THE GOOD NEWSLETTER





"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: Whittney 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

<u>Pastor Russ Leeper:</u>

This month our 150th Anniversary celebration comes to its peak with a special service, craft fair, and celebration dinner on Sunday, October 30th. I'm grateful for all the organization that's gone into our yearlong celebration and those who have done the organizing. Thank you, Anniversary Committee! Job well done!

I always appreciate good organizers because organization has never been one of my top gifts. And I know the same is true for many of you. Hardly a day goes by that we don't hear someone say, "I just can't get everything done!"

It seems like, more and more, we find ourselves fraught with anxiety over the increasing demands that are being placed on us to be productive and to be everywhere. And it's not so much the demands themselves that disturb us as the increasing frequency with which we are failing to meet them. If there's one thing that modern society doesn't like, it's a disorganized, unproductive person. The world measures our worth by what we get done.

I've been trying to get myself organized for the last 30 years. At first, I had just a little freebie calendar/planner that fit comfortably in my shirt pocket. However, it wasn't big enough to write down all the earth-shatteringly important things that I think I have to do every day.

So next, I bought a pocket-sized organizer which was bigger and thicker but would still fit into my coat pocket. However, it's planner pages only went from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and, goodness knows, I'm way too important a man to work only nine hours a day.

After that I got an "Organizer System" that was roughly the size of a hard-cover John Grisham novel. It had enough time slots in it to span an entire day, but I couldn't keep all my information straight. I would lose notes from this meeting or that appointment. My information was spread out all over the place with no cross-referencing. I could never find what I needed.

Then I "upgraded" to an organizer that was roughly the size of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary. It came with a zipper to hold it shut and a computer program to run it!

And now, of course, I keep everything on my phone. This is a great system, but it depends on two things: putting stuff into my phone and actually checking my phone, neither of which I do with 100% accuracy.

Jesus said: "Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn [nor "organizer systems"], and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!" Luke 12:24

Organization has its place. It's important to be good stewards of the time and responsibilities God has entrusted to us. Being organized helps us do things well, but it doesn't determine our worth. We're valuable people, loved by God, whether we get anything done or not.

I've been in contact with a team of scientists at NASA who are designing my next organizer. It's only supposed to cost me \$12 Billion ... but hey ... if it can get me organized then it must be worth it, right? I just hope I don't lose it.

So here we come to the fundamental flaw underlying all organizer systems: an organizer is only as organized as the disorganized person using it.

I hope you get everything done that you want, but if that doesn't happen, don't worry. No matter what you get done or don't get done, you're a fantastically valuable person who is very much loved. I know because Jesus told me.

Peace, Pastor Russ



COUNCIL NOTES...

September 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.
- In the aftermath of Pastor Anita's resignation, the Executive Council had been working with the NE IA Synod office to put a replacement plan in place. Based on the information collected we have decided to pursue a call for a second Pastor, who will serve on a half-time basis. We will be working with NE Iowa Synod through the process as soon as possible.
- Continued discussion on installing some type of lift system in the church. Approved moving forward
 with Randall Construction organizing an architect and engineer site visit to finalize an accurate cost
 estimate for construction of the project as it continues to be a more cost-effective option. After the
 final plans are developed and a complete estimate is given to us, we will make a decision on next
 steps with the project.
- Donated our Monthly Benevolence to Messiah Food Pantry.
- 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 and it promises to be a special day!
- We approved the appointment of Interim Business Manager to Karol Carpenter as the process to find a full-time replacement has begun.
- Lydia and Josh Johnson, with the help of many others, will be offering and facilitating a Youth Hour from 10:05-11:00 on Sundays on the 3rd Floor. They welcome students from 7th-12th grade for faith, fellowship, friends, food, and some service opportunities!

Thank you and please let us know if you have any thoughts, questions, concerns, etc. -St. John Lutheran Church Council

Our Generosity in August

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

8% of our regular August offering (\$2053.82) went to support the mission of the larger church. 2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. The August recipients were: (\$300.00) to the National Child Safety Council drug prevention education program for the schools in Floyd County, as well as (\$335.81) was sent to the Charles City Schools for teacher extra supplies need.

