

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



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](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)



Find & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the E-Skinny by emailing Kathy  
at  
[khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto: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](mailto:rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com)

*Rev. Anita Nuetzman*  
Part time Visitation/Preaching Pastor

*Office Secretary:* Kathy Hoeft  
[khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto: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](mailto:lhughes@stjohncharlescity.com)

*Music Director:*  
Melanie Johanningmeier  
[mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com)

*Youth & Family Coordinator:*  
Laurie Heidebrink  
[lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com)

*Custodian:* Jamie Carolan  
[jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com)

**St. John Christian Preschool**  
**641-228-7274**

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke  
[wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com)  
Teacher: Carleen Laue



## Pastor Anita Nuetzman:



Photo by Annie Spratt on Unsplash

Alleluia, Christ is risen! --- Now what?

There was that long build-up of Lent and then, just like that, Easter's over. What happens after the chocolate bunnies and leftover ham are gone? Where do we find ourselves *after* the Resurrection? Was it what we were expecting?

On the same day that the women discovered the empty tomb, two of Jesus' friends were probably asking themselves the same kind of questions as they walked from Jerusalem toward the village of Emmaus. The distance was about the same as it is from the outskirts of Charles City to Bassett, so they had some time to talk.

Isn't that what many of us do when we're feeling out-of-sorts and need to clear our heads? There's something about going for a walk that seems to help our minds to process things.

And those two friends obviously had a LOT to think about. I imagine them being so lost in thought that they don't notice what's going on around them, the way I sometimes get so absorbed when I'm driving from home to Charles City that I can't tell you whether there was any ice left on the lake at Rudd or not.

So that might be how Jesus could show up alongside them without them even realizing it; which makes me think about how often Jesus is walking beside *us* when we're hurt and confused and afraid.

I'll bet some of you have that "Footprints in the Sand" story framed and hanging on your wall somewhere. It's a beautiful image that has brought a great deal of comfort to many folks.

Photo by Deny Abdurahman on Unsplash

I like it, too, but to me, sometimes it feels like admitting defeat (no pun intended). In other words, I can't do it so I need Jesus to pick me up and carry me like a toddler in the middle of a meltdown.



The road to Emmaus story, on the other hand, shows me that Jesus helps me to *keep moving ahead* when things get hard. He isn't yelling over his shoulder, "Keep up with me!" like my mom. And he's not cracking the whip from behind like he's driving a team of oxen.

Jesus encourages you and me to talk about what's going on, not just with him, but with friends, too, instead of keeping our problems to ourselves. And he does it with gentleness and compassion.

"What are you discussing with each other as you walk along?" Jesus asks. He HAS to know already, right? But he wants the two friends to express it in their own words. Then he asks for clarification, "What things?" before giving them an explanation.

For the church, Easter is not over yet. We'll be celebrating it for the whole month. It's a good opportunity, I think, to take a walk with a friend (or even a pastor) to talk about what's going on in our lives. We know Jesus will be there, too.

Your fellow traveler,

*Pastor Anita*

## **COUNCIL NOTE...**

### **April Council Highlights:**

- Implemented additional documents to pair with the Employee Handbook. Staff and Pastor Growth and Evaluation plans were approved and will be used in collaboration with Pastors, Staff, and Supervisors on a yearly basis to create growth plans and meet evaluatory requirements laid out in the handbook.
- Heard updates from 150th Anniversary committee, with reminder to mark your calendars for special presentation for former pastors on Sunday, May 15th during service followed by coffee and treats.
- Continued discussion on installing an elevator in the church, due to high costs of an elevator, we have shifted our focus to a lift system. Examples of possible life systems were presented, and estimates will be gathered for further discussion at the May Council Meeting.
- Donated our Monthly Benevolence to Lutheran Alliance Fund for those being affected by war in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.
- We are looking for volunteers who may be interested in becoming our Synod voting members and attending a two-day event at Wartburg College on June 10th-11th. They ask each congregation to send preferably one male and one female representative. If you are interested in attending, please call Kathy at the office to express interest. Thank you for considering!

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

**-St. John Lutheran Church Council**

### **Our Generosity in March**

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

8% of our regular March offering (\$3461.85) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In January (\$1055) was given to the following: (\$155.00) to purchase yarn for the "Prayer cloths" made by the knitting group and (\$900.00) to the Madison County Community Foundation to assist Winterset in recovery from the tornado that went through their community in early March.

In addition, 8% of the quarterly thank offering is given to assist in serving our local community. The first quarter benevolence was given to the following: (\$1000.00) to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, (\$500.00) to the Messiah's Food Pantry, (\$500.00) to Charles City Meals on Wheels, and (\$378.00) for the restocking of the "Blessing Box".



### **"Save the Date"**

As part of our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, on **May 15** we will be celebrating former pastors, visitation pastors, interns and Sons of the Ministry (there are no daughters) from our congregation. There will be at least two former pastors here with a possibility of more. We have some letters from those that aren't able to attend and a video from one. A photo display of the Pastors, and some interesting information on their time with us, will also be presented in the Narthex for your viewing.

