

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



2023



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 broadcasted on
KCHA FM 95.9 at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

St. John Christian Preschool
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Preschool Director: Whittney Franke
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Pastor Russ Leeper:
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Beth Hurt, Intern

Office Secretary: Kathy Hoeft
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Music Director:
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Youth & Family Coordinator:
Laurie Heidebrink
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Custodian: Jamie Carolan
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Russ Leeper :

One of the great things about being a pastor is getting to interact with the little kids. Whether it's during the children's sermon, Vacation Bible School, or just greeting them at the door, it's always a surprise what they'll do. Some days they're quiet and scared. Other days they'll speak to me so quickly and excitedly about their Sunday School class or stuffed animal that I just can't figure out what they're saying. And still other days they'll walk up to me with a very serious look on their face, shake my hand with their own little hand and say, "Good morning, Pastor," just the way they've watched their parents do it week after week.

A mother once told me that as her family was eating dinner one night, their three-year-old son suddenly looked up from his spaghetti and announced, "Pastor Russ makes his own shoes!" Now, I have never made my own shoes, nor have I ever claimed to make my own shoes. When his parents quizzed him as to why he thought that I made my own shoes, he was unable to explain. Maybe he had dreamed it. Maybe he had imagined it. Or maybe he just made it up for a joke. Either way, I took it as high praise that he had welcomed me in to become part of his inner life and thinking. And I was amazed that I would be so much a part of his life even though he had only ever interacted with me in the children's sermons and at the church door.

We have a greater effect on the people around us than we realize ... especially the children. We have a wonderful group of kids here at St. John. They're crazy and loud sometimes, quiet, and shy other times, and on occasion, deep and thoughtful ... just as children should be. And as members of their church, you're part of their lives. You may mean more to them than you think. So, make sure you take the time to talk to them, play with them, or just give a friendly smile. Who knows ... they might even make up a story about you. Wouldn't that be nice?

Peace,
Pastor Russ



Holy Week 2023...

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2, 2023; Worship: 9:00 a.m.

Youth Palm/Passion Sunday breakfast
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.)

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023

Worship at 5:30 p.m.

“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.

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023

“Fifth Word from the Cross: Matthew”

John 13:3-5, 12-15, 34-35; John 19:28-30

Worship at 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7, 2023

“Sixth Word from the Cross: The Sinful Woman”

John 1:1-5, 9-14a; John 18-19

Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Family Board's Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8, 9:00 a.m.

St. John Parish Hall

Children up through 5th grade & their families!

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



Of Note...

After Worship Social Time
has been an enjoyable way to reconnect with
each other! Coffee & a treat are served in the
Parish Hall each Sunday!

Wednesday Night Supper

Menus will be published weekly in the
bulletin and on the front page of the St. John
website.

Cost: \$5.00 for adults, children through 12th
grade free thanks to Kans for Kids

Donations are always needed for the Blessing Box! Items should be weather appropriate, non-perishable food and personal items. You can put your items in the Blessing Box outside the East door or bring to the office.

GriefShare at St. John

GriefShare provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. Sessions will be led by St. John members in a warm, caring environment. **GriefShare is at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday for 13 weeks. There is no cost to attend.**

You are welcome to begin attending our GriefShare group at any point. Each session is self-contained, so you don't have to attend in sequence. You will be able to pick up any sessions you missed in our next 13-week cycle. You can learn more about GriefShare at **www.griefshare.org**.

This I Know

by an Unknown Poet

I do not know what next may come,
Across my pilgrim way;
I do not know this next year's road,
Nor see beyond today;
But this I know, my Savior knows
The path I can not see
And I can trust His wounded hand
To Guide and care for me.

I do not know what may be mine
Of glowing skies' or rain;
I do not know what may befall
Of pleasure or of pain;
But this I know – My Father sends
My sunshine and my shade
And naught that comes from out His love
Can make my soul afraid.

I do not know what may await,
Or what this next year brings
But with a glad salute of faith
I hail its opening wings
For this I know – that in my Lord
Shall all my need be met;
And I can trust the heart of Him
Who has NOT failed me yet.



People's Page...

April birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

4/2 Georgie Miller
4/2 Myron Leraaen
4/3 Russell Frascht
4/4 Richard Harrington
4/8 Marcia Olesen
4/11 Joyce Wood
4/14 Connie Rasmussen
4/16 Beverly Sears
4/17 Harlyn Kolb
4/20 Leon Hall
4/20 Mariel Hawke Kilby
4/24 Dorothy Watson

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

4/7/1973 Randy & Jean Evans
4/7/1973 Ron & Marilyn Venz
4/20/1963 Donald & JoAnn Knowlton
4/26-1959 Rodney & Ruthanne Ellis

St. John Helping Hands...

