

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 Kathy at
khoeft@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:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt, Intern
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary: Kathy Hoeft
office@stjohncharlescity.com
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Rhonda Schmidtke
businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

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

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, I will give you rest.” -
Matthew 11:28

They say that April showers bring May flowers but while the weather warms and the blossoms of spring renew the world around me, I find myself caught up in grief of loved ones who have passed. I do not feel refreshed. As holidays, birthdays, wedding, and death anniversaries bring my grief to the forefront of my mind, I instead find my sadness renewed and I know I need to sit with those feelings and drink from the well of my tears. It is something I would rather not do yet it is something that breaks through no matter how I try to avoid it. It has been a year since we suddenly lost my father during Holy Week right before his birthday. It has been 17 years since we suddenly lost my daughters' father during Holy Week right after his birthday.

My daughter, Marah, and I were talking about the struggle for our family this time of year and I said to her that even though I know it is best that her surgery is scheduled soon it also fills me with a sense of dread and trepidation. We have been tiptoeing around talking about it for the past month, keeping ourselves busy, and making lists of all the things we can do to be as prepared as possible. My words, instead of upsetting her, gave her comfort because they had been echoing in her own mind as well. It helped her to know that someone else was feeling the same feeling that she couldn't bring herself to name out loud.

May is mental health awareness month. This is a time in which we call mental health struggles by name to raise awareness and reduce the stigma that so many people experience. When we share our struggles, when we share our difficult times, when we acknowledge what we are feeling then we can connect with and encourage one another. We can deepen relationships as we better share of ourselves and we can help minimize the harm that holding all these feelings in can do to us and those around us. Sometimes we need to share these feelings with a professional to unpack them. Sometimes we need to receive professional care to prescribe medication. The Holy Spirit has gifted some people with the ability to be wonderful psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, and therapists so that they can serve others in their vocation. Sometimes that is the help we need.

Our family has seen the difference that mental healthcare can make in our lives, both together and individually. So, we openly talk about struggles with our feelings and mental wellness. I used to worry that sharing my more complicated feelings would be a burden to others but here is the thing: what feels like a burden is also a gift. Without sharing the gift of our struggles and emotions we limit our ability to engage in meaningful relationships. This is true both in our relationships with one another and in our relationship with God. We are commanded to love God and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Loving and caring for ourselves is a necessary part of the formula.

I carry my loved ones with me and the empty places where they stood have not blossomed into flowers. I choose to share those empty places with others because there is beauty and immense love that dwells there too. I am reminded that the stone was rolled away, and the emptiness of the tomb bespoke of the glory of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and God's immense love for each, and every one, of us.

God's Peace be with you,
Beth Hurt

Our Generosity in March 2023

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

8% of our regular February offering \$4,227.18 went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. The March recipient was The Ukraine family that Todd and Ann Prichard are sponsoring to come to our country for a new life. A check in the amount of \$630.68 was used for this mission outreach.

The 8% Thank Offering which is given quarterly was given to our own ministry of the Blessing Box to replenish for community need. A check for \$1,684.83 was given for this mission outreach.

Of Note...

SJCP'S END-OF-YEAR FOOD TRUCK "FRIEND"ZY!!

Please join us for music, games, fun and food!!

Sunday, May 7th from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the St. John parking lot!

This is a fundraising event featuring the "100 Envelope Challenge", where the funds will be used to purchase TWO tablets to use with our curriculum!

Featuring the following local Food Trucks:



Building & Grounds Spring Cleanup Day
will be May 13th, starting at 9:00 a.m.
Bring your rakes, wheelbarrows, and other
cleanup tools to help clean up the parking lot
and the grassy areas around the church!

New this year!!! Clean-up inside!!!

Due to dust from construction extra
cleaning is necessary at this time.

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!

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!

Wednesday Night Supper

Menus will be published weekly in the
bulletin and on the front page of the St. John
website.

Cost: \$5.00 for adults, children through 12th
grade free thanks to Kans for Kids

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.

GriefShare at St. John

GriefShare provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. Sessions will be led by St. John members in a warm, caring environment. **GriefShare is at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday for 13 weeks. There is no cost to attend.**

You are welcome to begin attending our GriefShare group at any point. Each session is self-contained, so you don't have to attend in sequence. You will be able to pick up any sessions you missed in our next 13-week cycle. You can learn more about GriefShare at **www.griefshare.org**.

People's Page...



Meet our new Parish Secretary!

