

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2024


“God’s Love in Action”

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
200 South Main Street
Charles City, IA 50616-2751
Phone: 641-228-3397

Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt, Intern
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Website: www.stjohncharlescity.org

 Find & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the E-Skinny by
emailing Toni at
office@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

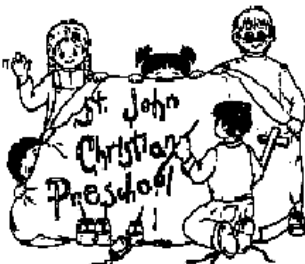
Worship service broadcasted on
KCHA FM 95.9 at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



Intern, Beth Hurt

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:11-15

Before I moved to Iowa, I had never heard of May Day. I soon learned that people gather flowers, candies, and other goodies in May baskets and hang them on the doors of their friends, neighbors and loved ones. In some communities, dropping a May basket on someone's door might even mean you had a crush on them. For many Iowans this was a day filled with cherished memories, but the celebration has fallen out of favor. One person shared that their mother always made a big deal out of May baskets. Lists were thoughtfully made and rewritten until they were just right. For some May Day was a day of giving almost as exciting as Christmas! Plus, part of the fun is in dropping off the basket and evading detection. I have heard many May Day tales of plans devised, running away as fast as possible, or almost getting caught. So, my family joined our neighbors in celebrating this beautiful way to share joy and care. We now have our own memories to share of this day and have experienced the gifts of giving.

The call to generosity goes beyond any holiday. I encounter similar gifts in my regular giving, such as when donating groceries and other items to the blessing box. For me, this is a whole process and spiritual practice. As I take care to shop for healthy, filling, and convenient meals or snacks and look for ways to use my cashback, coupons, and rewards for everyday useful items my heart and attention is directed outwards. I pray in my actions that our neighbor experiencing hunger and food insecurity has their basic need met for daily bread, and that this lifts their spirit. Through the body of Christ, as the church, our small actions and gifts share hope into the world. Our actions are part of the way we live our faith. We give unto God when we feed one another, and we are filled with love and joy because we know how very much that we have been given in Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love,
Beth Hurt - Intern

Northeastern Iowa Synod Strengthens Community Through Congregation Mission Support

Congregations of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, including St. John Lutheran Church, participate in and contribute to God's work in the world and at home through Mission Support. Generosity to Mission Support – the offerings that ELCA congregations share with synods and the churchwide organization — supports new ELCA ministries and partnerships around the globe and provides funds for staff and resources to carry out local ministries in the Northeastern Iowa Synod.

Please take a moment to reflect on how St. John and this synod are making a difference together through a spirit of generosity, love of God and love for our neighbor:

- The Northeastern Iowa Synod celebrated the installation of 16 pastors in 21 congregations in 2023, enriching our synod's communities with new spiritual leadership and vitality.
- This synod directly supports rostered ministers through the annual Fall Theological Conference, Day of Renewal, and safe ministry education. In addition, our Bishop and synod staff members provide pastoral care and guidance to ministers and congregations facing challenging circumstances.
- Our synod networks build connections in our communities to care for our environment, stand up for racial justice and fight hunger to make our corner of Iowa a better place.

Thank you for your faithful partnership and support with the Northeastern Iowa Synod! We are 143 congregations, one synodically authorized worshipping community, two Lutheran colleges (Luther and Wartburg), one campus ministry (Three House, UNI), two Bible camps (EWALU and Riverside), one seminary (Wartburg) and Lutheran Social Services (providing care for some of the most vulnerable among us).

You are part of all of this ministry, and God is doing great things through you!

-- Pastor Liz Bell



Thank you, St. John Lutheran,
for your *faithful partnership & generosity!*
\$29,202.22

Of Note...

We're Hiring!

St. John Lutheran Church in Charles City, Iowa is seeking a **Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator**.

This person is responsible for facilitating K-12 faith formation in collaboration with the Board of Parish Education, the Youth & Family Ministry Board, and other volunteers. This position is full time with a competitive benefits package. To view the full job description and qualifications, visit our website at stjohncharlescity.org. **To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Pastor Russ Leeper at rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com.**

Scholarship Applications:

Those students attending a Lutheran college who would like to receive an EPIC grant must notify the church by **May 1st**.