In addition, 8% of the quarterly thank offering will be given in October to a recipient to assist in serving our local community.

Wednesday Night Supper

St. John will greatly miss Shirley Ripley who has been our Wednesday Night Supper leader & chef.
We are planning to still offer suppers. Kathy Crooks has offered to step in to provide this ministry.

Menu for October 5th: Maid Rites, potato salad & baked beans, cupcakes



150th Anniversary

Our 150th Anniversary Celebration Day is Almost Here!

On October 9, the last of our historical displays will be in the Narthex. We will have Confirmation pictures from the past for you to look at as we celebrate Confirmation Sunday for the current class of 2022. October 30th is the date of the anniversary celebration, if you don't have it on your calendar. The day will start at 9 a.m. with a service of celebration for our 150 years as a congregation. Many wonderful things are being planned from special music to something interesting for the kids in the children's sermon to having the Assistant to the Bishop, Liz Albertson, join us for the celebration. Melanie would like people that have sung in choir in the past to come to a rehearsal or two and sing with the choir on that day. Trinity choir meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary for rehearsal, so come make the day special by adding your voice to the choir to fill the church with voices young and "older".

The Anniversary dinner will begin at about 10:30 a.m., after church, but there are crafts to buy and people to visit with so we will be as prompt as possible. Registration for the Anniversary free dinner has begun and will end on October 16, so that we can give the caterer an accurate number. We will need to know how many kids age 5 and under are in your party when you register. There are registration slips in the bulletins or you can let Kathy know in the office up until that deadline date.

Part of the October 30th celebration is a craft fair. We are open to heritage and modern crafts as well as baked goods, jams, jellies, etc. Anything hand-made by you and safe to use or eat, qualifies. We will have a priced section and a silent auction section for our crafts/services. If you have some craft that you know would be desirable on a silent auction or a service that you can provide, we want to know. In the past people have sold quilts, snow shoveling, leaf raking, a dinner for (2,4,6,8 etc.), Christmas present wrapping, a "pie a month" for a designated time or anything else you can come up with. We are encouraging you to bring in your craft items and silent auction items, or descriptions of such, soon, as we would like to get a list so you know what is coming. We plan on displaying the silent auction items on October 23 in the Narthex for a preview and pre-bids so we need them by October 16.

There will actually be 3 opportunities to pre-bid or buy:

October 23: pre-bids on silent auction items.

October 30: crafts and silent auction at the Anniversary celebration

November 6: we will sell off any leftover crafts in the Narthex to finish the fund raiser.

One item that will be on sale on these Sundays, or for as long as they last, are 20 oz. insulated tumblers with pictures taken of two of our church's stain glass windows and of the cross above the church. They are a special project with a picture, a Bible verse and our church name and anniversary dates imprinted on them, as a commemorative item. They will sell for \$20. If there is interest, more may be made, but just 20 are available at this time. These are being made by Janet Petefish so any inquires can be sent to petefishj@mchsi.com



church. A lift has been widely

acknowledged as one of those needs. The 150th Anniversary Committee, with approval of Council, is designating the money from the craft fair to the **elevator/lift account**. We would really like to have a successful fund raiser so bring in your items to sell and/or plan on finding some wonderful food, craft or service to purchase. We do not take credit cards, so plan on cash or check for the day. Donations are also welcome. Thank you in advance.

The Council is actively investigating a **lift** to the basement as a first step with inclusion of features that would coordinate with a plan for a third-floor lift in the future. Plans are being pursued with architects, builders and relevant entities that will need to be involved in the building project to get a detailed bid. Since this is an investigative stage, the craft fair will add some funds to the existing account that will give a boost to the project. There is a lot of enthusiasm for a lift that would help anyone that has trouble with steps or is physically handicapped. It would open up our basement area to more usage because of better accessibility or just to move things from one floor to the other.

Come and enjoy this Anniversary Celebration. We have 150 years of history to celebrate. Praise God for all the blessings he has visited on this congregation over those years and we pray for the same in the years to come.

