

# 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

Website: [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)

 Find & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the E-Skinny by  
emailing Toni at  
[office@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto: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: Whittney Franke  
[wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com)



Pastor Russ Leeper:  
[rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com)

Beth Hurt, Intern  
[beth@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:beth@stjohncharlescity.com)

Office Secretary: Toni Hicks  
[office@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:office@stjohncharlescity.com)  
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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

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

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

## Pastor Russ Leeper

A St. John member recently told me this story:

Two dogs and a cat ended up in heaven standing before God, who was seated on the heavenly throne. God turned to one of the dogs and asked, "What did you do with the life I gave you?"

The German shepherd answered, "I've been a good dog, Lord. I guarded my people's house, I was a good companion to the kids, and I watched over the whole family."

"Well done, good and faithful dog," said the Lord, "come and sit here at my right hand." And the dog did.

Then God turned to the other dog and asked, "What did you do with the life I gave you?"

The poodle answered, "I've also been a good dog, Lord. I sat patiently on my owner's lap keeping her company in good times and comforting her in bad times. I gave my person many years of emotional support."

"Well done, good and faithful dog," said the Lord, "come and sit here at my left hand." And the dog did.

Then God turned to the cat ... and the cat said, "I think you're in my chair."

This month we begin the season of a Lent ... a season when we all take time to remember that God is on the throne ... not us! Our sinful tendency is to make life about ourselves. But, starting with Ash Wednesday, Lent calls us to re-examine our lives and look at the places where we've tried to push God out of the way and put our own agendas first.

But as much as we try, we can't de-throne God. God is still with us, patiently waiting for us to figure things out. I hope you will join us for worship this Lent as we rely on God's patient grace and try to figure things out together.

Peace,  
Pastor Russ



## 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!  
We still need volunteers to bring  
the treats!!

*There is a sign-up sheet by the  
Narthex doors!!*

# GriefShare®

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.


## NEW OFFICE HOURS!!

(Monday thru Friday)

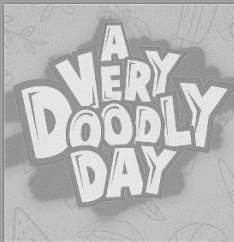
**OPEN 9 AM TO NOON**  
**CLOSED NOON TO 1 PM**  
**OPEN 1 PM TO 3 PM**

## **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!



**JOIN US  
FOR  
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!**

## **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS**

### **HELP NEEDED**

**in the kitchen during the months of  
March & April.  
To Volunteer...**

**Contact: Shirley Holm OR Sandie Quade**



### **AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM**

## **Needs Your Help!**

**We need adult & youth volunteers  
to help with snacks, crafts, and games  
on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 PM. If  
you're interested please contact Pastor  
Russ, Sarah Kendall, or the church office**

## St John Christian Preschool

"Can you believe it is that time already?! We are gearing up for our 2024 Fall Registration here at St. John Christian Preschool and we would like to thank you for choosing SJCP for your little one's earliest educational experiences. 😊 Current Family Registration will begin Monday, **January 29**. All families currently enrolled will be sent home a form to return at your leisure. NEW this year is our Registration Open House for NEW families to SJCP! The open house will be Thursday, **February 8th from 4-6pm**. Children who will be 3 on or before September 15, 2024 and all children 4 and 5 years old are welcome. Scholarships are available starting in July. A minimum registration fee of \$30 is due at time of registration. Please call 228-7274 or email us at [wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com) for more information."



**Please help support...**

### **St. John Christian Preschool**

Purchase Kwik Star gift cards and the preschool

receives 5% of the face value!!

Please contact Whittney or Toni if you are interested.

**St John gets requests for coats all winter long**

**We are currently in need of:**

**Boys and girls size 7 through 12 coats**

**Gloves and mittens of all sizes**

**Larger sizes of hats**

**Donations can be dropped off at the office.**

**Monetary donations can be made out to**

**Coats for Kids.**



*Thank you*

***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.***



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 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!

**\*\*SPECIAL NOTE\*\***

**First Communion Class** is Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.  
10:15am—11am\*\*\*Sanctuary\*\*\*Students & Parents

**Wednesday Night Schedule**

3:30 pm After School  
5:00 pm Supper  
5:30 pm Kids Choir  
6:00 pm Confirmation  
6:00 pm Tone Chime Choir  
7:00 pm Trinity Choir  
7:00 pm Dartball

**Wednesday Night Lenten Schedule Changes**

**February 14<sup>th</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>**

3:15 to 5:00	After School Program
4:30 to 5:00	Kids Choir-K through 6 <sup>th</sup> grade
4:30 to 5:30	Supper in the Parish Hall (Kids eat free—Adults \$5 **All Welcome**)
5:30	Lenten Worship Service

**Wednesday Night Supper**

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)



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

**Tuesday, February 13**  
12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Text: LIFE-SERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: [ifeserve.info/schedule](http://ifeserve.info/schedule)



**Ash Wednesday Service February 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**

**&**

**Mid-Week Lenten Services 2024**

**“Wandering Heart”**

**Worship service is at 5:30 p.m.**

We will explore the life and faith of Jesus’ disciple, Peter. In him, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter’s journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

**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>**.

## People's Page...

### Acolytes for February 2024

	<u>Sunday...</u>		<u>Ash Wednesday &amp; Lent Services</u>
4	Riley Quade Sierra Hinz	14	Talan Eckhoff Jackson Mehmen
11	Brayden Caffrey Ajay Johnson	21	Talan Eckhoff Ajay Johnson
18	Brayden Caffrey Ajay Johnson	28	Talan Eckhoff Ajay Johnson
25	Brayden Caffrey Ajay Johnson		

### February birthdays 80 & older!

Don Knowlton	2/3/1935
Duane Ortmyer	2/21/1937
Marilu Wohlers	2/28/1937

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

Dale & Helen Bond	2/1/1969
Steven & Diane Barr	2/14/1969
Jim & Donna Gambaiani	2/14/1960
Lenis & Nadonne Buseman	2/14/1964

## 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!

Love is definitely in the air at St. John Christian Preschool, but perhaps not in the way that you traditionally think of during this month of greeting cards and chocolate. We feel honored to be able to share God's love with each of our 26 little ones each and every day. And you know what the really AWESOME thing is? It doesn't take very long before our little ones start sharing God's love right back!

