

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



2023

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 Toni at
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



Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt, Intern
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary: Toni Hicks
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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Rhonda Schmidtke
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Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

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

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Intern, Beth Hurt

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. -
Colossians 1:3-6

I give thanks to God for you dear Congregation! I thank you for your encouragement, for your support, and for your willingness to accompany me as I learn how to live into this call to ministry. I thank you for welcoming me to share this sacred space with you, both the space within the church and in your lives. I thank you for sharing the Gospel with me, for inspiring me, and for all the many ways you radiate your love of Christ into the world. I am so blessed to be here!

As we enter November, it is time to get ready to discern which pies to make, debate Jello salad recipes, and defend our position on whether cranberry sauce is required for Thanksgiving dinner. But more importantly we are invited into an intentional time where we are encouraged to think about and name what we are thankful for in our lives. In Colossians, we see that faith in Christ and love for one another come from the hope we experience in the Gospel – in the gift of grace given to us. As we count our blessings and recognize all that God has given us, we must also recognize that many experience this time as a period of uncertainty, grief, stress, and loneliness. So, as we name and pray our thanks let us not forget that thankfulness is also something that we give - this an action verb. As we give to, care for, and spend time with one another we also give to, care for, and spend time with God. (Matthew 25:34-40). Let us consider ways that we can actively give our thanks to God by serving our neighbors in this season.

(An Irish Blessing) May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home. May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam. May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures. May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours.

With a grateful heart,
Beth Hurt - Intern

Of Note...

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank—Mobile Food Pantry

(Serving upwards of 200 families, individuals, and seniors in need.)

Charles City

1st Wednesday of each month

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

- Youth Enrichment Building at the Floyd County Fairgrounds
- Roughly 40 volunteers are needed from 4 – 7 pm on the 1st Wed of each month to set up, pack food, distribute food, and clean up.
- The time commitment is small yet has a tremendous impact for those in need.
- All ages of volunteers are welcome!
- Contact Jen Burton at 641-220-1769 for more information.



Wednesday Night Suppers: Volunteers Needed

We would like to form multiple teams of four (4) to prepare and serve the meals on Wednesday night.

The month of October is covered.

We currently need teams for January and February.

For questions or to volunteer contact:

Shirley Holm @ 641-330-8336 OR Sandie Quade @ 641-330-1850

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!!

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!

Our Generosity for 3rd Quarter 2023

Your offerings to St. John were shared beyond our walls in the 3rd Quarter in the Following ways:

8% of our regular offering \$5,759.99 went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. The July recipient was God's Work Our Hands in the amount of \$753.97, the August recipient was God's Work Our Hands-Youth Fellowship Outreach in the amount of \$589.71 and the September recipient was Grief Share in the amount of \$606.60. Those checks were dispersed to be used for this mission within our church community.

The 8% Thank Offering was shared with the Holiday Cheer program throughout the Community Revitalization Corporation. A check for \$2,041.22 will be sent to them for upcoming community needs at Christmas time.

**On Sunday, November 12th,
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.



**December 3rd
11:00 a.m.
to
12:30 p.m.
In the
Parish Hall**

**Donations of gently
used
Christmas items,
crafts or
toys are needed!**

Stephen Ministry

We all go through tough times. In the midst of these times, it can be extremely helpful to have someone come alongside us to give understanding and encouragement – to provide stability, hope, and Biblical principles to help us get through the storm. That's what a Stephen Minister is able to provide. Here at St. John, we have compassionate individuals who are trained to help us when encountering loss, grief, relationship challenges, and many other challenges that can throw our lives into a tailspin. A Stephen Minister is a caring individual who can confidentially help us navigate these times. If you're interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, contact the church office and a Stephen Leader will get in touch with you to provide more information. We're planning Stephen Minister training starting after the first of the year.

People's Page...