Item/Service for the Silent Auction or Price Description:	I Item Please circle category
Name of provider:	Approximate Value:

The 150th Anniversary committee would like to do something fun and visual for October 30th. We would like to see a sea of Red in the congregation; even a little piece of red on your outfit. Red is the color of Reformation. Since we are celebrating on that day, how fun would it be to get a picture of all of us at the dinner with a splash of red in our outfits. Wear it proud as a Lutheran for the 150th Anniversary of our congregation and the Reformation of the entire church.

Congratulations St. John on your 150th anniversary!

Unit 219 of the Salvation Army would like to extend congratulations to St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church on the celebration of 150 years in Charles City, Iowa. This is a great milestone for you. The love and dedication to God in these walls, and the many ways that you have shown that love and dedication in our communities over the years, have had far-reaching effects we have no doubt. The support you have shown to our local Salvation Army unit, by providing us with office space, help and supplies, is just one example. We thank you and want you to know we appreciate you. Here's to the next 150 years of showing God's Love in Action!

Kathy Crooks, Disaster and Welfare Relief Secretary

and

Board Members:

Russ and Gloria Berns

Sharon Hicok

Jenny Huegel

Cherie Schafer

Doug and Lynn Sinclair



St. John Youth!

NEW Calling all 7th through 12th graders!

We want to invite you all to come join us for

Youth Hour, every Sunday from 10:05 to 11 AM

on the 3rd floor. We look to carry out the church's mission of God's Love in Action through fellowship, service and food!

Invite a friend! *NEW*

AFTER SCHOOL: Begins October 5th. This is a fun program from 3:30pm-5pm on Wednesdays for 4year olds (that are attending preschool) through 5th grade students. Older students are welcome as helpers. Registration forms are available in the office. The St. John bus will again be available to pick students up from school to bring them here. Registration is free thanks to Kans for Kids!

Coats for Kids:

Coats for Kids is fast approaching and will be October 15th from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. If you would like to donate gently used or new coats, boots, hats & mittens, or snow pants you can bring them to the church office. Coats and snow pants of all sizes are welcome, but we usually run out of sizes 6 through 14/16 very quickly for both girls and boys and would love more of those sizes.

We also will need volunteers to help set up the Friday before and the day of to help distribute these items to these excited children. Please contact Lisa Kreger at 330-0696 or Lori Janssen at 330-2044. Thank you for your continued support. We could not do this ministry without your generosity.

Lisa Kreger and Laura Janssen



The Confirmation Fair for the 10th grade Confirmands will be October 5th from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The congregation is invited to come visit with the Confirmands about their "Faith Boards"

THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (Rite of Confirmation)

Sunday, October 9, 2022

2022 Confirmation class

Savannah Christina Baldus Ali Ann Blickenderfer Elizabeth Delaney Gassman Ouinn William Heidebrink Harley David Hinz Natalie Irene Keyes Tayleigh Jane Lantz Annabel Faith Ann McDonald Isaac Dean Oetken Kylie Kae Parsons Addison Elizabeth Tracey Jadyn Marie Van Horn



First & Fourth Grade students receiving Bibles

Dewey Clifford Chase Callie Abigail Hammond Hunter Herbert Hinz Faye Irene Krause Hallie Jean Kubik Landon Scott LaBarge Jiles Wayne Lantz Madilyn Abigail Lessin Rylee Jo Van Horn Kerrigan Jo Venz

Fourth Grade:

Kynsie Ann Eckhoff Lela Jean Hammond Hazel Grace Hansen Dax Leon Johnson Kaylie Marie Keyes Austin Richard Lacour Emersyn Rae Miller Blair Thomas Walker



People's Page...

October birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

10/2 Bernice Voelker

10/5 Doris Toebe

10/7 Marcia Jacobs

10/13 Phyllis Hillis

10/14 Ruthanne Ellis

10/15 Shirley Davidson

10/16 Russell Ball

10/16 Rodney Ellis

10/17 Wanda Sprout

10/19 Marilyn Isakson

10/22 Donna Patten

10/28 Norma Overlee

10/29 Allen Cross

10/30 Larry Tjaden

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

October 2,1960 James & LaVonne Reysack October 23, 1971 Gary & Sandie Quade October 27, 1963 Roger & Kathy Michael

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!

