

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024


**"God's Love in Action"**

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
200 South Main Street  
Charles City, IA 50616-2751  
Phone: 641-228-3397

Pastor Russ Leeper:  
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Subscribe to the E-Skinny by  
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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
& 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Rhonda Schmidtke  
[businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com)

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

Music Director:  
Melanie Johanningmeier  
[mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com)

St. John Christian Preschool  
641-228-7274

Custodian: Jamie Carolan  
[jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com)

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke  
[wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com)



Pastor Russ Leeper

## Amazon Primed

Now, I want to begin this story by telling you that, whenever possible, I prefer to shop locally. But sometimes there are things that I can't get locally, so I order them online from Amazon Prime. This was the case a few weeks ago when I wanted to give out small, wooden crosses to the kids at the end of the children's sermon. I ordered them online and, with my Amazon Prime free, two-day shipping, they were supposed to arrive by Thursday ... in plenty of time for the Sunday service. But then, on Wednesday, I got a notification from Amazon telling me that the delivery date had been changed from Thursday to Sunday! That wasn't going to work at all.

So, I got back online and found some different wooden crosses that would arrive in two days ... on Friday. Crisis averted. Since I didn't need the first order of crosses, I went online to cancel the order and get my \$8.11 back. But when I did, I found out that I couldn't cancel the order, I couldn't return it after it came, and I couldn't get my money back. I was annoyed! I was indignant that I was being forced to pay \$8.11 for 50 crosses that I didn't need, anymore, because THEY changed the delivery date!

I tried to email my displeasure, but the email came back undeliverable. So, I hunted and hunted and finally found a customer service number on Amazon's website. I was ready to give someone a piece of my mind. I had the phone in my hand and was about to dial the number when a voice in my head said, "Do you really want to be that guy? Do you really want to be the guy who gets angry at a stranger over \$8.11 worth of crosses? Do you REALLY want to be the guy WHO WORKS AT A CHURCH and can't possibly find a use for 50 extra crosses?" I took a deep breath, calmly put down the phone, and told myself, "It's fine. You'll use them for something else. There's no reason to be crabby at someone about it."

I recently went on a long road trip across the country and couldn't help but notice that there a LOT of Amazon Prime trucks on the road these days. And in the course of the trip, I saw at least a half dozen of those Amazon Prime trucks broken down along the side of the road. And every time I saw one, I thought, "Well, they're not getting their free, two-day delivery, either." And I realized that not getting my crosses on time wasn't personal ... it was just the result of someone having a bad day. It made me feel more compassionate toward all the people who get us our stuff on time and all the people who have to deal with us when we don't.

In this Easter season, we celebrate that Christ is risen (He is risen, indeed)! We celebrate that, through his death and resurrection, sin, death, and the devil have been defeated. We're no longer enslaved by our selfishness. We're set free to love others. We have hundreds of opportunities every day to exercise that freedom! How will YOU turn from selfishness and love others? As for me, I'm making an Easter resolution to not let Amazon get me primed for anger, frustration, and lashing out.

I still don't know what I'm going to do with those 50 extra crosses, but for right now, they're sitting on my desk and reminding me to pray for all those truckers and train engineers and pilots and delivery drivers out there working so hard to get me my stuff.

Peace,  
Pastor Russ

## Of Note...

On **April 7th**, Pastor Russ will begin an Adult Sunday School Class called "Making Sense of Scripture."

This study and conversation will cover the following topics: What Is the Bible? Is the Bible True? How Is the Bible the Word of God? Where Did the Bible Come From? How Can I Read the Bible with Greater Understanding? Is There a "Center" to Scripture? What Kind of Authority Does the Bible Hold?

The class will meet in the chapel on Sundays from **10:15 to 11:00AM**. Everyone is welcome!



Charles City Community  
Blood Drive

Messiah Lutheran Church  
705 3rd Ave. | Charles City

**Tuesday, April 9**

12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: [lifeserve.info/schedule](http://lifeserve.info/schedule)



## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting

**April 7th**  
**(after service in the  
Parish Hall)**



Mission trip to Kansas City will be June 16-22. This is open to 7th thru 12 grade students. There is a sign up sheet by the youth office along with information sheet. **Extended** deadline to sign up will be April 10th.

