

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



2022



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The office will be
closed Monday,
September 5th

"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 :

Falling In Love

Summer used to be wedding season, but these days, fall weddings are very popular, too. In fact, we have two weddings at St. John this fall. Couples have discovered that the cooler weather and fall foliage make a lovely backdrop for the day's events ... a beautiful way to begin their life together. And it's a reminder that the best is yet to come. The autumn years of a couple's life together can be very beautiful. I think about the wonderful things I learned about marriage by watching my grandparents as I grew up and want to share a few of them as we go into wedding season. So, for all of you married or soon to be married people, here are a few of the lessons I learned from my grandparents:

Lesson #1

"If You Don't Work Together, You'll End Up Halfway to Iowa City"

The biggest fight I ever saw Grandpa and Grandma Leeper have, was in the car when we were driving home from somewhere in Iowa. Grandpa ended up on the wrong road and Grandma said she couldn't help him because she didn't know how to read the map. A heated verbal exchange ensued... ending with Grandpa uttering the words: "Well, then I'm gonna just keep driving on this road and I don't care if we end up halfway to Iowa City!" She just laughed at him, and we got to our destination without a problem.

It's important to work together in marriage, not against each other. Share the responsibilities. If you split the work... if one drives and the other reads the map, many nasty exchanges can be avoided (as well as ending up "halfway to Iowa City").

Lesson #2

"Don't Forget to Dance in Your Underwear"

Once when we were on vacation with Grandpa and Grandma, we were staying at a motel, and I was staying in Grandpa and Grandma's room. As we were getting ready for bed (since it was just us guys and Grandma) Grandpa came out of the bathroom in his boxer shorts and started dancing for us. I was a little freaked out, but I remember Grandma looked at Grandpa adoringly and laughed and laughed and laughed. It was the hardest I had ever seen her laugh. And I saw a little glimpse of the young man who was willing to look ridiculous in order to make his bride smile.

Don't forget to have fun. As you travel on your journey together and things get busy and crazy, don't forget to do the things that made you fall in love with each other in the first place. And for heaven's sake, don't forget to laugh!

Lesson #3

"Be Prepared"

or

"Just Because an Airplane Engine Has Never Fallen on Our House Before Doesn't Mean One Won't Today"

Grandpa Leeper lived in perpetual fear that an engine might fall off a passing airplane and come through the roof of their house. He was a bit of a worrier. But Grandpa was always prepared and made sure that he and Grandma had whatever they might need to deal with any crisis that could come up. He even had a brand new, spare toilet seat stored in a cupboard in the basement. Presumably, in case the airplane engine took out the bathroom.

In marriage it's good to be prepared. I hope that everything will always go really, really well for you in your life together. But realistically, we know that there will inevitably be times of crisis in your life. So, it's important to be prepared and to build a good foundation of love, communication, trust and forgiveness during the good times, so that you'll be prepared to weather the storms when they do hit. And it wouldn't hurt to pick up a spare toilet seat. Who knows?

But over everything else I learned from Grandpa and Grandma, I learned that loving someone means having patience and being willing to put up with them even though they drive you crazy sometimes. I know that's how my wife stays married to me. It's the kind of love God has for you and me. And it's what will help you keep your marriage vows. Till death do you part. It worked for Grandpa and Grandma. They were married to each other for over 60 years. And my hope and prayer is that you and your spouse will also be loving and annoying each other for many, many years to come.

Peace, Pastor Russ

COUNCIL NOTES...

August 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 has been working with the Synod office to put a replacement plan in place. Based on the information collected in the coming weeks, we are aiming for our September Council meeting to make a decision on further action.
- Thank you to everyone who was able to celebrate Pastor Leeper's 30th anniversary of ordination with a small celebration on Sunday, August 14th. It was a great morning honoring Pastor and Susan!
- 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.
- Donated our Monthly Benevolence to Lutheran Services of Iowa and Charles City CSD school supply drive.
- A big thank you to Eric Johanningmeier for leading worship on August 7th while Pastor was on vacation and in the wake of Pastor Anita's resignation.
- A committee has been formed to plan the God's Work Our Hands event on Sunday, Sept. 11th, 2022!! If you have any project ideas please let Kathy in the office know!
- 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!

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

-St. John Lutheran Church Council



Linda Hughes announced her resignation as our Business Manager effective August 29th as she is, *"Looking forward to being able to spend more time with family, traveling, and pursuing other interests."* We want to thank Linda for her 5 years of service to our church and congregation.

Our Generosity in July

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

8% of our regular March offering (\$2998.23) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. The July recipients were: (\$300.00) to the National Child safety Council drug prevention education program for the schools in Floyd County, (\$660.40) to Lutheran Services in Iowa.

In addition, 8% of the quarterly thank offering is given to assist in serving our local community. The second quarter benevolence (\$2287.18) was given to the Floyd County Sheriff Department for their K-9 project.

SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS...



**God's work.
Our hands.**

God's Work Our Hands: Sunday, September 11, 2022, worship at 9:00 a.m. & then gather outside for treats and a picture! Watch for sign up information at church & on Facebook.