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



Charles City Community Blood Drive

Messiah Lutheran Church
705 3rd Ave. | Charles City

Tuesday, May 14

12:30 PM - 5:30 PM



Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.267.4903 | Visit: lifeserve.info/schedule



Building & Grounds
will hold
their Spring cleanup day

May 18th at 9:00 a.m.!

Volunteers Needed!!

Please bring a rake/broom/shovel/clippers to help clean around the outside of the church and parking lot.



Adult Sunday School Class called "Making Sense of Scripture."

This study and conversation will cover the following topics: What Is the Bible? Is the Bible True? How Is the Bible the Word of God? Where Did the Bible Come From? How Can I Read the Bible with Greater Understanding? Is There a "Center" to Scripture? What Kind of Authority Does the Bible Hold?

The class will meet in the chapel on Sundays from **10:15 to 11:00AM**.

Everyone is welcome!

Join any 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!



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.

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.

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

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.

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!

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.

Mobile food pantry needs your help



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



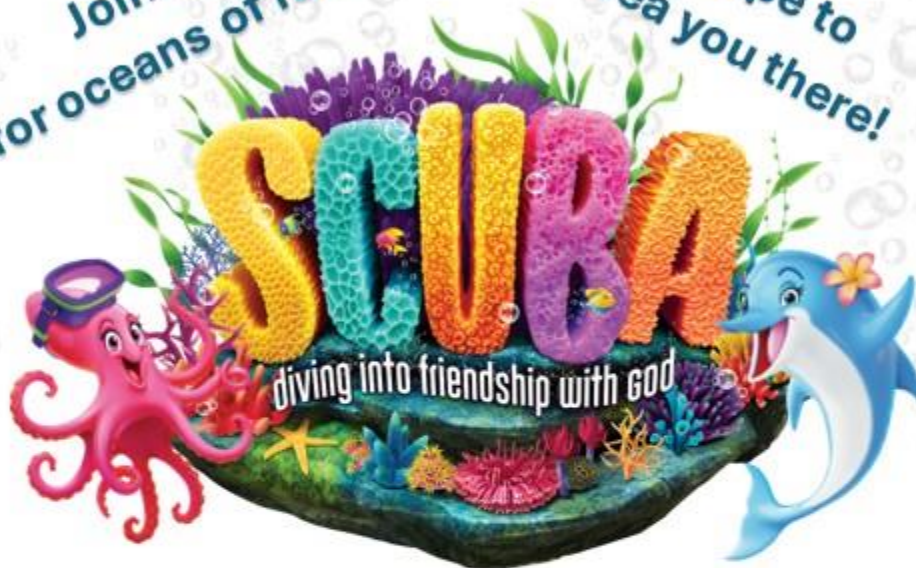
Delivery of food from the Northeast Iowa mobile food pantry by the St John bus is off to a wonderful start! This is a greatly needed service in our community because there are many people that qualify for food from the pantry but have mobility or transportation limitations and are unable to come to the 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!

St John Lutheran Church

Join us
for oceans of fun!

Hope to
sea you there!



Vacation Bible School

Where: 200 S. Main St. Charles City, IA

When: Mon. June 10th – Thurs. June 13th



Ages: 4-yr-old Pre-K through 6th Grade

Time: K-6th 5:30pm – 8:00pm each day

Pre-K 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Questions? Contact Intern Beth Hurt beth@stjohncharlescity.com

100th Building Anniversary & Bell Project

This is the year of the **100th Anniversary** of the construction of our present church. We have had our first meeting and made some decisions. We will have a brunch menu instead of dinner, but **THERE WILL BE PIE!!** We also plan on a Country Store with the special baked, canned or grown items that people wish to donate. A Craft fair will be part of it, so get your thinking hats on to see what you can make. We will also have a silent auction of some special donated items, so consider what you can make, like a quilt, wooden item or some other specialty item that people would like to bid on.

