



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  
Cherie Schafer, Pianist

**March 19, 2023; Fourth Sunday in Lent**



**John 9:1-7**

*Prelude:*

*Welcome*

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

Thank you, Sandy Hicks, for providing the treats for the After Worship Social time in the Parish Hall!

*Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness:*

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: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

*Gathering 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,

*Apostolic Greeting:*

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

Response: **And also with you.**

*Prayer of the Day*

**Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Reading*

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

*Read by Susanne Hawke*

<sup>8</sup>For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

**“Jesus Loves Me”**

Jesus loves me this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so,  
Little ones to Him belong,  
They are weak but He is strong.

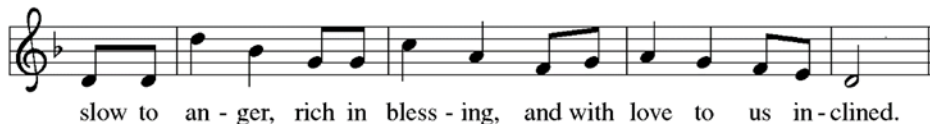
**Refrain:** Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me,  
Yes, Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me He who died  
Heaven’s gate to open wide  
He will wash away my sin,  
Let his little child come in. **Refrain**

Jesus loves me! He will stay close beside me all the way;  
When at last I come to die, He will take me home on high. **Refrain**

*Children’s Sermon*

*Lenten Acclamation:*



*P: The Holy Gospel according to John 9:1-7*





1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

\*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 Communion*

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.**

*The Distribution*

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

#471

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

#631

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

“Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

#656

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Communion Blessing & Benediction

Sending Hymn:

“Be Thou My Vision”

#793

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

*P:* Go in peace and share the Good News!

**Thanks be to God!**

*Postlude:*





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

**March 19 - March 26**

Sunday	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship/Comm</b>
	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	Adult Bible study
Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Stewardship board
	6:00 p.m.	Finance board
	6:30 p.m.	Preschool board
	6:30 p.m.	Grief Share
	7:00 p.m.	Council
Wednesday	4:30 p.m.	Supper
	4:30 p.m.	Family board
	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lenten Worship</b>
	6:15 p.m.	Trinity Choir
Sunday	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	10:05 a.m.	Education Hour
	11:30 a.m.	Ladies Luncheon

**Adult Bible study meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel!**

**Grief Share Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. In the Chapel**

**After Worship Social Time!** Coffee & a treat are served in the Parish Hall each Sunday! If you would like to volunteer to bring the treats, there is a signup on the treat table!

Wednesday Night suppers during Lent will be from **4:30 – 5:30 p.m.**  
**Menu for March 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Chili, relishes, cheese sandwiches, brownies  
 Cost: \$5.00 for adults, children through 12<sup>th</sup> grade free thanks to Kans for Kids

**Mid-Week Lenten Services 2023**

**“The Last Words of Christ”**

We will focus on Jesus’ last words on the cross, woven together with encounters Jesus had with others in His ministry. Each week we’ll read scripture, sing, watch a short video drama, and hear a devotion on that week’s theme. **Worship service is at 5:30 p.m.**

*March 22 – “Third Word from the Cross: John the Beloved”*  
*John 19:23-37*

**REMINDER:** Those students attending a Lutheran college who would like to receive an EPIC grant must notify the church by **May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

St. John scholarship applications for non-Lutheran colleges can be emailed to you and should be emailed to the office by **May 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**The Annual Ladies Luncheon** will be Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall

The theme this year is *Under His Wing!*

The Family Board invites all the ladies & their friends to join in this fun event. There will be lunch, dessert, a short program and a pretty “Photo Booth” to snap a few cute pictures of your group!

Tickets are \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for ages 6-18, & under 6 free.

**YOUTH PALM/PASSION SUNDAY BREAKFAST**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup> - from 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

Menu: eggs, ham, hash browns, pancakes, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk, and coffee  
 (Free will donation goes to youth serving the breakfast.)

### Easter Lilies

If you would like to donate towards the Easter lilies for Easter Sunday let the office know at 641-228-3397 by April 3<sup>rd</sup>.



### Offering from the week of

**March 12, 2023**

General Receipts: \$4,818.20

Designated: \$370.00

**Total \$5,188.20**

**March 1, 2023** \$282.00

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

**Sunday Attendance 134**

**March 15, 2023 77**

**Family Board's Easter Egg hunt will be April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall!  
Donations of wrapped candy to fill the eggs would be greatly appreciated!**



**WIYLDE registration forms** are available in Laurie's office for any 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade St. John student wishing to attend. WIYLDE will be held this year at EWALU from June 19-22. **Registrations are due to St. John by May 25<sup>th</sup>** so we have time to get them mailed in by the 30<sup>th</sup>.

### St. John Lutheran Church Secretary Opening

St. John Lutheran Church and Christian Preschool in Charles City, IA is seeking a qualified person to assume the position of Church Secretary.

#### Position:

- Part time: 20 hours a week
- Responsibilities: provide receptionist services for the church office, provide secretarial services for the church, produce weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters, and manage the church's website and other electronic media
- Compensation: Hourly compensation will depend on experience and qualifications and will be in the range of \$18-\$22 per hour
- Application Deadline: March 31, 2023
- Start Date: April 11, 2023

To see a complete job description, use the QR code provided or go to [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)

If interested, please email your resume to [rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com) or bring it to the St John Lutheran Church office. Office hours are 9 AM to 1 PM, Monday – Friday. We're located at: 200 South Main, Charles City, Iowa 50616. Phone: (641) 228-3397

