

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

November 2021



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

Recorded video of worship is available on the
St. John website & YouTube

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whittney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



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

Pastor Anita Nuetzman:

Three Gritudes – by Carrie Newcomer

“Every night before I go to sleep
I say out loud
Three things that I’m grateful for,
All the significant, insignificant
Extraordinary, ordinary stuff of my life.
It’s a small practice and humble,
And yet, I find I sleep better
Holding what lightens and softens my life
Ever so briefly at the end of the day.
Sunlight, and blueberries,
Good dogs and wool socks,
A fine rain,
A good friend,
Fresh basil and wild phlox,
My father’s good health,
My daughter’s new job,
The song that always makes me cry,
Always at the same part,
No matter how many times I hear it.
Decent coffee at the airport,
And your quiet breathing,
The stories you told me,
The frost patterns on the windows,
English horns and banjos,
Wood Thrush and June bugs,
The smooth glassy calm
of the morning pond,
An old coat,
A new poem,
My library card,
And that my car keeps running
Despite all the miles.
And after three things,
More often than not,
I get on a roll and I just keep on going,
I keep naming and listing,

Until I lie grinning,
Blankets pulled up to my chin,
Awash with wonder
At the sweetness of it all.”

Gratitude is often the starting point I suggest to folks who express having difficulty connecting with God in prayer. In the poem you just read by singer/songwriter Carrie Newcomer, the author recommends listing three things every night.

But I know the reality of life is that sometimes even one thing is hard to come up with, so just start there! Use a real pen and put it down on paper. Try doing one every day. Then, maybe a week, or a month, or even a year later, move up to two things. There is no set timetable.

Eventually, you will find that the more you practice gratitude, like a rolling snowball, the more things you will begin to notice you’re grateful for.

This month, I’m going to create a Facebook post each week inviting you to add things in the comments for which you are grateful. For those who are not adept at social media, I’ll put up a display inside the church someplace yet-to-be-determined that can serve the same purpose.

“Gratitude begets gratitude, just as love begets love,” writes one of my favorite authors, Henri J.M. Nouwen, and wouldn’t you agree our world could use a lot more love?

So please join me this month in the practice of cultivating gratitude, either privately or communally. It could even spark a wave of love that spreads further and faster than the coronavirus, gossip, misinformation, or hateful political rhetoric, and *maybe* even repair some of the damage we’ve incurred as a society in the process.

I pray it does.

Yours in Christ, **Pastor Anita**

German theologian Meister Eckhardt is often quoted as saying this:

“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.” ---Meister Eckhardt



OF NOTE...



**Daylight savings
time ends
NOVEMBER 7TH !**
Turn your clocks
BACK one hour!

**The office will be closed
November 25 & 26
For the Thanksgiving Holiday.
There will be NO Sunday
School on November 28th.**

Wednesday Night Suppers in November:

Nov 3: Meatloaf, baked potato, squash, pea salad, strawberry pretzel dessert

Nov 10: Oven fried chicken, whipped potatoes & gravy, glazed carrots, applesauce, pudding

Nov 17: Spaghetti, green bean casserole, rolls, lettuce salad, pumpkin bars



Youth Burrito Breakfast!
November 14th from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Support the youth and enjoy eggs, tortillas, sausage, ham, cheese, salsa & pancakes!
Free will donation goes to the youth accounts of those serving you!

On Sunday, November 21, 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, and Bibles for the prisoners. Please support the program again this year.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 4th to come help the Deacons decorate the church for Christmas! We will start at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome!

KANS FOR KIDS

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: We will no longer be accepting glass bottles at our Kans for Kids receptacle. This is for safety reasons for the individuals handling the glass. With snow season approaching, everything will need to be in the fenced off area to ensure that snow removal can allow convenient access to the drop-off area. Thank you for understanding and complying with this request.

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! 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!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL!

**10:20 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
in the Chapel.**

November 7 & 14: Thanksgiving
Psalm 100

November 21: Thanksgiving:
Isaiah 12

Dartball at St. John

Dartball is a team activity at St. John. Matches are played at St. John and other participating churches. For more information call Dennis Sande at 228-4113. A full schedule can be picked up in the St. John office.

