

# 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](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, Deacon 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)

Youth & Family Coordinator:  
Laurie Heidebrink  
[lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com)

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

## Russ Leeper:

### A Blessed Summer

Several years ago, in another community, my wife and I were invited to an awards banquet for recognizing local individuals and businesses who had gone above and beyond the norm in helping others. That year the awards were given out to several businesses in the area for their efforts to help those with autism.

Before the awards were given out a keynote speaker educated us on the often-hidden suffering of parents who have kids with autism and the astronomical costs associated with taking care of them. We learned that It's not uncommon for parents to use up all of their retirement savings to get services for their children or to end up living in a friend or relative's basement because it's the only way they can afford to take care of their child. It was truly heart-wrenching and brought tears to our eyes.

And then they started to give out the awards and tears came again, but this time because it was so heart-warming: a fast-food restaurant in the area that not only employed people with autism, but the managers drove to their homes and brought them to work, a swimming school that set aside valuable class time to work exclusively with people who have autism, a movie theater that offered special showings of movies, so that people with autism and their families could go to a movie without having to endure the stares of other movie-goers or worry about being disruptive. The list went on and on. And over and over again, people who accepted their awards said that they had been blessed or received far more in return than they had given. They said it again and again: "Even though it's difficult and inconvenient sometimes, helping others feels really good!"

I wish that feeling for you, too. If you want to feel blessed, then become a blessing! As you arrange your plans for summer fun and recharging, I hope you'll include some time in them for helping others. It feels great to know that God has made an impact on someone else through you and you'll probably make some new friends in the process. Have a blessed summer!

Peace,

Pastor Russ

### Our Generosity in May 2023

Your offerings to St. John were shared beyond our walls in May in the Following ways:

8% of our regular April offering of \$2,637.45 went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs.

The May recipient was Project Rise. A check in the amount of \$666.73 was used for this mission outreach.

The 8% Thank Offering which is given quarterly will be decided at the end of the quarter.



## • 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...

### HELP WANTED!!

Jamie is looking for someone to fill in when he is unavailable.

This is for weekends...Sunday Service, Weddings, Funerals.

Contact Jamie or Toni if interested.

(15-year-old minimum age required)

### Building & Grounds Spring Cleanup Day

Please keep your eyes and ears open for our make up date for this event.

### Sunday Bulletin

Requests for adding information into the Sunday Bulletin need to be in the Secretary's Office no later than Wednesday at 11am.

### 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.



### 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.

## **CHURCH PICNIC**



Joins us on Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am at Andres Park

Enjoy some fun and fellowship at the park!

Bring your own food. Eat when you choose.

The Family Board will provide some fun games!

Everyone welcome!

(We suggest you also bring chairs or picnic blankets)

### 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!



SAVE THE DATES: **VBS - Monday through Thursday, June 26-29, 2023.** We would love to have your kids attend Monday-Thursday evenings! If you are interested in volunteering with VBS, please contact Laurie.

### Registration is OPEN!!

Register at: [www.stjohncharlescitiy.org](http://www.stjohncharlescitiy.org) OR <https://ybspro.events/p/336591>  
OR use this QR Code



### 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!

**Donations are always needed for the Blessing Box!** Items should be weather appropriate, non-perishable food and personal items. You can put your items in the Blessing Box outside the East door or bring to the office.

## People's Page...

### **Acolytes for June 2023**

#### **Sundays...**

June 4 & 11: Carson Holm, Cooper Holm

June 18 & 25: Kayla Streich, Caleb Streich



The family of Helen Schmidt would like to invite you to Helen's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Open House on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> from 2-5pm at the Senior Citizens Center in Charles City.

Helen has been a member of St John ELC Charles City for a number of years and would love to see everyone!!

#### Her Address is:

Mrs. Helen Schmidt  
Woodland Terrace  
1922 Fifth Ave NW  
Waverly, IA 50677

### ***June birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!***

6/1 Jim Gambaiani  
6/4 Roger V. Jacobs  
6/9 Janice Dana  
6/15 Louis F. Streich  
6/18 Carl (Kip) Hauser  
6/21 Gary Dana  
6/21 Clarice Leraaen  
6/23 Colleen K. Ortmyer  
6/24 Helen M. Schmidt  
6/25 Shirley K. Hall

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

6/26/1948 Robert & Eunice Tommingo  
6/30/1957 Ronald and Connie Rasmussen  
6/10/1972 Glenn and Nancy K. Johlas

### **Our Sympathy & Prayers are with...**

Mike (Myron) Leraaen & Family, with the passing of his wife Clarice.  
Kady Korbel & Family at the passing of her father.  
Michelle Grob & Family at the passing of her father.

### **Memorials were given in memory of...**

Angela "Angie" Quade Kettwig: Gregory & Rosalie Pieper, Monte & Kathleen Waldorf, Betty Manning, Leon & Jan Mulford

Rodney Ellis: Dennis & Janice Brinkman, Jim & Donna Gambaiani, Alice Krumwiede, Ruthanne Ellis, Leon & Jan Mulford, Linda Johnson, Kip & Judy Hauser, Judy Sebern Beachy, Dean & Doris Taebe

Donna Stewart: Dean & Doris Toebe, Jolayne Hadac, Daniel Schmitt & Stephanie Gonigam, Kip & Judy Hauser, Diane Melrose, Beatrice Klinger

Clarice Leraaen: Judy Hughes, Peg Poppen

*"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 from July 5-9, 2023**. This trip is open to St. John students who have **completed 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades** and their friends. Sign up on the bulletin board outside Laurie's office by June 5, 2023.

