

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

October 2021



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



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: Whitney 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
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Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor Russ Leeper :

The Wisdom of Martha

One Saturday afternoon years ago we were visiting some friends. After enjoying a more-than-ample dinner together, I retired to a big, cushy chair in the living room to relax and digest my meal. Just then, our friends' teenage daughter, Martha, walked into the living room.

"Hey, Russ," she said, "wanna see something really neat that I discovered?"

"Sure!" I answered.

Now, Martha was a very intelligent young woman capable of discovering many new and wonderful things, so I half-expected her to suddenly float up off the floor and start flying around the room or something equally amazing. But instead, she walked over to a shelf and began to re-arrange some decorative wooden blocks. There were ten blocks and each block had a letter painted on it. When put together in the right order, as her mother had done when she set them out, the blocks spelled: G-I-V-E T-H-A-N-K-S.

Martha moved the blocks around for a moment and said, "There..." As she stepped away, I saw that she had re-arranged the blocks to spell: T-H-I-N-K V-E-G-A-S.

"Isn't that funny?!" she said, "The same ten letters spell both things!"

I had to admit that it was pretty cool, not just that she had discovered this anagram, but that she saw the humor, the irony, of these exact same letters that spell out opposite things. One asks us to focus on giving gratitude and showing appreciation for what we have and the other directs our minds to a city often associated with getting and the never-ending hunger for more. Ten letters ... two radically different commands.

This month the Stewardship Board, once again, asks us to turn our thoughts to gratitude and how we're being led by the Spirit to GIVE to God through our financial offerings to the church. Despite the devastating year-and-a-half we've all been through, we still have so much to give thanks to God for. It's tempting in times like this, though, to rearrange our thoughts into a THINK VEGAS mindset ... focusing on what we want and what we don't have. Giving thanks in our prayers and our offerings ... opens up our hearts and eyes to the richness of God's grace all around us. It moves us from mindset of scarcity to a mindset of abundance. It makes our lives better.

So, this month we have a chance to GIVE THANKS with our money for all that God has first given us. As Martha showed me, it all depends on how you look at it.

Peace, Pastor Russ

Welcome our newest St. John members!



Jacob & Rachel Page
& Lauren



Adam Ferch & Chris
Mannetter, & Gracie



Kyle & Kerri Mehmen
& Alison, Jackson & Anna

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL & PRESIDENT...

The St. John Church Council discussed the church's response to COVID-19 at its meeting on September 14. The need to make changes to our activities was discussed. There are options available for people to be safe based on their personal needs – in-person, radio, online church services; mask or no masks; communion in the pew or up front; children's sermon in the pew or up front. At this time, we are not requiring people to wear masks at church, but please wear them if you want to. All activities in our lives now involve some risk of COVID, for example, shopping at the grocery store, going to work, and visiting friends and family. Please take the precautionary measures you feel comfortable with for you and your family. We recognize that things may change at any time, and we will adjust our activities as needed.



WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN!

Worship service will remain at 9:00 a.m. for the foreseeable future. Sunday School will be at 10:00 a.m. Council is excited about having a fuller sanctuary on Sundays and allowing the whole congregation to be able to enjoy choirs, children's presentations, and special music together. Plus, having one service will continue to foster the sense of community they've been trying to strengthen.

Communion will be on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month. Parishioners will have the choice to receive communion up front or use the pre-packaged cups in the pews.

A worship video will be provided each Sunday on the St. John website & YouTube.

The radio broadcast will continue EVERY Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Consecration Sunday Is Coming!

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Greg Buenger, Council President

OF NOTE...

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Adult class will begin **October 3, 2021, from 10:20 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.**

The theme will be *“You know we are Christians by our love.”*

October 3: Bring your favorite children’s Bible story...either to read or summarize for the group

October 10: Bring with you your favorite church memory and/or scary church memory.

After Worship Social Time has been an enjoyable way to reconnect with each other! Coffee & a treat are served outside the Narthex doors 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.



Coats for Kids:

Coats for Kids is fast approaching and will be October 9th from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. If you would like to donate gently used or new coats, boots, hats & mittens, or snow pants you can bring them to the church office. Coats and snow pants of all sizes are welcome, but we usually run out of sizes 6 through 14/16 very quickly for both girls and boys and would love more of those sizes.