*Celebrating the Baptism of...*Jace Michael Montagne, 9/18/22

TRINITY CHOIR

Trinity Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 28 at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the Sanctuary. Trinity Choir is open to anyone 7th grade and older. Youth may use singing in choir as Silver Cord hours. We will be working on a couple of special selections for the Sesquicentennial Celebration Service on October 30. We would like to invite anyone who has ever sung in Trinity Choir to join us to sing for this special celebration. Please come join us for our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 28 at 7:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Johanningmeier at 641-330-0963.

With Sympathy, the funeral of...
Alvin Norris Davidson, 9/12/22
Kathleen Kay Scharnhorst Ebert, 9/15/22
Shirley Ann deMerritt Kreimeyer Ripley, 9/22/22



Memorials were given in memory of...

Gene Holm: Don & Shirley Holm Roger Ramthun: Kip & Judy Hauser

Alvin Norris Davidson: Alice Krumwiede & the Cedar Side Club, Georgie Miller, Bette Gullickson, Kurt & Kathy Hoeft, Kip & Judy Hauser, Kay Tjaden, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, William Fenholt, Joel Skogen, Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall, Shirley Davidson, Bill & Sharon Bledsoe, Karen Streich

Kathleen 'Kathy' Kay Scharnhorst Ebert: Chris & Lisa Garden, Georgie Miller, Leon & Jan Mulford, Kay Tjaden, Sharol McCoy, Monte & Kathy Waldorf

Shirley Ann deMerritt Kreimeyer Ripley: Georgie Miller, Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall, Cal & Joyce Wood, Peg Poppen, Sharon Sindlinger, Karen Streich, Arlene Thomas, Judy Hughes, Eric & Melanie Johanningmeier, Michael & Rhonda Christensen, Robert Peterson, Don & Shirley Holm, Tilleen Litterer, Bob & Bev Friend, Leona Howe

Youth & Families...

"For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our ruler, the Lord is our king; he will save us."

Isaiah 33:22

Blessings,

Laurie Heidebrink

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION CLASSES began on **September 28.** The courses currently being taken by our 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students are Martin Luther & the Reformation and Miracles of Jesus.

Our CONFIRMATION FAIR will be October 5, 2022

We are inviting the congregation to come and visit with our 10th grade confirmands about their "Faith Boards" in the Parish Hall from 6-6:30pm. It will be similar in style to a science fair and is a great chance to show our confirmands that the members of the congregation care about them and about this part of their faith journey. And there will be snacks!

10th Grade students being confirmed, will be meeting with the pastor at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary on October 5th to run through what the confirmation service will look like. We ask that each student and at least one of their parents attend this meeting.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism on **October 9, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.**

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM begins on October 5, and it's NOT too late to join us!

This is a fun program from 3:30pm-5pm on Wednesdays for 4 year-olds (that are attending preschool) through 5th grade students.

Older students are welcome as helpers.

Registration forms are available in the office. The registration fee is being covered by Kans for Kids! The St. John bus will again be available to pick students up from school to bring them here.

PARISH EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL is in full swing. Education Hour is from **10:05am** – **11am**. And it's never too late to start!

Classes are downstairs for 3-year-olds-6th grade students.

 7^{th} -12 grade students meet on the 3^{rd} Floor for Youth Hour during the Education Hour on Sunday mornings.

On October 30th the First and Fourth Grade St. John Sunday School students will be **receiving their Bibles** during worship, so if you have a loved one enrolled in Sunday School at St. John in one of those grades, please come and be a part of this milestone in their lives.

FAMILY BOARD

The Family board will be hosting our 25 Cent Store on Sunday, December 5th. 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.





St. John Christian Preschool...

Fall greetings to you all from your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! We have already been in school for five weeks and we have gone from wearing shorts and tank tops to long sleeves and jackets! It is amazing to see how confident and comfortable our friends have become with their preschool routine. We have come from a few tears (from both child and parent ©) to friends who are excited to come in and see what the preschool day will hold for them. We thank God for His constant presence in our preschool center.

