

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

MARCH

2022



Daylight Savings Time
begins March 13th



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 is now live streamed &
can be viewed on our website or the St John
Charles City YouTube channel
& will be broadcasted live on
KCHA FM 95.9 at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

The live broadcast is also recorded and is
available on the St. John website & YouTube

Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Rev. Anita Nuetzman
Part time Visitation/Preaching Pastor

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: Linda Hughes
lhughes@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:
Melanie Johanninger
mjohanninger@stjohncharlescity.com

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

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com
Teacher: Carleen Laue



Pastor Anita Nuetzman:



Dear People of God at St. John,

On Wednesday, March 2, we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter.

As our foreheads are marked with ashes in the sign of the cross, we hear the words, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” It’s one of the few times that many of us make a conscious effort to acknowledge that, sooner or later, we will die.

Some of us are confronted with death more often, either by virtue of the work that we do or family circumstances. If you’re one of those people, then maybe you don’t want or need any more reminders because it has been overwhelming enough already. I can sympathize with that.

But, for those of us who tend to avoid thinking about it, being reminded of our demise at least once a year is a good thing. The creators of one unusual app believe more often might be even better.

WeCroak is an app inspired by an old Bhutanese saying: “To be a happy person, one must contemplate death five times daily.” The app sends alerts five times a day with an invitation to reflect on, meditate on, or simply be conscious of death. Reviews are mixed, but one user wrote, “When I first got the reminders from this app telling me, ‘Don’t forget, you’re going to die,’ it shocked me every time and gave me anxiety. Now that I’ve been seeing these reminders several times a day for over a month, I can feel that I’m relating to my inevitable death differently, with much more acceptance.”

This Lent, you may want to try the app and notice how regularly contemplating mortality changes

your perspective on life. If you do decide to give it a go, I’d like to hear about your experience.

Lent might also be a good time to give some thought to funeral planning, either for yourself or a loved one. My experience working with grieving families over the past four and a half years has shown me just how unprepared most people are. Immediately after a death is a really difficult time to think about much more than anything beyond basic survival --- just remembering to eat and sleep are sometimes a chore.

And while faith in Christ may have been an important part of the life of the deceased person, it has increasingly become the case that family members don’t share the same level of commitment to being part of a congregation. This makes planning a funeral service all the more difficult. Relevant scripture passages or meaningful hymns just don’t come to mind as readily. Pastor Russ or I will gladly offer suggestions, but they may not be as personal.

Because, unfortunately, pastors don’t always get the opportunity to meet people before they die. Of course, that isn’t always possible, but why not give your pastor a chance to know you a little better before the funeral home calls?

Pastors have experience and resources for assisting people (and their families) who are facing all sorts of challenges, health-related and otherwise. And contrary to popular belief, we are neither too busy nor bothered by requests for our help.

In fact, we’d be more than happy to walk alongside you through whatever life brings. After all, it’s what we are called to do!

Your companion on the journey,

✠ *Pastor Anita*

The worship service at St. John has gone LIVE!!!

Our 9:00 a.m. worship service is now live! To watch the service, go to www.stjohncharlescitiy.org. On the front page click on the Live Streaming Link post or go to the Worship & Sermon tab & click on YouTube.

You can also go to YouTube and in the search box type St. John Charles City IA to find our channel. On our channel click videos, then the down arrow next to uploads, then upcoming live streams.

The service is recorded as it streams & will be available after 10:00 a.m. to watch at any time.

COUNCIL NOTE...

February Council Highlights:

- **Welcomed new council members to fill out our 2022 St. John Lutheran Church Council**
 - Doug Holm, Ron James, Dennis Sande, Judy Hughes, Kathy Rogotzke, Jake Gassman, Kurt Hoeft, Julie Begemann, Janet Petefish, Linda Hughes, Ron Hoffman(Secretary), Kim Watkins (Vice President), Josh Johnson (President)
- Excited to announce that with our combined in-person worship and live stream capabilities on YouTube, we are reaching hundreds of people on a weekly basis. On Sunday, February 6th our combined in-person and live stream reached well over 500 people!
- Approved a bid from Mid-West Roofing Company for \$76,689 (with some additional expenses) to repair and install a new flat roof on the east side of the church.
- Began preliminary discussion on installing an elevator in the church and possible other capital improvements that may be needed on campus in the coming years.
- Donated our Monthly Benevolence to the Northern Lights Alliance for the homeless to assist with programming helping men, women, children, families and veterans.
- Scheduled an All-Aboard Meeting for Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:00 for all board members to attend and hold their monthly meetings.
- **Thank you and please let us know if you have any thoughts, questions, concerns, etc.**

