



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

Rev. Russ Leeper, Senior Pastor
Beth Hurt, Intern
Melanie Johanningmeier, Director of Music

Sunday, January 7, 2024
Baptism of Our Lord



Mark 1:4-11

Welcome

The flowers on the Altar are sponsored by Craig & Julie Begemann, in memory of Shirley Begemann.

The radio broadcast is sponsored by Karen Streich in memory of Loved Ones.

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness:

L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires know, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
 grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

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:

“Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord”

#875

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

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Prayer of the Day

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

Read by Kurt Hoeft

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

“This Little Light of Mine”

This little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I’m goin’ a let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’ a let it shine
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’ a let it shine
Ev’rywhere I go, I’m goin’ a let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’ a let it shine
Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’ a let it shine
Jesus gave it to me, I’m goin’ a let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Children’s Sermon

Gospel Song

“Alleluia”

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

L: The Holy Gospel according to **Mark 1:4-11**



Mark 1:4-11

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord...



Sermon

Pastor Russ Leeper

Song of the Day

“The Father’s House”

Video

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.**

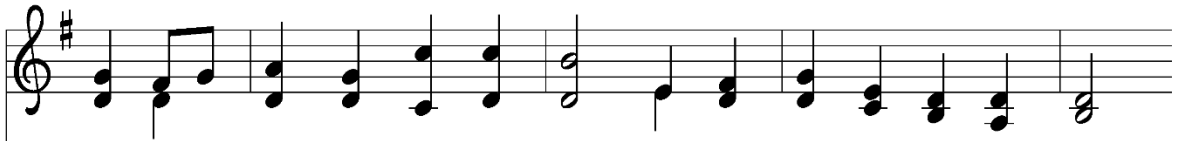
The Prayers (L): Lord in your mercy,
Response: **hear our prayer.**

Please keep the following in prayer:

Deb Watkins	Marilyn Isakson	Linda Girken	Gloria Frerichs	Yolanda Van Ausdall
Connie Swant	Bill Wohlers Jr.	Imani Sande	Carol Bauer	
Ruth Farmer	Noa Mulholland	Don Knowlton	Scott Aspholm	
Lorna Scrimger	Skip Ward	Marilu Wohlers	Axel Heller	

Let us remember the community of Perry, Iowa in our prayers.

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



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king,
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.



***Response**

“Feed Us Now”

Feed us now, Bread of life, In this holy meal;
Let us know your love a-new; We hunger for you.
Feed us now, Bread of life, Come and live with-in.
Let your peace be ours today, Lord Jesus, we pray

The Words of Institution

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Refrain
“Wade in the Water”

#459

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,
wade in the wa - ter, God’s a - goin’ - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader *All*

1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red, God’s a - goin’ - a trou - ble the
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4 If you don’t be - lieve I’ve been re - deemed,

wa - ter; the lead - er looks like the Is - ra - ’lite,
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led,
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me,
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan’s stream,

All *Refrain*

God’s a - goin’ - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

“Here Is Bread”

#483

Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.

Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.

Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us. Know his grace, find his peace,
Feast on Jesus here.

Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us. We'll proclaim till he comes
Jesus crucified.

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

#608

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”

Communion Blessing & Benediction

Sending Hymn

“God, whose Almighty Word”

#673



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Lord, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
wis - dom, love, might! Bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray,
in - ly blind: oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light!
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide,

L: Go in peace. Share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude:

“Marvelous Is Thy Name”

Robert Hughes



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 200 S. Main Street, Charles City, IA 50616; 641-228-3397

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
 LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 7--January 14

Sunday	9:00 AM	Worship/Communion
	10:00 AM	After Worship Social Time
	10:00 AM	Sunday Morning Schedule
	10:00 AM	Parish Ed
Monday		Cub Scouts
Tuesday	5:00 PM	Finance Board
	6:00 PM	Council
	6:00 PM	Building & Grounds
Wednesday		Wednesday Night Activities
		<i>EXCEPT : Choir (Starts back next Wed.)</i>

Sunday	9:00 AM	Worship
		Adult Affirmation of Baptism
		Possibly Installation of Stephen Ministry Leaders
	10:00 AM	After Worship Social Time
	10:00 AM	Sunday Morning Schedule
	10:10 AM	Deacons
		Annual Report Distribution

Wednesday Night Schedule

3:30 PM After School
 5:00 PM Supper
 6:00 PM Confirmation
NO CHOIR CLASSES this week...

January 10:
 Pulled Pork
 Sandwiches,
 Baked Beans,
 Bars

Offering from the week of:

December 31, 2023

General Receipts:	\$13,500.90
Designated:	\$2,850.00
Total	\$16,350.90

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

Sunday Attendance: 104

Annual Meeting: January 28th

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS

HELP NEEDED
in the kitchen during the
months of
February & March.
To Volunteer...

Contact: Shirley Holm OR
Sandie Quade

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



Charles City Community Blood Drive
 Messiah Lutheran Church
 703 3rd Ave. | Charles City
Tuesday, January 9
 12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Text: 419.631.9997 // Call: 800.267.4905 Visit: lifeserve.org/schedule

LifeServe
 YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBORS.

KWIK TRIP

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 or away from your vehicle.

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 or call the church office at 228-3397.
See Susan Leeper for more information.



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

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")

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.