

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2026

"God's Love in Action"

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
200 South Main Street
Charles City, IA 50616-2751
Phone: 641-228-3397

Senior Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Future Pastor Beth Hurt
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Website: www.stjohncharlescity.org



Find & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the E-Skinny by
emailing Tara at
office@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.

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

Business Manager:
Tonia Olsen

businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Shaune Fields
sjcp@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:

Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator:

Whitney Howe
yfcoordinator@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian:

Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com



Senior Pastor Russ Leeper

A Little Globe Can Do a Lot

One of my favorite things about Easter is getting to announce what the kids have decided to buy from ELCA Good Gifts with the year's Children's Offering. ELCA Good Gifts go to real projects currently supported through ELCA churchwide ministries. The ELCA is at work in nearly 90 countries around the world, including the United States. The ELCA honors our generosity by keeping administrative costs low so that 90% of the gift given goes to support the people and projects designated, rather than administrative costs.

Each year, on Palm Sunday, the Sunday School kids are given three choices from ELCA Good Gifts to vote on. In the past, they've voted on gifts like clean water for a village, farm animals for families, fruit trees, honeybees, fish farms, a motorbike for a pastor, computers for a youth center, and latrines for better sanitation ... just to name a few. Last year, the kids voted to supply medicine and medical supplies to a clinic that badly needs them!

We always do it as a penny vote. Three choices are presented to the kids, along with an explanation of how each gift would help an individual, family, or community. Then each child is given five pennies to vote with. They vote by putting pennies into containers that correspond with each of the three gift choices. Sometimes, it's hard for the kids to decide what to vote for because all three of them seem like really good gifts. But with five pennies, they can divide their vote up and give some to each. OR, if they really like one of them, they can put all of their pennies into that container. Of course, there's no bad choice, because they're all GOOD GIFTS! I love watching the kids really think about how each gift might impact others and trying to decide which gift they think would have the most impact. It's a great activity that not only helps them think about other people but also teaches them to be grateful for what they have.

After all the penny votes have been cast, they're counted in private. At both services on Easter Morning, we announce the winner of the vote and celebrate the amazing thing that our kids have done, truly helping people somewhere else in the world. It amazes and humbles me to think how much good, over the years, that little globe has done in the world. And it's no wonder we see our kids excitedly make their way down to the children's offering globe in worship. They know that their gifts make a difference, they know the joy of giving, and they know that it's what Jesus wants them to do. We can learn a lot from our kids! Happy Easter!

Peace,
Pastor Russ



Of Note...

St. John's Lutheran Church
Thank you so much
for your generous donation
of boys and girls clothes
to our Lincoln and
Washington schools. This
ensures our students
have clean clothes when
needed. Thank you for
being a wonderful community
partner!

Sincerely,
Charles City School District

Kathy Crooks, Bev Selwig, Judy Hughes
Kathy Waldorf, Jenisha Garden, Ryan Venz
Mary Augustin, Carolyn Marth,
Janet Petefish, Ann Voelker Marilyn Venz
Nadene Buseman + Monte Waldorf

The family of Linda Hoy wish
to thank you all for the delicious
food. Many of you have also supported
her by just being her friend and for
that we are grateful.

Bob, Tim, Sonya & Cyndi

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
THOUGHTS, PRAYERS AND KINDNESS
DURING THIS DIFFICULT TIME

FROM THE FAMILY OF

Linda Hoy

Church Board + Pastor
We have learned
to really appreciate
the on line church
service. Due to
health + weather
we have watched that
service many times
Thank You
Larry + Doris Hibbs

NEW MEMBER

WELCOME, JUDY KOCK!



After Worship Social Time
 has been an enjoyable way to
reconnect with each other! Coffee
 & a treat are served in the Parish
 Hall each Sunday!
We still need volunteers to bring
the treats!! Please plan for about
5 dozen.

*There is a sign-up sheet at the
 Welcome Center!*

Scholarship Applications:

- Those students attending a Lutheran college who would like to receive an EPIC grant must notify the church by **May 1st**.
- St. John scholarship applications for non-Lutheran colleges can be emailed to you and should be returned via email or dropped off to the office by **May 1st**.
- Please notify the office if you would like an application emailed to you.



GriefShare meets every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. through April 14th.