Matches start at 7:00 p.m. & dates are:

November 10 th	at Pleasant Hill
November 17 th	at Nashua Lutheran
December 1 st	at St. John; vs Pleasant Valley
December 8 th	at St. John; vs Immanuel
December 15 th	at St. John; vs Baptist

People's Page...

November birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

11/3 Myrna Ward
11/7 Wayne Ellertson
11/8 Calvin Wood
11/9 Charles Waddell
11/17 Diane Melrose
11/19 Gladys Kellogg
11/19 Rose Lamprecht
11/23 Bill Bledsoe

Celebrating the baptism of:

Axel James Heller, 10/3/2021

With sympathy, the funerals of:

Gregory Robert Howe, 10/9/2021
Evelyn Lucille Paape Schmidt, 10/12/2021
Sharon Cecile Kilby Friedrich, 10/20/2021
Algie Arthur Slindee, 10/25/2021

Memorials were given in memory of...

Lynn Leroy Poppen: Sarah Baron Sullivan
Evelyn Lucille Paape Schmidt: Judy Hughes, Leona Howe, Donna Weiser, Karen Streich

Our Generosity in September

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

8% of our regular December offering (\$2005.89) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In September (\$629.19) was given to the Floyd County Ministerium fund. This fund is used to help those individuals in need of assistance with utilities.

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

November 1, 1969 Duane & Colleen Ortmayer
November 3, 1950 Myron & Clarice Leraaen
November 8, 1951 Al & Shirley Davidson
November 8, 1959 Skip & Myrna Ward
November 14, 1959 Allen & Diane Cross
November 14, 1971 David & Jennifer Seckar
November 16, 1958 Dean & Doris Toebe
November 16, 1957 William & Arlene Hollar
November 21, 1954 Herbert & Vera Hinz
November 23, 1963 Charles & Beverly Waddell
November 28, 1970 David & Linda Lindaman
November 29, 1963 Richard & Marcia Oelsen
November 30, 1962 Robert & Beverly Friend

Blessing Box Donations, we need items to fill the Box! Suggested items are anything shelf-stable (non-perishable) food and non-food items. Donated items can be put directly in the little food pantry outside the East door.

Welcome our newest St. John members!



Kyle & Megan LaBarge and Landon & Kenley



Jordan & Whitney Smith and Margo

Youth & Families...

Well, autumn is here, and with it comes falling leaves and cool, dark evenings. The days seem short and the hours of darkness seem long. Let's all remember that Jesus is the light of the world and that He wants us to let our lights shine for others. Ephesians 5:8-10 Maybe then the hours of darkness won't seem quite as dark. ☺

*Blessings,
Laurie*



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

We have an awesome group at the After School Program this year! We have 12 kids enrolled and 4-5 Middle School and High School helpers each week. How great is that?!? ☺ It's never too late to join us! Call the church to register.

FAMILY BOARD

Sunday, December 5th, the Family Board will be hosting our \$0.25 Gift Store for children in the Parish Hall from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for parents to bring children to purchase gifts for siblings, parents and grandparents. We are asking the congregation for donations of Christmas items, crafts, and gently used toys that might be fun gifts for children to purchase. Please bring donations to the church office. The “Store” will be open at 11:00am for Sunday School students and from 11:30am-1:00pm for the public.

PARISH EDUCATION BOARD

November is **Food Month**. We ask that you bring non-perishable food items to Sunday School each Sunday of the month. These items will be used in our Blessing Box or donated to the food pantry here in Charles City.

There will be NO Sunday School on November 28, 2021, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School Christmas program will be **on December 12, during the 9:00am** worship service.

YOUTH

The Youth Board is hosting a Burrito Breakfast on November 14th in the Parish Hall from 8:00-11:30 a.m. Come support the youth of St. John while enjoying eggs, tortillas, sausage, ham, cheese, salsa and pancakes, too!

The Youth Board would like to borrow a few sets of Bean Bag Boards for the evening of November 17th. We would be using them here at the church. If you have a set (with bags) you would be willing to lend us for that evening, please let us know. Thanks!

Be watching for upcoming information on youth mission trips and fundraisers! I know it seems early, but the planning has already started!

