

# 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: Whitney 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)

## Beth Hurt, Intern

Dear Congregation,

“The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26

Martin Luther believed that the priestly benediction found in Numbers was the very blessing that Jesus gave the disciples as He was ascending into heaven because Luke specifically mentions that Jesus lifted his hands when He was blessing them. The priestly benediction is a blessing of continual promise that God communicates to Moses to instruct Aaron and his sons to be repeated to each individual as a community. God declares that God’s name will be put upon the people in this way. I share this blessing with you as we enter the new year as a reminder that God’s action of blessing is not bound by time. God’s action takes place in the big moments of our lives when everything feels so exciting, in the quiet seemingly mundane moments where everything feels repetitive, and in all those liminal spaces in between. Whatever moment you are in, this blessing is with you. God’s love is in action in your life for the name of the Almighty is upon you.

Seminary has been an exciting time for me and I am excited to be travelling to the Nordic lands for Wartburg Seminary’s J-term coursework. As part of this immersive experience I will learn about different aspects of the Nordic church and culture while spending time with Icelandic, Faroese, and Norwegian clergy in their day-to-day ministry. We will also be in conversation with faculty and students at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik and at Menighetsfakultet in Oslo. I am focusing my studies on the role that the Lutheran church plays in the lives of those within these communities and the differences/similarities between cultural conditioned assumptions about life and church. I look forward to being able to share all I see and learn with you.

But wait... there’s more. As I near endorsement in my candidacy process my time of discernment focuses on the rostered leadership that I am best suited for and my readiness to complete candidacy. This means that I must officially declare my intended roster. After careful consideration and (many) conversations I have declared Word & Sacrament, so I am officially working towards becoming a pastor. This means that I will not formally graduate until Spring of 2026 (though I should finish up classes at the end of January 2026). I am thankful to journey with St John throughout this process as I continue to learn and grow into my vocational call.

Peace be with you all,

Beth Hurt

Intern

## *Of Note...*

Our annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday,  
January 28 at 10 AM in the parish hall.

**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!!**

### **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 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 will meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 for 1 ½ to 2 hours. We will begin on Tuesday, January 23 and finish the 13 week session on Tuesday, April 16. Any adult from the community who has experienced the death of a loved one is invited to join us for this healing and hopeful experience. Go to [GriefShare.org](http://GriefShare.org) to register or call the church office at 228-3388.

## **Potential\*\*Stephen Minister Training\*\*Schedule**

Stephen Minister Training will be happening at St. John on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 8:30 PM, starting January 16, 2024. The deadline for signing up is January 2nd. If you are interested in being a Stephen Minister or would like to learn more about it, please contact the church office and we will get you in touch with one of our Stephen Leaders.

### **Wednesday Night Suppers: Volunteers Needed**

We would like to form multiple teams of four (4) to prepare and serve the meals on Wednesday night.

*We currently need team members for February & March.*

For questions or to volunteer contact:

Shirley Holm @ 641-330-8336 OR Sandie Quade @ 641-330-1850



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...

Please help us in welcoming  
Sandra Dugan as a new  
member of our St John  
family!!



### Acolytes for January 2024

- 7     Sierra Hinz  
       Ben Hammond
- 14    Jackson Mehmen  
       Ian Hallett
- 21    Jackson Mehmen  
       Sierra Hinz
- 28    Brayden Caffrey  
       Ian Hallett

### January birthdays 80 & older!

Wallace Schilling	1/3/1928
Richard Olesen	1/5/1942
Lawrence Hibbs	1/7/1942
Irene Gabe	1/8/1927
Kay Tjaden	1/14/1939
Dean Toebe	1/17/1941
Sherman Loudermilk	1/20/1942
Doris Hibbs	1/23/1943
Dianne Harrold	1/26/1936
Betty Ball	1/28/1935
Dale Bond	1/29/1939
Eunice Tommingo	1/29/1928

### *January anniversaries of our members who have been married*

#### *50 or more years!*

*Leland & Pamela Lumley                      1/2/1964*

## 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!

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 "Ee," "Nn" and "Cc". The last two weeks 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.

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!

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.

