

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

JANUARY

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
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whittney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

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: 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 :

Your Hands Are God's Hands

While serving at a previous congregation, I walked into the office one day and the treasurer handed me a letter. It was a letter from an organization with whom we regularly did business. The treasurer had a funny look on her face and it worried me. I took the letter with some hesitancy, afraid that it was going to be bad news... overdue account, collection notice, or something like that. But as I read the letter, I saw that it was just a standard annual fee notice.

"This looks o.k." I said, "What did you want me to see?"

"Look at the salutation," she said.

Then I saw it. This organization had sent a bill to the church that began: "Dear God". The treasurer and I had a good laugh about it and wondered if the person who typed in "God" was serious, joking, or sarcastic. The whole thing was just too much for our Ministries Coordinator. She just had to get to the bottom of things. So, she contacted the supervisor whose name and number were on the letter and began telling him that a mistake had been made and that the letter had been sent to the wrong person at the church. Before she had a chance to finish explaining the situation to him, the supervisor told her that a mistake had not been made and that if it was sent to the wrong person it was our fault... we must have given them the wrong name.

She replied, "Well, God is here, but he doesn't pay our bills."

There was a long silence on the supervisor's end of the phone with lots of nervous keyboard typing in the background. Finally, the supervisor said that he'd look into it and get back to us. We never heard back from him.

God is with us here at St. John, too, and provides us with all the resources we need for the ministry we're called to do. But God doesn't pay our bills. It takes human hands like yours and mine to write the checks and set up the electronic giving. God provides by working through us.

Despite living in times that are financially challenging, we are so grateful for the faithful gifts we have received in 2022. Your hands are God's hands every time you write a check, click on electronic giving, or put money in the offering plate. God is taking those offerings and turning them into God's Love in Action! Thank you!!!

Peace,
Pastor Russ



OF NOTE...

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
JANUARY 29, 2023, AT 10:00 A.M.
IN THE PARISH HALL**

The Youth will be hosting a brunch in the Parish Hall during the Annual Meeting.

Menu: Scrambled eggs, hash browns, ham, and cinnamon rolls

Free will donation goes to youth working at the brunch.

2023 Offering Envelopes are available in the Narthex to pick up!

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! 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.

Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcast 2023

On the glass case in the Narthex are the 2023 signups for Altar flowers and radio broadcasts! The radio broadcast is enjoyed by many of our St. John members who cannot watch it on YouTube or attend in person.



Wednesday Night Supper

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

Cost: \$5.00 for adults

Children through 12th grade free thanks to Kans for Kids



Our Generosity in November

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

8% of our regular November offering (\$1713.43) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In November (\$550.97) was given to the CC Cares fund to help purchase Christmas gifts for individuals in need. This group has taken over the responsibilities of the Chamber of Commerce "Holiday Cheer Fund".

People's Page...

January birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

1/3 Wallace Schilling
1/5 Richard Olesen
1/7 Lawrence Hibbs
1/8 Irene Gabe
1/14 Kay Tjaden
1/17 Dean Toebe
1/20 Sherman Loudermilk
1/23 Doris Hibbs
1/26 Dianne Harrold
1/28 Betty Ball
1/29 Dale Bond
1/29 Eunice Tommingo



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

January 2, 1964 Leland & Pamela Lumley

5th Grade Parents! The 1st Communion parent/student/pastor instructional classes will be February 5th and February 12th at 10:15am. Please put these two dates on your calendar.

With sympathy, the funerals of:

Arlene Mary Beck Thomas, 12/15/22
William Joseph "BJ" Gifford, 12/16/22
Patricia Irene Townsend Nelson, 12/17/22
Carol Josephine Ross Meader, 12/21/22

Memorials were given in memory of...

James Dale DeVore: John & Jean Rima, Leon & Jan Mulford

Shirley Ann Kreimeyer Ripley: Rusty & Kathy Rogotzke

Arlene Mary Beck Thomas: Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall, Don & Shirley Holm, Cherie Schafer, Guy & Karol Carpenter, Kurt & Kathy Hoeft

Mary Jones: Bruce & Brenda DeBuhr

William Joseph "BJ" Gifford: Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall, Don & Shirley Holm

Patricia Irene Townsend Nelson: Don & Shirley Holm

Thank you for helping with the Angel Tree ministry! Words cannot express how truly grateful we are for the generosity to Angel Tree, again this year. Whether you purchased gifts, donated toward the program, or prayed for those in the program... Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! Your help and generosity touched the hearts of many people, proving that we are "God's Love in Action"! *Shirley Holm & Jessi Holm*

To anyone who has ever driven for the Charles City Meals on Wheels--

on behalf of the MOW Board, those who have prepared meals, those who have donated time and money, and especially those who have received meals: THANK YOU for being the people who volunteered your time to see that the meals actually got to the people who needed them!

Charles City has always been blessed by people willing to give of themselves to help those in need. Hopefully, many other helping services and organizations will benefit from our loss when you start helping them make a positive difference in the world. God Bless you and again, THANK YOU!

Dennis Niezwaag and the Meals on Wheels Board

Youth & Families...

Winter is in full swing and while the days ARE getting longer – the weather sometimes doesn't cooperate with us. If school is cancelled or dismissed early on a Wednesday (due to weather) we will NOT hold the After School Program or Confirmation classes or have ANY of our Wednesday night activities.

Blessings, Laurie

Youth News

The Youth Board is hosting a breakfast on January 29th in the Parish Hall at 10:00 a.m. during the Annual Meeting.

