

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2023


"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:
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Beth Hurt, Deacon Intern
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Website: www.stjohncharlescity.org

 Find & like us on Facebook!

Office Secretary: Toni Hicks
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Subscribe to the E-Skinny by
emailing Toni at
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Worship service broadcasted on
KCHA FM 95.9 at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

Business Manager: Rhonda Schmidtke
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Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
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St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274



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

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke
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Custodian: Jamie Carolan
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Deacon Intern, Beth Hurt

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

-1 Peter 4:10-11

Dear Congregation,

As we prepare for God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 10th, I am super excited! On this wonderful day we get to celebrate who we are. We get to celebrate our identity in Christ! How could it be possible to contain our joy knowing that we are alive in Christ, knowing that we are the Body of Christ! Let us celebrate and rejoice! News this good just has to be shared! On this day we come together – unified – as the ELCA, as one church and we celebrate our freedom in Christ to love and serve our neighbor. In every act of service, God's love is in action!

As I grow towards Word and Service rostered leadership in the ELCA, I continue to appreciate and understand my call to prepare, inspire, and accompany. I am learning so much about how best to support, serve, and help equip the baptized to actively love our neighbors. I am surrounded by those who serve here at St John with dedication, enthusiasm, and love. You are an inspiration to me! You have shown me a glimpse of what can be accomplished when we come together to serve our communities. The awesome power of the Holy Spirit is at work and this culture of service carries forward. I am delighted to get to walk with you all and to rejoice with you as we explore our callings to service together!

Let us be exuberant in that call! There is sheer joy in knowing that we are loved by God, that we are saved by grace through Jesus Christ, and that we are connected through the power of the Holy Spirit! Glory to God, forever and ever!

Celebrating in Christ,

Beth Hurt

Of Note...

Adult Catechism Class Coming In October!

Starting October 1, 2023, Pastor Russ will lead a 7-week Sunday morning Adult Catechism Class. This class is an exploration of Martin Luther's Small Catechism, which sums up what Lutherans believe. The class is perfect for life-long Lutherans, those new to the faith, and anyone who just wants to know more about what Lutherans believe.

The class will meet at 10:15 AM every Sunday from October 1st – November 19th (except October 29th). So that we be sure to have enough materials for everyone, please sign up for the class by Sunday, September 17th. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or you can contact the church office.

Song Requests

If anyone has a hymn or praise request over the summer...please write it on the back of your "Attendance" slip and Melanie can incorporate them into the services.

Additionally

If you would like to *provide* any special music over the summer, contact Melanie to discuss it.

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank—Mobile Food Pantry

(Serving upwards of 200 families, individuals, and seniors in need.)

Charles City

1st Wednesday of each month

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

- Youth Enrichment Building at the Floyd County Fairgrounds
- Roughly 40 volunteers are needed from 4 – 7 pm on the 1st Wed of each month to set up, pack food, distribute food, and clean up.
- The time commitment is small yet has a tremendous impact for those in need.
- All ages of volunteers are welcome!
- Contact Jen Burton at 641-220-1769 for more information.

Church Cleaning Checklist

#1: PEOPLE/HELP

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

Current Schedule:

September 14, 16, 28 @ 9 am

We are freed in Christ to Love and Serve our Neighbors!



Where do you see a need to lend a hand?
Contact Susan Leeper or Deacon Intern, Beth Hurt!

Rally Sunday – September 17th!

Join the Parish Education Board in the Narthex after worship to sign up for
Sunday School & After School!
Join the Family Board in the Blue Parking Lot after worship to play some games!
Bring your RC car from home – we'll have a track drawn in the parking lot!

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 Ouade @ 641-330-1850

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!!

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!

Children's Choir

Melanie is planning to start a children's choir (Carol Choir) again this fall. It would be for children Kindergarten-6th grade. It would meet on Wednesday evening from 5:30-6:00. There would be time to come eat at church at 5:00 then come to choir. This group will try to sing about one time per month. Melanie will rehearse songs with the kids, have time for an activity of some sort and then end with a snack. There will be a sign-up sheet on Rally Sunday, September 17. The first meeting for Carol Choir will be Wednesday, September 27 at 5:30 pm (location to be determined). Come be a part of Carol Choir! If you have any questions, please contact Melanie at 641-330-0963.

Trinity Choir

Trinity Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 27 at 7:00 pm. We will meet in the Sanctuary. Please join us by singing in Trinity Choir this year. We are really looking forward to some great singing and amazing fellowship.

Trinity Choir is open to anyone 7th grade and older. Join us for our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 27 at 7:00 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie at 641-330-0963.