Remembering... This is All Saints' Sunday, a day that reminds us that the church is both on earth and in heaven. Today we remember these departed saints who were members of St. John or had funeral services through St. John:

<i>Verla June (Kamin) Heller</i>	<i>Angela Jean (Quade) Kettwig</i>
<i>James Dale DeVore</i>	<i>Bruce E. Pennington</i>
<i>Arlene Mary (Beck) Thomas</i>	<i>Jana Jean Zilm</i>
<i>Patricia Irene (Townsend) Nelson</i>	<i>Bentley Emmett DeMars</i>
<i>William Joseph Gifford</i>	<i>Marilyn Joan Mayfield DeMars</i>
<i>Carol Josephine (Ross) Meader</i>	<i>Clarice Ann (Handeland) Leraaen</i>
<i>Steven LeRoy Shankland</i>	
<i>Marilyn Ruth (Frank) Obermeier</i>	<i>Robert E. Friend</i>
<i>Carl Raymond Johnson</i>	<i>Susan Jane (Schmidt) Ayers</i>
<i>Randall Dean Kreger</i>	<i>Virginia Ann Cook</i>
<i>David Jerome Hagen</i>	<i>Rodney Charles Ellis</i>
<i>Donna Mae (Field) Stewart</i>	<i>Garry Lee Griffin</i>
<i>Richard Lee Selvig</i>	<i>Ronald Jay Hoffman</i>
<i>Allen Roger Cross</i>	<i>Larry Eugene Bohner</i>
<i>James Ronald Marlow</i>	<i>Beverly Hinders Trost</i>
<i>Marian E. (Flowers) Johnson</i>	<i>Sharon Sue (Swacker) Streich</i>

Memorials have been given in memory of...

Bob Friend: Barbara Andrews, John & Geneva Rima, Greg & Rosalie Pieper, Leon & Janice Mulford, Kip & Judy Hauser

Larry Bohner: Joyce & Calvin Wood, Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall

Sharon Streich: Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall, Kip & Judy Hauser, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Leon & Janice Mulford

Jackie Holm Jacob: Kip & Judy Hauser

Arlene Lehs: Kurt & Kathy Hoeft

Irma M. Gibson: Leon & Janice Mulford

Bob Thompson: Leon & Janice Mulford

Gus Bartlesen: Don & Sharon Tieskotter



DATE CHANGE!!!!

Laurie Heidebrink

We're thankful for all that Laurie has done for our youth and families over the last 9 years!

Please join us in saying thank you to her at a reception in her honor

After Worship

Sunday, November 12th

Acolytes for November 2023

Sunday...

5	Talan Eckhoff Cooper Holm
12	Riley Quade Xander Chase
19	Riley Quade Xander Chase
26	Maxtyn Hammermeister Ben Hammond

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

Duane H. and Colleen K. Ortmayer	11/1
Delbert C. and Myrna L. Ward	11/8
David A. and Jennifer S. Seckar	11/14
Dean J. and Doris N. Toebe	11/16
William and Arlene Hollar	11/16
Charles A. and Beverly J. Waddell	11/23
David W. and Linda J. Lindaman	11/28
Richard C. and Marcia Olesen	11/29

November birthdays 80 & older!

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

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. ☺

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

We have an awesome group at the After School Program this year! We have 25 kids enrolled and a Middle School helper each week. How great is that?!? ☺ It's never too late to join us! Call the church to register.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes are in full swing and during November we will be switching to *The Ten Commandments and The Art of Faith* classes.

And we're having a "fun night" with a beanbag tournament before we start the new classes!

FAMILY BOARD

Sunday, December 3rd, the Family Board will be hosting our \$0.25 Gift Store for children in the Parish Hall from 11am-12:30pm. 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 - 12:30pm for our St. John kids and 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 26, 2023, due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School Christmas program will be **on December 10, during the 9:00am** worship service.

YOUTH

The Youth Board would like to borrow a few sets of BeanBag Boards for the evening of November 15th. 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!