SAVE THE DATE!
 Vacation Bible School
 June 8-11



“24 Hours That Changed the World”
Adult Sunday School Class
10:15 a.m.
April 19- The Crucifixion
April 26- Christ the Victor





YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

April 2026

What We Will Learn

After School Program


This month we will be learning about the thief on the cross, Jesus being alive, Thomas, The Great Commission, and forming a community. It's been a great year!

Confirmation

The students will wrap up their year by learning about The Lord's Prayer during the month of April and will be working on a service project.

High School Youth Group

In April we will be finishing up our Abide study. May God open these students' eyes, ears, and hearts as we wrap up the school year.



5TH - 8TH Grade Trip

5th - 8th grade students are invited to join us on a day trip to serve at Retrieving Freedom in Waverly and have an afternoon of fun at Palmer's in Waterloo on July 11th. Please contact the office to get a registration form.

9TH - 12TH Grade Trip

9th - 12th grade students are invited to join our crew on an adventure to True North at Camp EWALU in Strawberry Point on July 26th - 31st. Please contact the office to get a registration form.

VBS Save the Date(s)

- Vacation Bible School will be June 8th-11th.
- We will be working with Camp EWALU again.
- Let Whitney Howe know if you are interested in volunteering.

St. John Christian Preschool...

SJCP says: "Bring on SPRING!!"



As the beauty of spring begins to emerge, our classrooms are coming alive with new growth, fresh ideas, and joyful learning. This month, our focus turns to caring for God's creation through exploring ways to *reuse, recycle, and reduce*. We will reflect on the precious and ever-changing earth that God has provided for us and how we can be good stewards of His gifts. Through this study, we are reminded that knowing Him allows us to shed our own "shells" and bloom into the individuals we are created to be. Just like the changing seasons, we are growing and transforming in wonderful ways!

Our hands-on activities will bring these concepts to life. The children will:

- Plant flowers in *nontraditional planters*—including old shoes!
- "Melt" down used crayons to create new, colorful ones
- Sort recyclable materials to learn about caring for the environment
- Make *handmade paper* from used scraps, giving old materials new purpose

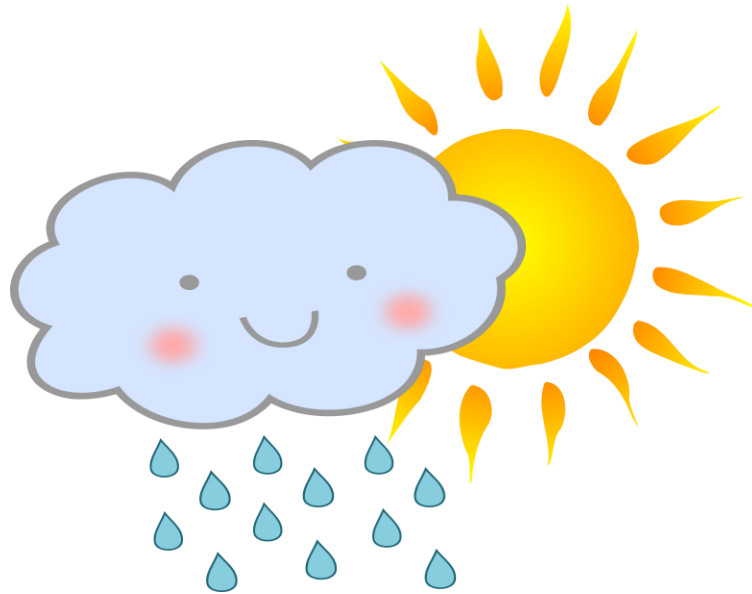
We are also excited to share that **Spencer Schwantes** has joined our team as an assistant teacher. Please join us in giving a warm SJCP welcome!

A special highlight this month will be our opportunity to sing during the church service on **April 12**. We look forward to sharing our joy and voices with the congregation.

Thank you for being part of our preschool family as we grow, learn, and celebrate this beautiful season together.

Blessings,

Shaune Fields
Director



BEHIND THE (Kitchen) SCENE...

April is here along with the final month of the weekly activities of the church kitchen. Wednesday, April 29th will be the last Wednesday night supper for the 2025-26 school year. This year has gone fast for the Kitchen Crew, and we have enjoyed every moment of it. It will be interesting to see what the future holds!

