

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER




ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2023

“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

 & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the E-Skinny by
emailing Toni at
office@stjohncharlescity.com

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

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt, Deacon Intern
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary: Toni Hicks
office@stjohncharlescity.com
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Rhonda Schmidtke
businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

Youth & Family Coordinator:
Laurie Heidebrink
lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor Russ Leeper

You're Going On Vacation Again?!

I get that comment a lot from people this time of year and it's a fair question. I am gone a lot in the summer months. But after so many years of parish ministry, I'm very used to the good-natured ribbing of parishioners about my vacation. I don't mind it all. It's just part of my calling.

However, a few years ago, something changed in our vacation planning. In June of 2020 my wife's father passed away. In addition to all the love, memories, and wisdom he left behind, he also left us some money. It wasn't a fortune, just enough to buy something nice for ourselves. So, at the end of 2020, we bought a camper that sits on a lake in a campground in northern Minnesota. We bought it because we knew that Susan's dad would have loved it there and that he would've loved us having a place like that to get away to.

Our camper is a special place for us. It's a place where we have the chance to disconnect, rest, and spend precious time with family and friends. We have a windchime up at the camper that was given to us at the time of my father-in-law's passing. When the gentle breezes off the lake make it chime, we remember Susan's dad, give thanks to God, and soak in the peace that recharges us in body, mind, and spirit. We try to spend as much time there as we can.

The campground where our camper is parked is only open from the beginning of May until the end of September. Because of that, I take the bulk of my vacation in three chunks during the summer. I get 5 Sundays off a year. I take one Sunday off in June, one in July, and one in August to enjoy the camper and another Sunday in September to close the camper up for the winter. Finally, I take my last Sunday off to enjoy some time with family at Christmas. Then, we patiently wait for 5 months, without taking any vacation, until we can go back to the camper again. Camper time is a very precious gift to us.

We see in the Gospels that Jesus often took time away (usually to the lake) to be refreshed and renewed. Walking compassionately with so many people through the hurts of their lives can be very draining. Even Jesus took the time to get away and be renewed so that he could continue the ministry God had given Him.

At a pastors' conference I attended a year ago, the speaker said to us: "The best gift you can give your congregation is your healthy self."

So, when I'm gone a lot in the summer, you can be sure that I'm at the camper ... taking care of myself so that I can come back and better take care of you. I'm so thankful for a father-in-law who left us that gift and for our God who refreshes and re-creates us again and again.

Peace, Pastor Russ

Coats for Kids



As the weather warms up and the kids are done wearing their winter items, please consider donating any items in GOOD condition to the Coats for Kids ministry.

Please wash and drop them off to the Church.

Also, we are very low in funds to keep this ministry going. We have under \$30.00 in our account and are basically out of everything in leftover items. We would be very grateful for any donations. Thank you!

***Please note we are volunteers and don't see the donations until setup the day before so no time to wash or sew on them. Thank you!

Of Note...

Reminder: Communion will be *only on the third Sunday, August 20th.*

After Worship Social Time has been an enjoyable way to reconnect with each other!
Coffee & a treat are served outside the Narthex doors, weather permitting, or in the Parish Hall each Sunday!

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!

Do Day Quilters

Are planning a church cleaning day on August 10th at 9am.

Additional days to follow.

Anyone and everyone welcome to come help us clean our church!!

Song Requests

If anyone has a hymn or praise request over the summer...please write it on the back of your "Attendance" slip and Melanie can incorporate them into the services.

Additionally

If you would like to *provide* any special music over the summer, contact Melanie to discuss it.

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank—Mobile Food Pantry

(Serving upwards of 200 families, individuals, and seniors in need.)

Charles City

1st Wednesday of each month

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

- Youth Enrichment Building at the Floyd County Fairgrounds
- Roughly 40 volunteers are needed from 4 – 7 pm on the 1st Wed of each month to set up, pack food, distribute food, and clean up.
- The time commitment is small yet has a tremendous impact for those in need.
- All ages of volunteers are welcome!
- Contact Jen Burton at 641-220-1769 for more information.

We are freed in Christ to Love and Serve our Neighbors!

CELEBRATING
10
YEARS

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

September 10
2023

Where do you see a need? to lend a hand?
Contact Susan Leeper or Deacon Intern, Beth Hurt!

Make Smore Memories!

Donate Blood. Save Lives.

Charles City Community Blood Drive
Messiah Lutheran Church
705 3rd Ave. | Charles City

Friday, August 25
12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: lifeserve.info/schedule

75 YEARS SAVING LifeServe BLOOD CENTERS YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBORS.

People's Page...

My family and I would like to thank our family and friends who came to help me celebrate my 100th Birthday. I had a great day and enjoyed visiting with everyone.

*Thank you!
Helen Schmidt*

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

8/23 Earl J. (John) & Geneva A. Rima

8/31 Roger & Shirley Regel

August birthdays 80 & older!

