldn't be more excited!

August is a busy month at the preschool. This year, on August 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding informational parent meetings for each age group. These meetings are great opportunities for question-and-answer sessions and for our families to get to know the other families that will be in their child's class.

August 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> are our "Get Acquainted" open house dates. These evenings are planned to allow our little ones to explore our center in the comforting presence of their families. They also get to drop off their school supplies, meet the teachers and take their school pictures. It's a busy evening but makes for a smooth start to our school year.

Just a quick note: Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic...we will be following St. John's current policy: Those not vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear a mask upon entering the building. Also, if you are not feeling well or are sick, please do not enter the building.

Our first day of school is August 30<sup>th</sup> and we are excited to be welcoming back some familiar faces and also some new faces to our center. We currently have a few spots available. If you know of someone still in need of a preschool for their little one (who is or will be turning 3 on or before September 15<sup>th</sup>), please give us a call at 228-7274 and we will do our best to help out!

In HIS Name,  
Whittney Franke



### *School Poem*

Today I hurry off to school,  
To work and learn and play  
I'm in a brand-new grade this year.  
What a happy day!!!!

## July 2021 Schedule...

### MONTHLY:

9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary  
Communion is the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

August 25<sup>th</sup>: Newsletter Deadline

### BOARD MEETINGS:

Building & Grounds:	8/3	5:00 p.m.	
Council:	8/10	6:00 p.m.	
Communication:	8/16	6:00 p.m.	(Zoom)
Deacons:	8/15	10:30 a.m.	
Family Board	8/11	5:00 p.m.	
Finance Board	8/12	5:30 p.m.	
Parish Ed	TBD	5:30 p.m.	
Stewardship	8/17	2:30 p.m.	(Quade's)
Youth	8/18	5:00 p.m.	

## Events of Note...

**Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>: Pastor Anita preaches**

August 13<sup>th</sup>: 9<sup>th</sup> St Chautauqua Worship Service

August 18<sup>th</sup>: Do Day Quilters, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

August 22<sup>nd</sup>: Anniversary Committee, 10:15 a.m.

August 30<sup>th</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> day SJCP



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Chad Kakac	<b>2</b> Elijah Lumley	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Alesia Garden Alyvia Vance	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Vicki Hoffman Linda Klemesrud
<b>8</b> Ali Blickenderfer Barbara Fuls Ann Prichard	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Gloria Frerichs	<b>11</b> Katie Hammond	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Daniel Caffrey Janet Petefish Laura Walker	<b>14</b> Olivia Ayers Ruth Farmer Karen Hagarty
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Tim LaBarge Joshua Laue Kathy Michael	<b>17</b> Katherine Prichard	<b>18</b> William Hollar Delbert Ward	<b>19</b> Doris Lovejoy Mary Mooberry	<b>20</b> Olivia Litterer	<b>21</b> Lenis Buseman Diane Cross Chris Garden
<b>22</b> Elaine Eckebrecht	<b>23</b> Karol Carpenter Bob Friend	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Kaleb Davis	<b>26</b> Mason Meyer	<b>27</b> Erin Gassman David Lindaman Shirley Regel Harlan Reints Alexis Vance	<b>28</b> Julie DeBower Stephanie Hanson Quincy Johnson Rosalie Pieper
<b>29</b> Marian Hoeft Arlene Hollar Jennifer Lessin	<b>30</b> John Marth	<b>31</b> Helen Hagen Diann Jacobson Jenette Kakac Jim Kreger				