

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY

2022



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

Website: www.stjohncharlescity.org



Find & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the E-Skinny by emailing Kathy
at

khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com

Worship service is now live streamed &
can be viewed on our website or the St John
Charles City YouTube channel
& will be broadcasted live on
KCHA FM 95.9 at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

The live broadcast is also recorded and is
available on the St. John website & YouTube

Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Rev. Anita Nuetzman
Part time Visitation/Preaching Pastor

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.

Business Manager: Linda Hughes
lhughes@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

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

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whittney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com
Teacher: Carleen Laue



Pastor Russ Leeper :

As I write this, we're just days away from our 150th Anniversary Jell-O Bowl! I can't wait to see what the folks at St. John come up with!

With Jell-O on the brain, I remembered a story that happened to someone I know several years ago. It's about a resourceful, Lutheran woman who showed up just before worship one Sunday morning to set up for Holy Communion. It was a small church and so she had waited until just before the service to arrange things, knowing that it would only take a moment to fill enough cups to accommodate her congregation. But when she went to the wine cupboard, it was bare. Someone had forgotten to buy more. "Well," she thought, "there's no time to run to the store, so we'll all just have to have grape juice today." But when she got to the kitchen, she found out there was no grape juice, either! In a panic, she careened through cupboards in search of Kool-Aid, Crystal Light, or anything that was sweet, liquid, and of a reddish hue. All she could find was a box of grape Jell-O. The organist was beginning her prelude. Grape Jell-O it would have to be. She mixed the powder with just the enough water to give it a sacramental tint and filled the communion glasses.

She was in state of near-calm as she casually slipped the communion ware onto a table behind the altar and joined her family in the congregation for the opening hymn. "Whew! All's well that ends well," she thought and tried not to feel excessively proud of the resourceful way she'd handled the situation, but it was hard not to. What she had failed to take into account, though, was that the table that holds the communion elements sits right next to an air conditioning register. Yes, that's right ... the Jell-O chilled! So, when the congregation came forward that morning to receive the blood of Christ, they had to slurp it out with their tongues! Thankfully it was a congregation with a good sense of humor. Everyone had a good laugh and they never forget to buy the wine anymore!

Every crisis is an opportunity ... an opportunity for laughter and creativity, for caring and forgiving, an opportunity to grow. Over our 150 years as a congregation, we've faced many crises and, by the grace of God, have been able to weather them and keep moving forward. Some crises are caused by external forces and some are of our own making. We're human. We don't always get things right. But, it's in our times of failure and crisis that God comes to us in new ways. What are the failures with which you're struggling? What's your current crisis? Rest assured that God hasn't left you alone and that in this crisis is an opportunity for you and God to do something new together. But beware ... it may not turn out exactly as you had planned!

Peace,
Pastor Russ

The worship service at St. John has gone LIVE!!!

Our 9:00 a.m. worship service is now live! To watch the service, go to www.stjohncharlescivcity.org. On the front page click on the Live Streaming Link post or go to the Worship & Sermon tab & click on YouTube.

You can also go to YouTube and in the search box type St. John Charles City IA to find our channel. On our channel click videos, then the down arrow next to uploads, then upcoming live streams.

The service is recorded as it streams & will be available after 10:00 a.m. to watch at any time.

Our Generosity in December

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

8% of our regular December offering (\$4261.74) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In December (\$1379.42) was given to Lutheran Disaster Response.

OF NOTE...



The 150th Anniversary committee would like to invite you to see some more history this month. We are going to pull out some blue-prints, things about our building additions and other things we can find in our historical files that we think you will find interesting. We will display these on February 13 and 20. Then on February 27 we are going to recognize all of our members that have been baptized, confirmed and/or married at St. John. Please come and let us share this part of your personal history with our church. I'm interested in how many of us will have experienced all three. Yes, I am one. Looking forward to sharing this day with you. Janet Petefish

Helping Hands has about 20 people ready, willing, and able to help run errands, do minor household help, and provide transportation. If you need any of these services, please call Kathy at the church office during regular business hours. Someone will contact you within 48 hours of receiving the message to make arrangements to help. We will continue this ministry as long as we have volunteers to serve.

From the inception of Kans for Kids, June 20, 2020, through December 31, 2021,
we have raised \$6,014.63. That amounts to
120,292 cans!

To quote Gaylen; It's mind blowing, the volume of cans that have been handled. It is not just good for the Kids, but for the environment.

We have paid out \$2,958.49 for: Pre-school supplies; Registrations for VBS, Confirmation and After School Fun Program. We have also paid for 614 Wednesday Night Meals for all kids through 12th grade, plus 60 McDonalds Happy Meals for the St. John Pre-school kids and 83 Subway meals for the Sunday School and Confirmation kids. We also have donated \$200 to the Angel Tree, \$100 to the Christmas Shoe Box and \$100 to Coats for Kids.

