THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2026

"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 Tara at office@stjohncharlescity.com

Worship service broadcasted on
KCHA FM 95.9 at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

Interim Pastor:
Pastor Kris Ferkin
pastor@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary:
Tara Dean
office@stjohncharlescity.com
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Fridays 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Business Manager:
Tonia Olsen
businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:
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mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator:
Whitney Howe
yfcoordinator@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian:
Craig Hamm

Interim Pastor Kris Ferkin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month we have the national holiday of Thanksgiving. More than turkey, the Macy's Day Parade, and football, this day leads many people to recognize and give thanks for the many blessings in their lives. As Christians we turn our thanks to God for house and home, food and clothing, friends and family, and so much more.

Here at St. John Lutheran Church, we celebrate this time of giving and giving thanks. We are reminded that all that we have been given comes as a generous gift from God. We worship a God who not only models generous living but also shapes our hearts for generosity and thanksgiving. Most of us struggle to really trust God to provide and therefore surrender our finances to God, but God's Word tells us that we've been set free to live generously, and in so doing we discover great joy and real freedom. With that in mind, how can we not give thanks to a generous God, to give ourselves away to one another, and to be instruments of generous giving in reflection of God's love?

All belongs to God – all that is, all that we have and all that we are. In addition, God is not only the source of all creation, but God also loves all creation, including us – just as we are. No matter what happens to us or around us, God's love is always there for us.

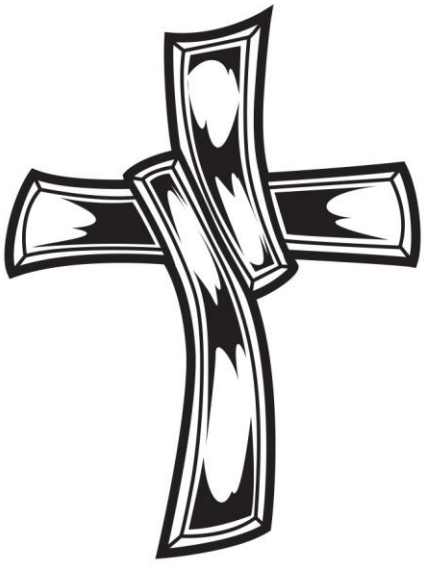
Knowing God's love and knowing God loves us abundantly leads us to give thanks.

We take this opportunity to give thanks for all God has generously given us, and to give generously from what God has first given us. This is a spiritual journey for us, and a way for us to personally explore what God is calling us to do with the blessings we have received. This is a time to publicly proclaim in a way, our story of blessing. We are truly blessed to be a part of this church and by living out our faith we become a blessing to others.

Reflecting on all I have to be thankful for, along with being thankful for my family, my wife, and my children, I am also thankful for being here at St. John Lutheran Church. Thank you for your prayers and for the many ways you generously give through your time, talents, and treasures. From my family to yours, we wish you a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.

Blessings,

Pastor Kris D. H. Ferkin and Family



Of Note…

Thank you all for your thoughts + prayers and especially the beautiful prayer blanket.
I appreciate it very much!
Tilleen Litterer

Sept 13, 2026

Dick and I want to thank Ed Platte and Dr. Scott Hanson along with several boys who came took care of our weeds on "God's Hands Working Hands" Sunday... They did an awesome job.. God Bless

Dick and Sandra Harrington

P.S. Dick told them we'd see them next year

Hi, been thinking of you folks since Marcia received the really nice blanket last week. Had Marcia been able to respond, she would have expressed her appreciation not only for the blanket but all of the time, thought and talent that went into making it. Thank you for remembering her.

Richard Olson

We are excited to welcome Pastor Kris Ferkin to St. John as an Interim Pastor. He comes to us from Plainview, MN. When you see him around, be sure to say hi and be ready to laugh!

We are also so happy to announce that Craig Hamm has joined the staff at St. John as Custodian/Maintenance. His first day was October 26th. Please give Craig a warm welcome when you see him!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

NOVEMBER 2026

Youth Activities

After School Program

This month the After School Program crew will learn about Daniel and the Lion's Den, Queen Esther, and Nehemiah Rebuilding the Wall. Please note we will not meet on November 25th due to Thanksgiving.

Confirmation

In November the Confirmation students will learn about Moses, The Law Increasing Sin, The Wilderness. There will be no class on November 25th due to Thanksgiving.

High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group will begin their second series of the Tenx10 curriculum. We will not meet on November 25th due to Thanksgiving.

2027 ELCA Youth Gathering

Priority registration closes on November 11th for the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2027. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to Whitney Howe by November 4th.

Christmas Program December 13th

We will practice for the Christmas program on the following dates:

- November 8th
- November 15th
- November 22nd
- December 6th

Please let Whitney Howe know if your child will not be participating in the program.