As our year draws to a close, we remember the blessings that have been given to us that make this outreach service possible. We have so many individuals that have provided us with supplies, food and time and we want you to know that your generosity is something we don't take for granted – we know that you are instrumental in allowing this service to continue and we say a prayer of thanks for each and every one of you.

Enjoy God's gift of life, family and fun in the beautiful season of summer. God's blessing to each and every one of you.

Kathy

Wednesday Night Supper

Supper is from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 for adults
Children through 12th grade
free thanks to
Kans for Kids
(Menu subject to change)



April Wednesday Night Supper Menu

April 8

Baked Spaghetti
Garlic Sticks
Texas Sheet Cake

April 15

Chili with garnishes
Poke Cake

April 22

Ham & Cheese Sandwich
Potato Salad
Pea Salad
Dessert

April 29

TBD

People's Page...



April Birthdays 80 years old and older!

Myron Leraen	4/2/1931
Georgie Miller	4/2/1937
Imhuicha Bohner	4/3/1943
Richard Harrington	4/4/1943
Marcia Olesen	4/8/1941
Joyce Wood	4/11/1941
Leon Hall	4/20/1936
Dorothy Watson	4/24/1929

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

Randy & Jean Evans	4/7/1973
Ron & Marilyn Venz	4/7/1973
Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall	4/12/1975
Don & Shirley Holm	4/27/1974

Acolytes for April 2026		Wednesday Kitchen for April 2026	
4/2/2026	Grace Marth	4/8/2026	Isaac Gassman
Maundy Thursday	Blair Walker		Benny Tracey
4/3/2026	Grace March	4/15/2026	Isaac Gassman
Good Friday	Charley Sweet		Benny Tracey
4/5/2026		4/22/2026	Grace Marth
Easter			Hazel Hansen
8:00 a.m.	Hailey Rule	4/29/2026	Grace Marth
	?		Hazel Hansen
10:00 a.m.	Lela Hammon		Graham Hansen
	Blair Walker	*Note: Supper will begin at 5:00 PM.	
4/12/2026	Alesia Garden		
	Kaylie Keyes		
4/19/2026	Alesia Garden		
	Owen Prichard		
4/26/2026	Grace Marth		
	Owen Prichard		

April 2026 Monthly Calendar

4/1/2026	9:00 AM	Do-Day Quilters ASP NO Wednesday Night Supper Trinity Choir Tone Chime Choir
4/2/2026	5:30 p.m.	Worship w/ Communion Maundy Thursday
4/3/2026	7:00 p.m.	Worship Good Friday
4/4/2026	9:00 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
4/5/2026	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Easter w/ Communion Worship Worship
4/6/2026		Offices Closed 6:00 p.m. Parish Ed- Fireside Room Cub Scouts
4/7/2026	6:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	GriefShare Building & Grounds Board Meeting
4/8/2026	2:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	ASP Wednesday Night Supper Confirmation Resumes Tone Chime Choir Trinity Choir Youth Group
4/9/2026	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
4/10/2026	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
4/12/2026	9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Worship SJCP Sings Beth's Farewell Party Education Hour
4/13/2026	5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Youth & Family Board Meeting Cub Scouts
4/14/2026	6:30 p.m.	GriefShare (Final mtg.)
4/15/2026		Beth's Last Day 9:00 a.m. Do-Day Quilters 2:00 p.m. ASP 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Tone Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Trinity Choir Youth Group



4/19/2026	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Communion
	10:15 a.m.	Education Hour
		God's Work, Our Hands Committee Meeting
4/20/2026	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
4/21/2026	4:30 p.m.	Caring Ministries Board Meeting- Fireside Room
	5:30 p.m.	Stewardship Board Meeting
4/22/2026		Newsletter Deadline
	2:00 p.m.	ASP
	5:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
		Tone Chime Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Trinity Choir
		Youth Group
4/23/2026	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
4/24/2026	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
4/25/2026		Beth's Ordination (Tentatively)
4/26/2026	9:00 a.m.	Worship
		Teacher Appreciation
	10:15 a.m.	Education Hour (Last Day)
4/27/2026	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
4/28/2026	5:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministries Supervision
4/29/2026	2:00 p.m.	ASP (Last day)
	5:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper (Last Day)
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation (Last Day)
		Tone Chime Choir
	7:00 p.m.	Trinity Choir
		Youth Group



