

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



2022



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The office will be closed
November 24th & 25th!

“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

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.

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

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

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor Russ Leeper :

One day, years ago, I was driving down the highway on my way to a funeral. Suddenly the car, with no help from me, began blaring its horn in one long continuous blast. I beat on the horn button, but it didn't help. Other drivers were giving me strange looks and making hostile gestures, so I decided I'd better pull over and try to do something about it. I turned off the engine. The horn was still blaring. I started the engine again. No change. I beat on the horn button some more. Still nothing ... and to make it worse, I was already at the end of my list entitled: "Things I Know How to Do On a Car." There was only one thing left to try ... the thing that sends a shiver of fear down the spine of every mechanically incompetent person the world over - LOOK UNDER THE HOOD!

So, there I stood, along the side of the road in my suit and tie looking, with utter ignorance, under the hood of a smirking Honda Civic. Like Mr. Rogers trying to rob a bank or Arnold Schwarzenegger playing the role of the Little Mermaid, the job to be done and the person trying to do it had nothing in common.

The first impression I had after sticking my head under the hood was that it was noisy. I attributed this to the horn, but I wasn't certain. I wondered what a car horn might look like. In my mind I pictured the little plastic and rubber tooter that was attached to my bicycle handlebars when I was a kid. Nope, didn't see any of those. Somehow, I managed to stumble across a fuse box. I will forever owe a debt of gratitude to the Honda engineer who, one day at staff meeting, spoke up and said, "Why don't we put a diagram right on the lid of the fuse box showing what each of the fuses is for!" Because I looked down and there on the top of the fuse box, like manna from heaven, was a diagram. Written on that diagram, in big letters, were what at that moment seemed to be the two sweetest words in the English language: "STOP HORN." I found the correct fuse, pulled it out, and, oh, the silence was beautiful! And I prayed: "Oh Lord, for this fuse and the diagram that lead me to it, I give You thanks!"

The Apostle Paul wrote: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Paul reminds us to live life thankfully and to give thanks in all circumstances. Maybe things haven't been going so well with you lately. That means you're human. Life is life. Things happen - good things and bad things. But no matter what happens, good or bad, the love of God in Christ Jesus is with you, in you, and for you. We can rejoice and give thanks in all circumstances because, no matter what happens to us, we're God's beloved children, forgiven through Jesus Christ, and God will never, ever let us go ... not ever.

Every time we gather as a congregation at St. John, we gather around that promise. We come together with all our experiences, good and bad, and together we say "Thank you, Lord ... thank you for loving us and being our God." I hope you'll come and add your voice to the thanksgiving!

That old Honda Civic with the broken horn taught me a lesson: keep your eyes open because God's blessings can and do come in all situations. Eventually, we managed to sell that car ... and for that I am truly thankful!

Peace,
Pastor Russ



COUNCIL NOTES...

October Council Highlights:

- Continuing to gather ideas of how our Council can continue to build our vision for God's Love in Action, we look forward to building off of the ideas presented at further council meetings.
- Council has been working with the Synod office to put a plan in place after approving moving forward with a call for a 1/2 Time Pastor. Based on the information collected and feedback from the NE Iowa Synod office, we will be welcoming Pastor Steve Brackett, Assistant to the Bishop to our November Council meeting to discuss options for next steps.
- Continued discussion on installing some type of lift system in the church as we are in a holding phase as we wait for another quote from an electrical contractor and feedback from the architect. Thanks to Julie B., Kathy R., and Kim W. for working as a team to pursue and apply grant opportunities for this project!
- Donated our Monthly Benevolence to Coats for Kids to replenish their stock after another successful event last week.
- We have officially posted for the Business Manager opening! We appreciate Karol Carpenter's work as Interim Business Manager these past several weeks, which has helped us prepare for the new hire!
- Took initial steps towards a Nominating Committee to be formed as we look to replace council and board members who are stepping off our boards after various years of service.
- Hopefully you have marked Sunday, October 30th down on your calendar for our 150th Anniversary Celebration during and after service. The planning committee is hard at work finalizing plans and it promises to be a special day!

Thank you and please let us know if you have any thoughts, questions, concerns, etc.

-St. John Lutheran Church Council



Our Generosity in September 2022

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

8% of our regular August offering (\$2535.10) went to support the mission of the larger church.

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

The September recipient was The Jordan River Food Bank, we were able to support their mission with a \$793.74 check.

The 8% quarterly Thank offering was selected to go to the Charles City School System to assist with the clothing needs for students. This check was in the amount of \$1972.73

OF NOTE...



**Daylight savings
time ends
NOVEMBER 6TH !**
Turn your clocks
BACK one hour!

After Worship Social Time! Coffee & a treat
are served outside the Narthex doors each
Sunday! If you would like to volunteer to bring
the treats, there is a signup on the treat table!

