

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

Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt, Deacon Intern
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Website: www.stjohncharlescity.org

 Find & like us on Facebook!

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

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

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

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



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

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor, Russ Leeper

What we hear depends on what we're listening for.

My friend swears this is a true story. It's about his grandfather. The family had been noticing, for some time, that Grandpa seemed to be having more and more trouble with his hearing. Knowing that Grandpa was a proud man and not wanting to hurt his feelings or embarrass him, they all just quietly ignored the problem.

Finally, it became obvious that his hearing loss had gotten to the point where it was necessary to do something about it. But who would tell him? Nobody wanted to be the one to do it. So, finally, they all agreed to do it together. The family was a bit nervous as they gathered at Grandpa's house. They had selected one of the granddaughters to be the family spokesperson. With tense, nervous stares, they all looked at her as she said, "Grandpa, we've all talked and we think it's time for you to get a hearing aid."

There was a moment of silence as Grandpa thought about what she had just said. Then he looked at them and said, "Hand grenade? What the heck am I gonna do with a hand grenade?!"

What we hear depends on what we're listening for.

As a kid in church, whenever the pastor said, "Christ died for us," I always thought he was saying, "Christ died for Russ." By the time I figured out what the pastor was really saying, it was too late; the idea that Christ had died for me was already firmly implanted in my young brain.

It's amazing to me how often, after a service, people will comment to me about something that I said in the service that I didn't really say ... but they definitely heard God say it through me!

What we hear depends on what we're listening for.

What are you listening for? Do you hear God calling your name? Do you hear God speaking to you, whispering words of love and forgiveness? Do you hear God asking you to give of yourself to help others? Do you hear God's call to respond to all that God has given you?

Rest assured ... God IS speaking to you. It might be in some of the strangest places, in some of the most unexpected people, and in some of the most surprising situations. But God is definitely speaking to you. Are you listening?

Peace,
Pastor Russ

Consecration Sunday Is Coming

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's stewardship board has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

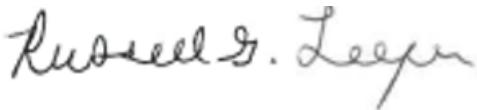
Church Council President,



Consecration Sunday Chairperson,



Pastor,



Of Note...

Church Cleaning Checklist

#1: PEOPLE/HELP

“After construction & deep cleaning”
Everyone is welcome to come help us
clean our church!!

October Thursdays: 12th & 26th
@ 9 am

October Saturday is TBD

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!
We still need volunteers to bring the treats!!

Wednesday Night Suppers Volunteers Needed

We would like to form multiple teams of four (4) to prepare and serve
the meals on Wednesday night.

The month of October is covered.

We currently need teams for November and December.

For questions or to volunteer contact:

Shirley Holm @ 641-330-8336

OR

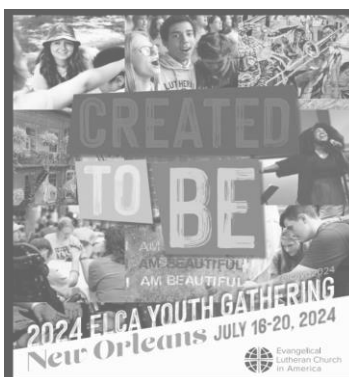
Sandie Quade @ 641-330-1850

Wednesday Night Schedule Has Begun!!

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

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.	Adult Sunday School (No Adult Sunday School October 8 th)
10:15 a.m.	Adult Catechism Class



MYLE the table Young Adult Gathering
Multicultural Youth Leadership Event of the ELCA JULY 13-16, 2024
An ELCA Gathering of Youth with Disabilities JULY 13-16, 2024
A new ELCA Gathering for Young Adults JULY 18-20, 2024

The sign-up sheet for the 2024 Youth Gathering is posted on the Youth & Family Bulletin Board

	Capture the Flag Nerf style	7th Grade and up Bring some friends
<h1>YOUTH EVENT</h1>		
Saturday, October 14 starting at 4:00 Ending: When the Last Person Goes Home Location: 1634 Underwood Ave Charles City Watch for more info on St John Facebook		
Service projects: Build Bat Houses Quilts for Kids Group Meal Prep	Campfire message by Pastor Russ and Deacon Beth	

AFTER SCHOOL: Begins October 4th

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!

25 Years!!

**Please join us to celebrate Norm Bauer 's retirement on
Sunday, October 8th, 2023**

**From 2-4pm at
Messiah Lutheran Church
705 3rd Avenue, Charles City, Iowa
(641) 228-6772**

Refreshments will be served!!