Upcoming Events

- Youth Game Night: November 6th
- Guy's Event: November 8th

November Wednesday Supper Menu

November 4	November 11	November 18
Chili	Pizza Burgers	Pork Loin Dinner
Cornbread	French Fries	Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
Relishes	Carrots	Corn
Dessert	Dessert	Applesauce
		Pumpkin Bars

BEHIND THE (Kitchen) SCENE…

The church kitchen is back in the groove after the summer break! We have many delicious meals planned and we invite you to join us on Wednesday night. Serving starts at 5:00 PM. With the activities and practices that our youth participate in after school, this meal can be an option for your family to use for the appetites your youth bring home! We have food available to serve everyone until 6:00 PM. Come and join us. We would love to see you!

Boy, have we noticed the price increase in groceries!!!! We are so truly blessed that we have so many caring, giving people in our congregation. We have again been provided with a generous supply of ground beef and some garden produce for our church meals. You have most definitely been instrumental in keeping our costs down and we say "THANK YOU" from the bottom of our hearts.

We have also been approached by individuals offering to contribute to our menus during the year. A huge "THANK YOU" for that gift. We will be taking you up on your offers very soon!!!!

Remember when we had the Fall Festival at St. John and the cookie pails? We are planning a KOOKIES FOR THE KITCHEN event on Sunday, November 22, in the Parish Hall, immediately following our church service!

Would you be willing to bake some cookies for this event?

We are looking for a supply of ice cream pails WITH lids. Do you have some to share? If so, please bring them to the church kitchen, by November 18th.

We are also planning a KRAFTS FOR THE KITCHEN corner. Do you have a crafting hobby you enjoy? Or would you like the opportunity to offer a service to others? (Examples: an afternoon of leaf raking, or offering a dessert a month for a year). The opportunities are endless.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are such busy times of the year. This may be the opportunity to cross off cookie baking and several gifts from your long list!

At the Welcome Center you will find a sign-up sheet for cookies and a sign-up sheet for the craft table. Please consider being part of this event. With everyone's help, we can make this fundraiser a success.

All proceeds will be applied to the kitchen renovation. Our next goal in this renovation process is purchasing and installing a new dishwasher. Our unit is about 35 years old and has been a time-saver for those who work in the kitchen. But the signs are there that it is getting tired.

God's Blessings to you,

Kathy

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This year's Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 13th at the 9:00 worship service. We have an incredibly fun play that we will be putting on this year called "Bed, Bethlehem & Beyond – When Heaven Touched Earth" by Close Encounter Ministries. Rehearsals will begin Nov. 8th and continue Nov. 15th and Nov. 22nd. (We will not be splitting the hour between lesson and rehearsal this year…these Sundays will be strictly program practice.) There will be no Sunday School Nov. 29th due to being the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Sunday, Dec. 6th will be a FULL DRESS REHEARSAL. **If your child will not be here for the program, please let the Youth & Family Coordinator, Whitney Howe, know by Sunday, November 1st.** If your child IS participating this year, please have your child to the church by 8:00am on Dec. 13th. We will have all participants meet in the choir room.

Adults: Do you want to be part of the fun? We have some roles that we would love your help with in the play! Please contact Whitney Howe for more information on how to get involved!

Also, if any youth want to perform during the prelude on December 13th, please contact Melanie Johanningmeier.

Coats for Kids was held on October 10th and was another big success this year. Thank you to everyone who either donated supplies or volunteered your time to help set up or run the event. Because of you, we were able to hand out 96 coats, 54 snow pants, and 56 pairs of snow boots along with many smaller items such as hats, gloves, and mittens.

PLEASE CONTACT JESSICA HOEFT, COATS FOR KIDS CHAIR, IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT COATS FOR KIDS!
anderson42592@gmail.com

Bros and Bowls

Chili Cookoff
Who will win the golden ladle?
Bring your TUMS!
Sunday, November 8th
11:30 a.m.
Parish Hall

After Worship Social Time

Coffee & a treat are served either outside, or in the Narthex during inclement weather, each Sunday!

We need volunteers to sign up to bring treats. The sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center. We need approximately 5 dozen treats. Coffee and lemonade are provided by the church.

MUSIC Sunday

Sunday, December 20, 2026
Come and join us for a service of music and word.

The 25¢ Christmas store will be open on December 6, 2026, after Sunday School.

Volunteers are needed. Please contact Jodi Reetz if you are interested.

Poinsettias for Christmas

Watch for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex **coming soon**…if you would like to sponsor the poinsettias.

You may also call the office to have your name and message added to the sign-up sheet at (641) 228-3397.

Volunteers are needed for preparing and serving the Thanksgiving Dinner! Please contact Kim Watkins if you are willing to help.