I just want to say thank you to everyone at St. John who helped me and made this job easier and more special for me. All the time spent working with staff, volunteers, and congregation members will be remembered with joy, pleasantness, respect, and gratitude. I'm very excited about this new chapter in my life and look forward to the chance to work with others in the conservation field. I have told lots of youth on lots of mission trips that God made this beautiful earth and it's our job to take care of it – now I get to spend more time trying to "practice what I preached"! ☺

I'm not moving away, so I'll probably "See you Sunday!" --Laurie

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 BEAUTIFUL weather, which allowed our friends to have a couple visits from our Charles City Fire Department. The younger friends were able to meet Sparky the Fire Dog while the older friends were able to see the "insides" of a fire truck! Thanks to Sparky and the Charles City Fire Department 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, A and T and even got to play OUTSIDE almost every day! We talked about Fire Safety and finished our Color Unit. We talked about the season of Autumn and what that means to the farmers in our area. We also had a special visit from Alyssa Vosecky (one of our preschool parents) who is a pharmacist at the hospital. She told us all how to be safe with medicines and never to take medicine that wasn't specifically for us. We also had our second library visit! Ms. Stacey from the Charles City Public Library came to read to our 3-year-olds and our older friends got to walk to the library, since we were rained out last month. The 4-year-old friends got their first field trip in, as well! We took the church bus (graciously driven by Jeremy Heyer) to the Apples on the Avenue apple orchard! We got to do some apple experiments and do some taste-testing! But the best part is we each got to pick a bag of apples for ourselves to take home!

As we enter November, we schedule perhaps one of the most exciting days for our older preschool friends. Our new 4/5-year-old friends will be receiving their very own Bible! They receive this Bible on a very special day, All Saint's Day. It is a wondrous site to behold when each little one realizes that they are receiving a treasure all their own. 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. 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 are also starting our Spring Tuition Reduction Fundraiser! The students will be selling Rada Cutlery, KAYWOS Cloths, and SCRIP gift cards from Wednesday, November 1st until Wednesday, November 15th. You can either order straight from the preschool, or if you know a preschooler that you'd like the money to go to, please let us know. The children/preschool will earn 40% of the profits. Items will be ready for pick-up Thursday, November 30th in the church Narthex between 3:30-5:00pm. If you would like to pass on purchasing any cutlery, cleaning cloths, or gift cards but would still like to contribute towards our fundraising goal, please feel free to give a monetary donation. Either way, we thank you for your continued support!

In Christ,

Whittney Franke

November 2023 Schedule...

Sundays:	9:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
Communion is the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month		
11/5/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion
		All Saints' Sunday
		<i>Sunday Morning Schedule</i>
11/6/2023	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
11/8/2023		<i>Wednesday Night Schedule</i>
11/10/2023	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
11/12/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship
		Preschool Sings
		<i>After Worship: Congregation</i>
		<i>"Thank You/Send-Off" for Laurie</i>
		<i>Sunday Morning Schedule</i>
11/13/2023	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
11/15/2023	9:00 a.m.	Do Day Quilters
		<i>Wednesday Night Schedule</i>
11/17/2023	5:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts
11/19/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship & Communion
		<i>Sunday Morning Schedule</i>
11/20/2023	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
11/22/2023	9:00 a.m.	Newsletter Deadline
		<i>Wednesday Night Schedule</i>
11/23/2023		<i>Office Closed</i>
11/24/2023		<i>Office Closed</i>
11/26/2023	9:00 a.m.	Worship
		Christ the King
11/27/2023	6:00 p.m.	Cub Scouts
11/29/2023		<i>Wednesday Night Schedule</i>

Wednesday Night Schedule

3:30 p.m.	After School Program
5:00 p.m.	Supper
5:30 p.m.	Kids Choir
6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
6:00 p.m.	Tone Chime Choir
7:00 p.m.	Trinity Choir
7:00 p.m.	Dartball

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Service
10:05 a.m.	Youth Hour
10:05 a.m.	Spark Sunday School
10:15 a.m.	Adult Catechism Class

Dartball

Starting Wednesday, November 15th
at 7:00pm

January 24th will be the last game.

Contact Dennis Sande at 319-389-7998

Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds:	11/7/2023	6:00 p.m.
Deacons:	11/12/2023	10:10 a.m.
Youth Board:	11/12/2023	10:15 a.m.
Finance Board:	11/14/2023	5:00 p.m.
Council:	11/14/2023	6:00 p.m.
Stewardship	11/21/2023	2:00 p.m.

November Birthdays!

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