

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Daylight Savings Time  
begins March 12<sup>th</sup>

## "God's Love in Action"

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

Pastor Russ Leeper:  
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt, Intern

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

Office Secretary: Kathy Hoeft  
khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com  
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



Find & like us on Facebook!

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

Business Manager: Rhonda Schmidtke  
businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com

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

Music Director:  
Melanie Johanningmeier  
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

St. John Christian Preschool  
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whittney Franke  
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



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

Custodian: Jamie Carolan  
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

## Beth Hurt, Intern:



*Serve the Lord with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing. – Psalm 100:2*

Hello St John! I am excited to meet each of you. My name is Beth Hurt and I am a Wartburg Seminary student and Fund for Leaders recipient in Candidacy for Rostered Ministry in the ELCA. I am originally from Elkhart, Indiana but currently live in Dows, IA with my husband, Dan, our two sons, Ethan (18) and Matthew (15), who are both in high school, our three cats and one dog. My daughters, Sydney (almost 26) and Marah (22), are grown and out in the world. I have one grandson, Ivan (5).

I am an avid reader, and when I am not reading my Bible or theology texts, I particularly enjoy fantasy, science fiction, horror, and murder mystery novels. I love art, poetry, video games and learning new things. I don't think I have been bored a day in my adult life because I always seem to find something new to explore or learn how to do. This has led to a serious backlog in crafting and art projects that keep me busy and delighted when I have the free time.

My call to ministry has come in the form of service which I think is something that St John's knows a lot about! I feel most joyous, at peace, and connected with God when I am serving others. One of the lessons I have tried really hard to impart upon my children as they have grown is that it is one thing to complete a task and another to do it with a "happy heart." I am filled with gladness and humbled to be able to serve St John as a student, to be able to learn from Pastor Russ, the ministry team, and from all of you. I appreciate you all investing in this teaching ministry to grow Pastors and Deacons. I am thankful for this opportunity to learn and figure this all out together.

Blessings,  
Beth Hurt

## Council...

### **Feb. Council Highlights:**

- We welcomed 3 new council members, Cherie Schafer, Shirley Holm, and Justin Chase. Thank you to the three of them for the service to our church! Also big thanks to all of the new members joining all of our boards!
- As you know, our intern Collaborative Learning Program candidate, Beth Hurt, has begun her services to our church. Please welcome her when you see her!
- Excited to see so much progress on the lift project as well as the automatic door installation on the narthex entrance. Great addition to efforts to make our building more accessible.
- Donated our Monthly Benevolence to support the Todd and Ann Prichard family's efforts to sponsor a Ukrainian refugee family's effort to come to Charles City. More information on how to support these efforts as a church community will be communicated at services in February. We feel it is a great opportunity to live out God's Love in Action.
- Council will be coordinating efforts to establish the 2023 Personnel Committee this month. We will also be organizing a task force to begin a Constitution Review process. Our last complete Constitution review was back in 2012.
- Thank you to all who helped work at and attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 29th after service in the Parish Hall. We appreciate the feedback from the meeting as we make plans for the 2023 church year.

**Thank you and please let us know if you have any thoughts, questions, concerns, etc.**  
**-St. John Lutheran Church Council**

## St. John Lutheran Church Secretary Opening

St. John Lutheran Church and Christian Preschool in Charles City, IA is seeking a qualified person to assume the position of Church Secretary.

### Position:

- Part time: 20 hours a week
- Responsibilities: provide receptionist services for the church office, provide secretarial services for the church, produce weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters, and manage the church's website and other electronic media
- Compensation: Hourly compensation will depend on experience and qualifications and will be in the range of \$18-\$22 per hour
- Application Deadline: March 15, 2023
- Start Date: April 11, 2023

To see a complete job description, use the QR code provided or go to [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)

If interested, please email your resume to [rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com) or bring it to the St John Lutheran Church office. Office hours are 9 AM to 1 PM, Monday – Friday. We're located at: 200 South Main, Charles City, Iowa 50616. Phone: (641) 228-3397



**If you would like to donate towards the lilies for Easter let the office know at 641-228-3397!**

### **We have a great opportunity to put “God’s Love in Action”!**

Todd & Ann Prichard are sponsoring a family from the Ukraine. The family of 5 will be staying with the Prichard family once they arrive in the United States. The family lost their home and possessions and are coming with very little. The husband/father is an attorney and will be working at Todd's office. Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, we will have the opportunity to work together to provide clothing and shoes to support the family. In the Narthex there will be tags available for pick up to purchase needed items. There is also a donation basket, so the committee can purchase needed items. If you have any questions, contact Shirley Holm at 641-330-8336 or Kim Watkins at 641-330-5441.