Acolytes for August 2023

Sundays...

6	Donaven Sande Emilee Sande
13	Carson Holm Cooper Holm
20	Donaven Sande Blake Dean
27	Ben Hammond Blake Dean

Ruth L. Farmer	8/14
Delbert C. Ward	8/18
William Hollar	8/18
Diane A. Cross	8/21
Lenis Buseman	8/21
Harlan W. Reints	8/27
Rosalie C. Pieper	8/28
Marian L. Hoeft	8/29
Arlene Hollar	8/29
Helen E. Hagen	8/31
Diann E. Jacobson	8/31

Our Sympathy & Prayers are with...

Vicki Hoffman & Family with the passing of her husband, Ron Hoffman.

Memorials were given in memory of...

Bob Friend: Mary Jean Zilm

Ron Hoffman: Peg Poppen, Kay Tjaden, Don & Shirley Holm

David Richards: Gary & Sandy Marth

August 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article

Back to School Month

Saying goodbye to summer and transitioning into a new school year can be a difficult time for many adolescents, especially those with emotional or behavioral disorders.

LSI has 27 therapists that provide mental health counseling to individuals of all ages through in-person therapy in over 20 locations across the state and virtual therapy in all 99 counties. In 2022, our Clinical Services team served more than 1,000 clients, totaling 14,000+ therapy sessions for Iowans of all ages.

In addition, our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team wraps care around a child's entire family to empower them with skills like anger management, healthy decision-making and problem-solving. In 2022, the BHIS team served over 250 clients, resulting in more than 3,900 therapy sessions for children and their families.

Through LSI's Trauma Informed Care program at the Juvenile Detention Center in Waterloo, our staff work with the teens by completing trauma assessments on each adolescent and providing a summary to their juvenile court officers. The LSI staff also facilitate both individual and group therapy sessions with the teens to help them deal with their trauma and work through it in a productive way.

If you or someone you know could benefit from therapy – even from the comfort of your own home – reach out by calling 888.457.4692 or visiting LSIowa.org/therapy.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children and families in need of this critical care. If you would like to learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI senior director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.Iowa.

“Let each of us look not only to our own interests, but to the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:4

Blessings,

Laurie Heidebrink

YOUTH NEWS

This year’s youth mission trip was to the Duluth area of Minnesota from July 5th-9th. This mission trip was open to St. John 6th-12 graders and friends. We had 8 youth and 2 adults attend. Our youth ranged from 12-18 years old and for those of you who like statistics – here are a few for you: One-half were female, and one-half were male. Of the female students, we had one who just finished 6th grade, two who were Freshmen, and one who just graduated. All four boys just finished their sophomore year. Five-eighths of the youth attending are members of St. John and three-eighths were invited by St. John youth. All 8 were a pleasure to have as members of our group. What a great trip we had with an incredible group of young people!

This mission trip was a great opportunity to serve and to have some fun doing it! We had service projects planned with the Superior Hiking Trail and hiked 4 miles one day and 2 more the next day lopping and removing lots of branches and using commercial sized weed-eaters to clear two feet on either side of the trail. We also worked at the church where we stayed helping them organize preschool and Sunday School areas and in the Teen Closet reorganizing, sorting, and folding clothing donations for teens in need.

We held a bake sale on June 4th as a fundraiser to help offset the cost of those attending. Thank you very much to all those who donated items to sell AND to all those who purchased the items! You made it a success! Thank you to everyone who had any part in getting the bus ready for our trip. Thank you to Kans for Kids for donating the money for bus fuel. Thank you to Greg Heidebrink for being a great part of this trip and Brad Toppin for volunteering to drive us. Those of you who haven’t been on a mission trip may not understand how vital it is to find a bus driver who is willing and able to drive a 29-passenger bus full of youth that never run out of energy and adults that don’t always know where to turn. ☺ We are very blessed to have a bus for these trips – and this year it was very cooperative!

Thank you SO much to all of you who supported us in any way, whether it was financially, or with words of encouragement or with prayers for us. We definitely felt the power of prayers this trip!

CONFIRMATION

Those students who have finished the third year of our confirmation program are required to write personal faith statements to put on their display board for the Confirmation Fair on Wednesday, October 4th. The congregation is invited to attend this event in the Parish Hall after supper to ask the confirmands about their faith boards. The writing of these faith statements will hopefully give the students an opportunity to reflect on what they have learned, what they believe, and how their faith will affect the way they live their daily life following Confirmation Sunday. The display boards will also contain some other information such as, reflections on their baptism, and their favorite service project. Confirmation Sunday is October 8, 2023.

PARISH ED NEWS

“STELLAR - Shine Jesus’ Light!” ----- June 26th-29th we held VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

We were so glad to see the smiling faces of the **36** kids that attended from 5:30pm-7:30pm on Monday - Thursday evenings! VBS is an amazing ministry!

Thank you to the Parish Ed board and **ALL** the wonderful people who volunteered to help with VBS!