January was very full of new and exciting things to explore. Our younger friends learned all about the season of Winter and how important Friendships are to everyone. We worked on our small motor skills by using scissors and we did a lot of writing (in our older classes) to help with some Kindergarten Readiness skills. Our older friends did a month-long study on Clothes. We built skills in language and literacy, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We examined fabrics and discussed how the clothes were made. We also worked on our self-help skills by working on putting on our coats, zipping them up, and putting on our backpacks! We're all doing quite well! 😊

We are continued to be blessed with a small but mighty preschool board of two, hard-working, dedicated women, Brittany King and Jessica Hoeft. The support they each provide is invaluable to the success of our program!

Can you believe it is that time already?! We are gearing up for our 2024-25 Fall Registration and we would like to thank you for choosing SJCP for your little one's earliest educational experience. Current families (those with children currently enrolled in the 2023-24 school year) will begin registration on Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. New families will begin registration on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at our first ever New Family Registration Open House! The open house will be from 4:00-6:00pm. Registration will remain open until we are full. Children who will be 3 on or before September 15, 2024 and all children 4 and 5 years old are welcome. Scholarships are available later in the summer. A minimum registration fee of \$30 is due at time of registration. Please call 228-7274 or email us at [wfranke@stjohncharlescjcity.com](mailto:wfranke@stjohncharlescjcity.com) for more information.

We would also like to remind everyone that the preschool is still selling 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.

Last, but certainly not least, we are blessed with the many forms of support that the St. John congregation provides us. From financial gifts to prayers to the smiles that we receive when we pass a member of the congregation in the hall, we feel loved. In a world full of many difficulties, thank you for sharing your support with our youngest friends and making them feel special, needed and important.

With HIS love,

Whittney Franke



**February 2024 Schedule...**

<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>
2/2/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
2/4/2024	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Communion</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b> <i>(First Communion Class Today)</i>
	10:00 a.m.	Parish Ed
	2:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts Pinewood Derby (PH)
2/5/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
2/6/2024	5:00 p.m.	Youth Board
	6:00 p.m.	Building & Grounds
	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
2/7/2024	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
	5:00 p.m.	<i>Wednesday Night Schedule</i>
2/9/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
2/11/2024	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b> <i>(5th Grade Bake Bread)</i>
	<b>10:10 a.m.</b>	<b>Deacons</b>
2/12/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
2/13/2024	8am to 4pm	Foster Grandparents
	5:00 p.m.	Finance
	6:00 p.m.	Council
	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
2/14/2024	3:30 p.m.	<i>Wednesday Night Lenten Schedule</i>
	5:30 p.m.	<i>Ash Wednesday Service</i>
2/17/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
2/18/2024	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Communion</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b> <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>
	2:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts Awards Ceremony (PH)
2/20/2024	2:00 p.m.	Stewardship
	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
2/21/2024	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
	3:30 p.m.	<i>Wednesday Night Lenten Schedule</i>
	5:30 p.m.	<i>Lent Service</i>
	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
2/24/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
2/25/2024	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b> <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i>
2/27/2024	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
2/28/2024	3:30 p.m.	<i>Wednesday Night Lenten Schedule</i>
	5:30 p.m.	<i>Lent Service</i>

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>	<i>After Worship Social Time</i>

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>
<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Dartball</b>

**Wednesday Night Lenten Schedule Changes**

**February 14<sup>th</sup> through March 27<sup>th</sup>**

3:15 to 5:00	After School Program
4:30 to 5:00	Kids Choir-K through 6 <sup>th</sup> grade
4:30 to 5:30	Supper in the Parish Hall (Kids eat free—Adults \$5 **All Welcome**)
5:30	Lenten Worship Service
6:00	Trinity Choir



# February Birthday's

February 2024		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28		29	30	31	1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
Kyndra McDonald's birthday Paula Kruffhoff's birthday Laurel Schlump's birthday	Melia Lantz's birthday Karmen Mehmen's birthday Rusty Rogozkie's birthday Carol Bauer's birthday	Via Boerschel's birthday June Montagne's birthday	Sandie Quade's birthday Elizabeth Hamm's birthday Diane Niezwaag's birthday		Isaac Henert's birthday	Samuel Northrop's birthday		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
Cody Van Horn's birthday			Kayla Streich's birthday	Valentine's Day	Kathleen Waldorf's birthday Henry Page's birthday	Talen Edhoff's birthday		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
Brayton Quade's birthday Caleb Streich's birthday	Alison Mehmen's birthday Washington's B-day	Ron Venz's birthday Alison Pettit's birthday Cassie DeBower's birthday	Duane Otmayer's birthday		Barb Garden's birthday	Dennis Peetish's birthday		
25	26	27	28	29	1	2		
Shirley Horn's birthday	Keston Schmittke's birthday Hunter Northrop's birthday		Lori Gassman's birthday Michael Exvine's birthday Greg Buenger's birthday Manila Wohlers' birthday					