## Lent 2023...

### *Fifth Grade students who will receive First Communion on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2023*



*Saeli Rae Chase  
Alesia Marie Garden  
Isaac Ryan Gassman  
Meghan Ann Korbel  
Addisen Joyce Lantz  
Grace Elizabeth Marth  
Sophie Renee Wilkens*

### **Mid-Week Lenten Services 2023 Worship service is at 5:30 p.m.**

#### **“The Last Words of Christ”**

We will focus on Jesus’ last words on the cross, woven together with encounters Jesus had with others in His ministry. Each week we’ll read scripture, sing, watch a short video drama, and hear a devotion on that week’s theme.

March 8 – “First Word from the Cross: The Paralytic”  
Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 23:34

March 15 – “Second Word from the Cross: The Rich Young Ruler”  
Mark 10:17-27; Luke 23:39-43

March 22 – “Third Word from the Cross: John the Beloved”  
John 19:23-27

March 29 – “Fourth Word from the Cross: Martha”  
John 11:1-6, 17-27; Matthew 27:45-46

April 6 (Maundy Thursday) – “Fifth Word from the Cross: Matthew”  
John 13:3-5, 12-15, 34-35; John 19:28-30

April 7 (Good Friday) – “Sixth Word from the Cross: The Sinful Woman”  
John 1:1-5, 9-14a; John 18-19



*Winds of March  
(Unknown Author)*

*“Winds of March, we welcome you,  
There is work for you to do.  
Work and play and blow all day,  
Blow the Winter wind away.”*

## Of Note...



**The Annual Ladies Luncheon**  
will be  
Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.  
in the Parish Hall

The theme this year is *Under His Wing!*

The Family Board invites all the ladies & their friends to join in this fun event. There will be lunch, dessert, a short program and a pretty “Photo Booth” to snap a few cute pictures of your group!

Tickets are \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for ages 6-18,  
& under 6 free.



### **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! Coffee & napkins are provided by St. John.

### **Wednesday Night Supper**

Menus will be published weekly in the bulletin and on the front page of the St. John website.  
Cost: \$5.00 for adults, children through 12<sup>th</sup> grade free thanks to Kans for Kids

**Donations are always needed for the Blessing Box!** Items should be weather appropriate, non-perishable food and personal items. You can put your items in the Blessing Box outside the East door or bring to the office.

### **GriefShare at St. John**

GriefShare provides help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member, or friend. Sessions will be led by St. John members in a warm, caring environment. **GriefShare is at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday for 13 weeks.**

**There is no cost to attend.**

Weekly topics include: Is This Normal?, Challenges of Grief, The Journey of Grief – Part 1, The Journey of Grief – Part 2, Grief and Your Relationships, Why?, Guilt and Anger, Complicating Factors, Stuck, Lessons of Grief – Part 1, Lessons of Grief – Part 2, Heaven, and What Do I Live for Now? There are three key parts to the weekly GriefShare experience: video seminar, group discussion, and personal study exercises in a workbook.

You are welcome to begin attending our GriefShare group at any point. Each session is self-contained, so you don't have to attend in sequence. You will be able to pick up any sessions you missed in our next 13-week cycle. You can learn more about GriefShare at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

## People's Page...

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

3/3 Helen Bond  
3/3 Phyllis Foxen  
3/9 Larry Stewart  
3/10 Ivadelle Stevenson  
3/23 Judy Thornton

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

3/2/1958 Russell & Betty Ball  
3/11/1955 Loyal & Norma McLean  
3/15/1955 Norman & Carol Bauer  
3/26/1960 Louis & Sharon Streich

## **Acolytes for March 2023**

### **Sundays...**

Mar. 5 Emma Prichard  
Mar. 12 Emilee Sande, Ben Hammond  
Mar. 19 Talan Eckhoff  
Mar. 26 Jacob Vance, Addyson Vance

### **Wednesdays in Lent**

Mar. 1 & 8 Ellie Lantz, Talan Eckhoff  
Mar. 15 Ellie Lantz, Rylie Keyes  
Mar. 22 Xander Chase, Ian Hallett  
Mar. 29 Xander Chase, Brady Hansen



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

Randall Dean Kreger, 2/14/23  
David Hagen, 2/17/23  
Richard Lee Selvig, 2/23/23

**Thank you** to all who provided salads, cakes & help for the funerals held at St. John in February! Nadonne Buseman

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

**Verla Heller:** Marian Hoefl

**B.J. Gifford:** Cal & Joyce Wood, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, John & Jean Rima, Leon & Jan Mulford, Kip & Judy Hauser