The first two weeks of school were spent learning all about different animals we might see on a Safari! We learned that God made all kinds of animals, big and small, and all different colors. We also learned all the different sounds they make! We made several projects that we hung up at school so all our families could see the hard work we put into our projects. Our small motor muscles definitely got a workout those two weeks! \odot

We also studied the lifecycle of butterflies and learned some fancy new words to go with it. Our friends were also able to watch 5 larvae form chrysalides before transforming into beautiful Painted Lady butterflies. Our preschool center was fluttering with activities all based around these winged wonders. From our bulletin boards to our ribbon wristbands, we were entranced by all things BUTTERFLY.

We also started our five-week Color Unit! During this unit, we decorate the preschool in the matching colors of the week and the classes all get to dress in those colors, as well. Our younger friends are assigned a color and get to bring something of that specific color to add to our Color Bulletin Board! It's fun to see all of the creative things we get! Stop down sometime to see our colorful board and "Consider God's Wonders!"

The Preschool staff and board members wanted to remind everyone that Kwik Star gift cards are always available for purchase at the preschool. Since you need to purchase gas anyway, why not help out our ministry all at the same time? Feel free to stop by and purchase at your own convenience. Please let us know if you have any questions, and as always, thank you for your support!

Every day we sing our "Sunshine" song before we go home. It ends with the line, "May you always feel special because you are you." The teachers add in "And who made you special?" It is always exciting to hear the children shout "GOD!" How true it is! Thanks for the all of the support that you provide that enables us to provide a great educational experience within a loving, Christian environment. For many little ones, this is the only opportunity they have to hear of God's great love and see what it can do!

Blessed, Whittney Franke



October 2022 Schedule...

Sundays:		Worship in Sanctuary is the 1st & 3rd Sunday
10/4/2022	Stephen Min	istry
10/5/2022	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Fair
	6:30 p.m.	Confirmands & parents meet
		with Pastor Russ
10/8/2022	3:30 p.m.	Wedding
10/9/2022	9:00 a.m.	Affirmation of Baptism
		(Confirmation)
10/15/2022	8:00 a.m.	Coats for Kids
10/16/2022	150th Meal	Reservation deadline
10/19/2022	Newsletter	Deadline

 $\begin{array}{lll} 10/22/2022 & 4:00 \text{ p.m.} & Wedding \\ 10/30/2022 & \textbf{Reformation Sunday} \end{array}$

9:00 a.m.

150th Celebration1st & 4th grade receive Bibles

10:30 a.m. 150th Meal & Craft Fair

Do Day Quilters

Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds	s 10/4/2022	6:00 p.m.
Council:	10/18/2022	6:00 p.m.
Deacons:	10/6/2022	5:30 p.m.
Family Board:	10/16/2022	11:00 a.m.
Finance Board	10/11/2022	5:00 p.m.
Parish Ed:	10/16/2022	8:00 a.m.
Stewardship:	10/25/2022	2:00 p.m.
Youth Board:	10/16/2022	11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night Schedule begins October 5th

3:30 p.m. After School

5:00 p.m. Supper

6:00 p..m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs day	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Kerrigan Venz
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bernice Voelker		Ryland Behrendsen Kathy Crooks Carter Van Horn Addyson Vance	Carol Quade Rhonda Schmidtke Doris Toebe		Jan Brinkman Marcia Jacobs	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Shelly Parson		Asher McDonald Dennis Sande	Alysha Bilharz Christie DeBower	Ina Heitz Phyllis Hillis Olivia Kreger	Ruthanne Ellis Joshua McDonald Leon Mulford	Shirley Davidson Beverly Jensen Jason McDonald
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Russell Ball Rodney Ellis Annabel McDonald Katlyn Parson	Wanda Sprout	Laurie Heidebrink James Moon Alex Montagne	Regan Connell Liam Hoeft Marilyn Isakson Hailey Wilkens	Lela Hammond Ron James Grace Kendall	Renee Koenigsfeld	Donna Patten
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Christina Mannetter Pat Petersen Simon Schmidtke	Roger Regel	Savannah Baldus Scott Hansen Bryce Walker		Whittney Franke	Ron Hoffman Bret Kruthoff Norma Overlee	Allen Cross Kassey Kakac Dawn Schweizer
30	31					
Landon LaBarge Jaxon McDonald Larry Tjaden	Luke Delap Leonard Erickson					