Come support the youth of St. John while enjoying eggs, hash browns, ham, and cinnamon rolls, too!

Cedar Springs Camp is holding a youth retreat February 3-5, 2023, for 6th-12th grade students. St. John students have been invited to attend. Registration is \$119 per student and the registration deadline is January 20, 2023. Please contact Laurie to get registered.

Confirmation

Our second Session of classes continues this month and the students in our Confirmation program are taking either *The Lord's Prayer*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, or *Smart Decisions*.

Sunday School News

December brought the Christmas Program for our Sunday Schoolers who are 3 years old through 6th grade. (We had some help from some of the older kids, too!) The Program went so well this year and I am so thankful for all the work the students, teachers, and directors did to make it so great!

Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, January 8th after a break for the holidays. We are learning about New Testament Bible stories this semester.

There will be NO Sunday School on January 29th due to the Annual Meeting being held that day at 10am.

Attention: **5th Grade Parents!** The 1st Communion **parent/student/pastor instructional classes** will be February 5th and February 12th at 10:15am. Please put these two dates on your calendar now.

Family Board

Thank you to everyone that donated to our "Christmas, Crafts, and Kids \$0.25 Gift Store"! We had a great turn-out and heard lots of positive comments afterwards. We will be taking donations of **Christmas items** from now until January 15th for next year's sale. (Sorry, but we just don't have the space to take donations all year long. We will take donations again next fall.)

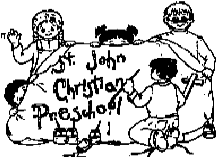
After School Program

We have 20 kids enrolled in our After School Program, which is each Wednesday from 3:30-5pm. We have a snack and do a craft project and watch a short video each week. It's never too late to join!

We would appreciate donations of lemonade mix, crackers, and cheese balls if you feel called to donate.

Acolytes for January 2023

Jacob Vance, 1/1, 1/29	Emma Prichard, 1/15
Addyson Vance, 1/1, 1/29	Rylie Keyes, 1/15
Katlyn Parson, 1/8, 1/22	Bryce Walker, 1/22



St. John Christian Preschool...

Happy New Year from all of your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! We are so excited to welcome back our wonderful friends and families for the second semester of our preschool program. As we look forward to our new semester, we would like to remind everyone that there are a few openings remaining in our program. Please contact the preschool if you have any questions.

The month of December was a great one, full of anticipation and excitement towards the birth of our Savior! We started the month with the introduction of the letters "Bb" and "Ii". The last week before break, was even more exciting! We introduced our very special Baby Jesus doll, who slept in His very own manger. The children loved rocking him and singing to him. It was awe-inspiring to witness the love they showed to that special baby, and it was a constant reminder to the adults of what the Christmas season is *truly* all about. We worked to emphasize the special Christmas story with projects that highlighted that precious baby boy. We hope that your Christmases brought you the same joy and satisfaction.

Please remember that we are still selling Kwik Star/Kwik Trip gift cards! The 5% profit goes directly into the preschool's account. If you are interested in ordering any gift cards, we do have some on hand, but are able to order more at any time! Please stop by or call the preschool at 228-7274.

As we end another year at SJCP, we thank you for your continued support that not only sustains our preschool but also helps our preschool grow and flourish. Not to mention all of the preschoolers within it!

We start the New Year feeling blessed by the job God has given us. We work with great friends, and we are supported by a board full of dedicated moms and a congregation that has given so generously in so many ways to our ministry. We hope that the New Year is full of just as many blessings for your family.

With His Love,

Whittney Franke



January 2023 Schedule...

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

1/1/2023 9:00 a.m. Worship service led by Justin Heyer
 1/4/2023 9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters
 7:00 p.m. Dartball at St. John
 12/6/2022 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry
 1/18/2023 9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters
 1/19/2023 **Annual reports due from boards & staff**
 1/25/2023 **Newsletter Deadline**
 1/29/2023 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds 1/3/2023 6:00 p.m.
 Council: 1/10/2023 6:00 p.m.
 Deacons: TBD
 Family Board: 1/11/2023 7:00 p.m.
 Finance Board 1/10/2023 5:00 p.m.
 Parish Ed: 1/8/2023 8:00 a.m.
 Stewardship: 1/17/2023 2:00 p.m.
 Youth Board: 1/8/2023 8:00 a.m.

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Barbara Tommingo	Bruce Hovden Patrick Lumley Diane Tommingo	Elizabeth Gassman Teresa Knecht Wallace Schilling	Laura Marth	Ryan Hallett Ledger Hicks Richard Olesen		Lawrence Hibbs
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Irene Gabe Grace Marth		Evan Schmidke	Ann Voelker	Lee Hoeft	Mike Hammond Larry Milleson	Tami Miller Kay Tjaden
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Jennifer Seckar	Dean Toebe	Gary DeBower Jared Tieskotter	Janna Behrendsen Parker Hicks	Josiah Hervert Sarah Kendall Joshua Keyes Sherman Loudermilk	Kathy Hoeft Steve Shankland
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Doris Hibbs	Sharon Bledsoe Terry Meyer	Sharon Streich	John Selvig Ryan Venz		Scott Aspholm Betty Ball Emma Heidebrink Cameron Kakac
29	30	31				
Dale Bond Eunice Tommingo Jaclyn Van Horn	Harlow Venz	Randy Brunner Benjamin Hammond Nancy Nelson Olive Tracey Abigail Wolf				