Want to help but can't make it? Monetary donations are still needed to cover the cost of the meal.

Contact Kim Watkins at 641-330-5441

Board of Deacons Invites YOU!!

Friday, November 27th
9:30 AM…meet in the sanctuary.
Decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!

Angel Tree Sunday

On Sunday, November 15th, Angel Tree tags will be available in the Narthex before and after service. Angel Tree provides gifts for children of incarcerated parents, food and religious materials for their families. Please support the program again this year.

If you take a tag, please return the gift(s) by December 6th.

Our Generosity for 3rd Quarter 2026

Your offerings to St. John were shared beyond our walls in the 3rd Quarter in the Following ways:

- 8% of our offering, $2,065.06, went to support the Floyd County Food Pantry.
- 2% of our offering was split between July, August, and September. The July recipient was the Postville Fire Relief in the amount of $788.75, the August recipient was the Floyd County Food Pantry Slow Cooker Project in the amount of $492.37, and the September recipient was C.C. Cares for their Thanksgiving Meal for the community in the amount of $483.27.

Youth
GAME NIGHT
Crafts
Devotional
1st-6th Grade Invited
Friday, November 6
6:30-8 pm
3rd Floor
Games
Socializing

NOVEMBER IS
FOOD MONTH!
St. John
Blessing Box
Our Sunday School will be collecting food
to help stock the St. John Blessing Box.
Please bring non-perishable food items on the
following Sundays:
SUNDAY
11/1
SUNDAY
11/8
SUNDAY
11/15
SUNDAY
11/22
Your donations will help provide food for families
in our community. Thank you for sharing
God's love through your generosity!
"For I was hungry and you gave me food."
MATTHEW 25:35

People's Page…

Memorials were given in memory of…

Dorothy Watson: Leon and Jan Mulford

Gladys Niezwaag: Kay Tjaden, Judy Hughes, Cherie Schafer, Leona Howe

November birthdays 80 & older!

Myrna Ward	11/3/1940
Beverly Waddell	11/3/1946
Wayne Ellertson	11/7/1935
Calvin Wood	11/8/1939
Charles Waddell	11/9/1941
Lorna Scrimger	11/19/1943
Gladys Kellogg	11/19/1929
Rose Lamprecht	11/19/1937
Gary Marth	11/22/1944
Bill Bledsoe	11/23/1938
Kathy Jacobs	11/29/1943

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

David & Jennifer Seckar	11/14/1971
Dean & Doris Toebe	11/16/1958
William & Arlene Hollar	11/16/1957
Charles & Beverly Waddell	11/23/1963
David & Linda Lindaman	11/28/1970
Richard & Marcia Olesen	11/29/1963

Wednesday Kitchen for November 2026

11/4/2026	Addisen Lantz Melia Lantz
11/11/2026	Drake O'Brien Saeli Chase
11/18/2026	Grace Marth Alesia Garden

Acolytes for November 2026

11/1/2026	Drake O'Brien Anna Mehmen
11/8/2026	Drake O'Brien Lela Hammond
11/15/2026	Drake O'Brien Grace Marth
11/22/2026	Drake O'Brien Lela Hammond
11/29/2026	Lela Hammond Alesia Garden

November 2026 Events List

11/1/2026		All Saints Sunday
	9:00 a.m.	**Worship w/ Communion**
	10:05 a.m.	After Worship Treats
	10:15 a.m.	Education Hour
	11:15 a.m.	Parish Ed Board Meeting
11/3/2026	5:00 p.m.	Building & Grounds Board Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Wine and Word
11/4/2026	9:00 a.m.	Do-Day Quilters
	3:30 p.m.	After School Program
	4:30 p.m.	Kids' Choir
	5:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Confimation Class
	6:00 p.m.	Tone Chime Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Trinity Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group
11/6/2026	6:15 p.m.	Game Night (1st-6th Grade)
11/8/2026	8:00 a.m.	Youth & Family Board Meeting
	9:00 a.m.	**Worship**
	10:05 a.m.	After Worship Treats
	10:15 a.m.	Deacon Board Meeting
		Education Hour
	11:30 a.m.	Bros and Bowls Chili Cookoff
	4:30 p.m.	Musical Cast Party - 3rd Floor
11/10/2026	5:00 p.m.	Finance Board Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
11/11/2026	3:30 p.m.	After School Program
	4:30 p.m.	Kids' Choir
	5:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Confimation Class
	6:00 p.m.	Tone Chime Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Trinity Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group
11/15/2026	**9:00 a.m.**	**Worship w/ Communion**
	10:05 a.m.	After Worship Treats
	10:15 a.m.	Education Hour
11/17/2026	5:30 p.m.	Stewardship Board Meeting
11/18/2026	9:00 a.m.	Do-Day Quilters
	3:30 p.m.	After School Program
	4:30 p.m.	Kids' Choir
	5:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Confimation Class
	6:00 p.m.	Tone Chime Choir
	6:00 p.m.	Safety Committee
	7:00 p.m.	Trinity Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group
11/22/2026	8:00 a.m.	Caring Ministries Board Meeting
		Christ the King Sunday
	9:00 a.m.	**Worship**
		Paul Oman (Painter)
	10:05 a.m.	Kookies for the Kitchen

