

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025

## "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 Toni at  
[office@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:office@stjohncharlescity.com)

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

St. John Christian Preschool  
641-228-7274

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



Pastor Russ Leeper:  
[rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com)

Intern Pastor Beth Hurt:  
[beth@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:beth@stjohncharlescity.com)

Office Secretary: Toni Hicks  
[office@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:office@stjohncharlescity.com)  
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
& 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Tonia Olsen  
[businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com)

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

Youth & Family Director: Dani Neve  
[yfcoordinator@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:yfcoordinator@stjohncharlescity.com)

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

*As precautionary steps for safety and security, we would like to ask all attendees and visitors of St John, to make sure you are locking your vehicles anytime you are inside the church or away from your vehicle.*

## *Intern Pastor Beth Hurt*

Matthew 5:14-16

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

As we begin the journey together through this Lenten season, let us remember the call to be light of the world. God’s gift of love and grace revealed to us in Jesus Christ inspires us to serve and care for those around us. St John Lutheran Church is Christ’s church, and it sits upon the hill in Charles City as a testament to the light that shines through us.

During this time of intentional reflection, look around and see your neighbors, your coworkers, your friends and family. Look for the need in places you wouldn’t normally pay attention to. Where is there suffering? Where is there a need for resistance? Where can we stand and speak in advocacy for another? Where can we be of assistance? Maybe it all just feels too overwhelming. Maybe you already feel as if you have all that you can handle on your plate right now. Remember when it feels like too much, God is there. Now is the time, to bring those feelings to God in prayer. God always finds a way where we cannot perceive a way. When you see the hurt and hurting in the world ask God what you can do to be a helper. It might look like finding ways to engage in service and outreach, or volunteering and supporting ministries here at St John, or it might look like simply being a presence of kindness and encouragement to someone who just needs someone to take the time to listen. Whatever direction God points you in, help with what you can, as you can. Don’t hide the light and love that you have been given but let it shine as a beacon of hope witnessing to God’s love in action.

In Christ’s love,  
Beth Hurt  
Intern Pastor

## Of Note...

**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!!**

*There is a sign-up sheet by the  
Narthex doors!!*

### Please help support...

#### St. John Christian Preschool

Purchase Kwik Star gift cards and the  
preschool  
receives 5% of the face value!!  
Please contact Whitney or Toni if you  
are interested.

#### St. John Helping Hands...

If someone needs help with in-town  
transportation, light household  
chores, changing a lightbulb, etc.  
call St. John at  
641-228-3397 & help will be  
arranged for you!



**Charles City Community  
Blood Drive**  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
705 3rd Ave. | Charles City  
**Tuesday, March 4, 2025**  
12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: [lifeserve.info/schedule](https://lifeserve.info/schedule)



## **SUNDAY BULLETIN**

**&**

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

Requests for adding information to the Sunday  
Bulletin need to be in the Secretary's Office *no later  
than Wednesday at 9am each week.*

Announcements and information for The Good  
Newsletter need to be submitted to the Secretary's  
Office by 11:30am on the following dates.

Newsletter for:	Submit by:
April	March 17 <sup>th</sup>
May	April 16 <sup>th</sup>
June	May 21 <sup>st</sup>
July	June 18 <sup>th</sup>

*Dates are subject to change. Please keep an eye on them  
ahead of special events and holidays.*

### NEW SIGN-UP FOR 2025 IS OUT!!

#### After Worship Social Time

Coffee & a treat are served in the Parish Hall each Sunday!!

#### \*\*\*Special Note\*\*\*

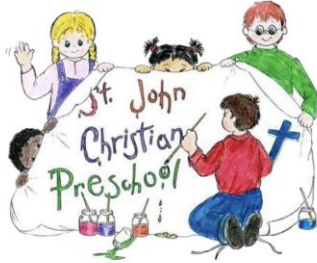
We need volunteers to sign up to bring treats. There is a sign-  
up sheet by the Narthex doors.

(We currently plan for "approximately" three (3) dozen  
treats.)



