THE GOOD NEWSLETTER





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



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: Whittney Franke wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



Pastor Russ Leeper: rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt, Intern beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary: Toni Hicks office@stjohncharlescity.com
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
& 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Rhonda Schmidtke businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian: Jamie Carolan jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Intern Beth Hurt

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. -John 1:1-5

Dear Congregation,

I learned so much during Wartburg Seminary's January term trip to Iceland, the Faroe Islands, and Norway but I was most surprised by what was revealed to my spirit through art. I am still processing the fullness of this experience and its meaning in my life, but it left a profound impression upon me. While we were in Norway, we stayed at the parsonage of a Lutheran church in Skien. The interior of this church was designed by

Emanuel Vigeland from the mindset of Gesamtkunstwerk. Gesamtkunstwerk is a German word that means "total work of art" or Total Art. Simply put, it is an immersive work of art that blends multiple different mediums into a single cohesive experience. From the moment you walk into the church every bit of the church is part of this immersive experience. From the engraving on the pews to the light fixtures, from the flooring to the wall mosaic, from the windows to the altar - every detail is purposeful, and it all works and flows together. Every single mosaic tile at the front of the church is placed in a specific position with thought to the lighting at different times of the day. The Lutheran priest serving remarked that he has looked at this mosaic for years and new insights keep being revealed.

God is the Creator and God's creation is Divine Total Art. Each of us in our specificity with all our details is part of this immersive experience. We all flow and work together through Christ who connects us through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit. As we continue to reflect during the Lenten season on our relationship with God, take the time to look around and appreciate the magnificence of this



experience. How does our movement and interaction with one another and creation contribute to the expression of the whole? As Spring springs forth around us, as we journey through the month towards Easter, as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection, what new insight is being revealed to you? Be immersed in the light and life and love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God, Beth Hurt

Holy Week 2024...

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24, 2024; Worship: 9:00 a.m.

Youth Palm/Passion Sunday breakfast from 7:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Menu: eggs, ham, hash browns, pancakes, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk, and coffee (Free will donation goes to youth serving the breakfast.)

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024 Worship/Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service, March 29, 2024 Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Save the date

Saturday, March 30th!!

Easter Egg Hunt. Details to come!

We'll need at least 2 more people to help run the event. Please contact the office if you are interested.



Of Note...

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024 10:15am in sanctuary

There will be a special meeting for the congregation to vote on the approval of the revised Constitution and by-laws.

There are printed copies available in the office and online link.

In answer to some questions, the St. John Constitution has changes primarily mandated by the ELCA and required to be in local church constitutions. Many changes are to do with how Pastors and Deacons are designated now, Minister of Word and Service (deacon) and Minster of Word and Sacrament (pastor). This affects many paragraphs. There are also clarifications in Church affiliation with the ELCA, property, membership, rostered ministers, disability of a minister, issuing a call or termination of the same and a new Indemnification section. We deleted some sections that were not required and moved them (Congregational meetings, Officers, Council, Committees and Organizations) to our Bylaws to greater reflect how our church functions.

The Bylaws have been updated to express how things are actually done at St. John today such as electronic meetings and email voting, if necessary, by a board in lieu of meeting in person. Covid necessitated some changes. We deleted, combined and created some boards. There is also clarification of board and officer duties.

After the new Constitution and Bylaws are ratified they will be sent to the synod for review and approval.

Council President Kim Watkins

- 1. ALL BOARD MEETING WILL BE MARCH 21 AT 6PM IN PARISH HALL. Please let Kim or office know by email if you will be attending or not.
- 2. Mission trip to Kansas City will be June 16-22. This is open to 7th thru 12 grade students. There is a sign up sheet by the youth office along with information sheet. Deadline to sign up will be April 1st.

Any questions contact Kim at 330-5441.

This year commemorates 100 years since our church building was built to serve the congregation of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. Some quick history:

Reverend Caselmann lead our congregation through 38 years and several renovations. When he died in 1918, he left his estate to the congregation to build the final church that would stand in its present location. Several delays caused the congregation to postpone building until 1924. Parts of the previous church were actually dismantled and sold to complete the cost of the church building which was known as the Caselmann Memorial. There is currently a plaque in the back of the sanctuary commemorating Caselmann's dedication and contribution to St. John.

Because this is a historic year it seems appropriate that we mark it with something that we haven't done for a while. A Harvest Dinner like we used to have would be a nice celebration and to make it different than the 150th celebration, I think we need to cater the main course, but bring back the pies and salads. I would like a craft, garden and bake sale, too. I remember the jams and jellies and other harvest goodies that were also sold at this.

