

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



2022



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 is now live streamed &
can be viewed on our website or the St John
Charles City YouTube channel
& will be broadcasted live on
KCHA FM 95.9 at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

The live broadcast is also recorded and is
available on the St. John website & YouTube

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

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com
Teacher: Carleen Laue



Pastor Russ Leeper :

When my sister, Louanne, was a teenager she did a lot of babysitting, and she was good at it. Parents, of course, like to pass on to their friends the name of a good babysitter when they've found one. So, sometimes my sister would get calls from parents she didn't know who wanted her to babysit. It was on one of those occasions when my sister found herself watching out the front window and waiting for a stranger to come pick her up. All she knew was that a mother would be there in a van to get her around 6:00 p.m.

Just a little before 6:00 a van pulled up into the driveway. My sister yelled "Good-bye!" and ran out the door. She opened the van door, got into the passenger seat, and closed the door. She turned to the driver's side and saw a woman sitting there with a very confused look on her face.

"What do you want?" asked the woman in a slightly panicked voice.

"I'm your babysitter," said my sister.

"I don't know what you're talking about," said the woman, "I just pulled in here to turn around."

Can you imagine how surprised Jesus' disciples must've been when he appeared to them after the resurrection? They had seen him die with their own eyes. They were devastated. Yet, there he was... right next them! The good news of Easter is not only that Jesus is alive... but that he's alive and with us!

And, like a surprise babysitter hopping into the seat next to you, Jesus shows up when we least expect him: in our lowest moments and our deepest hurts. Jesus is there to bring new life and resurrection. He comes to heal our wounds, calm our fears, listen to our anger... and, ultimately, to raise us from death. This is information that's worth passing on, like a good babysitter!

Why not invite your friends to worship with us this Easter? They don't even need to get a babysitter because kids are always welcome! Don't have any friends? Then invite a stranger! Hey... I think I see someone pulling into your driveway now. Maybe you can catch them before they turn around!

Peace,
Pastor Russ

COUNCIL NOTE...

March Council Highlights:

- Opened up conversation on possible RAGBRAI events that the church could be involved in and will see further ideas at the All-Aboard Meeting.
- Approved Personnel Committee to begin creating necessary forms and processes to fulfill the requirements of the Employee Handbook.
- Continued discussion on installing an elevator in the church and possible other capital improvements that may be needed on campus in the coming years. A small committee will be formed to look further into elevator costs.
- Donated our Monthly Benevolence to the recovery efforts after tornadoes struck in Iowa's Madison County area.
- The 150th Anniversary Committee will be holding a Pastor Sunday event on Sunday May 15th! Mark your calendars!

Thank you and please let us know if you have any thoughts, questions, concerns, etc.

-St. John Lutheran Church Council

APRIL ACTIVITIES...



Holy Week & Easter 2022

Sunday, April 10 – Palm Sunday

9:00 a.m. Worship

Thursday, April 14 – Maundy Thursday

5:30 p.m. Worship/Comm

Friday, April 15 – Good Friday

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 17th – Easter Sunday

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. Worship/Comm



Family Board's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16, 9:00 a.m.

St. John Parish Hall

Children up through 5th grade
& their families!

Crafts, activities & egg dyeing

(Donations of wrapped Easter candy by
the congregation would be appreciated!)

YOUTH PALM/PASSION SUNDAY BREAKFAST

April 10th - from 8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

**Menu: eggs, ham, hash browns,
pancakes, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk,
and coffee (Free will donation)**

"In your Easter Bonnet with all the frills upon it."



Just giving you a heads up. The 150th Anniversary Committee is hoping that the congregation will join us for an old-fashioned Easter on Easter Sunday. In preparation for this we intend to hand out Easter hats to our young girls and bow ties to our young boys on Palm Sunday so you can get ready for Easter. We will distribute them as long as our supply lasts. We are hoping our more adult members will find a hat and anything else you feel is fun for an Easter outfit. Remember the white gloves and pretty purses we got all gussied up with as kids?

We don't expect everyone to partake of this retro Easter, but it will be fun to see what we come up with. If you want to pick an era or have an outfit that reflects memory from the past, we will appreciate the effort.



OF NOTE...

“Save the Date”

As part of our 150th anniversary celebration, on **May 15** we will be celebrating former pastors, visitation pastors, interns and Son's of the Ministry (there are no daughters) from our congregation. There will be at least two former pastors here with a possibility of more. We have some letters from those that aren't able to attend and possibly videos from some. A photo display of the Pastors will also be presented in the Narthex for your viewing. A special coffee reception for the pastors will follow the service. We hope many people will attend.

