

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



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 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:
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Beth Hurt, Deacon Intern
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary: Toni Hicks
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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Rhonda Schmidtke
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Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

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

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt.

Dear Congregation,

July is here which means we are midway through the year. So very soon I will begin to receive “countdown of shopping until Christmas” messages from one of my closest friends. She is like clockwork about it. I will text her back with three letters every single time, “ugh.” Even though I absolutely love Christmas. I love celebrating the birth of Jesus, Christmas crafts, family time and Christmas movies. One of the perks of becoming a minister is that no one can dictate when you get to sing Christmas songs because it is always okay to sing our praise! The reason I “ugh” has much more to do with the stress, expectation, and excessive emphasis on consumerism. In the past, I have put unreasonable pressure on myself to meet some unspoken societal standard of gifting – as if it is an achievement. While I donate and aim to be generous, I have often run afoul of trying to serve two masters.

My first week of seminary – I arrived on campus for Prolog week. I brought with me clothes, a stack of books, my laptop, my phone and my Keurig; I was content. I realized I could live that simply. I began to ask, “how much do we really need? Why do we have so many lists of things to buy for the person who has everything? What do other people need that I have but don’t use?” I became aware of how often I said (or advertisements told me) “I deserve to treat myself” and how those purchases didn’t fulfill a need, bring me lasting joy, or bring me closer into relationships. I am not alone, and this is not just a modern problem. Capitalism is not the catch-all culprit either – it is just a system created and maintained by people. In the 4th century CE, Saint Basil the Great (329 -379), bishop of Caesarea, taught that if we only took what we needed and gave the rest to others in need that there would be no rich or poor. He and his family practiced this faithfully believing that we hold all things in common. He said, “If one who takes the clothing off another is called a thief, why give any other name to one who can clothe the naked and refuses to do so? The bread that you withhold belongs to the poor; the cape that you hide in your chest belongs to the naked; the shoes rotting in your house belong to those who must go unshod.” His homily was rooted in Luke 3:13. He was pointing to a different system – one designed by God for the benefit of all God’s creation. I feel convicted by these words. They force me to admit that I am flawed - that I get caught up and weighed down in things. I am thankful for this sermon preached over 1600 years ago. Through the power and connection of the Holy Spirit these words have moved me. So I continue to make changes in my life and put my faith and trust in God’s design. I continue to grow in Christ.

This month I would like to invite you to join me in a different countdown. A countdown to July 15th – National Give Something Away Day. Let’s take a small measurable step together and go through our closets and our pantries to donate what we don’t need. Let’s give our time and visit with a friend or neighbor who is struggling or lonely. Let’s ask ourselves hard questions and pay attention to how we rationalize our excess. Let’s evaluate how giving something away makes us feel and ponder what it means to hold our resources in common. Then let us take some time to dwell in the Word so that we may be moved to grow in love.

May we come to have bountiful eyes (Proverbs 22:9) to open our hands wide (Deuteronomy 15:11) and look to the interests of one another. Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ. (Philippians 2:4-5).

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...



St John's Stewardship Board is planning a Reverse Offering for the Blessing Box on July 9...with a return of items on July 16.

Deuteronomy 15:11- "For the poor will never cease to be in the land; therefore, I command you, saying, 'You shall freely open your hand to your brother, to your needy and poor in your land.'



Items should be weather appropriate, non-perishable food and personal items..

Iowa Bishops Ride Against Hunger

The three ELCA bishops in Iowa, including our own Bishop Kevin Jones, are riding in RAGBRAI this year to raise money for ELCA anti-hunger programs. If you would like to contribute to their fundraising efforts for ELCA World Hunger, you can give online at <https://neiasynod.org/2023/05/bishops-ride/>

Checks can be made out to "Northeastern Iowa Synod" and mailed to:

Northeastern Iowa Synod
201 20th St. SW
PO Box 804
Waverly, IA 50677-0804

Communion announcement:

If you, or someone you know, needs, or would like, home communion visitation, please contact Toni at the church office 641-228-3397. The Homebound Communion Ministry needs volunteers. The sharing of communion takes just a few minutes and keeps us connected to our congregational family.

Thank you,

Brenda de Buhr

Reminder: The Deacons are planning on changing the *Communion schedule* for the month of August. Communion will be *only on the third Sunday, August 20th*. July will remain normal.