Toni (Tonya) Hicks has been with St. John for a few weeks now & is happy to get to know & help everyone! Toni can be reached at 641-228-3397 or at office@stjohncharlescivcity.com

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2023

*Hannah Raellen Caroline DeVore
Anna Taylor Herbrechtsmeyer
Isaac Jacob Hervert
Sydney Marie Hinz
Kassey Jo Kakac
Olivia Jean Litterer
Tyler David Marth
Kyndra Kay Grace McDonald
Katherine Elizabeth Prichard
Teagan Marie Prigge*

Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*
(NIV)

Acolytes for May 2023

Sundays...

May 7: Emma Prichard, Addyson Vance

May 14: Carson Holm, Cooper Holm

May 21 & 28: Kayla Streich, Caleb Streich

May birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

5/9 Helen Lockwood
5/16 Marilyn Scholle
5/17 Marian Dight
5/22 Edna Stott
5/26 Beverly Hinders Trost
5/31 Jerry Meader
5/31 Margaret Schultz
5/31 Betty Manning

With sympathy, the funerals of:

*James "Jim" Marlow, 4/1/23
Marian Johnson, 4/4/23
Angela "Angie" Quade Kettwig, 4/14/23
Donna Mae Field Stewart, 4/29/23*

With sympathy, the death of:

Rodney Charles Ellis, 4/13/23

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

5/3/1958 Leon & Shirley Hall
5/17/1969 Sherman & Diane Loudermilk
5/28/1960 Calvin & Joyce Wood

Memorials were given in memory of...

Randall Kreger: Gary & Sandra Marth, Dennis & Gloria Carr

Angela "Angie" Quade Kettwig: Gary & Sandy March, Diane Melrose, Dennis & Jan Brinkman, Dennis & Gloria Carr

Joyce Heitz: Leon & Jan Mulford

Rodney Ellis: Cherie Schafer, Kay Tjaden

Donna Stewart: Cherie Schafer, Don & Sharon Tieskotter

John Hereberger & Barney Winfield: Gary & Sandy Marth

Catherine Guess: Ron & Connie Rasmussen

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ And he laid his hands on them and blessed them.”

Matthew 19:14-15

Blessings, Laurie Heidebrink

YOUTH NEWS

Thank you to all who attended the Youth Board’s **Palm Sunday Breakfast**. The free-will donations are going into the individual accounts of the youth who worked that event and will be available for them to use for St. John events, like mission trips, Bible camps, etc. We are so very grateful for your support!

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 6th-12th grades** and their friends. Sign up on the bulletin board outside Laurie’s office.

The Youth Board would welcome any donations toward the cost of fuel for the bus. If you feel called to donate stop in and see Linda in the Business Office, or put **Sunday, June 4th** 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.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will finish on May 10th.

GRADUATION

Graduation Sunday is on May 21st. We will be celebrating with our St. John graduates during worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The last day of Sunday School was Sunday, April 30th. The Parish Education board would like to thank all our Sunday School teachers, substitutes, helpers and all the parents who brought their children to Sunday School classes. You have **all** made a difference in these kids’ faith journeys.

“STELLAR – Shine Jesus’ Light!” ----- June 26th-29th will be VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

- Online registration will be starting soon. Be watching!
- Walk-in registration will begin at 5:15pm on the 26th.
- 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 in Preschool-5th grades.
- There is no registration fee for VBS this year thanks to Kans for Kids!
- If you are interested in volunteering at VBS, please contact Laurie.

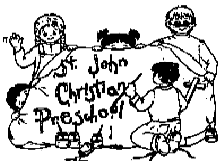


FAMILY BOARD

Thirty children and their parents got to go on an Easter Egg Hunt at St. John on April 8th. The Family Board hid many eggs and our youngest friends searched in the choir room while the older children went on a puzzle hunt to find eggs of a certain color that contained puzzle pieces and then claim a “goody bag” after their puzzle was put together. We also had assorted crafts and activities for the families to participate in while here, including dyeing eggs to take home. Much fun was had by all!

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The After School Program wrapped up this program year on April 26th. Thank you to the St. John bus drivers who safely delivered the students to us each Wednesday– without the bus many of our friends wouldn’t have been able to attend. Thank you to all the Middle School and High School helpers, and to everyone who donated snacks!



St. John Christian Preschool...

How quickly time can fly by!?! We have already made it through another great year at St. John Christian Preschool. Wednesday, May 17th will be our last day of the 2022-2023 school year. We are hoping to be blessed by some nice weather so that we can spend our last days of school outside enjoying God's beautiful world! As sad as it is to see our older friends go off to Kindergarten, we know that they will be given a whole new and exciting learning experience.