-St. John Lutheran Church Council

New Council & Board Members – 2022

President:	<i>Josh Johnson</i>	Council:	<i>Julie Begemann</i>
Vice President:	<i>Kim Watkins</i>		<i>Kurt Hoeft</i>
Secretary:	<i>Ron Hoffman</i>		<i>Janet Petefish</i>
Building &: Grounds	<i>Paul Van Ausdall</i> <i>Brian Schmidtke</i>	Deacons:	<i>Julie DeBower</i> <i>Lorie Hoeft</i>
Family Board:	<i>Tina Marth</i> <i>Jodi Milleson</i> 2 Yr. <i>Vicki Hoffman</i>	Finance:	<i>Bruce Boerschel</i> <i>Karol Carpenter</i>
Parish Ed:	<i>Shannon Venz</i> <i>Tammy Quade</i>	Youth board:	<i>Michelle Grob</i> <i>Kerri Mehmen</i>
Stewardship:	<i>Kathy Waldorf</i> <i>Yolanda Van Ausdall</i> 1 Yr. <i>Ina Heitz</i>	Preschool Board:	<i>Jessica Hoeft</i>

Thank You!

OF NOTE...

**Ash Wednesday
March 2, 2022**

**5:30 p.m. Worship/Communion &
5th grade 1st Communion**



**At-Home Ash and Communion Kits
for Ash Wednesday, March 2**

We will be live streaming our in-person Ash Wednesday Service on March 2 at 5:30 PM. If you will be worshipping with us on YouTube, we invite you to stop by the church ahead of time and pick up a small container of ashes and Holy Communion packets for you and/or your family. We will instruct you during the service when to use them. We'll also have these available at the in-person service for those who prefer to not come forward. The church office is open 8:30 AM - Noon & 1-4 PM, Monday - Friday.

Lent Event! Will be March 6th at 10:00 a.m.
in the Parish Hall.

Everyone is invited to join and make a
Calvary Hill Grass Scene!
Refreshments & goodies provided.



**If you would like to donate towards the
St. John Easter lilies for the Sanctuary,
please let the office know before April 12th.**

**Modern Parables: A Lenten Film Festival
Wednesday Lenten services at 5:30 p.m.**

Join us at 5:30 p.m. for in-person and livestream Wednesday Lenten services as we look at the parables of Jesus. At each week's service, we'll view a short film which places one of Jesus' parables in a modern-day context. The films are not loosely based on the parables, but accurately follow the original text. The goal of the films is to recreate the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual impact of Jesus' original parables. The schedule of films is as follows:

March 9:	"Hidden Treasure"	Matthew 13:44
March 16:	"Samaritan"	Luke 15:11-32
March 23:	"The Shrewd Manager"	Luke 16:1-9
March 30:	"The Widow & the Judge"	Luke 18:1-8
April 6:	"The Prodigal Son"	Luke 15:11-32

Our Lenten Film Festival services will be a mixture of singing, scriptures, cinema, reflection, and prayer. We hope you will join us in-person or online.



"In your Easter Bonnet with all the frills upon it."

Just giving you a heads up. The 150th Anniversary Committee is hoping that the congregation will join us for an old-fashioned Easter on Easter Sunday. In preparation for this we intend to hand out Easter hats to our young girls and bow ties to our young boys on Palm Sunday so you can get ready for Easter. We will distribute them as long as our supply lasts. We are hoping our more adult members will find a hat and anything else you feel is fun for an Easter outfit. Remember the white gloves and pretty purses we got all gussied up with as kids?

We don't expect everyone to partake of this retro Easter, but it will be fun to see what we come up with. If you want to pick an era or have an outfit that reflects memory from the past, we will appreciate the effort.

Take Home a Piece of History:

The 150th Anniversary committee is planning something spring-like for March. We are doing a sort of spring cleaning of things we have found around the church that are being stored but are never used. Primarily this is dishes, some very pretty ones, actually. These will be on display in the Narthex through most of March. Take what you like, no charge. Maybe you need a serving dish, have kids that need some things for a starter home. Take as much as you want, we are clearing it out. Some of these items are from previous dish sets and things people maybe left behind. They deserve a good home and we need the space. Hope you enjoy rummaging through it.



Wednesday Night Suppers in March:

Mar 2: Spaghetti, lettuce salad, rolls, broccoli, "Pokie" cake

Mar 9: Pizza burgers, mac & cheese, mixed vegetables, fruit salad, ice cream bars

Mar 16: Meatloaf, baked potato, corn, applesauce, butterscotch dessert

Mar 23: Baked chicken, whipped potatoes & gravy, green beans, cottage cheese, strawberry cake

Mar 30: B.B.Q. meatballs, French fries, baked beans, spaghetti salad, cake

Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcast

Call the office at 641-228-3397 to sign up to sponsor Altar flowers &/or radio broadcasts in 2022

After Worship Social Time

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.