Join us to find help and encouragement after the  
death of a loved one. At GriefShare, you'll find  
understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to  
navigate the challenges of grief. Each meeting  
consists of an educational video about a grief topic,  
as well as time to share with others in a confidential  
setting.

GriefShare meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm to  
8 pm. It will end on Tuesday, April 8. Any adult from  
the community who has experienced the death of a  
loved one is invited to join us at any time for this  
healing and hopeful experience.



## A Full-Time Preschool Director/Lead Teacher

An exciting and fulfilling position  
with salary + benefits package  
+ **recruitment bonus!!!**

To apply, please send a cover letter and  
resume to Pastor Russ Leeper at  
[rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com)

Go to [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)  
for the full job description.

### **Scholarship Applications:**

Those students attending a Lutheran college who would like to receive an EPIC grant must notify the church by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.

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 1<sup>st</sup>**.

### **Wednesday Night Supper**

#### **(Lent Hours)**

Supper is from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 for adults

Children through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

free thanks to

Kans for Kids

(Menu subject to change)

#### **March: Wednesday Supper Menu**

March 5: Turkey Tetrazzini, Peas, Bread Stix, Fruit Cocktail

March 12: Spring Break...No Meal

March 19: Pork Loin, Cheesy Potatoes (Hash Browns), Beans, Pistachio Pudding

March 26: Chili-cheese, crackers, sour cream, Cinnamon Roll, Relishes

## **Upcoming Activities & Events**

\* Mystery dinner is March 22 6-9pm. The fee is **\$25 per person** –note the reduced fee! **Please RSVP by March 1, 2025 to Kim Watkins at 641 330-5441.** The dinner menu is Olive Garden salad, bread stick, lasagna and tiramisu dessert.

\* Ladies luncheon will be May 4th from 12-2. We will have a short devotional, entertainment, activity and craft. The meal will be sandwiches and sides. Looking for table hostesses who will decorate your assigned table and prepare dessert for 8 people. There will be some silent auction items available. We are asking for \$10 per person.

\* Family fun day will be May 17 at noon. We will float the cedar river from Brantingham bridge to Nashua. We will end at Linda and Ron cabin. This will be a potluck event. Canoe, kayak, and tubes will be available. If you are not floating, you can meet us at the cabin around 3pm. We will have yard games, bonfire, and possibly an outdoor movie.

\* **Soup Sundays will be the first and third Sundays.** Soup will be made on the Friday before at 3pm in the kitchen. All are welcome to help. Soups will be packaged in 8 or 12 oz containers. You may pick up your choice of soup following the service in the parish hall. This will be a free will donation. We ask that members help with the ingredients. A list of items will be on the bulletin board by the business office. Money from donations will cover the cost of supplies and extra funds will be donated to the kitchen fund.

March 2- mac & cheese soup, chicken wild rice

Mar 16- chicken noodle, wild rice

**All these events need helpers.** Please call Kim (641 330-5441) or Bev for more information.



### **Wednesday Lenten Series**

Join us Wednesdays during Lent at 5:30 PM, starting March 5 (Ash Wednesday), for a series in the Gospel of Luke called “Everything In Between: Meeting God In the Midst of Extremes.” Our theme invites us to explore how we can live faithfully in a world seemingly filled with opposites. Jesus, himself, will be our guide as we walk with Him to Jerusalem through the Gospel of Luke.  
Here are our weekly themes:

*Ash Wednesday, March 5 – Luke 9:51-62*

**Between Intention & Action (Jesus sets out for Jerusalem)**

*Wednesday, March 12 – Luke 10:25-37*

**Between Stranger & Neighbor (Parable of the Good Samaritan)**

*Wednesday, March 19 – Luke 10:38-42*

**Between Faith & Works (Mary and Martha host Jesus)**

*Wednesday, March 26 – Luke 13:6-9*

**Between Rest & Growth (Parable of the fig tree)**

*Wednesday, April 2 – Luke 15:1-7*

**Between Lost & Found (Parable of the lost sheep)**

*Wednesday, April 9 – Luke 19:1-10*

**Between Righteousness & Mercy (Zacchaeus greets Jesus)**

## **People's Page...**

### **March birthdays 80 & older!**

Phyllis Foxen	3/3/1940
Helen Bond	3/3/1940
Ivabelle Stevenson	3/10/1933
Judy Thornton	3/23/1938
Nadonne Buseman	3/29/1944
Sandra Harrington	3/31/1945