God bless all those who are donating! We certainly see God's Love in Action! *Sandie*

Angel Tree 2021

Words cannot express how truly grateful we are for the generosity to Angel Tree, again this year. Whether you purchased gifts, donated toward the program, or prayed for those in the program.... Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! Your help and generosity touched the hearts of many people, proving that we are "God's Love in Action"!

Shirley Holm & Jessie Holm

After Worship Social Time

Coffee & a treat are served in the Parish Hall each Sunday! If you would like to volunteer to bring the treats, please sign up on the chart just inside the doors on the table or call Kathy in the office. What you choose to bring for a treat is entirely up to you! Coffee & napkins are provided by St. John.

Prayer Shawl and Coffee Group.

This group is open to "anyone" that wants to knit or crochet or just come have coffee with a nice group of ladies. I can teach you to knit if you want. Conversation is always free and fun. We will start off with treats and see how that goes. We have patterns if you need one to start a shawl.

It's been a while since we've had some women's fellowship and this could be our start. There are some ladies from other churches that are going to join us and chances are you will know some of them. You can invite someone to come with you if you want. The door under the canopy will be unlocked for those of you who have trouble with stairs or in a wheelchair. We will play it by ear if it continues every Friday or a bit less often as people help decide.

One very nice perk for you knitters and crocheters is that Holly Connor is donating all the yarn left in her shop to us for free use. Joyce Wood told me Holly is donating a bunch of material to the quilters also. Many thanks to Holly for all of that.

If you would like to be on a group email list for updates please send a request to me at petefishj@mchsi.com. You can also contact me at petefishj@gmail.com for quicker response. I will use this list in case the group has to be canceled on short notice or for a funeral which will use the space.

People's Page...

February birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

2/3 Donald Knowlton
2/21 Duane Ortmayer
2/28 Marilu Wohlers

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

February 1, 1969	Dale & Helen Bond
February 14, 1960	Jim & Donna Gambaiani
February 14, 1964	Lenis & Nadonne Buseman
February 14, 1969	Steven & Diane Barr

With sympathy, the funerals of:

Geraldine "Jerry" Lee Fisher Spurbeck, 1/4/22

The death of:

Dorothy Rodda, 1/4/22

Memorials were given in memory of...

Herbert Hinz by Karen Streich

Allen Donald Manning by Bob Peterson, Mary Mooberry, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Cal & Joyce Wood, John & Geneva Rima, Kip & Judy Hauser

Dorothy Rodda by Cherie Schafer

Our Newest Members!



Evan & Carly Marten
and Emmitt

Wednesday Night Suppers in February:

Feb 2: Lasagna, green beans, garlic bread, lettuce salad, pudding

Feb 9: Scalloped potatoes & ham, glazed carrots, fruit, doughnuts

Feb 16: Baked Spaghetti, rolls, mixed vegetables, cottage cheese, ice cream bars

Feb 23: Chicken casserole, green beans, fruit, brownies

Mar 2: Meatloaf, baked potatoes, corn, Oreo dessert

Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcast

Call the office at 641-228-3397 to sign up to sponsor Altar flowers &/or radio broadcasts in 2022

Lent 2022 begins in March...

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

5:30 p.m. Worship with Communion &
5th grade 1st Communion



St. John will have Lenten worship at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 9 – 30 and April 6.

Maundy Thursday is April 14th with worship & communion at 5:30 p.m.

Good Friday is April 15th & we will have a 7:00 p.m. Tenebrae service.

Easter Sunday is April 17th & worship with communion will be at 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.



Youth & Families...

Winter is in full swing and while the days ARE getting longer – the weather sometimes doesn't cooperate with us. If school is cancelled or dismissed early on a Wednesday (due to weather) we will NOT hold the After School Program or Confirmation classes or have ANY of our Wednesday night activities.

Even though some of us may not enjoy the cold and wish we could skip winter – we can take some comfort in the fact that we know it will warm up again eventually. And we can take comfort in the consistency of the changing of the seasons every year.

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” Genesis 8:22

Blessings, Laurie

Confirmation

Our third Session of classes continues this month and the thirty-four students in our Confirmation program are taking either Journey Through Genesis, The Apostles – Paul & Luke, or Powerful Words.

Our Youth Board is sponsoring a fun night for our confirmation students on Wednesday, February 23rd. We will be having pizza and Gaga Ball tournaments going on during our confirmation hour from 6-7pm.

Sunday School

Attention: **5th Grade Parents!** The 1st Communion **parent/student/pastor instructional classes** will be February 13th and 20th at 10:15am. Please put these two dates on your calendar now.

These 5th grade students will be baking the bread for Ash Wednesday during Sunday School on February 27th at 10:05 am (during Sunday School) and then will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time on Ash Wednesday (March 2nd), during the 5:30pm worship service.

The PreK-2nd Grade students will be **singing** during worship on Sunday, **February 27th**.