Any questions contact Kim at 330-5441.

### **The Annual Ladies Luncheon**

**April 14th** in the Parish Hall at 11:30 a.m.

Games, activities, food, and devotion...  
*you won't want to miss this!*

**Reservations need to be made by April 10.**

The meal will be baked ziti and Tuscan chicken, olive garden salad, and breadsticks.

Dessert will be host table surprise. We will have a devotional, trivia game, and plant succulents. No fee, just a free will donation.

Call Kim at 330-5441 for information or the office for reservations.

**Noisy Bucket Sunday**  
**Coming - April 14<sup>th</sup>!!!**

**(Start saving your change!!!)**

Donations are to go to the  
Kansas City Mission Trip

## Scholarship Applications:

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>**.

**1st to 6th Grade Unit**      **PK and K unit**

**THIS OR THAT**      **Hop To It**

**St John After School Program**  
**Wednesdays from 3:15 to 5:00pm**  
**The St John bus picks up at IC, Lincoln,**  
**Washington and the Middle School**  
**Join anytime!**

**Pack the Parking Lot!!!**  
**Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**Games, music, & food!!!**

**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!

Building & Grounds will hold their Spring cleanup day **May 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.!**

*Volunteers Needed!!*  
Please bring a rake/broom/shovel/clippers to help clean around the outside of the church and parking lot.



**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.



Join us to find help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. At GriefShare, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Each meeting consists of an educational video about a grief topic, as well as time to share with others in a confidential setting.

GriefShare meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 for 1 ½ to 2 hours. **It will end on Tuesday, April 16.** Any adult from the community who has experienced the death of a loved one is invited to join us at any time for this healing and hopeful experience. Go to [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) to register or call the church office at 228-3388.

## 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.

Our kitchen is where I see “God’s love in action” all the time. Please consider joining us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My telephone number is 641 228-6927 and my email address is [ctrygma@gmail.com](mailto:ctrygma@gmail.com).

Kathy Crooks

*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.*

**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!

**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.



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



## Mobile food pantry needs your help

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!

## People's Page...

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

Randy & Jean Evans	4/7/1973
Ron & Marilyn Venz	4/7/1973
Donald & JoAnn Knowlton	4/20/1963
Don & Shirley Holm	4/27/1974

### **Acolytes for April 2024**

#### Sunday...

- 7 Owen Prichard  
Molly Hammermeister
- 14 Owen Prichard  
Molly Hammermeister
- 21 Owen Prichard  
Molly Hammermeister
- 28 Owen Prichard  
Molly Hammermeister

## April birthdays 80 & older!

Mike Leraaen	4/2/1931
Georgena Miller	4/2/1937
Russell Frascht	4/3/1930
Imhuicha Bohner	4/3/1943
Richard Harrington	4/4/1943
Marcia Olesen	4/8/1941
Elsie Ferguson	4/10/1931
Joyce Wood	4/11/1941
Connie Rasmussen	4/14/1938
Beverly Sears	4/16/1932
Harlyn Kolb	4/17/1936
Leon Hall	4/20/1936
Dorothy Watson	4/24/1929



*With sympathy, the passing of:*

*Helen M. Schmidt*

#### *Memorials were given in memory of...*

Ruth Farmer: Sandy Miller, Vicki Schroeder, John & Bev Selvig, Family of Ruth Farmer, Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall

Bette Gullickson: Mary Jean Zilm

Marilu Wohlers: Peg Poppen, Cal & Joyce Wood, Diane Melrose, Jim & Jackie Moon, Karen Streich, Georgie Miller

Donna Stewart: Larry Stewart

Helen Schmidt: Bruce & Brenda DeBuhr, Kip & Judy Hauser

Imani Sande: Kay Tjaden

## St. John Christian Preschool...



For the many blessings that come from Heaven above; we thank you, Lord, with heart and soul  
and sing of Your great love!