After Worship Social Time!
Coffee & a treat are served in the Parish Hall or Outside each Sunday!

****Special Note**** We do need volunteers to sign up for bringing treats. There is a Sign-Up sheet by the Narthex doors.



Charles City Community Blood Drive

Messiah Lutheran Church
705 3rd Ave. | Charles City

Friday, July 28

12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Text: LIFESERVE to 999 777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: lifeserve.info/schedule



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.

- The Northeast Iowa Food Bank sponsors a mobile food pantry in Charles City on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 5:00 – 6:30 pm.
- The program serves families, individuals, and seniors in areas of high need to supplement other pantries and agencies.
- The Charles City mobile food pantry is located at the Youth Enrichment Building at the Floyd County Fairgrounds.
- The mobile pantry has been growing and is currently serving upwards of 200 households in need. Due to the large number of clients, the pantry requires a fair number of volunteers to make the pantry experience smooth and efficient.
- Approximately 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. Volunteers can participate in many ways by packing food, opening cardboard boxes, moving food to the packing location, etc.
 - Food is brought by truck from Waterloo. Approximately 9,000- lbs of food comes on pallets (mostly in cardboard boxes). Volunteers help open cardboard boxes and put individual items of food into one family kit units.
 - Some lifting (no greater than 10 lbs) does happen but there are usually plenty of volunteers to help lift if someone can't.
- The time commitment is small yet has a tremendous impact with those in need. All ages of volunteers are welcome!
- Contact Jen Burton at 641-220-1769 for more information.

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!

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.

People's Page...

Acolytes for July 2023

Sundays...

July 2nd Kayla Streich
 Caleb Streich

July 9th Rylie Keyes
 Xander Chase

July 16th Donaven Sande

July 23rd Donaven Sande

July 30th No one listed

Our Sympathy & Prayers are with...

Jamie Carolan & Family with the passing of his grandfather, Bob Freese.

Memorials were given in memory of...

Rodney Ellis: Gloria & Dennis Carr & Gary & Micki Clift

Donna Stewart: Gaylen Hicok, Diann & Steve Lindeman, Alan & Cathy McGregor

Clarice Leraaen: Richard & Martha Olsen, Maggie Schultz, Russ & Betty Ball, Roger & Judy Mulcahy, Kathy Hoeft, Tilleen Litterer, Jana Peterson, Kip & Judy Hauser, Karen Streich, Jim & Joyce Scoles, Frank Voet & Linda Nolte, Harry & Vivian Zipsie, Gene & Cindy LaBounty, Ken & Sharon Leraaen, The Petersons, Denise Leitch, Kathy Mathes, Angie & Brad Baldwin, Bob Peterson

Bob Friend: Gladys Kellogg, Judy Hughs, Tilleen Litterer, Jim & Donna Gambaiani, Joyce Wood, Karen Streich, Gary & Sandra Quade, Roger & Judy Grimm, Don & Sharon Tieskotter

Sue Ayers: Tilleen Litterer, Gloria & Dennis Carr, Julie Begemann, Joyce Wood, Gary & Sandra Quade

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

7/10 Eugene & Ina Heitz

7/12 Paul & Mary Augustin

7/29 Ronald & Vicki Hoffman

July birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

7/3 Loyal McLean

7/8 Lola Vest

7/9 Robert Peterson

7/11 Bobby Wolff

7/11 LaVonne Reysack

7/14 Tilleen Litterer

7/21 Patricia Miller

7/24 Karen Streich

7/29 Glenn Jacobson

7/31 Anna Mae Woolworth

“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

The Youth Board is sponsoring a **summer mission trip to the Duluth area of northern Minnesota from July 5-9, 2023**. This trip is open to St. John students who have **completed 6th-12th grades** and their friends. We have middle and high school youth planning to participate in this trip! We plan to visit Superior Beach and the Maritime Visitor Center and do service work along the Superior Hiking Trail.

Thank you to everyone who purchased items or donated at our bake sale on Sunday, June 4th in the Narthex. The youth participating in the mission trip baked many of the pies and other goodies sold before and after worship service. This money offsets the costs for those going on the trip. We are so very grateful for your generous support!

We are also very thankful for the donations we have received for bus fuel from Kans for Kids! If you feel called to donate towards our trip, please mark your check/envelope “Mission Trip” when placing in the offering plate or see Rhonda in the Business Office. Thank you!