The Annual Ladies Luncheon

will be

Sunday, March 27th at 11:00 a.m.
in the Parish Hall

The theme this year is *Water Your Garden!*

The Family Board invites all the ladies & their friends to join in this fun event. There will be lunch, dessert, a short program and a pretty "Photo Booth" to snap a few cute pictures of your group!

Tickets can be purchased in the office until March 25th. \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for girls ages 6-18, & under 6 free.



People's Page...

March birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

3/3 Helen Bond
3/3 Phyllis Foxen
3/9 Larry Stewart
3/10 Ivadelle Stevenson
3/19 David Hagen
3/23 Judy Thornton
3/28 Shirley Madsen

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

3/2/1958 Russell & Betty Ball
3/11/1955 Loyal & Norma McLean
3/15/1970 Norman & Carol Bauer
3/26/1960 Louis & Sharon Streich
3/27/1971 Dennis & Jan Brinkman

Fifth Grade students who will receive First Communion on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022



Brayden Robert Caffrey
Graham James Hansen
Sierra Lynn Hinz
Ajay Ryan Johnson

Owen William Prichard
Riley Jean Quade
Hailey Jean Rule
Benjamin Henry Tracey

With sympathy, the funerals of:
James "Jim" Joe Jensen, 2/12/22

The death of:

Beverly Ann Shave Wolff, 11/21/22
Marjorie Kach Gardner, 1/28/22
Robert "Bob" George Dight, 2/22/22

Celebrating!

The wedding of...John Zimmerman &
Julie Tjabring, February 12, 2022

Memorials were given in memory of...

Marjorie Kach Gardner: John & Geneva Rima,
Bette Gullickson, Arlene Thomas, Leon & Jan
Mulford, Bill & Vicki Hitzhusen

James Joe Jensen: Diane Melrose

Helping Hands has about 20 people ready, willing, and able to help run errands, do minor household help, and provide transportation. If you need any of these services, please call Kathy at the church office during regular business hours. Someone will contact you within 48 hours of receiving the message to make arrangements to help. We will continue this ministry as long as we have volunteers to serve.

Our Generosity in January

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

8% of our regular December offering (\$2638.13) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In January (\$920.34) was given to the following: (\$75.00) for the "Blessing Box", (\$125.00) to the "Blanket Ministry" and (\$720.34) to the Floyd County Ministerium to help with payment of heating bills.

Youth & Families...

The month brings the official beginning of spring so hopefully the weather will reflect what the calendar says!! *“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”* Genesis 8:22

Blessings, Laurie

Youth News

The Youth will be hosting a **Palm Sunday Breakfast** on April 10th. We will be serving from 8:00am-11:30am. The menu is eggs, ham, hash browns, pancakes, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk and coffee. Put this on your calendars now and plan on attending! Free-will donation.

St. John youth currently in 6th-12th grades and their friends are invited to participate in our mission trip to North Dakota. This trip will be July 5th-9th, 2022. Sign up on the bulletin board outside my office!

Confirmation

Confirmation classes are not meeting during Lent. We will resume after Easter.

Family Board

The Family Board will host a large group Lent Event on March 6th during the education hour in the Parish Hall. It will be great to see everyone working together to create a Calvary Hill Planting! All of our St. John family is invited to participate in this event!

Our annual Ladies' Luncheon will be Sunday, March 27th at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. ALL St. John ladies and their friends are welcome! This fun event will include fellowship, lunch, dessert, a short program, and a pretty “photo booth” to snap a few cute pictures of your group! Our theme this year is *Water Your Garden*. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for girls ages 6-18. Under 6 is free. Tickets may be purchased in the church office until March 25th.

Bible Camp Scholarships

Just a reminder that St. John offers scholarships for all our youth members attending a Christian camp. Scholarships are offered in the amounts of \$25 for a one-day camp, \$50 for camps lasting 2-3 days, and \$150 for camps lasting 4-7 days. Just bring in a copy of your registration to the Business Office for a reimbursement.

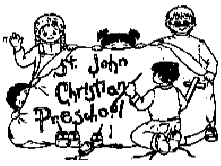
Sunday School News

Our St. John 5th graders will be celebrating First Communion during the Ash Wednesday worship service, 5:30pm on March 2, 2022.

There will be NO Sunday School on Sunday, March 13th or 20th due to Spring Break.

SAVE THE DATES: June 14-17, 2022, for VBS. Plan on having your kids attend Tuesday-Friday from 5:30pm-7:30pm! Look for more information in the upcoming newsletters.