Tone Chime Choir

Last year we had a tone chime choir that met a few times. We have had interest in starting a tone chime choir that would be multi-age (6th grade-adult). If you have an interest in this, please contact Melanie at 641-330-0963. We have a director in place so need people willing to enjoy this venture.

People's Page...

September birthdays 80 & older!

Acolytes for September 2023

Sunday...

3	Benjamin Hammond Bennett Hansen
10	Benjamin Hammond Bennett Hansen
17	Bennett Hansen Blake Dean
24	Bennett Hansen Blake Dean

Sondra Coen	9/1
Robert Tommingo	9/6
Norma McLean	9/8
David Ripley	9/11
Peg Poppen	9/11
Vera Hinz	9/12
James Reysack	9/13
Larry Brewer	9/17
Larry Coen	9/18
Lyneen Brunsting	9/21
Harold Begemann	9/22

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

Bill & Sharon Bledsoe	9/4
Monte & Kathleen Waldorf	9/4
James & Jacqueline Moon	9/6
Glenn & Diann Jacobson	9/8
Gary & Sandra Marth	9/8

Memorials were given in memory of...

Rodney Ellis: Judy & Gene Milhan

Clarice Leraaen: Sandy Miller

Ron Hoffman: Karen Streich, Larry Michehl, Kip & Judy Hauser, Leon & Jan Mulford, Warren & Janet Dunkel, Larry & Sondra Coen

Bruce Pennington: Richard & Janice Hophes, Robert Peterson, Kent & Lorie Hoelt

Kristy Hallberg Boyd: Judy & Gene Milhan

*“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

We will be celebrating the **Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone** on **September 3, 2023**, during the service.

RALLY SUNDAY will be **September 17, 2023**

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

Installation of Education Staff will be on **September 17, 2023**, during the worship service

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS on **September 24, 2023**.

Class from 10:05am – 11am

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION will be **September 20, 2023**, 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 27, 2023**

We will be having a fun Fall Kick-Off Bonfire with s'mores in the parking lot from 6-7pm for our 7th-12 grade students

10th grade **Affirmation of Baptism** meeting **6:15pm on September 27th, 2023**

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY will be **October 8, 2023**

We are inviting the congregation to come and visit with our 10th grade confirmands about their “Faith Boards” in the Narthex at 8:30am until worship begins.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM begins on **October 4, 2023**

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 and appreciated 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!

YOUTH

MISSION TRIP PRESENTATION on **September 17, 2023**

The youth that participated in the Duluth Mission Trip will be giving a presentation about the trip.

St. John Christian Preschool...



It's back to school time at St. John Christian Preschool and we began our first day on Monday, August 28th. 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 an All About Me theme!

Although August 28th was the first day of school for our little ones, we already held two successful parent meetings back on August 14th. 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 22nd. 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.

The preschool needs to provide all snacks/drink for our 4/5 year old 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 a few spots available in both our 3-yr-old and 4-yr-old programs. 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 and we will try to help out!

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!

Whittney Franke

September 2023 Schedule...

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

9/3/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion Backpack Blessing
9/4/2023		Office Closed
9/6/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
9/9/2023	9 am & 1 pm	GWOH Cookie Decorating
9/10/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship God's Work/Our Hands
9/14/2023	9:00 a.m.	Church Cleaning
9/16/2023	9:00 a.m.	Church Cleaning
9/17/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion
9/17/2023	9:00 a.m.	Mission Trip Presentation
	10:00 a.m.	Rally Sunday
9/20/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters Newsletter Deadline
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Orientation
9/24/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship 10:05 a.m. Sunday School Begins
9/27/2023	5:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Suppers Begin
	5:30 p.m.	Children's Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Fall Kick-Off
	7:00 p.m.	Trinity Choir
9/28/2023	9:00 a.m.	Church Cleaning

<i>Board Meetings:</i>		
Parish Ed	9/6/2023	4:10 p.m.
Council:	9/12/2023	6:00 p.m.
Building & Grounds:	9/12/2023	6:00 p.m.
Finance Board:	9/12/2023	5:00 p.m.
Youth Board:	9/13/2023	5:15 p.m.
Family Board:	9/13/2023	4:30 p.m.
Stewardship:	9/19/2023	2:00 p.m.
Deacons:	9/24/2023	10:10 a.m.

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 Ungs	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 Whitney Smith	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 Sophie Wilkens	Sarah George Ezekiel Kendall	Kristin George Carleen Laue Jolene Patterson	Isaac Gassman	Rachel Page	