**Pastor Norm Bauer
1103 Allison Street**

Coats for Kids:

October 14th

From 8:00 am to 11:00 am

Volunteers Needed

Please contact:

Lisa Kreger 330-0696

Or

Lori Janssen 330-2044



People's Page...

Acolytes for October 2023

Sunday...

1	Xander Chase Maxtyn Hammermeister		
8	Xander Chase Jackson Mehmen	<u>October birthdays 80 & older!</u>	
15	Xander Chase Graham Hansen	Bernice Voelker	10/2
		Doris Toebe	10/5
22	Cooper Holm Xander Chase	Marcia Jacobs	10/7
		Phyllis Hillis	10/13
29	Xander Chase Brady Hanson	Ruthanne Ellis	10/14
		Shirley Davidson	10/15
		Russell Ball	10/16
		Wanda Sprout	10/17
		Marilyn Isakson	10/19
		Donna Patten	10/22
		Norma Overlee	10/28
		Larry Tjaden	10/30

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

James & LaVonne Reysack	10/2
Gary & Sandie Quade	10/23
Roger & Kathleen Michael	10/27

“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 27**. The courses currently being taken by our 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students are The Lord’s Prayer, Journey Through Genesis, and Spiritual Practices.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY – we will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism on **October 8, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.**

We are inviting the congregation to come and visit with our 10th grade confirmands about their “Faith Boards” in the Narthex from 8:30-9:00am. This 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.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM begins on **October 4, 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.

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

Adult Sunday School meets in the Fireside Room at 10:05am.

On **October 29th** 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 3rd. 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
five weeks and we

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.

Our beginning unit was called: All About Me! We learned that God created each of us in His image and that we are all special because of that! We also focused on learning the names of our teachers and friends. We have introduced two new Social/Emotional Learning curriculums to both the 3s and the 4s classes! Social/Emotional Learning is so important for helping preschoolers understand and manage his/her own emotions, feel and show empathy for others, establish healthy relationships, set positive goals (we learned about “the power of YET!”), and make responsible decisions.

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!

Each day is full of new challenges, new experiences, and new chances to share God’s love with our little ones. Thank you for 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 2023 Schedule...

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

10/1/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion	<u>Sunday Morning Schedule</u>
	10:05 a.m.	Youth Hour	9:00 a.m. Service
	10:05 a.m.	Adult Sunday School	10:05 a.m. Youth Hour
	10:05 a.m.	Spark Sunday School	10:05 a.m. Spark Sunday School
	10:15 a.m.	Adult Catechism Class	10:05 a.m. Adult Sunday School
10/2/2023	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts	(No Adult Sunday School October 8th)
10/4/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters	10:15 a.m. Adult Catechism Class
		<i>Wednesday Night Schedule</i>	
10/6/2023	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts	<u>Wednesday Night Schedule</u>
10/8/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship	3:30 p.m. After School Program
		Confirmation Sunday	5:00 p.m. Supper
		<i>Sunday Morning Schedule</i>	5:30 p.m. Kids Choir
	***	<u>NO Adult Sunday School</u>	6:00 p.m. Confirmation
10/9/2023	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts	6:00 p.m. Tone Chime Choir
10/11/2023		<i>Wednesday Night Schedule</i>	7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir
10/13/2023	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts	
10/14/2023	8-11 a.m.	Coats for Kids	
	4:00 p.m.	Youth Event	
10/15/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion	
	9:00 a.m.	Pre-School Sings	
		<i>Sunday Morning Schedule</i>	
10/16/2023	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts	
10/18/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters	
		Newsletter Deadline	
		<i>Wednesday Night Schedule</i>	
10/20/2023	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts	
10/22/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship	
		<i>Sunday Morning Schedule</i>	
10/23/2023	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts	
10/25/2023		<i>Wednesday Night Schedule</i>	
10/27/2023	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts	
10/29/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship	
		Consecration Sunday (Meal)	
		Do Day Quilters--Quilt Blessing	

<i>Board Meetings:</i>		
Building & Grounds:	10/3/2023	6:00 p.m.
Stewardship:	10/10/2023	2:00 p.m.
Finance Board:	10/10/2023	5:00 p.m.
Council:	10/10/2023	6:00 p.m.
Parish Ed	10/11/2023	5:15 p.m.
Youth Board:	10/15/2023	10:15 a.m.
Family Board:	10/25/2023	5:30 p.m.
Deacons:	10/22/2023	10:10 a.m.

October Birthdays!

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