It all takes planning and work so I am asking that if you have an interest in any part of this to contact me about what interests you and to attend a short planning meeting, to be announced. Since the dinner would mainly be catered, it will be a lot simpler than the huge cooking endeavor we used to have (although delicious) so time that you have to put in would be minimal. If you have ideas for this I would love your input, like should we have some entertainment? I will also check with our various Boards to enlist some help.

Janet Petefish petefishj@mchsi.com

The Do Day Quilters and Prayer Shawl Ministry are going to combine forces on March 6 to have a time of "Doing", conversation, coffee and a treat. The quilters start at 9 a.m. and the knitters/crocheters at 9:30 a.m. in the basement area near the kitchen. We would like to introduce you to the quilter's mission and to show the knitters/crocheters where to get the free yarn, where the prayer shawls are stored and how to check a new one in or a finished one out to take to someone in need. The lift makes it so much easier to get to the basement and it will be a good time for some conversation with someone new or someone you maybe haven't seen for a while. The quilters work until around 11:15 and stop for coffee and catching up. Come join us and see if the quilting or knitting is something you would like to do.

The quilters meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 9:00 a.m.-noon. The knitters will start at 9:30-11:30 a.m. but you can come and go as you wish. Prayer shawls can be knit, crocheted or quilted. Patterns are available. If you need a prayer shawl, lap robe or blanket for someone, they are in the chapel in a closet and can be checked out in a binder so we know who will receive it.

Contact Janet Petefish at petefishj@mchsi.com for questions.

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!

Nadonne Buseman would like to take the time to thank everyone who assisted her with the funeral during the month of February; by supplying cakes, salads, and by working in the kitchen and Parish Hall.

She is very appreciative!

FROM ST. JOHN'S KITCHEN...

As you know, the St. John kitchen has been busy in recent months. It has become very apparent that our list of contact names for assistance in providing and preparing food and working in the kitchen is very outdated. We would like to update our information.

In the coming weeks/months, it is our hope that all congregational households will be contacted. This is the information we will be seeking:

- 1. Would you be willing to contribute food for an event scheduled at the church, i.e. funerals or a special event planned at the church?
- 2. Would you be willing to help in the kitchen with these events?
- 3. Is there a time of the year that works better for you, i.e. not available in the winter months, or would prefer a specific month or time of the year to be contacted.

We will also be requesting information specific to your mailing address(es), telephone, and e-mail addresses. This information will be shared with the church office to update those records as well.

Three things to remember:

- 1. If you are more than a 1-member household, this is an opportunity for everyone to offer their help. The kitchen appreciates the gentlemen who have come in to offer help. We would also like to encourage the young adults in your homes to join us if they would like. The kitchen is not just for women!!
- 2. It is OK to say "no".
- 3. *Be patient with us!* We will do our best to contact every household. We will do our best to get your name on only one volunteer's list! We will do our best to get your name on a list! Again, information has not been updated in a long time we hope to remedy that.

Our kitchen is where I see "God's love in action" all the time. Please consider joining us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. My telephone number is 641 228-6927 and my email address is ctrygma@gmail.com.

Kathy Crooks

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!

Call the office to donate towards the Easter Lilies by March 25th At 641-228-3397



Easter Sunday, March 31st Worship/Comm Will be at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

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.



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 meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 for 1 ½ to 2 hours. It will end on Tuesday, April 16. Any adult from the community who has experienced the death of a loved one is invited to join us at any time for this healing and hopeful experience. Go to GriefShare.org to register or call the church office at 228-3388.

Join us on the third floor for a fun game night! Friday, March 1 from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

This event is for 2nd through 6th grade kids. You can bring friends if you want.

1st graders welcome but need to have a parent stay with them.

We will provide snacks.

Board games, video games, pool table, air hockey, foosball, art room, music and bingo are some of the activities available.

No sign-up needed.

Hope to see you there!



Wednesdays from 3:15 to 5:00pm
The St John bus picks up at IC, Lincoln,
Washington and the Middle School
Join anytime!



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

Needs Your Help!

We need adult & youth volunteers to help with snacks, crafts, and games on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 PM. If you're interested please contact Pastor Russ, Sarah Kendall, or the church office

Please help support... St. John Christian Preschool

Purchase Kwik Star gift cards and the preschool

receives 5% of the face value!!
Please contact Whittney or Toni if you are interested.