There will be a very special coffee reception for the Pastors after the service. Please come and greet them and have a great cinnamon roll, fruit and Aromas coffee. Yum!

We will also be remembering the 1968 Tornado since that was May 15, 54 years ago. We plan on a presentation of pictures and video from the time and a reading of Pastor Trost's (1964-1969) remembrances of that date and the weeks after. A very interesting manuscript.

**We hope to see you there!**

## OF NOTE...

**Building & Grounds Spring Cleanup Day** will be **May 14<sup>th</sup>**, starting at **9:00 a.m.** Bring your rakes, wheelbarrows, and other cleanup tools to help clean up the parking lot and the grassy areas around the church!

### **Adult Bible Study - Sundays at 10:15 in the Chapel**

Each week we will be taking a closer look at the Bible readings for that Sunday. It's a chance to go deeper in the scriptures for that week and have conversation about them. We will NOT meet May 1<sup>st</sup> or May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Mother's Day**

The 150th Anniversary committee would like to celebrate our mothers on May 8th. We have a special floral token for the first 54 mothers to come to church on that Sunday. It's worth getting there early. God bless the mothers that are with us and those remembered.

### **St. John T-Shirts**

The Youth Board is selling St. John T-shirts! \$12 for Youth sizes and \$15 for adult sizes.

They are bright blue, short-sleeve t-shirts with the St. John logo in white on the front.

Pick up an order form on the bulletin board outside Laurie's office, fill it out, and turn it in to Laurie or Kathy by May 11, 2022.

Payment is due when placing the order. Profits from this sale will go to the Youth Board.

We will let you know when t-shirts arrive and can be picked up at St. John.



### **Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcast**

Call the office at 641-228-3397 to sign up to sponsor Altar flowers &/or radio broadcasts in 2022. We have many radio dates open. Several of our members can only listen to the radio and do appreciate being "a part" of the service as a listening member.

### **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.

**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.

## People's Page...

### CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2022



Kaleb Craig Bilharz  
Brandon Michael Ignacio Castillo  
Deven Anthony Ignacio Castillo  
Kaleb Michael Cotton  
Colton Leroy Crooks  
Brayton Robert Quade  
Keaton Ellis Schmidtke  
Emma Marie Schmiedel  
Celestino Ismael Tamayo Baez  
Koen James Tibbitts  
Alyvia Lynn Vance

**Jeremiah 29:11** “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (NIV)

#### ***May birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!***

5/9 Helen Lockwood  
5/11 Marilyn Obermeier  
5/16 Marilyn Scholle  
5/17 Marian Dight  
5/22 Alvin Davidson  
5/22 Edna Stott  
5/31 Jerry Meader  
5/31 Margaret Schultz

#### ***May anniversaries of our members who have been married 50 or more years!***

5/3/1958 Leon & Shirley Hall  
5/17/1969 Sherman & Diane Loudermilk  
5/28/1960 Cal & Joyce Wood

#### ***Memorials were given in memory of...***

Dorothy Elenora Ibsen Rodda: Jan  
Gilliland, Arlene Thomas  
Penny Jaeger: Arlene Thomas

#### *An Old Irish Blessing*

*“May The Road Rise to Meet You”  
“Anonymous”*

*May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind always be at your back.  
May the sunshine warm upon your face,  
and rains fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*



#### ***With sympathy, the funerals of:***

Dorothy Elenora Ibsen Rodda, 4/22/22  
Sandra Lee Ballou Link, 5/2/22

## Youth & Families...

*“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ And he laid his hands on them and blessed them.”*

Matthew 19:14-15

Blessings, Laurie Heidebrink

### **YOUTH NEWS**

Thank you to all who attended the Youth Board’s **Palm Sunday Breakfast**. The free-will donations are going into the individual accounts of the youth who worked that event and will be available for them to use for St. John events, like mission trips, Bible camps, etc. We are so very grateful for your support!

The Youth Board is sponsoring a **summer mission trip to the North Dakota Badlands from July 5-9, 2022**. This trip is open to St. John students who have **completed 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades** and their friends. Sign up on the bulletin board outside Laurie’s office.

The Youth Board would welcome any donations toward the cost of fuel for the bus. If you feel called to donate stop in and see Linda in the Business Office, or put **Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>** on your calendar to attend our **bake sale** in the Narthex. The youth participating in the mission trip will again be baking pies and other goodies to sell before and after worship service.

### **CONFIRMATION**

Confirmation classes will finish on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **GRADUATION**

Graduation Sunday is on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be celebrating with our St. John graduates during worship.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

The last day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Parish Education board would like to thank all our Sunday School teachers, substitutes, helpers and all the parents who brought their children to Sunday School classes. You have **all** made a difference in these kids’ faith journeys.

### **“Monumental – Celebrating God’s Greatness” ----- June 14th-17th will be VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!**

- Online registration will be starting soon. Be watching!
- Walk-in registration will begin at 5:15pm on the 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Plan on having your kids attend from 5:30pm-7:30pm on Tuesday-Friday!
- We will serve a light supper for the kids each evening.
- VBS is open to kids in Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> grades.
- There is no registration fee for VBS this year thanks to Kans for Kids!
- If you are interested in volunteering at VBS, please contact Laurie.