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 38 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!



St. John Christian Preschool...



Things have been so quiet around St. John Christian Preschool for so long, but we are still keeping busy! We are excited to be gearing up for the new school year with some cleaning projects around the preschool and the assembly of our family packets.

Families will need to pick up their information packets July 19-21. These packets are full of information for the upcoming school year! Our parent information meetings will be in August, so look for that information to come later. These meetings are a great opportunity for question and answer sessions and for our families to get to know the other families that will be in their child's class. Open houses will also be in August and we look forward to seeing all the littles with their families!

Carleen and I would also like to take a moment to thank the preschool board members who work so very hard to keep our program running smoothly: Brittany King and Jessica Hoeft. It is with their dedication and hard work that our preschool program continues to thrive! THANK YOU!

Thank you for the many blessings that you bestow upon our preschool program. Without your prayers and support we would not be able to do what we do. We love sharing God's love with our friends and we thank you for helping us share that important message!

In closing, we do still have some openings in our program. Our morning classes are open to any child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15, 2023. Our afternoon classes are open to any child who will be at least 4 on or before September 15, 2023. Please call the preschool (228-7274) or email me (wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com) if you would like more information.

With HIS Love,

Whittney Franke

July 2023 Schedule...

Sundays:	9:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
		Communion is the 1st & 3rd Sunday
7/2/2023	9:00 a.m.	VBS Sings
7/4/2023		Office Closed
7/5/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
7/5-9/2023		Youth Mission Trip
7/9/2023		Reverse Offering
7/16/2023		Return of Reverse Offering
7/16/2023	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl Meeting
7/19/2023		Newsletter Deadline
7/19/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters

Board Meetings:

Council:	No July Meeting	
Building & Grounds	7/11/2023	5:00 p.m.
Finance Board:	7/11/2023	5:00 p.m.
Parish Ed:	7/12/2023	4:10 p.m.
Youth Board:	7/17/2023	5:15 p.m.
Stewardship:	7/18/2023	2:00 p.m.
Family Board:	7/19/2023	4:30 p.m.
Deacons:	7/23/2023	10:10 a.m.

***Please watch for
"Building Maintenance"
information in the upcoming bulletins!!***

July Birthdays!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 John Swiggum's birthday Kay Slindee's birthday Shirley Hall's birthday Finlee Pahnisch's birthday	26 Kari Lings' birthday Brent Hinz's birthday Tyler Kubik's birthday Brandi Lantz's birthday	27 Dennis Brinkman's birthday	28 Sonja Cotton's birthday Benjamin Tracey's birthday	29 Diane Sande's birthday Wendy LaBarge's birthday	30 Gary Quade's birthday	1 Jeanette Anderson's birthday
2 Susan Shankland's birthday Anna Mehmen's birthday	3 Loyal McLean's birthday Wayne McClintock's birthday	4 Independence I Emmitt Marten's birthday	5 Chris Hoelt's birthday	6 June Kehret's birthday	7 Jonah DeVore's birthday	8 Lola Vest's birthday Mark Kabele's birthday John Rima's birthday
9 Robert Peterson's birthday	10 Jodi Hammond's birthday	11 LaVonne Reysack's birthday Jeanne Hansen's birthday Madison Lensing's birthday	12 Devon Murray's birthday Edward Platte's birthday Lisa Garden's birthday Emma Wolf's birthday	13	14 Tilleen Litterer's birthday	15
16 Don Holm's birthday Rylie Keyes' birthday	17	18 David Seckar's birthday	19	20 Marron Murray's birthday Dewey Chase's birthday Craig Begemann's birthday	21 Scott Kendall's birthday Madelynn Hoelt's birthday Patricia Miller's birthday	22 Jackson Mehmen's birthday Gloria Hubert's birthday
23 Parents I Todd Prichard's birthday	24 Wendy Castillo's birthday Aaron Lacour's birthday Karen Streich's birthday	25	26 Jace Montagne's birthday Harley Hinz's birthday Linda Girken's birthday	27 Carly Marten's birthday	28	29 Glenn Jacobson's birthday
30 Michael Quade's birthday Ana Blickenderfer's birthday	31 Kayden McDonald's birthday	1 Marcia DeVore's birthday Khloe Kubik's birthday Chadwick Kakac's birthday	2 Elijah Lumley's birthday	3	4	5 Alesia Garden's birthday