We also will need volunteers to help set up the Friday before and the day of to help distribute these items to these excited children. Please contact Lisa Kreger at 330-0696 or Lori Janssen at 330-2044. Thank you for your continued support.

We could not do this ministry without your generosity.

AFTER SCHOOL: Begins October 6th. This is a fun program from 3:45pm-5pm on Wednesdays for 4year olds (that are attending preschool) through 5th grade students. Older students are welcome as helpers. Registration forms will be available on Rally Sunday in the Narthex.

The St. John bus will again be available to pick students up from school to bring them here. Free courtesy of Kans for Kids



Wednesday Night Suppers in October:

Oct. 6: Ham balls/hot dogs, cheesy potatoes, green beans, fruit, apple crisp

Oct 13: Lasagna, garlic bread, lettuce salad, Éclair dessert

Oct 20: Pork loin, mac & cheese, mixed veggies, cottage cheese, butterscotch dessert

Oct 27: Meat loaf, baked potatoes, corn, pea salad, strawberry pretzel dessert

Nov 10: Chicken noodle soup, B.B.Q sandwich, ice cream

KANS FOR KIDS is at it again! And you only have yourselves to thank!!!! You have been so generous to this project. Keep those “kans” rolling in! There is enough money in the Kans for Kids account to:

- **provide FREE Wednesday Night Suppers to KIDS during the 2021-22 school year.**
- After-School Fun Program registration is \$10 per student for 4-year-olds – 5th grade. Kans for Kids will be paying for those registrations, and
- \$100 will be given to the Coats for Kids to purchase needed supplies.

OF NOTE...

KANS FOR KIDS

There have been several inquiries about the Kans for Kids project and what exactly happens with the funds that are received from this project. This project started in June 2020, with the purpose of supporting our youth in their faith education. We have been able to accomplish this with the following financial support:

- As the students started back to Sunday School and Confirmation last year, we gave them each a meal coupon to McDonald's or Subway as a welcome back
- We purchased some needed supplies for St. John Christian Preschool
- \$100 - Angel Tree Ministry and \$100 - Christmas Shoe Box Ministry
- We paid toward Bible Camp Scholarships for 2 students - \$125.00 each
- Registration for all students attending Vacation Bible School was paid with Kans for Kids funds - \$320 (\$5.00/child - 64 kids)
- Wednesday Night Suppers for 2021-22 school year will be paid by the Kans for Kids project
- \$10.00 Registration for the after-school program on Wednesday nights, 4-year-olds (attending preschool) – 5th grade participants and helpers, will be paid for the 2021-2022 school year
- \$10.00 Confirmation registration for each confirmation students, covering the cost of curricula and supplies, will be paid for the 2021-2022 school year.

This is only the beginning. We hope to support our youth in many more ways in the months/years to come. And it is all because of YOU. Thank you so much for supporting this project so we can encourage, love and watch our children grow in their love for Jesus and become adults who will carry on with their faith to be the good in our world.

On a side note...

We appreciate all donations of uncrushed cans.

If the can does not have a deposit fee noted on them, personally recycle them.

We appreciate your unbroken bottles that can be returned for a deposit refund fee.

If bags contain other waste materials, please do not place them in the Kans for Kids fence. Those bags will be disposed of. This is for our safety and the safety of the staff at the recycling center.

THE CONFIRMATION FAIR

October 6, 2021

The youth who will be confirmed on October 10th invite the congregation to come and visit with them as they show their "Faith Boards" in the Parish Hall at 6pm. It is a great chance to show our confirmands that the members of the congregation care about them and about this part of their faith journey. And there will be snacks!

150th Anniversary Committee

We are planning for next year. One thing we would like to do is have a dinner and set our tables with natural things. With this in mind I would like to ask you to collect things like milk weed pods, pampas grass, cat-tails, dried flowers, and other items that you usually see in arrangements. We need to do it this year because we may run out of time to collect these (or they won't be dried by next year). I have been collecting corn husks, but could use some more (I can only make my poor husband haul so much out of the field. Just husks, not corn.). If you can't dry them or store them yourself let me know and I can figure that out. You might also keep in mind, when starting your gardens next year, that straw flowers, gourds, pumpkins etc would be a great addition to the cause. Thank you for thinking ahead with me. Contact me at petefishj@mchsi.com if you have questions.