THE .25 CENT GIFT STORE FOR KIDS

will be December 5th! Store hours are 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., St. John Sunday school students can start at 11:00 a.m. Donations of gently used Christmas themed items, craft items, or toys are needed! You can bring your donated items to the St John office by Friday, December 3rd. Thank you!



St. John Christian Preschool...

OUR GOD IS AWESOME! We continue to feel the blessings of God's amazing love each and every day in our preschool center. We are surrounded by eager learners who are not only looking to have excellent educational experiences, but also friends who are looking to start a walk with Jesus or to continue down that path with our Lord and Savior!

October began with a couple visits from our Charles City Fire Department. The 3/4-year-old morning friends were able to meet Sparky the Fire Dog while the 4/5-year-old afternoon friends were able to see the "insides" of a fire truck and even got to sit in the driver seat of the fire truck! Thanks to Sparky, Assistant Fire Chief Marty Parcher for taking time out of their busy schedules to visit both of our classes.

October was an extra long month, which gave us extra time for extra fun! We talked about the colors, red/yellow and black/white. We also learned about the letters S and A! We talked about Fire Safety, Fall Fruit (apples and pumpkins), Autumn, and finished our Color Unit. We worked on sequencing, comparing/contrasting, and our 5 senses! We ended the month with a couple fun days: trips to the library and our annual Costume Days. Our older friends even got to go on a field trip, the last week of September, to the Northeast Iowa Regional Airport here in Charles City! We got a tour of the airport, got to sit in a couple different airplanes, and we even got to see an airplane take off! It was so much fun! ☺

As we enter November, we schedule perhaps one of the most exciting days for our older preschool friends. Our new 4/5-year-old afternoon friends will be receiving their very own Bible! They receive this Bible on a very special day, All Saint's Day (Nov. 1st). It is a wondrous site to behold when each little one realizes that they are receiving a treasure all their own. To make sure that our Bibles don't become decorations, we ask our older friends to bring their Bibles back to preschool on Wednesdays so we can "read" the story together with Pastor Russ. We offer many thanks to our congregational members who provide donations through gifts or memorials throughout the year. Those dollars fund this amazing portion of our preschool ministry.

In Christ,
Whittney Franke



GOBBLE GOBBLE by Lynn Beaird

A turkey is a funny bird,
His head goes wobble, wobble.
He knows just one funny word-
Gobble, gobble, gobble.

November 2021 Schedule...

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

Nov 2: **7:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry/Brewer**
Nov 3: **6:15 p.m. Helping Hands Committee**
Nov 7: **End Daylight Savings Time**
All Saints Sunday
Nov 14: **8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Youth breakfast**
 in the Parish Hall

Nov 17: **9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters**
Nov 21: **Angel Tree Sunday**
Nov 22: **Newsletter Deadline (Monday)**
Nov 25: **Office Closed**
Nov 26: **Office Closed**



© iStockPhoto.com - csp5109670

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:	11/2	5:00 p.m.
Council:	11/9	6:00 p.m.
Deacons:	11/7	11:00 a.m.
Family Board	11/28	11:00 a.m.
Finance Board	11/9	4:45 p.m.
Parish Ed	11/7	11:00 a.m.
Stewardship	11/16	2:30 p.m. at Quade's
Youth	11/14	11:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	
Susan Ayers	Lori Janssen	Sharon Tieskotter Beverly Waddell Myrna Ward	Saeli Chase			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Wayne Ellertson Jacob Page	Calvin Wood	Charles Waddell	Kayla Kellogg	Henry Marth Teagan Prigge	Bruce Delap Brady Hanson Anna Herbrectsmeyer	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Jacque Brandau Glenn Johlas Nancy Johlas Emersyn Miller	Alex George Michael Laue	Cameron Lessin	Dan Lantz Diane Melrose Dylan Parsons	Chad Kellogg	Mark Davidson Gladys Kellogg Kenley LaBarge Rose Lamprecht Lorna Scrimger David Watson	Zuri Franke Brian Schmidtke
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Rodney Hinz	Gary Marth Sarah Merrifield Alex Nordmeyer	Bill Bledsoe Riley Quade	Linda Lindaman	Graham Hansen Addisen Lantz	Beverly Selvig	Steve Barr Lydia Johnson
28	29	30				
Sandra Marth	Richard Lacour					