Projects:

Help make/serve treats for the people going out to serve after worship on September 11th.

Cookie Decorating: on **SATURDAY, September 10th**, we will decorate cookies in the Parish Hall from approximately 10:00 a.m. – noon.

Week of September 5th: organize/count/prep items for school kit assembly

LWR School kits: assembling 150 kits

Cookie delivery: deliver & visit with people in our community (**If you know someone who would enjoy some cookies let Kathy in the office know the Name, Phone Number & Address!**)

Window washing at Cedar Terrace

Working with our Do Day Quilters

"Helping Hands" projects: going to homes of people in our community who need assistance to do some smallish tasks, from helping with some yardwork, moving furniture, painting, & helping with gutters.

Blessing Box: do a little organizing, planning, and see if we can figure out a way to keep the rain out.

Senior Center: window washing & other projects.

You can sign up online at <https://bit.ly/3QZPgjG>

or call Kathy in the office to help you sign up.

You can also scan the QR code at the right to take you to the sign-up page!



Blessing of the Backpacks & Rally Day, September 18th!

All students, teachers and support staff are encouraged to participate by bringing your backpacks to be blessed!

Join the Family Board in the Narthex after worship to sign up for Sunday School & After School!



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.

If there is anyone interested in directing a children's choir, please let Melanie know.



150th Anniversary

Mark Your Calendars!!! Sunday, October 30th will be St. John's 150th Anniversary Celebration!

The assistant to the Bishop, The Rev. Liz Albertson will be joining us for our celebration. We look forward to a wonderful day in worship and then fellowship during the meal. We will celebrate with a free dinner (reservations will start being taken on the 1st Sunday in September through October 16th!) & a craft fair. Menu: a catered dinner by U2BBQ featuring roast beef & roast turkey, whipped potatoes & gravy, corn, Oreo fluff salad, carrot cake, fresh rolls with butter, coffee & lemonade.

Plan to join us as we celebrate 150 years of "God's Love in Action" !

We Have Celebrated Our Past, Now Let Us Look To The Future

We have spent the last eight months celebrating the heritage of St. John's congregation. The 150th Anniversary Committee has worked hard bringing you glimpses into our last 150 years with special music, a retro (Red) Jell-O Bowl contest, displays of historical documents, an old-fashioned Easter, a reflection on past Pastors, the 1968 tornado, a gospel group and other things yet to come. We have been honored to represent you in our journey to the past.

Part of the October 30th celebration is a heritage 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 a more elaborate item, something 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 snow shoveling, leaf raking, a dinner for (2,4,6,8 etc.), Christmas present wrapping, a single pie or a "pie a month" for a designated time or anything else you can come up with.

Now here is the new News. We are designating the money from the craft fair to the **elevator/lift account** which already has some funds. The money that is left from the Anniversary account will also be moved to this account after all bills are paid to provide some seed money for the project. **Thus, the look to the future.** 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. Since this is just an investigative stage, the craft fair will add some funds to the existing account that will give a boost to the project.

We need crafters and we need buyers for this to work so if you can make something or provide a service that can be auctioned, please be inspired and participate. You can bring items to the church starting this month, September, or leave a description of a service you could provide. We would like to start a list of what is offered so it can be displayed ahead of time. A form will be in the office or can be clipped from this newsletter and brought in.

Thank you in advance,
The 150th Anniversary Committee

Item/Service for the **Silent Auction** or **Priced Item** *Please circle category*

Description: _____

Name of provider: _____ Approximate Value: _____

People's Page...

September birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

9/6 Bob Tommingo
9/8 Norma McLean
9/11 Peg Poppen
9/11 Dave Ripley
9/12 Vera Hinz
9/13 Jim Reysack
9/17 Larry Brewer
9/18 Larry Coen
9/21 Lyneen Brunsting
9/22 Harold Begemann
9/28 Donna Stewart



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

September 4, 1965	Bill & Sharon Bledsoe
September 4, 1971	Monte & Kathy Waldorf
September 6, 1970	Jim & Jacquie Moon
September 8, 1956	Glenn & Diann Jacobson
September 8, 1968	Gary & Sandra Marth
September 19, 1959	David & Helen Hagen
September 22, 1964	James & Beverly Jensen

Memorials were given in memory of...

Judy Troge: Arlene Thomas

Kayla LaBarge: Monte & Kathy Waldorf,
Kip & Judy Hauser

Celebrating the Baptism of...

Addison Lee Wood, 7/31/22

Landry Ann Voelker, 8/14/22

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!

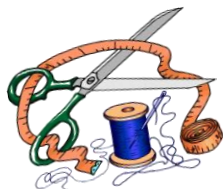
Coats for Kids will be coming October 15th

As you ready your children for the coming cold winter, please consider donating new or gently used coats, snow pants, boots, mittens, or hats. There are many children in Charles City who will love getting a "new" coat for winter!



Do Day Quilters

St. John has a group called "Do Day Quilters". They make tied quilts to donate to the local homeless shelters. They will begin meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (bring a sack lunch). All are welcome to come! You don't need to be an experienced quilter to help out! If you are interested in joining the quilters, call Kathy in the office at 641-228-3397 for more information!