Board Meetings:

Parish Ed.	4/6/2026	6:00 p.m.
Deacons	email	
Building & Grounds	4/7/2026	5:00 p.m.
Youth & Family	4/13/2026	5:30 p.m.
Finance	4/14/2026	5:00 p.m.
Church Council	4/14/2026	6:00 p.m.
Caring Ministries	4/21/2026	4:30 p.m.
Stewardship	4/21/2026	5:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night

Schedule

2:15 pm	After School Program
4:15 pm	Kids Choir
5:00 pm	Supper
6:00 pm	Confirmation
	Tone Chime Choir
7:00 pm	Trinity Choir
	Youth Group

April 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Easter Day Services Worship w/Communion 8 & 10am No Sunday School Easter Day	30 Offices Closed Parish Ed 6pm	31 Building & Grounds 5pm Griefshare 6:30pm	1 Do-Day Quilters 9am ASP 2-5pm Trinity Choir 6pm Tone Chime Choir 6:30pm	2 Worship w/ Communion 5:30pm Maundy Thursday	3 Worship 7:00pm Good Friday	4 Easter Egg Hunt 9am Holy Saturday
5 Easter Day Services Worship w/Communion 8 & 10am No Sunday School Easter Day	6 Offices Closed Parish Ed 6pm	7 Building & Grounds 5pm Griefshare 6:30pm	8 ASP 2-5pm Wed Night Supper 5-6pm Confirmation 6-7pm Music Rehearsals 6-7:45pm HS Youth Group 7-9pm	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11 Holy Saturday
12 Worship SJCP Sings Beth's Farewell Party 10am Sunday School	13 Youth & Family Board 5:30pm	14 Finance Board 5pm Council Meeting 6PM Final Griefshare 6:30pm	15 Do-Day Quilters 9am ASP 2-5pm Wed Night Supper 5-6pm Confirmation 6-7pm Music Rehearsals 6-7:45pm HS Youth Group 7-9pm	16 Maundy Thursday	17 Good Friday	18 Holy Saturday
19 Worship w/Communion Sunday School God's Work, Our Hands Committee Meeting 10:15am	20 Youth & Family Board 5:30pm	21 Caring Ministries 4:30pm Stewardship 5:30pm	22 ASP 2-5pm Wed Night Supper 5-6pm Confirmation 6-7pm Music Rehearsals 6-7:45pm HS Youth Group 7-9pm	23 Maundy Thursday	24 Good Friday	25 TENTATIVE date for Beth's Ordination
26 Worship Last Day of Sunday School Teacher Appreciation	27 Offices Closed Parish Ed 6pm	28 Stephen Ministries 5:30pm	29 Last Day ASP 2-5pm Wed Night Supper 5-6pm Last Day Confirmation 6- 7pm HS Youth Group 7-9pm	30 Maundy Thursday	1 Good Friday	2 Holy Saturday

April 2026 Birthday/Anniversary Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Myron Leraen Georgena Miller	3 Imhuicha Bohner Megan LaBarge	4 Richard Harrington Manilyn Venz
5	6 Colin Johanningmeier Shirley Platte Annette Tupy	7 Blake Dean Cooper Holm Carter Johanningmeier Logan O'Brien Anniversaries: Randy & Jean Evans Ron and Manilyn Venz	8 Marcia Olesen	9 John Ayers Anniversary: Edgar & Jo Ann Hervert	10 Al Brandau Diane Loudemilk Keith Westergard	11 Brian Voelker Joyce Wood
12 Bennett Hansen Anniversary: Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall	13	14 Sydney Hinz Laker Kubik	15	16	17	18 Cameron Hanson Carter Hanson Pamela Lumley Shannon Venz
19 Linda Hughes Kaylie Keyes	20 Leon Hall Donaven Sande Emilee Sande	21 Jodi Heyer	22 Callie Hammond Lisa Kregger Kyle Mebmen	23	24 Dorothy Watson	25 Jessica Hoefl Heidi Nielsen Darci Tracey
26 Beckett Unga Anniversaries: Greg & Laurie Heidebrink Logan & Megan O'Brien	27 Kimmy Callison Anniversaries: Don & Shirley Holm Scott & Stacey Vance	28 Dennis Kregger Anniversary: Jason & Sue McDonald	29 Paul Augustin	30 Bruce Boerschel		