

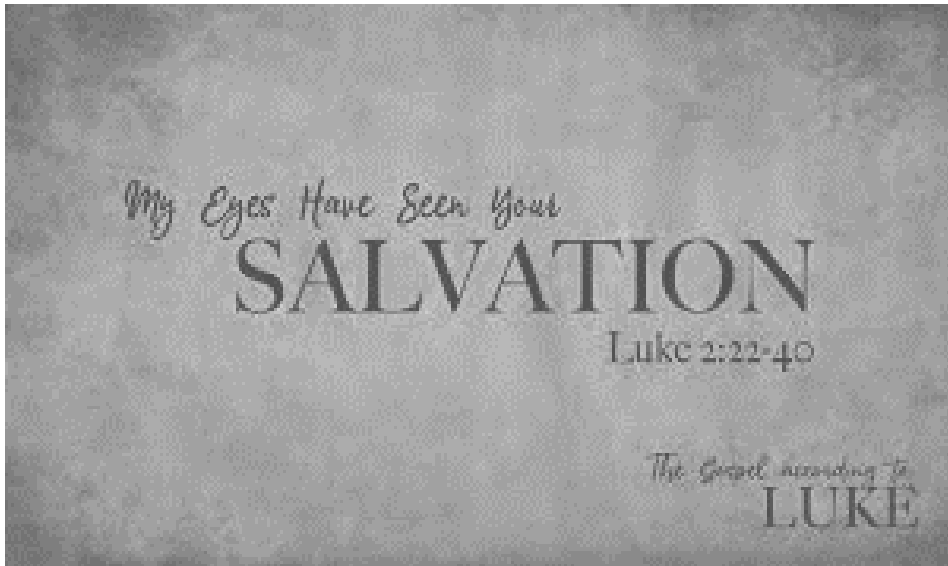


St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & Christian Preschool  
200 S Main St  
Charles City, Iowa 50616  
641-228-3397  
[www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)

Rev. Russ Leeper, Senior Pastor

Beth Hurt, Intern  
Melanie Johanningmeier, Director of Music

**Sunday, December 31, 2023**



**Luke 2:22-40**

Key: L = Leader, C = Congregation

***Prelude:***

**“Christmas Trilogy”**

***Welcome***

The Poinsettias on the altar are sponsored by Tilleen Litterer & Family in memory of Clarence Litterer.

***\*\*Additional Poinsettia Sponsor\*\****

Altar poinsettias are additionally be sponsored by Teri, Cameron, Jordan, and Payton in memory of Robert & Maxine Eggert and Barbara Eggert Hansen.

The radio broadcast is being sponsored by Kurt & Kathy Hoeft in memory of Wayne Hoeft.

***Invocation***

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

***Apostolic Greeting:***

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

***Hymn of Praise:***

**“EMMANUEL”**

Emmanuel, Emmanuel,  
His name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us,  
His name is called Emmanuel.

***Prayer of the Day:***

**Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

***Scripture Reading:***

**Galatians 4:4-7**

**Read by Kim Watkins**

<sup>4</sup>When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**“O Come, Little Children”**

O come, little children, come, one and come all,  
O come to the manger in Bethlehem’s stall  
And see what our Father in heaven above  
Has sent to us all on this earth with his love.

O see in the manger so meek and so mild,  
O see in the soft light the heavenly Child,  
In swaddling clothes folded, his beauty more sweet  
Than angels whose voices his lowly birth greet.

***Children’s Sermon***

***Gospel Song:***

**“Alleluia”**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia:



L: The Gospel of the Lord...

© Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon:

Beth Hurt, Intern

Song of the Day:

“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child” (Sing Two Times)

#297

Je - sus, Je - sus, oh, what a won - der - ful child.

Je - sus, Je - sus, so ho - ly, meek, and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis - ten to the an - gels sing: “Glo - ry, glo - ry,

glo - ry,” let the heav - ens ring!

## The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth,  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the  
Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,  
died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he  
ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come  
to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic  
church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the  
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The Prayers (L):* Lord in your mercy,

Response: **hear our prayer.**

*Please keep the following in prayer:*

Deb Watkins	Marilyn Isakson	Linda Girken	Gloria Frerichs
Jo Ann Knowlton	Bill Wohlers Jr.	Imani Sande	Carol Bauer
Ruth Farmer	Noa Mulholland	Don Knowlton	Scott Aspholm
Lorna Scrimger	Skip Ward	Marilu Wohlers	

**Please pray for all serving in the Armed Forces & their families:** Kaleb Bilharz, Mackenzy Bilharz, Tanner Evans, Kaylie Fox, Hannah Fox, Kim Hall, Daniel Jacobs, Cameron Kakac, Drew Roethler, Robson Shankland, Ben Hauser

*Det ki - mer nu til ju - le - fest, det ki - mer*  
 1 The bells of Christ - mas chime once more; the heav'n - ly  
 2 This world, though wide and far out - spread, could scarce - ly  
 3 Now let us go with qui - et mind, the swad - dled  
 4 Oh, join with me, in glad - ness sing, to keep our

*for den høj - e gæst, som steg til la - ve*  
 guest is at the door. He comes to earth - ly  
 find for you a bed. Your cra - dle was a  
 babe with shep - herds find, to gaze on him who  
 Christ - mas with our king, un - til our song, from

*hyt - ter ned med nyt - års - ga - ver: fryd og fred.*  
 dwell - ings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.  
 man - ger stall, no pearl nor silk nor king - ly hall.  
 glad - dens them, the love - liest flow'r of Jes - se's stem.  
 lov - ing souls, like rush - ing might - y wa - ter rolls!