The Brunch will be a free will donation, but we will take reservations closer to the date, **October 27th**. We will announce the goal that we are raising money for in a month or two. (possibly youth) Questions to petefishj@mchsi.com

Update on the Bell

Roger Michael says he was told it was from the previous church. It would be nice if we got information or confirmation from anyone else in the know, but Roger is a good source.

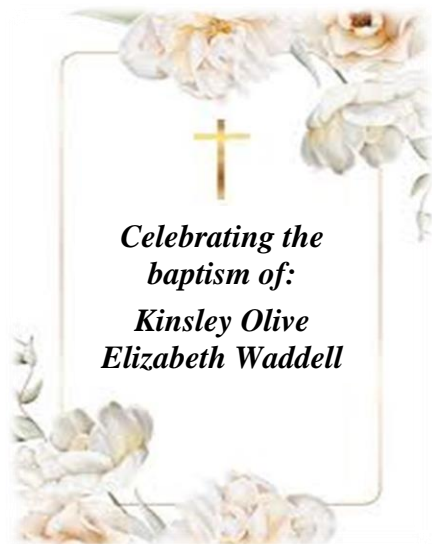
We discovered that the old bell does have a clapper inside and it has 1892 stamped into its metal stand. A church history book references that there was a rebuilding and enlargement of the old church that was completed in 1893, more evidence that it is probably from the old church.

Our interest in this is historical and related to the upcoming 100th anniversary of our current church. It has been suggested to have it cleaned and fixed up a bit to put on display outside our church in honor of that anniversary since it would have been rung for the last time 100 years ago. Wouldn't it be fun to ring it one more time? This is in the preliminary stages, but ideas and input would be appreciated.

Contact me at petefishj@mchsi.com



People's Page...



*Celebrating the
baptism of:
Kinsley Olive
Elizabeth Waddell*



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

*Olivia Joyce Kreger
Hayden George Heyer
Taylor Rose Quade
Lukas James Vance
AnneMarie Connie Hansen
Madison Rose Lensing
Ivan Gopei*

John 14:27 *“Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I give to you not as the world gives. Don’t be troubled or afraid.”*

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

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

May birthdays 80 & older!

Helen Lockwood	5/9/1932
Roger Townsend	5/12/1944
Marilyn Scholle	5/16/1931
Marian Dight	5/17/1942
Edna Stott	5/22/1931
Margaret Schultz	5/31/1931
Jerry Meader	5/31/1939
Betty Manning	5/31/1943

Acolytes for May 2024

Sunday...

5	Owen Prichard Graham Hansen
12	Owen Prichard Ian Hallett
19	Ian Hallett Graham Hansen
26	Hailey Rule Rylie Keyes

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 15th will be our last day of the 2023-2024 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 was able to make a special trip to the library. Our older friends got to sing again at 11th Street Chautauqua for the residents. It is always fun to explore our town with our friends.

On our last day, May 15th, 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 2024-2025 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@stjohncharlescity.com. We thank God that our ministry is 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!

We will have the outcome of our Spring Fundraiser for you in the June newsletter! We can't wait to see if we met our goal! Fingers crossed for a school-wide snow cone party! 😊 Thank you to those who donated already! 😊 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 2024 Schedule...

Sundays:	9:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
Communion is the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month		
5/1/2024	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
	9:00 a.m.	Scholarship Deadline
	5:00 p.m.	Final: Wednesday Night Supper & Confirmation Class
5/3/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
5/5/2024	9:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion
		Speaker-Eric Voss/Celebrate Recovery
	After Worship	After Worship Social Time
	10:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Class
5/6/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
5/9/2024	5:30-8pm	SJCP Open House
5/10/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
	6:00-8:30pm	SJCP Open House
5/12/2024	9:00 a.m.	Worship
Mother's Day	After Worship	After Worship Social Time
	10:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Class
5/13/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
5/15/2024	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
5/17/2024	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
5/18/2024	9:00 a.m.	Spring Clean-up Day!!
5/19/2024	9:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion
Pentecost		Graduation Sunday
	After Worship	After Worship Social Time
	10:15 a.m.	LAST: Adult Sunday School Class
5/20/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
5/22/2024	9:00 a.m.	Newsletter Deadline
5/26/2024	9:00 a.m.	Worship
Holy Trinity	After Worship	After Worship Social Time
5/27/2024	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
Memorial Day	Office Closed	
5/28/2024	5:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministry Group (FS)

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Service
10:05 a.m.	After Worship Social Time
10:15 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Class

Wednesday Night Supper

LAST SUPPER OF THE SEASON!!