BOARD MEETINGS:

Parish Ed.	11/1	11:15 AM
Building & Grounds	11/3	5:00 PM
Youth & Family	11/8	8:00 AM
Deacons	11/8	10:15 AM
Finance	11/10	5:00 PM
Church Council	11/10	6:00 PM
Stewardship	11/17	5:30 PM
Caring Ministries	11/29	8:00 AM

11/24/2026	5:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministries Supervision
	10:15 a.m.	Education Hour
11/25/2026	3:30 p.m.	NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES
	4:00 p.m.	Newsletter Deadline
	4:30 p.m.	Set up for CC Cares Meal
11/26/2026		Offices Closed
	11:00 a.m.	CC Cares Thanksgiving Meal
11/27/2026		Offices Closed
	9:30 a.m.	Decorate the Church for Christmas
11/29/2026		**1st of Advent**
	9:00 a.m.	**Worship**
	10:05 a.m.	After Worship Treats
	10:15 a.m.	NO EDUCATION HOUR

SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

10:05 After Worship Social Time
10:15 Education Hour
- Sunday School (PreK-6th Grade)
- Youth Hour (7th-12th Grade)

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

3:30 After School Program
4:30 Kids' Choir
5:00 Supper
6:00 Confirmation
6:00 Tone Chime Choir
7:00 Trinity Choir
7:00 Youth Group

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship w/Communion All Saints' Sunday Education Hour Parish Ed Board 11:15 AM	2	3 Building & Grounds Board 5:00 PM Wine and Word 5:30 PM *Election Day*	4 Do-Day Quilters ASP 3:30 PM Wed Night Supper 5PM Confirmation 6PM HS Youth Group 7PM	5	6 Game Night 1st-6th Grades 6:15 PM	7
8 Worship Youth & Family Board 8AM Education Hour Deacon Board 10:15 AM Guy's Event 11:30 AM	9	10 Finance Board 5PM Council 6PM	11 ASP 3:30 PM Wed Night Supper 5PM Confirmation 6PM HS Youth Group 7PM *Veterans Day*	12	13	14
15 Worship w/Communion Education Hour Angel Tree Tag Pick-Up	16	17 Stewardship Board 5:30 PM	18 Do-Day Quilters ASP 3:30 PM Wed Night Supper 5PM Safety Committee 6PM Confirmation 6PM HS Youth Group 7PM	19	20	21 Set Up for Kookies for the Kitchen Event
22 Caring Ministries Board 8AM Worship-Paul Oman Christ the King Sunday Education Hour	23	24 Stephen Ministries Supervision 5:30 PM	25 Newsletter Deadline NO Wednesday Activities Set Up for CC Cares Meal 4:30 PM	26 Offices Closed CC Cares Thanksgiving Meal 11PM *Thanksgiving Day*	27 Offices Closed Decorate the Church for Christmas 9:30 AM	28
29 Worship Education Hour *1st Day of Advent*	30	1	2	3	4	5

November 2026 Birthday/Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Angie Tudor	Beverly Waddell Myrna Ward	Saeli Chase	Anniversary: Terry & Elizabeth Hamm		Wayne Ellertson Jacob Page Heather Norland
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Cal Wood Anniversary: Lee & Catlin Hoeft	Charles Waddell		Marcus Faldet Henry Marth Anniversary: Dan & Brandi Lantz	Brady Hanson	Anniversary: John & Julie Corbett	Jacque Brandau Nancy Johlas Finley Pettit Anniversary: David & Jennifer Seckar
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Michael Laue	Cameron Lessin Anniversaries: Dean & Doris Toebe Bill & Arlene Hollar	Dan Lantz Anniversary: Al & Jacque Brandau		John Corbett Gladys Kellogg Kenley LaBarge Rose Lamprecht Lorna Scrimger	Zuri Franke	Rodney Hinz
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Gary Marth Sarah Merrifield	Bill Bledsoe Riley Quade Anniversary: Charles & Beverly Waddell	Linda Lindaman	Graham Hansen Addisen Lantz	Thanksgiving Day Beverly Selvig	Steve Barr Anniversary: Eric & Melanie Johanningmeier	Sandra Marth Anniversary: David & Linda Lindaman
29	30					
Richard Lacour Kathy Jacobs Anniversary: Richard & Marcia Olesen	Jim Tupy Kathy Vandeventer					