If someone needs help with in-town transportation, light household chores, changing a lightbulb, etc. call St. John at 641-228-3397 & help will be arranged for you!

Celebrating the baptism of:

Ripp William Nordmeyer, 3/5/23



With sympathy, the deaths of:

Donna Mae Field Stewart, 2/26/23
Allen Roger Cross, 3/18/23

Acolytes for April 2023

Sundays...

Apr 2 - 30: Ian Hallett, Brady Hansen

Apr 9: Easter Sunday

8:00 a.m. Simon Schmidtke,

Emilee Sande

10:00 a.m. Blake Dean

Maundy Thursday...

April 6: Carson Holm, Cooper Holm

Good Friday...

April 7: Simon Schmidtke

Memorials were given in memory of...

David Hagen: Gary & Sandie Quade, Peg Poppen, Lola Vest, David Ripley, Kay Tjaden, Kip & Judy Hauser, Bob & Bev Friend, Gene & Ina Heitz, T. Stafford, M & D Chapman, C & M Kastler

Donna Mae Field Stewart: Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall, Cal & Joyce Wood, Peg Poppen, Kay Tjaden, Karen Streich, Leon & Jan Mulford, Dennis & Jan Brinkman, Alice Kurmwiede

Randall Dean Kreger: Gary & Sandie Quade, Marlene Holthaus, Leon & Jan Mulford, Chris & Lisa Garden, Myron & Clarice Leraaen, Kent & Lorie Hoeft, Bob & Bev Friend, Gene & Ina Heitz

Lester Hobert: Kurt & Kathy Hoeft

Carl Johnson: Georgie Miller

Jack & Norma Kamm: Marlene Holthaus

Tom Winterink, Marcus Quade, Julius Bryant, Gaylord Winfield: Carol Quade

Elaine Eckebrecht: Marty & Sandy Hicks, L. Kamm

Jana Zilm: Larry & Sondra Coen

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 2nd. 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 go into the individual accounts of the youth working at this event.

Summer Mission Trip 2023 – We will be going **to the Duluth area 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 12th 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 26th.

FAMILY BOARD

The Family Board will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 8th** 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

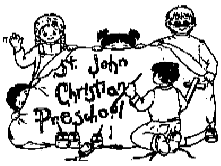
Just a reminder that St. John offers scholarships for all our youth members attending a Christian camp. Scholarships are offered in the amounts of \$25 for a one-day camp, \$50 for camps lasting 2-3 days, and \$150 for camps lasting 4-7 days. Just bring in a copy of your registration to the Business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

PARISH EDUCATION NEWS

The PreK-6th grade Sunday School students will be singing on Easter Sunday, **April 9th at the 10:00am** worship service.

SAVE THE DATES: VBS - Monday through Thursday, June 26-29, 2023. 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 every day!"

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 V and E. We also had a unit on the water cycle and our older friends had a 4-week water study! 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, March 31st. Delivery will be Thursday, April 20th from 3:30-5:00pm. 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 would also like to remind everyone that the preschool still sells Kwik Star gift cards. Please stop down or call if you are interested in purchasing a gift card (228-7274.) The preschool receives 5% of the card's face value.

We currently have openings left for the 2023-2024 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 2023 Schedule...

Sundays:	9:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
		Communion is the 1st & 3rd Sunday
	10:05 a.m.	Education Hour
Tuesdays	6:30 p.m.	Grief Share
Maundy Thursday,	5:30 p.m.	Worship/Communion
April 6		
Good Friday,	7:00 p.m.	Tenebrae service
April 7		
Easter Sunday,	8:00 a.m.	Worship/Communion
April 9	10:00 a.m.	Worship/Communion
4/2/2023	8:00 - 11:00 a.m	Youth Breakfast
4/5/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
4/8/2023	9:00 a.m.	Altar Guild - Easter Tree
	9:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
4/19/2023		Newsletter Deadline
	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
4/20/2023	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl group

Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds	4/4/2023	6:00 p.m.
Council:	4/11/2023	6:00 p.m.
Deacons:	TBD	10:00 a.m.
Family Board:	4/5/2023	5:00 p.m.
Finance Board	4/11/2023	5:00 p.m.
Parish Ed:	TBD	
Stewardship:	4/18/2023	2:00 p.m.
Youth Board:	TBD	

No Activities Holy Week
Trinity Choir will practice at 6:15 p.m.
on April 6

Wednesday Night Schedule

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