NEW OFFICE HOURS!!

(Monday thru Friday)

OPEN 9 AM TO NOON CLOSED NOON TO 1 PM OPEN 1 PM TO 3 PM As precautionary steps for safety and security, we would like to ask all attendees and visitors of St John, to make sure you are locking your vehicles anytime you are inside the church or away from your vehicle.



The Charles Clty mobile food pantry is an equal opportunity provider.

Mobile food pantry needs your help

Delivery of food from the Northeast lowa 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!

Mid-Week Lenten Services 2024 "Wandering Heart" Wednesday worship service is at 5:30 p.m.

We will explore the life and faith of Jesus' disciple, Peter. In him, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

Scholarship Applications:

Those students attending a Lutheran college who would like to receive an EPIC grant must notify the church by $\mathbf{May} \ \mathbf{1^{st}}$.

St. John scholarship applications for non-Lutheran colleges can be emailed to you and should be emailed to the office by May 1st.

People's Page...

Celebrating the baptism of:
Coleman Lee Voelker
Maci Elaine Rule
Athena Riley Schneider

With sympathy, the deaths of:

Beverly Hinders Trost
Jerald Watkins
Bette Gullickson
Kenneth Rowley
Ruth Farmer
Marilu Wohlers

Memorials were given in memory of...

Barbara Andrews: Kip & Judy Hauser, John & Geneva Rima, Greg & Rosalie Pieper, Leon & Jan Mulford

Larry Bohner: Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall, Cal & Joyce Wood

Sharon Streich: Leon & Jan Mulford, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Kip & Judy Hauser, Paul & Yolanda Van

Ausdall

Jackie Holm Jacob: Kip & Judy Hauser Arlene Lehs: Kurt & Kathy Hoeft Bob Thompson: Leon & Jan Mulford Gus Bartlesen: Don & Sharon Tieskotter

Bunnie Nevermann: Leon & Jan Mulford, Kay Tjaden

Donna Stewart: Larry Stewart Fred Miller: B & S Dietrich

Mary Ann Townsend: Russell & Betty Ball

Beverly Friend: Judy Grimm, Jim & Donna Gambaiani, Cal & Joyce Wood, Bruce & Brenda DeBuhr, Gladys

Kellogg, Edna Stott, Kip & Judy Hauser, Gary & Sandie Quade, Mary Zilm

Patty Miller: Leona Howe Colleen Ortmayer: Leona Howe Jerald Watkins: Edna Stott

Ruth Farmer: Cal & Joyce Wood, Karen Streich

Bette Gullickson: Peg Poppen

Acolytes for March 2024

Sunday...

Lent Services

3	Ajay Johnson Sierra Hinz	6	Riley Quade Talan Eckhoff
10	Rylie Keyes	13	Cooper Holm Brady Hanson
17	Sierra Hinz Hailey Rule	20	Riley Quade Molly Hammermeister
24	Jackson Mehmen Brady Hanson		

Additional Acolytes

March 28th, Maundy Thursday: Worship/Communion at 5:30 p.m.

Ian Hallett Brady Hanson

March 29th, Good Friday: Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Maxtyn Hammermeister Molly Hammermeister

March 31st, Easter: Worship/Communion at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

8:00 a.m. Maxtyn Hammermeister

Hailey Rule

10:00 a.m. Ben Hammond Brady Hanson

March birthdays 80 & older!

Helen Bond	3/3/1940
Larry Stewart	3/9/1932
Ivadelle Stevenson	3/10/1933
Judy Thornton	3/23/1938
Shirley Madsen	3/28/1926
Nadonne Buseman	3/29/1944

March anniversaries of our members who have been married

Russell & Betty Ball	3/2/1958
Loyal & Norma McLean	2/14/1955
Norman & Carol Bauer	3/15/1970
Dennis & Janice Brinkman	3/27/1971

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 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 G, O, L, & F; how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. Our older 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 in the month of April, so be on the lookout for more information about that coming soon!

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, January 29, for our families who were *currently* enrolled. Registration for *new* families was held at our first ever Registration Open House on Thursday, February 8. We had a great turn out at that event and continue to get registrations! Registration will continue until all 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 4-day session meets Tuesday through Friday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. (Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program and is FREE) 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 Whittney Franke for any further information: 228-7274.