Wednesday Night Supper

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

Cost: \$5.00 for adults

Children through 12th grade free thanks to Kans for Kids

Adult Bible Study will be at 10:15 in the Chapel

Each week we will be taking a closer
look at the Bible readings for that
Sunday. It's a chance to go deeper in
the scriptures for that week and have
conversation about them.

Dartball at St. John

Dartball matches will be starting soon. We
are planning 2 in November & 2 in
December so far. A complete schedule will
be out soon. You can contact Dennis Sande
at 319-389-7998 if interested in playing.

**On Sunday, November 13th, Angel Tree tags will be available in the Narthex before
and after service.** Angel Tree provides gifts for children of incarcerated parents, food and
religious materials for their families, and Bibles for the prisoners. Please support the program
again this year.



Mark your calendars for
Saturday, December 3rd to
come help the Deacons
decorate the church for
Christmas! We will start at
9:00 a.m.
All are welcome!



THE .25 CENT GIFT STORE FOR KIDS

**will be December 4th! Store
hours are
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Donations of gently used
Christmas themed items,
craft items, or toys are
needed! You can bring your
donated items to the
St John.**

People's Page...

November birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

11/3 Myrna Ward
11/7 Wayne Ellertson
11/8 Cal Wood
11/9 Charles Waddell
11/17 Diane Melrose
11/19 Gladys Kellogg
11/19 Rose Lamprecht
11/23 Bill Bledsoe



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

Nov. 1, 1969	Colleen & Duane Ortmyer
Nov. 3, 1950	Myron & Clarice Leraaen
Nov. 8, 1959	Myrna & Skip Ward
Nov. 14, 1959	Allen & Diane Cross
Nov. 16, 1958	Dean & Doris Toebe
Nov. 16, 1957	William & Arlene Hollar
Nov. 23, 1963	Charles & Beverly Waddell
Nov. 28, 1970	David & Linda Lindaman
Nov. 29, 1963	Richard & Marcia Olesen
Nov. 30, 1962	Robert & Beverly Friend

Celebrating the Baptism of...

Bryson Richard Pahnisch, 10/23/22
Ezekiel Donald Kendall, 10-30-22

Celebrating the Wedding of...

Brody Stone & Cassie Hanawalt, 10/8/22
Jared George & Mikaela Kreger, 10/23/22

With Sympathy, the funeral of...

Joan Marie Semelhack, 9/24/22
Joshua Russell Schroeder, 10/8/22
Thomas "Tom" Winterink, 10/26/22

Memorials were given in memory of...

Alvin Norris Davidson: Lenis & Nadonne Buseman,
Leon & Jan Mulford

Kathleen 'Kathy' Kay Scharnhorst Ebert: David &
Susan Ayers

Shirley Ann deMerritt Kreimeyer Ripley: Russell &
Betty Ball, Irene Kreimeyer, William & Sue Kealy,
Larry & Sondra Coen, Carleen Laue, Whitney
Franke, Gary & Ramana Schmidt, Marilu Wohlers,
Frances Oldham, Carol Marlene Kastler

Doug Litterer: Judy Hughes

Joseph Thorne: Monte & Kathy Waldorf

Joan Semelhack: Kip & Judy Hauser

Kayla LaBarge: David & Susan Ayers



Acolytes for November

Jonah Devore, 11-6
Jacob Vance, 11/6 & 20
Katlyn Parson, 11/13 & 27
Bryce Walker, 11/13 & 27
Addyson Vance, 11/20



T for time to be together, turkey, talk, and tangy weather.

H for harvest stored away, home, and hearth, and holiday.

A for autumn's frosty art, and abundance in the heart.

N for neighbors, and November, nice things, new things to remember.

K for kitchen, kettles' croon, kith and kin expected soon.

S for sizzles, sights, and sounds, and something special that abounds.

Aileen Fisher

Youth & Families...

Well, autumn is here, and with it comes falling leaves and cool, dark evenings. The days seem short and the hours of darkness seem long. Let's all remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that He wants us to let our lights shine for others. Ephesians 5:8-10 Maybe then the hours of darkness won't seem quite as dark. ☺

Blessings, Laurie

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

We have an awesome group at the After School Program this year! We have 20 kids enrolled and some Middle School and/or High School helpers each week. How great is that?!? 😊 It's never too late to join us! Call the church to register.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes are in full swing and during November we will be switching from Miracles of Jesus and Martin Luther & the Reformation to Lord's Prayer, Chronicles of Narnia, and Smart Decisions classes.

And we're having a "fun night" with a beanbag tournament in between!