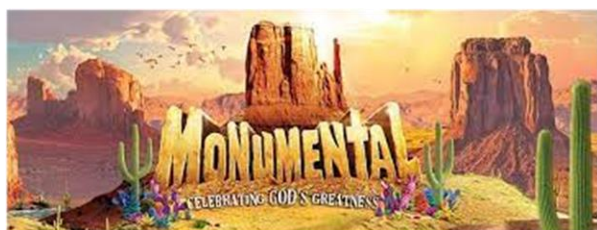
February is SOAP MONTH here at St. John. Please send donations of soap with your Sunday School students each week of February. Donations will be put into our Blessing Box. Thank you to all who feel called to donate to this worthy cause!

After School Program

We have 16 kids enrolled in our After-School Program, which is each Wednesday from 3:35-5pm. We have a snack and do a craft project and watch a short video each week. The After-School Program could use some donations of cotton balls and snacks. The kids especially like crackers, fruit cups, pretzels, cheese balls/puffs and apple juice. Thank you!

Vacation Bible School

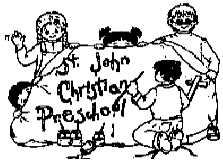
Save the Date! VBS 2022 will be during the evenings of June 14-17, 2022.



St. John Sunday School Families

FEBRUARY IS SOAP MONTH!

Remember to send wrapped bars of soap with your students. Soap will be donated to the St. John Blessing Box.



St. John Christian Preschool...

Love is definitely in the air at St. John Christian Preschool, but perhaps not in the way that you traditionally think of during this month of greeting cards and chocolate. We feel honored to be able to share God's love with each of our 30 little ones each and every day. And you know what the really AWESOME thing is? It doesn't take very long before our little ones start sharing God's love right back!

We learned all about the letters D, G, M, & K; how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. In our 4-yr-old classes, we started working on our Kindergarten Readiness Skills: how to quietly walk in a line down the hall, sitting on the listening rug quietly and raising our hand if we have something to share, and writing our names all by ourselves! The list goes on and on! In all classes, we worked on our self-help skills by working on putting on our coats, zipping them up, and putting on our backpacks! We're all doing quite well!

We continue to be blessed with a preschool board of six, hardworking, dedicated women. At our December meeting we said goodbye to Lydia Klinkel. She served the preschool board for 3 years and will be missed.

We would also like to remind everyone that the preschool is **still selling Kwik Star gift cards**. Please stop down or call if you are interested in purchasing a gift card (228-7274.) The preschool receives 5% of the card's face value.

SJCP would like to announce that we are holding a Book Fair here at the preschool, as well. The Book Fair will be Monday, February 14 - Friday, February 18 from 8:00am - 4:00pm. This event is open to the community and the proceeds go straight to the preschool.

Registration for the 2022-23 school year is also starting up in February! CURRENT families will begin registration Monday, February 14th and NEW families can begin registration Monday, February 21st. We will also be starting our Scratch Cupcake "all school" fundraiser in March, so be on the lookout for that information!

Last, but certainly not least, we are blessed with the many forms of support that the St. John congregation provides us. From financial gifts to prayers to the smiles that we receive when we pass a member of the congregation in the hall, we feel loved. In a world full of many difficulties, thank you for sharing your support with our youngest friends and making them feel special, needed and important.

With HIS love,
Whittney Franke



February 14 - February 18
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
in the Preschool area!

February 2022 Schedule...

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

Feb 13: 10:15 a.m. 5th Grade 1st Communion class

Feb 20: 10:15 a.m. 5th Grade 1st Communion class

Feb 23: Newsletter Deadline
6:00 p.m. Confirmation Fun Night

Feb 27: 10:00 a.m. 5th grade bakes bread for 1st
Communion on Ash Wednesday
(March 2nd)



Wednesday Night Activities...

3:45 – 5:00 p.m. After School
5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Supper
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Trinity Choir

Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds: 2/1 5:00 p.m.
Council: 2/8 7:00 p.m.
Deacons: TBD
Family Board
Finance Board 2/10 5:30 p.m.
Parish Ed 2/6 11:00 a.m.
Stewardship 2/15 2:30 p.m.
Youth 2/16 5:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Meghan Korbel	Rylee Van Horn	Donald Knowlton	Carter Kellogg Paula Kruthoff Kyndra McDonald Laurel Schlump	Carol Bauer Melia Lantz Karmen Mehmen Rusty Rogotzke
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Bob Frascht Liz Hamm Angel McKenzie Diane Niezwaag Sandie Quade	Amber Hicks	Isaac Hervert		Cody Van Horn	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Viva Boerschel June Montagne Samantha Prigge	Kayla Streich		Kathy Waldorf		Brayton Quade Caleb Streich	Alison Mehmen
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Cassie DeBower Kierstin Heim Andrew Miller Ron Venz	Duane Ortmyer		Barbara Garden	Dennis Petefish	Shirley Holm Chelsea Lumley	Keaton Schmidtke
27	28					
	Greg Buenger Michael Exline Lori Gassman Marilu Wohlers					