We will also be remembering the 1968 Tornado since that was May 15, 54 years ago. We plan on a presentation of pictures and video from the time and a reading of Pastor Trost's (1964-1969) remembrances of that date and the weeks after. A very interesting manuscript.

St. John T-Shirts

The Youth Board is selling St. John T-shirts! \$12 for Youth sizes and \$15 for adult sizes.

They are bright blue, short-sleeve t-shirts with the St. John logo in white on the front.

Pick up an order form on the bulletin board outside Laurie's office, fill it out, and turn it in to Laurie or Kathy by **May 11, 2022**.

Payment is due when placing the order. Profits from this sale will go to the Youth Board.

We will let you know when t-shirts arrive and can be picked up at St. John.



Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcast

Call the office at 641-228-3397 to sign up to sponsor Altar flowers &/or radio broadcasts in 2022. We have many radio dates open. Several of our members can only listen to the radio and do appreciate being “a part” of the service as a listening member.

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, please sign up on the chart just inside the doors on the table or call Kathy in the office. What you choose to bring for a treat is entirely up to you! Coffee & napkins are provided by St. John.

Wednesday Night Suppers in April:

April 6: Pork loin, au gratin potatoes, glazed carrots, lettuce salad, ice cream

April 20: Goulash, rolls, corn, fruit, butterscotch dessert

April 27: Chicken casserole, cottage cheese, cake

People's Page...

April birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

4/2 Georgie Miller
4/2 Myron Leraaen
4/3 Russell Frascht
4/8 Marcia Olesen
4/10 Elsie Ferguson
4/11 Joyce Wood
4/14 Connie Rasmussen
4/16 Beverly Sears
4/17 Harlyn Kolb
4/20 Leon Hall
4/24 Dorothy Watson
4/26 Marilyn Kolb



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

4/20/1963 Donald & JoAnn Knowlton
4/26/1959 Rodney & Ruthanne Ellis

Celebrating!

The baptisms of...
Emmitt Lee Marten, 3/13/2022
Henry Marvin Page, 3/20/22

With sympathy, the funerals of:

Richard "Dick" Arthur Heitz, 3/11-2022
Jeanne Pietan Rowe, 3/24/2022

Memorials were given in memory of...

James Joe Jensen: Kip & Judy Hauser

Robert Dight: Leona Howe, Peg Poppen

Helping Hands has about 20 people ready, willing, and able to help run errands, do minor household help, and provide transportation. If you need any of these services, please call Kathy at the church office during regular business hours. Someone will contact you within 48 hours of receiving the message to make arrangements to help. We will continue this ministry as long as we have volunteers to serve.

Our Generosity in February

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

8% of our regular December offering (\$2089.48) went to support the mission of the larger church.
2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In January (\$667.49) was given to the Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless in Mason City.



Youth & Families...

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goes out from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish My purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:10-12

Blessings,
Laurie Heidebrink

YOUTH NEWS

The Youth will be hosting a **Palm Sunday Breakfast** on April 10th. We will be serving from 8:00am-11:30am. The menu is eggs, ham, hash browns, pancakes, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk and coffee. Put this on your calendars now and plan on attending! All free-will donations will go into the individual accounts of the youth working at this event.

Summer Mission Trip 2022 – We will be going to the **Badlands of North Dakota July 5-9, 2022**. This trip is open to St. John students that have completed 6th-12th grades and their friends. Get these days on your calendar now and be watching for additional information in upcoming newsletters, bulletins, etc.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesday, April 20th at 6pm.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Well, the After School Program will soon be starting back up after taking some time off for Lent. We will meet starting the Wednesday after Easter from 3:30-5pm on the third floor. We will wrap up our year on April 27th.

FAMILY BOARD

The Family Board will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 16th** for children up through 5th grade & their families! There will also be a few crafts & other activities, including some hard-boiled eggs to color. The fun begins at **9:00 a.m.** in the Parish Hall!

BIBLE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Just a reminder that St. John offers scholarships for all our youth members attending a Christian camp. Scholarships are offered in the amounts of \$25 for a one-day camp, \$50 for camps lasting 2-3 days, and \$150 for camps lasting 4-7 days. Just bring in a copy of your registration to the Business Office for a reimbursement.

PARISH EDUCATION NEWS

The PreK-6th grade Sunday School students will be singing on Easter Sunday, **April 17th at the 10:00am** worship service.

The PreK-2nd grade Sunday School students will be singing during the 9:00am worship service May 1st (which is our last day of Sunday School.)

SAVE THE DATES: VBS - Tuesday through Friday, June 14-17, 2022. We would love to have your kids attend Tuesday-Friday evenings! Look for more information in the upcoming bulletins and newsletters. If you are interested in volunteering with VBS, please contact Laurie.