*\*Response:*

**“Take Our Lives”**

Take our lives and let them be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
Take our moments and our days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take our love, oh Lord, we pour at your feet its treasure store;  
Take our lives and we will be ever yours eternally.

*The Lord's Prayer*

**Millenium Prayer**

**Video**

*The Benediction*

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

*Refrain*

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - ri - a

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

**L:** Go in peace. Share the Good News!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

**Postlude:**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & Christian Preschool  
200 S Main St Charles City, Iowa 50616; 641-228-3397

## December 31--January 7

Sunday	9:00 AM	Worship Service
	10:00 AM	After Worship Social Time
Monday		Church Closed

Sunday	9:00 AM	Worship/Communion
	10:00 AM	After Worship Social Time
	10:00 AM	Parish Ed

Offering from the week of:

**December 24, 2023**

General Receipts: 21,708.37

Designated: 415.00

**Total \$22,123.37**

*General Receipts of \$9,580.03 are needed weekly to meet the approved budget.*

**Sunday Attendance: 682**

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS**

**HELP NEEDED**

**in the kitchen during the months of  
February & March.**

**To Volunteer...**

**Contact: Shirley Holm OR Sandie Quade**

***The Church Offices  
will be CLOSED  
January 1st.***

## **ATTENTION!!**

January 6<sup>th</sup> @ 9AM  
Assistance "Un-decorating"  
the church would be greatly  
appreciated by anyone willing  
and able.

## **Will Not Have Any...**

***Wednesday Night  
Activities 1/3/24***

***Annual Meeting:  
January 28th***

## **Stephen Minister Training**

Stephen Minister Training will be happening at St. John on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 8:30 PM, starting January 16, 2024. The deadline for signing up is January 2nd. If you are interested in being a Stephen Minister or would like to learn more about it, please contact the church office and we will get you in touch with one of our Stephen Leaders

**Please help support...**

### **St. John Christian Preschool**

Purchase Kwik Star gift cards and the preschool receives 5% of the face value!!

Please contact Whitney or Toni if you are interested.



## **Mobile food pantry needs your help**



The Charles City mobile food pantry is an equal opportunity provider.



Delivery of food from the Northeast Iowa mobile food pantry by the St John bus is off to a wonderful start! This is a greatly needed service in our community because there are many people that qualify for food from the pantry but have mobility or transportation limitations and are unable to come to the fairgrounds to pick it up. Unfortunately, the St John bus is at its capacity and cannot fit anymore deliveries. There are many people on the waiting list. We are in need of people that can deliver food with their personal vehicles. The mobile food pantry is held the first Wednesday of the month at the Floyd county fairgrounds. Delivery vehicles will be loaded up at 6:00 pm. Deliveries are limited to within a 5 mile radius of Charles City. If you are interested in helping, call Jen Burton the mobile food pantry coordinator at 641-220-1769. Depending on the size of your vehicle, 2-4 households worth of food will likely fit in in a personal vehicle. Even if you are not able to deliver every month, we still can use your help. You do not need to be a St John member to help, anyone can help. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

## **Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcast 2024**

On the glass case in the Narthex are the 2024 sign-up sheets for Altar Flowers and the Radio Broadcast.

The radio broadcast is enjoyed by many of our St. John members who cannot watch it on YouTube or attend in person.

# GriefShare®

GriefShare is a 13-week grief support group that is beginning again at St. John. Join us to find help and encouragement after the death of a loved one.

Tuesdays at 6:30\*\*\*January 23 through April 16  
Register at [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) or call the church office at 228-3397.  
See Susan Leeper for more information.

***As precautionary steps for safety and security, we would like to ask all attendees and visitors of St John, to make sure you are locking your vehicles anytime you are inside the church.***

## After Worship Social Time

Coffee & a treat are served in the Parish Hall each Sunday!!

### \*\*\*Special Note\*\*\*

We need volunteers to sign up to bring treats. There is a sign-up sheet by the Narthex doors.

(To assist in planning for this...we currently plan for “approximately” three (3) dozen treats.)



## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

# Needs Your Help!

**We need adult & youth volunteers to help with snacks, crafts, and games on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 PM. If you're interested please contact Pastor Russ, Sarah Kendall, or the church office**