In HIS name,

Whittney Franke

Sundays:	9:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
	Communion is the 1st &	_ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
3/1/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
	6:30 p.m8:30 p.m.	Game Night (3rd Floor)
3/3/2024	9:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion
		Trinity Choir
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Morning Schedule
	10:10 a.m.	Parish Ed
	10:15 a.m.	SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING
3/4/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
3/5/2024	5:00 p.m.	Youth Board
	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
3/6/2024	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters WITH Prayer Shawl Ministry
	3:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Lenten Schedule
	5:30 p.m.	Lent Service
3/8/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
3/10/2024	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Morning Schedule
3/11/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
3/12/2024	8am to 4pm	Foster Grandparents
	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
3/13/2024	3:30 p.m.	(ONLY) After School Program & Supper
	5:30 p.m.	Lent Service
3/15/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
3/17/2024	9:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion (5th Sunday of Lent)
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Morning Schedule
3/18/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
3/19/2024	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
3/20/2024	9:00 a.m.	Newsletter Deadline
	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
	3:30 p.m.	Wednesday Night Lenten Schedule
3/21/2024	5:00 p.m.	Finance Board
	6:00 p.m.	ALL BOARD MEETING (PH)
3/22/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
3/24/2024	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	Palm/Passion Sunday Breakfast
3/25/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
3/26/2024	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare
3/27/2024	3:30 p.m.	(ONLY) After School Program & Kid's Choir
3/28/2024	5:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service with Communion
3/29/2024	7:00 p.m.	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
3/30/2024	TBD	Easter Egg Hunt
3/31/2024	8:00 a.m.	Easter Worship & Communion Service
		Easter Worship & Communion Service

No other Sunday Morning Activities

Lenten...Wednesday Night Supper

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Service
10:05 a.m.	Youth Hour
10:05 a.m.	Spark Sunday School
10:05 a.m.	After Worshin Social Time

Cost: \$5.00 for adults
Children through 12th grade
free thanks to
Kans for Kids
(Menu subject to change)

Supper is from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

No Wednesday Activities during Holy Week, except After School Program and Kid's Choir.

Wednesday Night Lenten Schedule Changes

February 14th through March 20th

3:15 to 5:00	After School Program
4:30 to 4:50	Kids Choir-K through 6 th grade
4:30 to 5:30	Supper in the Parish Hall (Kids eat free—Adults \$5 **All Welcome**)
5:30	Lenten Worship Service
6:15	Trinity Choir

Tone Chime Choir will resume after Easter.

March 2024						
Supplies	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Shirley Holm's birthday	26 Hunter Northroop's birthday Keaton Schmidtke's birthday	27	28 Greg Buenger's brithday Michael Exine's brithday Lori Gassman's brithday	59		2 Karleen Sickman's birthday Jada Montagne's birthday Russell and Betty Ball's 66th anniversary
3 Ree Chase's birthday Phyllis Foxen's birthday Helen Boud's birthday Norman Bauer's birthday	4 Linda Johnson's birthday Diane Barr's birthday	S.	6 Jean Erans' birthday Xander Chase's birthday	7 Faye Krause's birthday	8 Sandra Miller's birthday	9 Larry Slewarf's birthday
10 Nadelle Stevenson's birthday Kaiser Hicks' birthday Lauren Page's birthday Janet Delap's birthday	11 Loyal and Norma McLean's 69th anniversary	12 Ajay Johnson's birthday	13	4-	15 Tyler Marth's birthday Norman and Carol Bauer's 54th anniversary	16 Hunter Hinz's birthday
17 Dan DeBower's birthday	18 Ian Hallett's birthday	19 Carol Brahn's birthday	20 Nathalia Dean's birthday Dan Kehret's birthday	21	22	23 Realty Rogotzke's birthday Brenda Bailey's birthday Jance Multiord's birthday Judy Thornton's birthday Angie Parsons' birthday
24 Palm Sunday ▼	25	26 Peyton Ungs' birthday Jacob Hallett's birthday	27 Marlene Holfbaus' birthday Cherie Schafer's birthday Dennis and Janice Brinkman's 53rd anniversary	28 Maundy Thursday ▼	Good Friday V Bouglas Holm's birthday Nadonne Buserman's birthday Tayleigh Lantz's birthday	30 Michael Kreger's birthday
31 Easter 🔻 Jessie Holm's birthday Sandra Harrington's birthday	Colton Crooks" birthday	2 Georgena Miller's birthday Mike Leraaen's birthday	3 Megan LaBarge's birthday Imhuicha Bohnet's birthday	4 Maniyn Venz's birthday Richard Harrington's birthday	5 Greig Grimm's birthday Sarah Murray's birthday	Shirley Platte's birthday