St. John Christian Preschool...

HAPPY SPRING! Maybe if I say it enough, it'll actually come. HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY SPRING! Our small friends are so eager to get outside, but we are still having a blast inside the preschool learning about and celebrating God's love!

Our little friends were certainly busy during the month of February. We learned all about the letters E, R, U, B; how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. We also studied Construction and Friendship, each a 2-week theme. Our 5-day friends are continuing to learn more sight words and are already showing great beginning skills for reading!

February was also a very exciting month for our preschoolers as each class was able to host its own Valentine's Day Tea Party. Every small friend was allowed to invite one tall friend to our class for cold cocoa, hot cider and some yummy treats. We ended our day reading Valentine's in the laps of our tall friends. What a wonderful way to share the love that God first shared with us.

We will be running our All-School Fundraiser from March 14-April 1. We are selling Scratch Cupcakes! Mmmm! ☺ Delivery will be Thursday, April 21 from 3:30-5:00pm. **This fundraiser will directly benefit the school, as a whole, by allowing us to purchase many supplies and equipment for all the children to use.** We are hoping to update some of our more "loved" toys/manipulatives and the remaining profit will help with the basic funding of our program! **Our goal is to raise at least \$2,000.** The cupcakes are between \$15-\$20 and we earn 40% on all the orders. We know sometimes it gets overwhelming with all of these fundraisers, so if you would like to pass on purchasing an item, but would still like to help us reach our goal, please feel free to give a monetary donation. Either way, we greatly appreciate your support!

We have loved having the privilege of getting to know our many friends and their amazing families this school year, but it is already time to start thinking about registration for the fall semester and welcoming some new families to our preschool program. Please feel free to pass on the following information to anyone who may be interested:

Our registration began on Monday, February 14, for our families who are *currently* enrolled. Registration for *new* families began on Monday, February 21, and will continue until all of our classes are full. Families who have a child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15 can register for our morning class. That 3-day class meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday mornings from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Families who have a child who will be at least 4 on or before September 15 can register for one of our two afternoon classes. The 3-day session meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. and the 5-day session meets EVERY day from 12:30-3:30 p.m. A \$30 non-refundable registration fee is due at the time of registration. Families may choose to pay \$50 for the entire year or \$30 per semester. Please call Whitney Franke for any further information: 228-7274.

In HIS name, Whitney Franke

March 2022 Schedule...

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

Mar 13, 20, 27 – Adult Bible study in the Chapel

Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. Worship

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Mar 2: Ash Wednesday
5:30 p.m. Worship/Comm &
5th grade 1st Communion

Mar 3: 10:00 a.m. 150th Anniversary meeting

Mar 6: 10:00 a.m. Lent Event in the Parish Hall

Mar 13: Daylight Savings Time begins

Mar 23: Newsletter Deadline

Mar 27: 11:00 a.m. Family Board's Ladies Luncheon

Wednesday Night Activities...

4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Supper
 5:30 p.m. Worship
 6:30 p.m. Trinity Choir

MARCH BIRTHDAYS!



“ALL ABOARD”

Meeting night is Tuesday, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

All boards will gather to meet as individual boards and as a large group!

Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds: 3/22 7:00 p.m.
 Council: 3/8 6:00 p.m.
 3/22 7:00 p.m.
 Deacons: 3/22 7:00 p.m.
 Family Board 3/22 6:30 & 7:00 p.m.
 Finance Board 3/22 7:00 p.m.
 Parish Ed 3/22 7:00 p.m.
 Stewardship 3/22 7:00 p.m.
 Youth 3/22 7:00 p.m.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Rita Booker Jada Montagne Karleen Sickman	Norman Bauer Helen Bond Rae Lynn Chase Phyllis Foxen	Diane Barr Jared George Linda Johnson	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Xander Chase Jean Evans	Faye Krause	Sandra Miller	Abby Ayers Larry Stewart	Janet Delap Hana Laue Lauren Page Ivadelle Stevenson		Ajay Johnson
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Drake Behrendsen Charlene Fisher Tyler Marth	Hunter Hinz	Scarlett Behrendsen Mija Cotton Dan DeBower	Ian Hallett Amy Titus	Carol Brahn Ellen Dix David Hagen
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Nathalia Dean Dan Kehret	Judy Sloter	B. J. Gifford	Brenda Bailey Myla Meyer Janice Mulford Angie Parsons Kathy Rogotzke Judy Thornton	Isaiah Knecht		Isaah Eppley Jacob Hallett Peyton Ungs
27	28	29	30	31		
Marlene Holthaus Cherie Schafer		Nadonne Buseman Douglas Holm Tayleigh Lantz	Michael Kreger	Sandra Harrington Jessie Holm		