Our preschool friends ended their school year with a number of fun activities. Each class got a visit from Officer Ollendick! He talked to us about staying safe in our community! But the best part was getting to sit inside the police car!! 😊 In addition, each class was able to make a special trip to the library. It is always fun to explore our town with our friends.

We will be taking our younger friends to Andres Park for a day of fun. It is always remarkable to see how much fun little ones can have with nothing more than a large area of grass. From sidewalk chalk to kicking balls, we will have a great day. Our older friends are hoping to end the year with a field trip to Lion's Field Park. This is always a fun and exciting part of the year because EVERYBODY gets to ride the all-famous TAXI! ☺ We'll have to see what the weather holds!

We have also started to work on beginning plans for the 2023-2024 school year. We have been blessed with a great start to our registration and currently have openings in both of our 3/4-year-old classes and 4/5-year-old classes but are filling up. If you know someone who is interested in attending, please encourage them to call us at 228-7274 or email us at wfranke@stjohncharlescacity.com. We thank God that our ministry dedicated to providing a loving, Christian, educational environment for little ones is still going strong and we thank you for helping us spread the word!

As a reminder, we always have Kwik Star gift cards available. If you would like to purchase some, you can stop down at the preschool. If we do not have what you are looking for, please fill out the order form and we will order them for you. The preschool gets 5% of the card's value. ☺ We are also hoping to start doing a monthly order, where you'd be able to sign up for gift cards at church on the first Sunday of the month and then receive them the following Sunday. We're still in the works on logistics...haha...but that is the plan!

DON'T FORGET! Our Food Truck "Friend"zy is Sunday, May 7th from 11:00am-1:00pm right here at St. John! We will be having delicious food from three different local food trucks, music, face painting, bubbles, and more! We will also be doing the 100 Envelope Challenge! Money from this fundraiser will be used to purchase two tablets that are needed to accompany some of our newer curriculums! Come help us celebrate the end of another great year at SJCP! 😊 (This event is open to the public, so invite your friends and families!)

Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who purchased cupcakes from our preschoolers for our All-School fundraiser! We will be able to purchase those items listed from our "Wish List!" We appreciate all of your continued support for our program!

Have a great summer and THANK YOU for all that you do!

With HIS love,
Whittney Franke

May 2023 Schedule...

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

Tuesdays **6:30 p.m.** **Grief Share**

5/3/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
5/4/2023	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl group
5/7/2023	11:00 a.m.	SJCP Food Truck "Friend-zy"
5/10/2023	5:00 p.m.	Last Wednesday Night Supper
5/13/2023	9:00 a.m.	Spring Clean-up
5/17/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
5/18/2023	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl group
5/21/2023	Graduation Sunday	
5/24/2023	Newsletter Deadline	
5/29/2023	Memorial Day Office Closed	

Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds	5/2/2023	6:00 p.m.
Council:	5/9/2023	6:00 p.m.
Deacons:	TBD	
Family Board:	5/10/2023	4:30 p.m.
Finance Board	5/9/2023	5:00 p.m.
Parish Ed:	5/16/2023	4:10 p.m.
Stewardship:	5/16/2023	2:00 p.m.
Youth Board:	5/3/2023	5:30 p.m.

May Birthdays!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Kiki Connell	Anastasia Baldus Colton Baldus Wolfgang Baldus Kaleb Bilharz Hailey Rule	Ellie Lantz	Jacob Greenzweig Hudson Hinz	Mindi Sande Keegan Voelker	Sue Hawke Stacey Vance
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Joseph Heidebrink		Helen Lockwood	Amy Kubik Vicki Schroeder	Brandon Franke Eric Johanningmeier Marilyn Obermeier Sara Sharp Michael Tracey Blair Walker	Jessica Carolan Jennifer Holschlag Jennifer Davidson Joel Holthaus Damon Sickman Larry Tommingo Roger Townsend	Joshua Dean
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Larry Bohner Scott Vance	Bryce Caffrey Dennis Carr	Kaleb Cotton David Schweizer Henry Sisson	Mary Augustin Brad Bailey Marian Dight Brinlee Merrifield Virginia Titus	Larry Michehl	Martha Brunner Tyler Hicks Dorothy Parson	Joyce Boehmer Candice Lumley
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	Madilyn Lessin Edna Stott		Addison Merrifield	Taylor Quade Margot Smith Wendy Vance Jeff Wink	Russ Leeper Beverly Hinders Trost	Matt Selvig Patricia Townsend
28	29	30	31			
Brandon Castillo Deven Castillo	Tino Tamayo	Jacqueline Moon Emma Prichard	Gaylen Hicok Randall Kreger Betty Manning Jerry Meader Margaret Schultz			