****May 1st****

"Grand Finale"

Hamburger, Hot Dogs, Beans, Chips & Cookies

Supper is from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 for adults

Children through 12th grade free thanks to
Kans for Kids

(Menu subject to change)

Board Meetings:		
Parish Ed	5/5	10:15 AM
Council	5/14	6:00 PM
Finance	5/14	5:00 PM
Caring Ministry	5/16	4:30 PM
B & G	5/21	6:00 PM
Stewardship	5/21	5:00 PM
Youth & Family	TBD	

May 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Dennis Keeger's birthday Jason and Sue McDonald's 34th anniversary	29 Paul Augustin's birthday Sue Hawk's birthday	30 Bruce Boerschel's birthday	1 Kiki Connell's birthday	2 Anastasia Baidus' birthday Wolfgang Baidus' birthday Colton Baidus' birthday	3 Ellie Lantz's birthday Leon and Shirley Hall's 66th anniversary	4 Hudson Hinz's birthday
5 Mind Sande's birthday Mark and Cynthia Davidson's 34th anniversary	6 Stacey Vance's birthday Sue Hawke's birthday	7 Joseph Heidebrink's birthday	8	9 Roger and Marcia Jacobs' 38th anniversary Ascension Day	10 Amy Kubik's birthday Vicki Schroeder's birthday	11 Michael Tracey's birthday Eric Johannimgmeier's birthday Blair Walker's birthday
12 Mother's Day Joel Holthaus' birthday Larry Tommingo's birthday Damon Sickman's birthday Jessica Carolan's birthday Roger Townsend's birthday	13 Joshua Dean's birthday	14 Scott Vance's birthday	15 Dennis Carr's birthday Bryce Caffrey's birthday	16 David Schweizer's birthday Kaleb Cotton's birthday	17 Mary Augustin's birthday Marian Dight's birthday Birnee Merrifield's birthday Brad Bailey's birthday Sherman and Diane Loudermilk's 55th anniversary	18 Larry Michel's birthday
19 Pentecost Dorothy Parson's birthday Maitha Brunner's birthday	20 Candice Lumley's birthday Joyce Boehmer's birthday	21 Jane Thronson's birthday	22 Edna Stoff's birthday Madlyn Lessin's birthday	23 Christopher and Lisa Garden's 37th anniversary	24 Addison Merrifield's birthday	25 Taylor Quade's birthday Wendy Vance's birthday Chadwick and Jenette Kakaac's 23rd anniversary Patrick and Candice Lumley's 33rd anniversary
26 Russ Leeper's birthday	27 Memorial Day Matthew Selvig's birthday Patricia Townsend's birthday	28 Brandon Castillo's birthday Deven Castillo's birthday Aspen Heller's birthday Calvin and Joyce Wood's 64th anniversary	29 Axel Heller's birthday	30 Emma Pritchard's birthday Jacqueline Moon's birthday	31 Betty Manning's birthday Margaret Schultz's birthday Gaylen Hook's birthday Richard and Sandra Harrington's 33rd anniversary	1 Jim Gambianni's birthday Mikaela George's birthday
2 Melanie Johannimgmeier's birthday	3 Randy Evans' birthday	4 Roger Jacobs' birthday Brad and Brenda Bailey's 36th anniversary	5	6 Greg Heidebrink's birthday Angela Ayers' birthday Kash Kubik's birthday Roger Michael's birthday Frank and Jeanette Anderson's 43rd anniversary	7	8 AnneMarie Hansen's birthday Jacob Vance's birthday