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

Russell & Betty Ball	3/2/1958
Loyal & Norma McLean	3/11/1955
Norman & Carol Bauer	3/15/1970
Dennis & Janice Brinkman	3/27/1971

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

Kathy Michael: Alison Petit, Peg Poppen, Karen Streich,  
Kip & Judy Hauser, Chris & Lisa Garden, Dennis & Gloria Carr

<b>Acolytes for March 2025</b>		<b>Wednesday Kitchen for March 2025</b>	
<b>Sunday...</b>		<b>Wednesday Lent Service</b>	<b>**Note** Supper will begin at 4:30pm through Lent.</b>
2 Devony O'Brien Addisen Lantz	5 Talan Eckhoff Riley Quade		5 Talan Eckhoff & Family Grace & Tina Marth X
9 Cooper Holm Owen Prichard	12 Hailey Rule X		12 Hailey Rule & Kelli Wright X X
16 Cooper Holm Owen Prichard	19 Talan Eckhoff Riley Quade		19 Talan Eckhoff & Family Benny Tracey (may be solo) X
23 Addisen Lantz Cooper Holm	26 Grace Marth Riley Quade		26 Alesia & Jenisha Garden Grace & Tina Marth Hailey Rule & Kelli Wright
30 Meghan Korbel Kielyn Bahe			

## St. John Christian Preschool...



For the many blessings that come from Heaven above; we thank you, Lord, with heart and soul  
and sing of Your great love!

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 D, L, F, & R; how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. Our older 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 Valentine's 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 in the month of April, so be on the lookout for more information about that coming soon! 😊

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 27, for our families who were *currently* enrolled. Registration for *new* families was held at our Registration Open House on Thursday, February 6. Registration will continue until all 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 Monday-Tuesday-Thursday-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 pm but will let out at 2:30pm on Wednesdays, as to coincide with the district's early out day. 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 Whitney Franke for any further information: 228-7274.

In HIS name,  
Whitney Franke

# March

3/2/2025	9:00 AM	Worship/Communion
	10:15 AM	Parish Ed
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities
	11:00 AM	Soup: Mac & Cheese Soup, Tortilla with black beans
3/3/2025	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
3/4/2025	6:30 PM	GriefShare
3/5/2025	9:00 AM	Do Day Quilters
	2:15 PM	Wednesday Activities
	5:30 PM	Ash Wed. Service
3/6/2025	4:00 PM	SJCP Conferences
3/7/2025		NO SJCP
3/9/2025	9:00 AM	Worship
		Girl Scout Sunday
	10:05 AM	Deacons
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities ( <b>ONLY After Worship Social Time</b> )
3/10/2025		No SJCP--Spring Break
	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
3/11/2025	8:00 AM	Foster Grandparents
	5:00 PM	Finance
	5:30 PM	B & G
	6:30 PM	GriefShare
3/12/2025		NO Wednesday Activities
	5:30 PM	Lent Service
3/14/2025	6:00 PM	Girl Scouts
3/16/2025	9:00 AM	Worship/Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities ( <b>ONLY After Worship Social Time</b> )
	11:00 AM	Soup: Chicken Noodle, Wild Rice
3/17/2025	11:30 AM	Newsletter Deadline
	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
3/18/2025	5:30 PM	Stewardship
	6:00 PM	Council
	6:30 PM	GriefShare
3/19/2025	9:00 AM	Do Day Quilters
	2:15 PM	Wednesday Activities
	5:30 PM	Lent Service
3/20/2025	4:30 PM	Caring Ministries
	5:30 PM	Wine & Word
3/22/2025	6:00 PM	Mystery Dinner
3/23/2025	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities
3/24/2025	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
3/25/2025	5:30 PM	Stephen Ministry Group Meeting
	6:30 PM	GriefShare
3/26/2025	2:15 PM	Wednesday Activities
	5:30 PM	Lent Service
3/27/2025	6:00 PM	SJCP Family Night
3/28/2025	6:00 PM	Girl Scouts
3/30/2025	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities
3/31/2025	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts

## **\*\*NOTICE:**

There will be  
**NO GAME NIGHT**  
in the month of March.