**Arlene Thomas:** Russell & Betty Ball, Betty Manning, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Kip & Judy Hauser, John & Myrna Culbertson, Leon & Jan Mulford, Dave & Jacquie Watson, Dorothy Watson, Kay Tjaden, John & Jean Rima, Connie Swant, Brian & Teresa Carr, Joyce Regan, Susan Martin, Steve & Stacie Brass, Doug & Jan Saunders, Marilyn Isakson, Karen Streich, Shirley Davidson, Beth Caspers, David & Susan Ayers, Tim & Becky Brunner, Craig & Julie Begemann, Bob & Bev Friend, Cale & Sara Sharp, Frank & Jeanette Anderson, Peg Poppen, Linda Hughes, Cal & Joyce Wood, Tilleen Litterer, Larry & Sondra Coen, Kent & Lorie Hoefl, Patrick & Candi Lumley, Sandy Miller, Guy & Karol Carpenter

**Gaylord Winfield:** Dennis & Jan Brinkman, Gary & Sandy Marth

**Elaine Eckbrecht:** Roger & Elaine Regel

**Randall Kreger:** Tilleen Litterer, Peg Poppen, John & Jean Rima, Don & Shirley Holm, Cal & Joyce Wood, Eric & Melanie Johanningmeier, Kip & Judy Hauser, Dennis & Carol Brahn

**David Hagen:** Don & Shirley Holm, Cal & Joyce Wood, Karen Streich, Tilleen Litterer

**Richard Selvig:** Don & Shirley Holm

**Jana Zilm:** Mary Jean Zilm, Bette Gullickson

**Steve Shankland:** Peg Poppen, Chris & Lisa Garden, Barb Fuls, John & Jean Rima, Kip & Judy Hauser, Bob & Bev Friend, Leon & Jan Mulford, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, R & J Mulcahy, Diane Melrose

**Carl Johnson:** Chris & Lisa Garden, Eric & Melanie Johanningmeier, John & Myrna Culbertson, Mick & Rhonda Christensen, Kip & Judy Hauser, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Kay Tjaden, Diane Melrose, Norma Overlee, Bob & Bev Friend, Leon & Jan Mulford, Connie Swant, Jeremy & Jodie Heyer, Rhonda Schmidtke

## Youth & Families...

*The month brings the official beginning of spring, so hopefully our Iowa weather will reflect what the calendar says and we'll see beautiful days!!*

*"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*

### **Youth News**

The Youth will be hosting a **Palm Sunday Breakfast** on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be serving from 8:00am-11:30am. The menu is eggs, ham, hash browns, pancakes, cinnamon rolls, juice, milk and coffee. Put this on your calendars now and plan on attending! Free-will donation.

St. John youth currently in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades and their friends are invited to participate in our mission trip to the Duluth, Minnesota area. This trip will be July 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Sign up on the bulletin board outside my office!

### **Confirmation**

Confirmation classes are not meeting during Lent. We will resume after Easter.

### **Family Board**

Our annual Ladies' Luncheon will be Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. ALL St. John ladies and their friends are welcome! This fun event will include fellowship, lunch, dessert, a short program, and a pretty "photo booth" to snap a few cute pictures of your group! Our theme this year is Under His Wing. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for girls ages 6-18. Under 6 is free. Tickets may be purchased in the church office until March 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **Bible Camp Scholarships**

Just a reminder that St. John offers scholarships for all our youth members attending a Christian camp. Scholarships are offered in the amounts of \$25 for a one-day camp, \$50 for camps lasting 2-3 days, and \$150 for camps lasting 4-7 days. Just bring in a copy of your registration to the Business Office for a reimbursement.

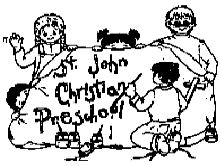
### **Sunday School News**

Our St. John 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be celebrating First Communion during the (rescheduled) Ash Wednesday worship service, 5:30pm on March 1, 2023.

There will be NO Sunday School on Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> due to Spring Break.

SAVE THE DATES: June 26-29, 2023, for VBS. Plan on having your kids attend Monday-Thursday from 5:30pm-7:30pm! Look for more information in the upcoming newsletters.





## St. John Christian Preschool...

HAPPY SPRING! Maybe if I say it enough, it'll actually come. HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY SPRING! Our small friends are so eager to get outside, but we are still having a blast inside the preschool learning about and celebrating God's love!

Our little friends were certainly busy during the month of February. We learned all about the letters O, H, Q, & N - how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. Our 5-day friends are continuing to learn more sight words and are already showing great beginning skills for reading!