The Youth Board would welcome any donations toward the cost of fuel for the bus. If you feel called to donate stop into the Business Office, or put **Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar to attend our **bake sale** in the Narthex. The youth participating in the mission trip will again be baking pies and other goodies to sell before and after worship service.



## PARISH ED NEWS

**"STELLAR – Shine Jesus' Light"** ----- June 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> will be **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

- You can register online by visiting our website [stjohncharlescity.org](http://stjohncharlescity.org) or clicking the link on the VBS Facebook post
- Walk-in registration will begin at 5:15pm on the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Plan on having your kids attend from 5:30pm-7:30pm on Monday-Thursday!
- We will serve a light supper for the kids each evening.
- VBS is open to kids 3 years old (in Preschool)-5<sup>th</sup> grades.
- There is no registration fee for VBS this year thanks to Kans for Kids!
- If you took a donation note off our board, please return by June 22<sup>nd</sup>! Thank you for donating!!



## St. John Christian Preschool...



It's hard to be unhappy when God blesses us with a beautiful springtime world! While it was sad to say good-bye to our little ones who are moving on to Kindergarten, it is a blessing to be able to continue touching the lives of new friends who will enter our preschool in the fall.

We are excited to welcome many of our preschool friends back for classes next year and are also anxious to meet many new friends. We do have some openings in our program, but spots are filling up! Our **morning** class is open to any child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15, 2023. So please let us know if you or someone you know is looking for a preschool for his/her 3-year-old! Our **afternoon** classes (there is a FREE 4-day option and small fee 5-day option) are open to any child who will be at least 4 on or before September 15, 2023. Please call the preschool (641-228-7274) if you would like more information.

We would like to remind everyone that we sell Kwik Star gift cards. Please stop in the church office during business hours (9am-1pm) or stop down to the preschool if you are interested in ordering a gift card. We do not have many on-hand, so if we are out when you come to order, we'll just put you down for the next order. We will also try to have an in-person order day after worship once a month. Please leave your name and phone number so we can let you know when the cards are in! We would prefer payment at the time the order is placed, but payment when they come is fine, too. The preschool receives 5% of the gift card's face value.

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 HIS Name,

Whittney Franke

## June 2023 Schedule...

<b>Sundays:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship in Sanctuary</b>
		<b>Communion is the 3rd Sunday</b>
6/4/2023	8:30 a.m.	Bake Sale
6/7/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
6/21/2023		<b>Newsletter Deadline</b>
6/21/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
6/25/2023	11:00 a.m.	Family Picnic @ Andres Park
6/25/2023	6:30 p.m.	ELCA Youth Gathering
6/26/2023 thru 6/29	5:00 p.m.	VBS

## Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds	6/6/23	6:00 pm
Finance:	6/13/23	5:00 pm
Council:	6/14/23	7:00 pm
Parish Ed:	6/14/23	4:10 pm
Stewardship:	6/20/23	2:00 pm
Family:	6/21/23	4:30 pm
Deacons:		TBD
Youth:		TBD

## June Birthdays!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Deven Castillo's birthday Brandon Castillo's birthday	29 Axel Heller's birthday	30 Emma Prichard's birthday Jacqueline Moon's birthday	31 Margaret Schultz's birthday Gaylen Hicok's birthday Betty Manning's birthday	1 Jim Gambaiani's birthday Mikaela George's birthday	2 Melanie Johanningmeier's birthday	3 Justin DeVore's birthday Randy Evans' birthday
4 Roger Jacobs' birthday	5	6 Angela Ayers' birthday Greg Heidebrink's birthday Kash Kubik's birthday Roger Michael's birthday	7	8 Jacob Vance's birthday Annemarie Hansen's birthday	9 Janice Dana's birthday	10 Kyleigh McDonald's birthday Kerri Mehmen's birthday
11	12 Alvin Marth's birthday	13	14 Marten Van Ausdall's birthday	15 Louis Streich's birthday Joshua Johnson's birthday	16 Hallee Hoeff's birthday	17
18 Cory Marth's birthday Kip Hauser's birthday	19 Isaac Oetken's birthday	20	21 Clarice Leraaen's birthday Randy Heise's birthday Gary Dana's birthday	22 Gavin Connell's birthday Jeremy Heyer's birthday Addison Tracey's birthday Quinn Heidebrink's birthday	23 Colleen Ortmayer's birthday Christian Kreger's birthday Sue McDonald's birthday	24 Helen Schmidt's birthday Mandi Sande's birthday Clint Murray's birthday
25 John Swiggum's birthday Finlee Pahnisch's birthday Kay Slindee's birthday Shirley Hall's birthday	26 Brandi Lantz's birthday Brent Hinz's birthday Tyler Kubik's birthday Kari Ungs' 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 Anna Mehmen's birthday Susan Shankland's birthday	3 Wayne McClintock's birthday Loyal McLean's birthday	4 Emmitt Marten's birthday	5 Chris Hoeff's birthday	6 June Kehret's birthday	7 Jonah DeVore's birthday	8 Loia Vest's birthday John Rima's birthday Mark Kabele's birthday