FAMILY BOARD

Sunday, December 4th, the Family Board will be hosting our \$0.25 Gift Store for children in the Parish Hall from 10am-noon. This is an opportunity for parents to bring children to purchase gifts for siblings, parents and grandparents. We are asking the congregation for donations of Christmas items, crafts, and gently used toys that might be fun gifts for children to purchase. Please bring donations to the church office.

The "Store" will be open at 11:00am - 12:30pm for our St. John kids and the public.

PARISH EDUCATION BOARD

November is **Food Month**. We ask that you bring non-perishable food items to Sunday School each Sunday of the month. These items will be used in our Blessing Box or donated to the food pantry here in Charles City.

There will be NO Sunday School on November 27, 2022, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

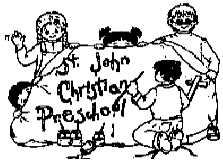
The Sunday School Christmas program will be **on December 11, during the 9:00am** worship service.

YOUTH

The Youth Board would like to borrow a few sets of Bean Bag Boards for the evening of November 16th. We would be using them here at the church. If you have a set (with bags) you would be willing to lend us for that evening, please let us know. Thanks!

November is food Month!

**Sunday School youth can bring non-perishable
food items to class to be collected for the
"Blessing Box"**



St. John Christian Preschool...

OUR GOD IS AWESOME! We continue to feel the blessings of God's amazing love each and every day in our preschool center. We are surrounded by eager learners who are not only looking to have excellent educational experiences, but also friends who are looking to start a walk with Jesus or to continue down that path with our Lord and Savior!

October began with BEAUTIFUL weather, which allowed for our friends to have a couple visits from our Charles City Fire Department. The younger friends were able to meet Sparky the Fire Dog while the older friends were able to see the "insides" of a fire truck! Thanks to Sparky and Fire Chief Eric Whipple for taking time out of their busy schedules to visit both of our classes.

October was an extra long month, which gave us extra time for extra fun! We talked about the colors, red/yellow and black/white. We also learned about the letters R, D and X and even got to play OUTSIDE almost every day! We talked about Fire Safety and finished our Color Unit. We talked about the different kinds of leaves, and we also worked on patterns. (Patterns are essential in reading and math skills!) We started the month with a trip to the library and ended the month with our annual Costume Day.

As we enter November, we schedule perhaps one of the most exciting days for our older preschool friends. Our new 4/5-year-old friends will be receiving their very own Bible! They receive this Bible on a very special day, All Saint's Day. It is a wondrous site to behold when each little one realizes that they are receiving a treasure all their own. We offer many thanks to our congregational members who provide donations through gifts or memorials throughout the year. Those dollars fund this amazing portion of our preschool ministry. To make sure that our Bibles don't become decorations, we ask our older friends to bring their Bibles back to preschool on Wednesdays so we can "read" the story together with Pastor Russ!

In Christ,
Whittney Franke



November 2022 Schedule...

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

11/1/2022 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry
 11/6/2022 **All Saints Sunday**
 11/16/2022 9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters
 11/22/2022 **Newsletter Deadline**
 11/24/2022 **Happy Thanksgiving - Office closed**
 11/25/2022 **Office Closed**
 11/27/2022 1st Sunday of Advent - No Sunday School



Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds 11/1/2022 6:00 p.m.
 Council: 11/8/2022 6:00 p.m.
 Deacons: 11/13/2022 11:00 a.m.
 Family Board: TBD
 Finance Board 11/8/2022 5:00 p.m.
 Parish Ed: 11/13/2022 8:00 a.m.
 Stewardship: 11/15/2022 2:00 p.m.
 Youth Board: 11/13/2022 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night Schedule

3:30 p.m. After School
 5:00 p.m. Supper
 6:00 p.m. Confirmation
 7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Susan Ayers	Lori Janssen Angie Tudor	Sharon Tieskotter Beverly Waddell Myrna Ward	Saeli Chase	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Wayne Ellertson Jacob Page	Calvin Wood	Charles Waddell	Kayla Kellogg	Henry Marth Teagan Prigge	Bruce Delap Brady Hanson Anna Herbrechtsmeyer
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Jacque Brandau Glenn Johlas Nancy Johlas Emersyn Miller Finley Pettit	Alex George Michael Laue	Cameron Lessin	Dan Lantz Diane Melrose Dylan Parsons	Chad Kellogg	Mark Davidson Gladys Kellogg Kenley LaBarge Rose Lamprecht Lorna Scrimger David Watson
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Zuri Franke Brian Schmidtke	Rodney Hinz	Gary Marth Sarah Merrifield Alex Nordmeyer	Bill Bledsoe Riley Quade	Linda Lindaman	Graham Hansen Addisen Lantz	Beverly Selvig
27	28	29	30			
Steve Barr Lydia Johnson	Sandra Marth	Richard Lacour				