I can’t thank this congregation enough for how supportive you are when we ask for supplies! We received almost all the supplies we asked for on our donation board! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Dear Lutheran Friends,

The amazing youth from St John Lutheran truly used their lives to bless others on their summer mission trip.

Today I had the pleasure of meeting these compassionate teens and seeing them put their hearts into serving others. Emilee, Kayla, Sydney, and Sierra joined with Laurie and First Lutheran's Candy to refresh and reorganize the Teen Closet. They sorted clothing donations, restocked underwear, sorted hangers, and folded lots and lots of jeans! They had big smiles on their faces to see the result of their efforts! Teen shoppers will easily be able to find what they need in the next shopping day.

Jordin, Nick, Quinn, and Xander joined me, Greg and Brad upstairs. They moved tables, chairs, an altar, cabinets and many other items as we reorganized the Big Room and the Sunday School Supply Closet.

Promise Preschool recently closed their site at our church and they left all of their craft and education supplies. A few weeks ago Mothers of Preschoolers relocated and they also left behind craft and art supplies. The boys sorted mounds of construction paper & crayons, separated mixed containers of pushpins and tacks, reorganized paint and set aside lots of first quality items for donation. There was no slacking or complaining at all! What great workers!!

My ambitious list of tasks for both groups was easily checked off in a short two hours.

Please extend my thanks to your congregation for supporting these youth and their mission trips. They truly lived out "blessed to be a blessing!"

Laura Stahl,
First Lutheran Church Duluth volunteer

"Our youth mission team will be sharing more about their trip to Duluth in worship on Sunday, September 17th."



St. John Christian Preschool...



We are off to explore another year, here at St. John Christian Preschool and we couldn't be more excited!

August is a busy month at the preschool. On August 14th, we will be holding informational parent meetings for each age group. These meetings are great opportunities for question and answer sessions and for our families to get to know the other families that will be in their child's class.

August 22nd is our "Get Acquainted" open house date. This evening is planned to allow our little ones to explore our center in the comforting presence of their families. They also get to drop off their school supplies, meet the teachers and take their school pictures. It's a busy evening, but makes for a smooth start to our school year.

Our first day of school is August 28th and we are excited to be welcoming back some familiar faces and also some new faces to our center. We currently have spots available in both of our programs. If you know of someone still in need of a preschool for their little one (who is or will be turning 3 on or before September 15th), please give us a call at 228-7274 and we will do our best to help out!

We also wanted to take the time to give a huge THANK YOU to all those who gave so generously to our 100 Envelope Challenge! We were able to raise \$2,107! We will use these funds to help purchase a couple tablets for use in our daily communications and for the different curriculums this fall. We are so blessed to have such a caring congregation that supports our mission every day! 😊

In HIS Name,

Whittney Franke

August 2023 Schedule...

Sundays: 9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
Communion is the 3rd Sunday ONLY this month

8/2/2023 Do Day Quilters
 8/14/2023 5:00 p.m. SJCP Open House (PH)
 8/16/2023 9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters
8/20/2023 9:00 a.m. Worship & Communion
 8/22/2023 5:00 p.m. SJCP Open House
8/23/2023 Newsletter Deadline
 8/28/2023 SJCP Starts

Board Meetings:

Parish Ed:	No Meeting in Aug.	
Building & Grounds:	8/1/2023	6:00 p.m.
Finance Board:	8/8/2023	5:00 p.m.
Deacons:	8/13/2023	10:10 a.m.
Youth Board:	8/14/2023	5:15 p.m.
Stewardship:	8/15/2023	2:00 p.m.
Council:	8/15/2023	6:00 p.m.
Family Board:	8/23/2023	4:30 p.m.

August Birthdays!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Chad Kakac Khloe Kubik	Elijah Lunley			Alesia Garden Alyvia Vance
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Vicki Hoffman Linda Klemesrud	Ali Blickenderfer Barbara Fuls Ann Prichard		Gloria Frerichs	Katie Hammond	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Daniel Caffrey Janet Petefish Laura Walker	Olivia Ayers Ruth Farmer Karen Hagarty		Tim LaBarge Joshua Laue Kathy Michael	Katherine Prichard	William Hollar Delbert Ward	Kyle LaBarge Mary Mooberry
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Olivia Litterer	Lenis Buseman Diane Cross Chris Garden Sandra Hicks	Elaine Eckebrecht	Karol Carpenter		Kaleb Davis Bryson Pahnisch	Mason Meyer Cooper Vance
27	28	29	30	31		
Erin Gassman David Lindaman Shirley Regel Harlan Reints Alexis Vance	Julie DeBower Stephanie Hanson Quincy Johnson Rosalie Pieper Rip Nordmeyer	Marian Hoefl Arlene Hollar Jennifer Lessin Evan Marten Lukas Vance	John Marth Luke Jacobs	Helen Hagen Diann Jacobson Jenette Kakac Jim Kreger		