HAPPY SPRING! Maybe if I say it enough, it'll actually come. HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY SPRING!  
HAPPY SPRING! Our small friends are so eager to get outside, but we are still having a blast inside the  
preschool learning about and celebrating God's love!

Our little friends were certainly busy during the month of February. We learned all about the letters G, O, L, &  
F; how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign  
Language. Our older friends are continuing to learn more sight words and are already showing great beginning  
skills for reading!

February was also a very exciting month for our preschoolers as each class was able to host its own Valentine's  
Day Tea Party. Every small friend was allowed to invite one tall friend to our class for cold cocoa, hot cider  
and some yummy treats. We ended our day reading Valentine's in the laps of our tall friends. What a  
wonderful way to share the love that God first shared with us.

We will be running our All-School Fundraiser in the month of April, so be on the lookout for more information  
about that coming soon! 😊

We have loved having the privilege of getting to know our many friends and their amazing families this school  
year, but it is already time to start thinking about registration for the fall semester and welcoming some new  
families to our preschool program. Please feel free to pass on the following information to anyone who may be  
interested:

Our registration began on Monday, January 29, for our families who were *currently* enrolled. Registration for  
*new* families was held at our first ever Registration Open House on Thursday, February 8. We had a great turn  
out at that event and continue to get registrations! Registration will continue until all our classes are full.  
Families who have a child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15 can register for our morning class.  
That 3-day class meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday mornings from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Families who have a child  
who will be at least 4 on or before September 15 can register for one of our two afternoon classes. The 4-day  
session meets Tuesday through Friday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. (Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program and is  
FREE) and the 5-day session meets EVERY day from 12:30-3:30 p.m. A \$30 non-refundable registration fee is  
due at the time of registration. Families may choose to pay \$50 for the entire year or \$30 per semester. Please  
call Whitney Franke for any further information: 228-7274.

In HIS name,

Whitney Franke

## *April 2024 Schedule...*

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<b>Sundays:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship in Sanctuary</b>
		<b>Communion is the 1st &amp; 3rd Sunday of the month</b>
<b>3/31/2024</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<i>Easter Worship &amp; Communion Service</i>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<i>Easter Worship &amp; Communion Service</i>
		<b>No other Sunday Morning Activities</b>
4/1/2024		Office Closed
4/2/2024	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
4/3/2024	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
	3:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper & Activities
4/5/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
	6:30 p.m.	Game Night
<b>4/7/2024</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Worship &amp; Communion</i></b>
		<b><i>Kammerstreicher from Wartburg</i></b>
	<b>After Worship</b>	<b><i>100th Anniversary Planning Meeting (PH)</i></b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Sunday Morning Schedule</i></b>
	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Adult Sunday School Class (Begins)</i></b>
4/8/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
4/9/2024	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
4/10/2024	3:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper & Activities
		Mission Trip Sign-Up Deadline
4/12/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
<b>4/14/2024</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Worship</i></b>
		<b><i>Trinity &amp; Kids Choirs/Noisy Bucket</i></b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Sunday Morning Schedule</i></b>
	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Adult Sunday School Class</i></b>
	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Annual Ladies Luncheon</i></b>
4/15/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
4/16/2024	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
4/17/2024	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Newsletter Deadline</i></b>
	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
	3:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper & Activities
4/19/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
<b>4/21/2024</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Worship &amp; Communion</i></b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Sunday Morning Schedule</i></b>
	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Adult Sunday School Class</i></b>
4/22/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
4/23/2024	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
4/24/2024	3:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper & Activities
4/26/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
4/28/2024	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Worship</i></b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Sunday Morning Schedule</i></b>
	<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b><i>Adult Sunday School Class</i></b>
	<b>After Worship</b>	<b><i>Pack the Parking Lot!!</i></b>
4/29/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts



<b><i>Board Meetings:</i></b>		
Building & Grounds	4/2	6:00 PM
Parish Ed	4/7	10:00 AM
Council	4/9	6:00 PM
Deacons	4/14	10:00 AM
Stewardship	4/16	4:00 PM
Finance	4/17	5:00 PM
Youth & Family		
Caring Ministry		