February was also a very exciting month for our preschoolers as each class was able to host its own Valentine's Day Tea Party. Every small friend was allowed to invite one tall friend to our class for cold cocoa, hot cider and some yummy treats. We ended our day reading Valentines in the laps of our tall friends. What a wonderful way to share the love that God first shared with us.

We will be running our All-School Fundraiser from March 13-31. We are selling Scratch Cupcakes! Mmmmm! ☺ Delivery will be Thursday, April 20, from 3:30-5:00pm. **This fundraiser will directly benefit the preschool, as a whole, by allowing us to purchase many supplies and equipment for all the children to use.** We are hoping to purchase a couple heavy-duty cabinets for food storage and to help our overflowing library ☺, a dual sensory table (sand/water), and to update some of our more "loved" toys/manipulatives and the remaining profit will help with the basic funding of our program! **Our goal is to raise at least \$2,000.** The cupcakes are \$22.00 and we earn 40% on all the orders. We know sometimes it gets overwhelming with all of these fundraisers, so if you would like to pass on purchasing an item, but would still like to help us reach our goal, please feel free to give a monetary donation. Either way, we greatly appreciate your support!

We have loved having the privilege of getting to know our many friends and their amazing families this school year, but it is already time to start thinking about registration for the fall semester and welcoming some new families to our preschool program. Please feel free to pass on the following information to anyone who may be interested:

Our registration began on Monday, January 30, for our families who are *currently* enrolled. Registration for *new* families began on Monday, February 6, and will continue until all of our classes are full. Families who have a child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15 can register for our morning class. That 3-day class meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday mornings from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Families who have a child who will be at least 4 on or before September 15 can register for one of our two afternoon classes. The 4-day session meets Tuesday through Friday from 12:30-3:30 p.m. (Statewide Voluntary Preschool Program and is FREE) and the 5-day session meets EVERY day from 12:30-3:30 p.m. A \$30 non-refundable registration fee is due at the time of registration. Families may choose to pay \$50 for the entire year or \$30 per semester. Please call Whittney Franke for any further information: 228-7274.

In HIS name,  
Whittney Franke



## March 2023 Schedule...

<b>Sundays:</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship in Sanctuary</b>
		<b>Communion is the 1st &amp; 3rd Sunday</b>
	<b>10:05 a.m.</b>	<b>Education Hour</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b>	<b>4:30 - 5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Supper</b>
	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lenten Worship</b>
3/1/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday Worship/Comm</b>
		<b>5th Grade 1st Communion</b>
3/2/2023	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl group
3/6/2023	6:30 p.m.	Grief Share
3/12/2023	Daylight Savings	Time begins
3/14/2023	6:30 p.m.	Grief Share
3/15/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
3/16/2023	1:00 p.m.	Prayer Shawl group
3/21/2023	6:30 p.m.	Grief Share
3/26/2023	11:30 a.m.	Ladies Luncheon

## Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds	37/2023	6:00 p.m.
Council:	3/21/2023	7:00 p.m.
Deacons:	3/12/2023	11:00 a.m.
Family Board:	3/22/2023	4:30 p.m.
Finance Board	3/14/2023	5:00 p.m.
Parish Ed:	3/5/2023	8:00 a.m.
Stewardship:	3/21/2023	2:00 p.m.
Youth Board:	3/5/2023	8:00 a.m.

### *Lenten Wednesday Night Schedule*

4:30 p.m. Supper  
 5:30 p.m. Worship  
 6:00 p.m. Trinity Choir



## March Birthdays!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
				Rita Booker Jada Montagne Karleen Sickman	Norman Bauer Helen Bond Rae Lynn Chase Phyllis Foxen	Diane Barr Jared George Linda Johnson
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
	Xander Chase Jean Evans	Faye Krause	Sandra Miller	Abby Ayers Larry Stewart	Janet Delap Hana Laue Lauren Page Ivabelle Stevenson	
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
Ajay Johnson			Drake Behrendsen Charlene Fisher Tyler Marth	Hunter Hinz	Scarlett Behrendsen Mija Cotton Dan DeBower	Ian Hallett Amy Titus
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
Carol Brahn Ellen Dix	Nathalia Dean Dan Kehret	Judy Sloter		Brenda Bailey Janice Mulford Angie Parsons Kathy Rogotzke Judy Thornton		
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	
Jacob Hallett Peyton Ungs	Marlene Holthaus Cherie Schafer		Nadonne Buseman Douglas Holm Tayleigh Lantz	Michael Kreger	Sandra Harrington Jessie Holm	