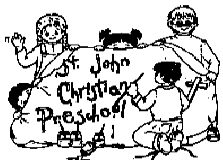
### **FAMILY BOARD**

Twenty-six children and their parents got to go on an Easter Egg Hunt at St. John on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The Family Board hid many eggs and our youngest friends searched in the choir room while the older children went on a puzzle hunt to find eggs of a certain color that contained puzzle pieces and then claim a “goody bag” after their puzzle was put together. We also had assorted crafts and activities for the families to participate in while here, including dyeing eggs to take home. Much fun was had by all!

### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The After School Program wrapped up this program year on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the St. John bus drivers who safely delivered the students to us each Wednesday– without the bus many of our friends wouldn’t have been able to attend. Thank you to all the Middle School and High School helpers, and to everyone who donated snacks!





## St. John Christian Preschool...

"How quickly time can fly by!?! We have already made it through another great year at St. John Christian Preschool. Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> will be our last day of the 2021-2022 school year. We are hoping to be blessed by some nice weather so that we can spend our last days of school outside enjoying God's beautiful world! As sad as it is to see our older friends go off to Kindergarten, we know that they will be given a whole new and exciting learning experience.

Our preschool friends ended their school year with a number of fun activities. Our older friends had the opportunity to walk to the Police Station and get a tour of the facility from Officer Ollendick. He also came to SJCP to visit our younger friends. In addition, each class was able to make a special trip to the library. It is always fun to explore our town with our friends.

We will be taking our younger friends to Andres Park for a day of fun. It is always remarkable to see how much fun little ones can have with nothing more than a large area of grass. From sidewalk chalk to kicking balls, we will have a great day. Our older friends are hoping to end the year with a field trip to Lion's Field Park. This is always a fun and exciting part of the year because EVERYBODY gets to ride the all-famous TAXI! ☺ We'll have to see what the weather holds!

We have also started to work on beginning plans for the 2022-2023 school year. We have been blessed with a great start to our registration and currently have openings in both of our 3/4-year-old classes and 4/5-year-old classes, but are filling up. If you know someone who is interested in attending, please encourage them to call us at 228-7274. We thank God that our ministry dedicated to providing a loving, Christian, educational environment for little ones is still going strong and we thank you for helping us spread the word!

Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who purchased cupcakes from our preschoolers for our All-School fundraiser! We will be able to purchase these items listed from our "Wish List!" We appreciate all of your continued support for our program!

Have a great summer and THANK YOU for all that you do!

With HIS love,  
Whittney Franke



## May 2022 Schedule...

**Sundays: 9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary**  
**Communion is the 1st & 3rd Sunday**  
**10:15 a.m. Adult Bible study in the**  
**Chapel (NO class May 1<sup>st</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>)**

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May 4: 6:00 p.m. Confirmation  
 May 11: 6:00 p.m. Confirmation  
 May 14: 9:00 a.m. Building & Grounds Spring  
 Cleanup  
 May 15: 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration of past pastors &  
 interns  
 May 18: 9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters  
 May 22: Graduation Sunday  
 May 25: Newsletter Deadline  
 May 30: Office closed – Memorial Day

## Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds: 5/3 6:00 p.m.  
 Council: 5/10 6:00 p.m.  
 Deacons: 5/1 Email.  
 Family Board 5/15 10:30 a.m.  
 Finance Board 5/10 5:00 a.m.  
 Parish Ed 5/1 11:00 a.m.  
 Stewardship 5/17 2:00 p.m.  
 Youth 5/1 11:00 a.m.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
Kiki Connell	Anastasia Baldus Colton Baldus Wolfgang Baldus Kaleb Bilharz Hailey Rule	Ellie Lantz	Jacob Greenzweig Hudson Hinz	Mindi Sande Keegan Voelker	Stacey Vance	Joseph Heidebrink
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
	Helen Lockwood	Amy Kubik Vicki Schroeder	Brandon Franke Eric Johanningmeier Marilyn Obermeier Sara Sharp Michael Tracey Blair Walker	Jessica Carolan Jennifer Davidson Joel Holthaus Damon Sickman Larry Tommingo Roger Townsend	Joshua Dean	Larry Bohner Scott Vance
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
Bryce Caffrey Dennis Carr	Kaleb Cotton David Schweizer Henry Sisson	Mary Augustin Brad Bailey Marian Dight Brinlee Merrifield Virginia Titus	Larry Michehl	Martha Brunner Tyler Hicks Dorothy Parson	Joyce Boehmer Candice Lumley	
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Al Davidson Madilyn Lessin Edna Stott		Addison Merrifield	Taylor Quade Margot Smith Wendy Vance Jeff Wink	Russ Leeper	Matt Selvig Patricia Townsend	Brandon Castillo Deven Castillo
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
Tino Tamayo	Jacqueline Moon Emma Prichard	Gaylen Hicok Randall Kreger Betty Manning Jerry Meader Margaret Schultz				