Youth & Families...

"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for good and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." Jeremiah 29:11

Blessings,
Laurie Heidebrink

PARISH ED NEWS

RALLY SUNDAY will be **September 18, 2022**

There will be treats provided by the Family Board, and registration forms for Sunday School and After School Program in the Narthex following 9:00am worship.

We will be celebrating the Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone during the service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS on **September 25, 2022.**

Class from 10:05am – 11am

Installation of Education Staff on October 2, 2022, during worship

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION will be **September 21, 2022**, at 6pm

The registration fee of \$10 is being paid by the KANS for Kids fund. (This helps cover the cost of curricula and supplies.)

CONFIRMATION CLASSES begin on **September 28, 2022**

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 at **6pm**

10th grade **Affirmation of Baptism** meeting **6:30pm on October 5, 2022**

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY will be **October 9, 2022**



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM begins on **October 5, 2022**

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 will be available on Rally Sunday in the Narthex.

The St. John bus will again be available to pick students up from school to bring them here.

The cost of \$10 per student is being paid by the KANS for Kids fund!

1st Day of Sunday School
September 25th!

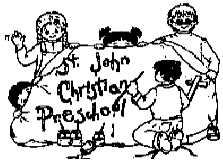


Wednesday Night Supper begins
October 5th!

After School begins
October 5th!

Confirmation Orientation
September 21st!

1st Day of Confirmation
September 28th!



St. John Christian Preschool...

It's back to school time at St. John Christian Preschool and we began our first day on Monday, August 29th. We are excited to have many new and returning little ones with us this year. The year started with a little apprehension and even some tears, but as time went on, we quickly moved on to many more smiles and giggles! ☺ We will be starting off the school year with a Safari theme. We here at SJCP are "Wild About Jesus!"

Although August 29th was the first day of school for our little ones, we already held two successful parent meetings back on August 15th. We offered these meetings for each class to give parents an opportunity to network with one another, to get to know the preschool staff and to learn about the preschool's policies.

We also welcomed all of our families to St. John Christian Preschool at our Get Acquainted Open Houses on August 23rd. It was exciting to have all of our little ones stop by the preschool with their families and friends to drop off school supplies and to get his/her school picture taken.

This year the preschool is needing to provide all snacks/drink for our afternoon friends, as part of the Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program guidelines. If you are felt led to help donate snacks for our preschoolers or even donate gift cards to Fareway or HyVee, please contact us for a list of State/DHS approved foods/drinks.

Preschool is a big step for our 3, 4, and 5 year olds, but it is also a big step for parents. As a preschool staff, we consider our job one of utmost importance. Not only are we helping our little ones expand their academic, social, and developmental skills that will guide their paths in life, but also for some of them, we are teaching them about God's love for the very first time. We ask you for your prayers to help us along the way and we thank you for your continuing support of our ministry!!

In closing, we currently have spots available in our morning 3-yr-old program and in our afternoon 4/5-yr -old program. If you know of someone still in need of a preschool for his or her little one, please give us a call at 228-7274!

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!

Whittney Franke



September 2022 Schedule...

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

9/5/2022 **Office closed - Labor Day**

9/11/2022 10:00 a.m. God's Work Our Hands

9/18/2022 **Rally Day**

9:00 a.m. Backpack Blessing

9/21/2022 **Newsletter Deadline**

9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters

6:00 p.m. Confirmation Orientation

9/25/2022 10:05 a.m. 1st day of Sunday School

10:15 a.m. 150th Anniversary Committee

9/28/2022 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Orientation

7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir

Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds 9/6/2022 6:00 p.m.

Council: 9/13/2022 6:00 p.m.

Deacons: TBD

Family Board: 9/14/2022 5:00 p.m.

Finance Board 9/13/2022 5:00 p.m.

Parish Ed: 9/18/2022 8:00 a.m.

Stewardship: 9/20/2022 2:00 p.m.

Youth Board: TBD



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Sondra Coen Aaron Garden	Samantha Heyer	Hallie Kubik
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Kari Klemesrud Yolanda Van Ausdall	Rory Streich	Mackenzey Bilharz Seth Nordmeyer Bob Tommingo Emersyn Unga	Gloria Carr Lauren Connell Kylie Parson	Norma McLean Linda Reit	Dax Johnson Stanley Mehmen	Gracie Ferch Carolyn Marth
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Marcia Grimm Peg Poppen David Ripley	Kendra Buenger Vera Hinz Brandon Holthaus Brad McKenzie	Jim Reysack	Ethan Voelker		Brenda Stone Matt Wolf	Dennis Brahn Larry Brewer Jenisha Garden Leland Lumley
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Larry Coen JoAnn Hervert Becky Meyer	Frank Anderson Alex Litterer Jadyn Van Horn		Lyneen Brunsting Tom Heddens	Harold Begemann	Cindy Davidson	Justin Heyer Kent Hoeft Kurt Hoeft
25	26	27	28	29	30	
	Jack Murray Jean Rima	Sarah George	Kristin George Carleen Laue Jolene Patterson Donna Stewart	Isaac Gassman	Rachel Page	