St. John Christian Preschool...

"We all clap and sing. The stone is rolled away,
Jesus is alive and He is with us everyday!"

Spring greetings from your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! Our little ones have been excited to see the signs of spring around our community. It is truly refreshing to see the hope in the eyes of our young friends when the warm weather starts to arrive and we FINALLY get to go outside and play! It is hard to imagine that we are getting close to the end of another great year at St. John Christian Preschool. The time has gone by so fast!

Our year is quickly winding down to a close, but we are still very busy at SJCP. We have been doing many fun activities with the letters H, F, L, & J. We also had biweekly themes of Community Helpers, Dinosaurs, and Fairytales/Dragons! All the little ones got to easel paint, which is always a class favorite. It won't be too long until we conclude our year-long study of the alphabet.

We will be taking all of our friends on a walk through the church the week before Easter and introduce the concept of Good Friday to them. We are excited to take that same walk on the Monday following Easter to celebrate our Risen Savior and to notice the differences in our church.

We are currently running our All-School Fundraiser. We are selling Scratch Cupcakes! Mmmmm! ☺ This fundraiser will run until Friday, April 1st. Delivery will be Thursday, April 21st from 3:30-5:00pm. **This current fundraiser will directly benefit the school, as a whole, by allowing us to purchase many supplies and equipment for all the children to use.** We are hoping to update and/or replace some of our more "loved" toys and books.

Any remaining profit will also help with the basic funding of our program!

Our goal is to raise at least \$2,000. The items are between \$15-\$20 and we earn 40% on all the orders. We know sometimes it gets overwhelming with all of these fundraisers, so if you would like to pass on purchasing an item, but would still like to help us reach our goal, please feel free to give a monetary donation. Either way, we greatly appreciate your support!

We currently have openings left for the 2022-2023 school year. Children who will be 3 on or before September 15 and all children 4 and 5 years old are welcome. A minimum registration fee of \$30 is due at time of registration. Scholarships are available. Please call 228-7274 or stop by the preschool for more information on the current enrollment.

With HIS love,
Whittney Franke

April 2022 Schedule...

Sundays: 9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
Communion is the 1st & 3rd Sunday
10:05 a.m. Education Hour
10:15 a.m. Adult Bible study in the Chapel

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Apr 6: 5:30 p.m. Worship
Apr 10: Palm Sunday
8:00 – 11:30 a.m. Youth Palm Sunday Breakfast
Apr 14: Maundy Thursday
5:30 p.m. Worship/Comm
Apr 15: Good Friday
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae service
Apr 16: 9:00 a.m. Family board Easter Egg hunt
Apr 17: EASTER SUNDAY
8:00 a.m. Worship/Comm
10:00 a.m. Worship/Comm
Apr 20: Newsletter Deadline
9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters

Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds: 4/5 6:00 p.m.
 Council: 4/12 6:00 p.m.
 Deacons: 4-10 11:00 a.m.
 Family Board 4/16 10:00 a.m.
 Finance Board
 Parish Ed 4/3 11:00 a.m.
 Stewardship 4/12 2:00 p.m.
 Youth 4/10 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night Activities...

Lent Wednesday
 4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Supper
 5:30 p.m. Worship
 6:30 p.m. Trinity Choir

Starting April 20th
 3:30 p.m. After School
 5:00 p.m. Supper
 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
 7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir



APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Colton Crooks	Myron Leraaen Georgena Miller
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Imhuicha Bohner Russell Frascht Megan LaBarge	Richard Harrington Marilyn Venz	Greig Grimm Sarah Murray	Becky Carr Colin Johanningmeier Shirley Platte	Blake Dean Cooper Holm Carter Johanningmeier	Linda Hoy Marcia Olesen	Curt Hallet
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Al Brandau Elsie Ferguson Diane Loudermilk Keith Westergard	Brian Voelker Joyce Wood	Bennett Hansen Ann Kabele		Sydney Hinz Laker Kubik Connie Rasmussen	Owen Prichard Tammy Quade	Beverly Sears
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Harlyn Kolb	Cameron Hanson Carter Hanson Pamela Lumley Shannon Venz	Linda Hughes Kaylie Keyes	Sally Gilliland Leon Hall Donaven Sande Emilee Sande	Jodi Heyer	Cora Crooks Callie Hammond	Kaylee Michael
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Dorothy Watson	Jessica Hoeft Abigail Lacour Heidi Nielsen Darci Tracey	Marilyn Kolb Oaklynn Nordmeyer Beckett Unga		Dennis Kreger	Paul Augustin	Bruce Boerschel