## **SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP ACTIVITIES**

**10:05 After Worship Social Time**

**10:15 Whirl Sunday School**

**10:15 Youth Hour**

**\*\*NOTE\*\* No Sunday School 3/9 & 3/16**

## **Wednesday Night Schedule**

**2:15 pm After School Program**

**4:15 pm Kids Choir**

**4:30 pm Supper**

**5:30 pm Lent Service**

**6:00 pm Tone Chime Choir**

**7:00 pm Trinity Choir**

## **Notice to all involved with the After School Program...**

During the Lenten season, March 5—April 16 Wednesday ASP will dismiss at 4:45 instead of our usual 5pm to create a smooth transition between supper and the Lenten service.

Also, a reminder of No ASP or Supper on March 12<sup>th</sup> due to Spring Break. There will be Worship at 5:30pm.

<b><u>Board Meetings:</u></b>		
Parish Ed	3/2	10:15 AM
Deacons	3/9	10:05 AM
Finance	3/11	5:00 PM
B & G	3/11	5:30 PM
Y & F	3/16	10:05 AM
Stewardship	3/18	5:30 PM
Council	3/18	6:00 PM
Caring Ministries	3/20	4:30 PM

# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 Barb Garden's birthday	24 Dennis Pfelefish's birthday	25 Shirley Holm's birthday	26 Keaton Schmidtke's birthday Hunter Northrop's birthday	27	28 Michael Exline's birthday Lori Gasman's birthday Greg Buenger's birthday	1
2 Rita Booker's birthday Jada Montagne's birthday Karleen Sickman's birthday Russell and Betty Ball's 67th anniversary	3 Norman Bauer's birthday Phyllis Foxen's birthday Raelynn Chase's birthday Helen Bond's birthday	4 Diane Barr's birthday Linda Johnson's birthday	5 Ash Wednesday	6 Jean Evans' birthday Xander Chase's birthday	7 Judy Grimm's birthday Faye Krause's birthday	8 Sandra Miller's birthday
9	10 Lauren Page's birthday Kaiser Hicks' birthday Janet Delap's birthday Ivabelle Stevenson's birthday	11 Loyd and Norma McLean's 70th anniversary	12 Ajay Johnson's birthday Emma Page's birthday	13	14	15 Tyler Math's birthday Norman and Carol Bauer's 55th anniversary
16 Michelle Sweet's birthday Hunter Hinz's birthday	17 Dan DeBower's birthday	18 Ian Hallett's birthday	19 Deyanera Rodriguez's birthday Carol Bratn's birthday	20 Dan Kehrel's birthday Nathalia Dean's birthday	21	22 Todd and Ann Pichard's 21st anniversary
23 Brenda Bailey's birthday Judy Thornton's birthday Angie Parsons' birthday Kathy Rogotzke's birthday Janice Mulford's birthday	24	25	26 Peyton Unger's birthday Jacob Hallett's birthday	27 Cherie Schafer's birthday Marlene Holthaus' birthday Dennis and Janice Brinkman's 54th anniversary	28	29 Tavleigh Lantz's birthday Douglas Holm's birthday Nadonne Euseman's birthday
30 Michael Kreger's birthday	31 Sandra Harrington's birthday Jessie Holm's birthday	1 Colton Crooks' birthday	2 Georgena Miller's birthday Mike Leraeen's birthday	3 Megan LaBarge's birthday Jimhuca Bohner's birthday	4 Richard Harrington's birthday Marilyn Venz's birthday	5 Sarah Murray's birthday Greig Grimm's birthday