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  
Whittney Franke

## January 2024 Schedule...

**Sundays: 9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary**  
**Communion is the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month**

1/1/2024		Church Closed
1/2/2024	6:00 p.m.	Building & Grounds
1/3/2024	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
1/5/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
1/6/2024	9:00 a.m.	UN-decorating the church (Volunteers Needed)
<b>1/7/2024</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Communion</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Parish Ed</b>
1/8/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
1/9/2024	5:00 p.m.	Finance Board
	6:00 p.m.	Council
	5:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Schedule
		(No Choir yet...Resumes on the 17th)
1/12/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
<b>1/14/2024</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b>
1/15/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
1/16/2024	6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	SM Training (FS)
1/17/2024	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
	5:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Schedule
1/19/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
<b>1/21/2024</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Communion</b>
	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b>
1/22/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
1/23/2024	6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	SM Training (FS)
	6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Grief Share (Chapel)
1/24/2024	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
	5:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Schedule
<b>1/28/2023</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
		<b>No Sunday School</b>
		<b>Annual Meeting</b>
1/29/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
1/30/2024	6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	SM Training (FS)
	6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Grief Share (Chapel)
1/31/2024	5:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Schedule

### 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>
-------------------	----------------------------

### 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>
------------------	-----------------

### Dartball

Contact Dennis Sande at  
319-389-7998

### Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds:	1/2/2024	6:00 p.m.
Youth Board	1/3/2024	5:30 p.m.
Parish Ed	1/7/2024	10:00 a.m.
Finance Board:	1/9/2024	5:00 p.m.
Council:	1/9/2024	6:00 p.m.
Deacons:	1/14/2024	10:10 a.m.
Stewardship Board:	1/16/2024	2:00 p.m.

# January Birthdays!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Adam Ferch's birthday	1 New Year's Day Barbara Tommingo's birthday	2 Patrick Lumley's birthday Bruce Howden's birthday	3 Wallace Schilling's birthday Elizabeth Gassman's birthday Teresa Knecht's birthday	4 Laura Marth's birthday	5 Ryan Hallett's birthday Ledger Hicks' birthday Richard Olesen's birthday	6 Larry Milleson's birthday Mike Hammond's birthday
7 Lawrence Hibbs' birthday	8 Grace Marth's birthday Irene Gabe's birthday	9 Jennifer Seckar's birthday	10 Evan Schmidtko's birthday	11 Ann Voelker's birthday	12 Parker Hicks' birthday	13 Joshua Keyes' birthday Josiah Hervert's birthday Sherman Loudermilk's birthday Sarah Kendall's birthday
14 Kay Tjaden's birthday Tami Miller's birthday	15 MLK Jr. Birthday	16 Doris Hibbs' birthday	17 Sharon Bledsoe's birthday Terry Meyer's birthday	18 Gary DeBower's birthday	19 Charleigh Waddell's birthday	20 Ryan Venz's birthday John Selvig's birthday
21 Katherine Hoeft's birthday	22 Brayden Caffrey's birthday	23 Harlow Venz's birthday	24 Nancy Nelson's birthday Olive Tracey's birthday Randy Brunner's birthday Benjamin Hammond's birthday Abigail Wolf's birthday	25 Meghan Korbel's birthday	26 Rylee Van Horn's birthday Landy Voelker's birthday	27 Donald Knowlton's birthday
28 Betty Ball's birthday Scott Aspholm's birthday Emma Heidebrink's birthday Cameron Kakac's birthday	29 Dale Bond's birthday Eunice Tommingo's birthday Jaclyn Van Horn's birthday	30 Rusty Rogotzke's birthday Melia Lantz's birthday Karmen Mehmen's birthday Carol Bauer's birthday	31 Diane Niezwaag's birthday Sandie Quade's birthday Elizabeth Hamm's birthday	1 Isaac Hervert's birthday	2 Samuel Northrop's birthday	3 Isaac Hervert's birthday
4 Paula Kruthoff's birthday Laurel Schlump's birthday Kyndra McDonald's birthday	5 Rusty Rogotzke's birthday Melia Lantz's birthday Karmen Mehmen's birthday Carol Bauer's birthday	6 Diane Niezwaag's birthday Sandie Quade's birthday Elizabeth Hamm's birthday	7 Diane Niezwaag's birthday Sandie Quade's birthday Elizabeth Hamm's birthday	8 Isaac Hervert's birthday	9 Isaac Hervert's birthday	10 Samuel Northrop's birthday