***We are also planning a "Heritage Craft and Bountiful Harvest Fair", so if you make items that could have been made years ago (corn husk dolls are one of my things) then think about it during our upcoming winter and start making things or can a few extra jams, pickles? etc as those fruits, veggies ripen.

People's Page...

October birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

10/2 Bernice Voelker
10/5 Doris Toebe
10/7 Marcia Jacobs
10/13 Phyllis Hillis
10/14 Ruthanne Ellis
10/15 Shirley Davidson
10/16 Russell Ball
10/16 Rodney Ellis
10/17 Wanda Sprout
10/19 Marilyn Isakson
10/22 Donna Patten
10/28 Norma Overlee
10/29 Allen Cross

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

October 2, 1960 James & LaVonne Reysack
October 19, 1957 Wendell & Donna Patten
October 27, 1963 Roger & Kathy Michael

Memorials were given in memory of...

Lynn Leroy Poppen: Karen Streich, John & Barbara Meyer, John & Myrna Culbertson, Edna Stott, John & Geneva Rima, Kip & Judy Hauser, Diane Melrose, Betty Gullickson, Myron & Clarice Leraaen, Larry & Sondra Coen

Funeral lunches at St. John

Each of the ladies of St. John are included on a list of names that can be called on to provide salads, cakes or help serve at funeral lunches. Names are divided between the 12 months of the year. This is a service we provide families who are mourning the loss of a loved one. We will once again be calling each month if a funeral with a luncheon is held. We have callers who will contact you with what we could use. Contact the office at 641-228-3397 if you have questions or if you would like to be on a monthly list.

Celebrating the baptism of...

Rory Holiday Strippel,
9/2/2021
Beckett Thomas Ungs,
9/19/21



THE AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

**(Rite of Confirmation)
Sunday, October 10, 2021**

2021 Confirmation class

*Annemarie Connie Hansen
Hayden George Heyer
Olivia Joyce Kreger
Madison Rose Lensing
Taylor Rose Quade
Lukas James Vance*

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. They can also be brought into the church.**

Our Generosity in August

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

8% of our regular August offering (\$2484.48) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In August (\$787.71) was given to the Messiah's Food Pantry to purchase eggs and paper products.

First & Fourth Grade students receiving Bibles October 31st, Reformation Sunday

First Grade:

*Madelynn Elizabeth Hoeft
Quincy Alan Johnson
Hallie Jean Kubik
Aaron Richard Lacour
Marron Kaye Murray
Emersyn Kay Ungs*

Fourth Grade:

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



Youth & Families...

“For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our ruler, the Lord is our king; he will save us.”

Isaiah 33:22

Blessings, Laurie Heidebrink

CONFIRMATION

CONFIRMATION CLASSES began on **September 29**. The courses currently being taken by our 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students are The Ten Commandments, Simon Peter, and Tough Questions.

Our **CONFIRMATION FAIR** will be **October 6, 2021**

We are inviting the congregation to come and visit with our 10th grade confirmands about their “Faith Boards” in the Parish Hall at 6pm. It will be similar in style to a science fair and is a great chance to show our confirmands that the members of the congregation care about them and about this part of their faith journey. And there will be snacks!

10th Grade students being confirmed, will be meeting with the pastor at **11:00am** in the Sanctuary on **October 3rd** to run through what the confirmation service will look like. We ask that each student and at least one of their parents attend this meeting.

We will celebrate the Affirmation of Baptism on October 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM begins on **October 6**, and it's **NOT too late to join us!**

This is a fun program from 3:30pm-5pm on Wednesdays for 4year olds (that are attending preschool) through 5th grade students.

Older students are welcome as helpers.

Registration forms are available in the office.

The St. John bus will again be available to pick students up from school to bring them here.

The registration fee will be paid by Stewardship Board's Kans for Kids.

PARISH EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL is in full swing. Class is from **10:05am – 11am**, and it's never too late to start!

On **October 31st** the First and Fourth Grade St. John Sunday School students will be **receiving their Bibles** during worship, so if you have a loved one enrolled in Sunday School at St. John in one of those grades, please come and be a part of this milestone in their lives.