### **Sunday Morning Schedule**

<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Service</b>
<b>10:05 a.m.</b>	<b>Youth Hour</b>
<b>10:05 a.m.</b>	<b>Spark Sunday School</b>
<b>10:05 a.m.</b>	<b>After Worship Social Time</b>
<b>10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Adult Sunday School Class</b>

### **Wednesday Night Supper**

**\*\*April 10th\*\***

Maidrites, Au Gratin Potatoes, Applesauce,  
Cherry Bars

**\*\*April 17th\*\***

Pizza & Oreos Fluff

**\*\*April 24th\*\***

Random Cuisine Surprise!!

**\*\*May 1st\*\* "Grand Finale"**

Hamburger, Hot Dogs, Beans, Chips & Cookies

Supper is from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 for adults

Children through 12<sup>th</sup> grade free thanks to

Kans for Kids

(Menu subject to change)

### **Wednesday Night Schedule**

<b>3:30 p.m.</b>	<b>After School Program</b>
<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Supper</b>
<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Kids Choir</b>
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Confirmation</b>
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Tone Chime Choir</b>
<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Trinity Choir</b>

Our Generosity for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023

Your offerings to St. John were shared beyond our walls in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter in the Following ways:

8% of our regular offering \$9,328.23 went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. The October recipient was CC Cares in the amount of \$906.90 for the community Christmas meal, the November recipient was Messiah Food Bank in the amount of \$899.75 and the December recipient was Coats for Kids in the amount of \$1,229.69. Those checks were dispersed to be used for this mission within our church community.

The 8% Thank Offering was shared with the Northeast Iowa Food Bank program through our church by purchasing personal care items for gift bags to each recipient. We delivered 200 bags throughout the community. The products were purchased for a total of \$1,716.83 and the balance of the quarter total was divided up \$600.00 to City of Charles City for a bench in the new playground, \$250.00 to the Blessing Box and \$250.00 to the Messiah Food Pantry.

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Easter	1 Colton Crooks' birthday	2 Georgena Miller's birthday Mike Leraaen's birthday	3 Megan Labarge's birthday Inhuicha Bohner's birthday	4 Richard Harrington's birthday Marilyn Venz's birthday	5 Sarah Murray's birthday Greig Grimm's birthday	6 Shirley Platte's birthday
7 Cooper Holm's birthday Carter Johannmeier's birthday Blake Dean's birthday Randy and Jean Evans' 51st anniversary Ron and Marilyn Venz's 51st anniversary	8 Marcia Olsen's birthday Linda Hoy's birthday	9 Curt Hallett's birthday	10 Keith Westergard's birthday Elsie Ferguson's birthday Al Brandau's birthday Diane Loudermilk's birthday	11 Brian Koeler's birthday Joyce Wood's birthday	12 Bennett Hansen's birthday Ann Kabele's birthday Clayton Heller's birthday Ryvatt Heller's birthday	13
14 Laker Kubik's birthday Sydney Hinz's birthday Connie Rasmussen's birthday	15 Tammy Quade's birthday Owen Pritchard's birthday	16 Beverly Sears' birthday	17 Harilyn Koib's birthday	18 Shannon Venz's birthday Cameron Hanson's birthday Pamela Lumley's birthday Carter Hanson's birthday	19 Linda Hughes' birthday Kaylie Keyes' birthday	20 Sally Gilliland's birthday Donaven Sande's birthday Erniee Sande's birthday Leon Hall's birthday Donald and JoAnn Knowlton's 61st anniversary
21 Jodi Heyer's birthday David Litterer's birthday	22 Kyle Mehmen's birthday Callie Hammond's birthday	23	24 Dorothy Watson's birthday	25 Darci Tracey's birthday Heidi Weisen's birthday Jessica Hoeft's birthday Abigail Lacour's birthday	26 Oaklynn Nordmeyer's birthday Beckett Uings' birthday	27 Don and Shirley Holm's 50th anniversary
28 Dennis Keeger's birthday	29 Paul Augustin's birthday	30 Bruce Boerschel's birthday	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Ascension Day	10	11