

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

**MARCH**



**2025**

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## “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: Whittney 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!!**

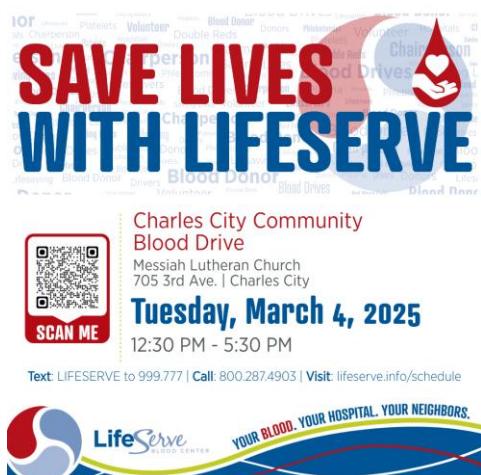
*There is a sign-up sheet by the Narthex doors!!*

### 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!



## **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.

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

*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\*\*\***

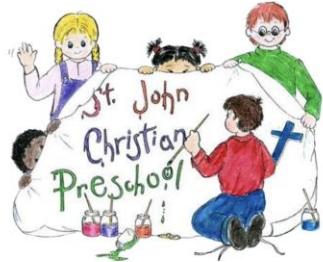
We need volunteers to sign up to bring treats. There is a sign-up sheet by the Narthex doors.

(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
Ivadelle 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

## **Acolytes for March 2025**

## **Wednesday Kitchen for March 2025**

### Wednesday Lent Service

**\*\*Note\*\* Supper will begin at 4:30pm through Lent.**

#### **Sunday...**

2 Devony O'Brien  
Addisen Lantz

9 Cooper Holm  
Owen Prichard

16 Cooper Holm  
Owen Prichard

23 Addisen Lantz  
Cooper Holm

30 Meghan Korbel  
Kielyn Bahe

5 Talan Eckhoff  
Riley Quade

12 Hailey Rule

X

19 Talan Eckhoff  
Riley Quade

26 Grace Marth  
Riley Quade

5 Talan Eckhoff & Family  
Grace & Tina Marth

X

12 Hailey Rule & Kelli Wright

X

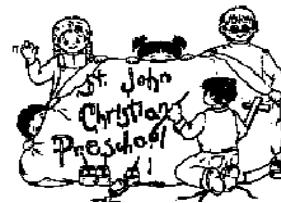
X

19 Talan Eckhoff & Family  
Benny Tracey (may be solo)

X

26 Alesia & Jenisha Garden  
Grace & Tina Marth  
Hailey Rule & Kelli Wright

## 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 Whittney Franke for any further information: 228-7274.

In HIS name,  
Whittney 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
	10:05 AM	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

<b>2:15 pm</b>	<b>After School Program</b>
<b>4:15 pm</b>	<b>Kids Choir</b>
<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Supper</b>
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Lent Service</b>
<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Tone Chime Choir</b>
<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Trinity Choir</b>

## 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.

## Board Meetings:

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 Pelefish's birthday	25 Shirley Holm's birthday	26 Keaton Schmidtke's birthday Hunter Northrop's birthday	27	28 Michael Exline's birthday Lon Gassman's birthday Greg Buenger's birthday	
2 Rita Booker's birthday Jada Montagno's birthday Karleen Sickman's birthday Russell and Betty Bals's 67th anniversary	3 Norman Bauer's birthday Phyllis Faxon's birthday RaeLynn Chase's birthday Helen Bond's birthday	4 Diane Bair'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 Daig's birthday Wadelle Stevenson's birthday	11 Loyal and Norma McLean's 70th anniversary	12 Ajai Johnson's birthday Emma Page's birthday	13	14	15 Tyle 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 Hallert's birthday	19 Dejaneira Rodriguez's birthday Carol Brahn's birthday	20 Dan Kehue's birthday Nathalia Dean's birthday	21	22 Todd and Ann Pritchard's 21st anniversary
23 Brenda Bailey's birthday Judy Thornton's birthday Angie Parsons' birthday Kathy Rogobles's birthday Janice Mulford's birthday	24	25	26 Peyton Urns' birthday Jacob Hallert's birthday	27 Cherie Schaefer's birthday Marlene Holtzus' birthday Dennis and Janice Brinkman's 54th anniversary	28	29 Tayleigh Lantz's birthday Douglas Holm's birthday Naomie Busman's birthday
30 Michael Kieger's birthday	31 Sandra Harrington's birthday Jessie Holm's birthday	1 Colton Crooks' birthday	2 Georgena Miller's birthday Mike Lerasen's birthday	3 Megan LaBarge's birthday Imhucha Bohmer's birthday	4 Richard Harrington's birthday Marilyn Venz's birthday	5 Sarah Murray's birthday Greig Grimm's birthday