FAMILY BOARD

The Family board will be hosting our 25 Cent Store on Sunday, December 5th. 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.





St. John Christian Preschool...

Fall greetings to you all from your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! We have already been in school for five weeks and we have gone from wearing shorts and tank tops to long sleeves and jackets! It is amazing to see how confident and comfortable our friends have become with their preschool routine. We have come from a few tears (from both child and parent 😊) to friends who are excited to come in and see what the preschool day will hold for them. We thank God for His constant presence in our preschool center.

We were very excited about our Space and Transportation units throughout the month of September. We got to make many fun art projects to take home. We also focused on learning the names of our teachers and friends. We practiced number recognition, completed some projects that helped develop our small motor muscles, and also practiced patterns. We even got to become mini scientists when we practiced computer programming with our special Bee Bots that helped us find footprints and craters on the moon!

We also started our five-week Color Unit! During this unit, we decorate the preschool in the matching colors of the week and the classes all get to dress in those colors, as well. Our younger friends are assigned a color and get to bring something of that specific color to add to our Color Bulletin Board! It's fun to see all of the creative things we get! Stop down sometime to see our colorful board and "Consider God's Wonders!"

The Preschool staff and board members wanted to let everyone know that Kwik Star gift cards are always available for purchase at the preschool. Since you need to purchase gas anyway, why not help out our ministry all at the same time? Feel free to stop by and purchase at your own convenience. Please let us know if you have any questions, and as always, thank you for your support!

Each day is full of new challenges, new experiences, and new chances to share God's love with our little ones. Thanks for the all of the support that you provide that enables us to provide a great educational experience within a loving, Christian environment. For many little ones, this is the only opportunity they have to hear of God's great love and see what it can do!

Blessed,
Whittney Franke



"I'm a Little Pumpkin"

I'm a little pumpkin
Orange and round.
Here is my stem,
I grew in the ground.
When I get all cut up,
Don't you shout!
Just open me up
And scoop me out!

October 2021 Schedule...

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

Oct. 3: 10:20 a.m. 1st Adult Education class in Parish Hall
11:00 a.m. Confirmand meeting with Pastor Russ

Oct. 6: 6:00 p.m. Confirmand Fair in Parish Hall

Oct. 9: 8:00 a.m. Coats for Kids

Oct. 10: Affirmation of Baptism, Rite of Confirmation

Oct. 17: 10:15 a.m. Anniversary Committee

Oct. 20: Newsletter Deadline
 9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters

Oct 31: Reformation Sunday
Consecration Sunday
1st & 4th Grade students receive Bibles

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:	10/5	5:00 p.m.
Council:	10/12	6:00 p.m.
Communication:	TBD	6:00 p.m.
Deacons:	10/17	11:00 a.m.
Family Board	10/24	11:00 a.m.
Finance Board	10/14	5:30 p.m.
Parish Ed	10/3	11:00 a.m.
Stewardship	10/19	2:30 p.m.
		at Quade's
Youth	10/10	11:00 a.m.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Katie Hoeft Kerrigan Venz	Bernice Voelker
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Kathy Crooks Carter Van Horn Addyson Vance	Carol Quade Rhonda Schmidtke Doris Toebe		Jan Brinkman Marcia Jacobs	Brianna Tieskotter	Shelly Parson
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Asher McDonald Dennis Sande	Alysha Bilharz Christie DeBower	Ina Heitz Phyllis Hillis Olivia Kreger	Ruthanne Ellis Joshua McDonald Leon Mulford	Shirley Davidson Beverly Jensen Jason McDonald	Russell Ball Rodney Ellis Annabel McDonald Katlyn Parson
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Wanda Sprout	Laurie Heidebrink James Moon	Regan Connell Liam Hoeft Marilyn Isakson	Lela Hammond Ron James Grace Kendall	Renee Koenigsfeld	Donna Patten	Pat Petersen Simon Schmidtke
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Roger Regel	Savannah Baldus Scott Hansen Bryce Walker		Whitney Franke	Ron Hoffman Bret Kruthoff Norma Overlee	Allen Cross Kassey Kakac Dawn Schweizer	Jaxon McDonald Larry Tjaden
31						
Luke Delap Leonard Erickson						