

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

January 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

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



BT 1: In Washington D.C.!

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
lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor's Notes...

If there's anything worth calling theology, it is listening to people's stories, listening to them and cherishing them.

— MARY PELLAUER

Dear Friends in Christ,

What I do as St. John's newest visitation pastor isn't anything fancy. Listening to people's stories seldom requires me to draw upon my (basic) command of Greek or quote Luther's Works. But it's important ministry, nonetheless. I know this is so because the risen Christ models this very thing when he appears to two travelers on the road between Jerusalem and Emmaus. (Luke 24:13-35) Notice that Jesus enters this relationship without words, simply walking along with the two while "they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened." What's more, the Greek words used suggest their conversation was an emotional one, which you'd expect after the trauma of Jesus' crucifixion.

Some of the roads we walk are like that, too, the kind marked, MINIMUM MAINTENANCE - TRAVEL AT YOUR OWN RISK. I've been on quite a few of those. You see, my path to becoming a pastor has been a long and winding one. So, chances are I've been on some of the same bumpy roads as you. And God uses those to guide me in my ministry. Theologian Paul Tillich wrote, "The first duty of love is to listen." It's also been said (I've forgotten by whom) that ninety percent of ministry is just showing up. So, I understand my number one job here at St. John is to show up, walk alongside you on whatever road you're on and hear what's going on in your life. In the midst of that journey, *Christ will be there*. He doesn't wait until *after* we get to wherever we're going, when things get better, and the way becomes smooth, but goes right through the roughest, most dangerous, most painful parts *with* us.

So, even though the word "visitation" normally suggests seeing those who are sick, homebound or in long term care, it certainly doesn't preclude me from coming alongside other folks as well. In fact, since we're all part of the one Body of Christ, it makes good sense for us *all* to stay connected, to each other and to God. That's where I may be able to help, if not in-person just yet, then by phone, email, letter or social media (I regularly use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat).



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Now, it's going to take some time for me to recognize all of you, so when you see me, give a wave, ok?
Your Companion in Christ,

Pastor Anita



HAPPENINGS...

From the St. John Lutheran Church Council:

Due to the rising cases of COVID, a high positivity rate that's expected to rise after Thanksgiving, & a shortage of hospital beds in the area, the Church Council has decided **to do only online & radio services for the rest of the year.** Sunday School Confirmation and other meetings will be online. Baptisms & funerals can be held at the church with 25 or less in attendance. Pastor will continue to do "Drive-Through" Communion on the 1st Sunday of the month.

Your offering can be mailed to St. John Lutheran, 200 S Main St, Charles City, IA 50616

OR...

If you would like to sign up for Simply Giving, the program that allows you to give to the church through electronic transfer, call Linda at 228-3397 if you would like her to help you set up Simply Giving.

OR...

Electronic Giving – this is an option that has been added to the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church website in recent months. You can use this option to set up your giving on a weekly, monthly or yearly plan. But it is also convenient if you want to use it for one-time transactions – to give to specific funds, events, or memorials for instance. You can give through your personal accounts or credit cards. Just remember that if you use your credit card, unless you specifically indicate the service charge be taken from your account, St. John will be assessed that charge. This means of giving has seen some activity and we are really excited to be able to give you this option. Please keep in mind electronic giving as you plan your budgeting needs. At <http://www.stjohncharlescity.org/>, you will find Digital Simply Giving on the blue menu bar at the top of the page; that is your link to electronic convenience!

Our Generosity in November

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

8% of our regular November offering (\$2562.37) went to support the mission of the larger church as well as (\$430) to World Hunger.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In November (\$768.20) was given to the Floyd County Salvation Army Red Kettle Fund.

"Drive Through Communion"

On January 3rd between 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m. we will have "Drive Through Communion. We also plan to offer this communion on the 1st Sunday of each month. We will ask that you enter the parking lot at the top. You will proceed down to the canopy where you will be handed a disposable communion cup with wafer. Next you will proceed to the pastor to partake of communion. Gluten free cups will be available.

Sound and Video Capital Campaign

It is hard to believe that it has been two years since we dreamed, planned, and installed our new sound and video system in the sanctuary. The congregation pledged and donated a total of \$135,968.49. Of this amount \$68,691.44 was given outright with \$67,295 pledged. To date there is over \$18,000 in outstanding pledges. Please consider fulfilling your pledge to bring this project to a close. Thank you for all your generous support over this two-year period.

People's Page...

January birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

1/3 Wallace Schilling
1/8 Irene Gabe
1/14 Kay Tjaden
1/17 Dean Toebe
1/26 Dianne Harrold
1/28 Betty Ball
1/28 Dale Lamprecht
1/29 Dale Bond
1/29 Eunice Tommingo



In Sympathy, Funerals of...

Norma Mae Yeager Breitbart, 12/10/20
Wendell Louis Patten, 12/12/20

Memorials were given in memory of...

Edwin LeMont Benedict: Monte & Kathy Waldorf
Donn Ivan Schafer: Karen Streich, Kay Tjaden, Janet Petefish, Kent & Lorie Hoeft, Don & Shirley Holm, Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall
Rev. Andrew Oppendahl: John & Myrna Culbertson
Norma Mae Yeager Breitbart: Georgie Miller, Greg & Rosie Pieper, Mary Jean Zilm
Leon Isakson: Kent & Lorie Hoeft
Donny Gabe: Kent & Lorie Hoeft

BT 3: A book.

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you! As we put 2020 to rest and reflect on this past year, we do so hoping that 2021 will be much kinder to all of us. The challenges that 2020 presented did not weaken the spirit of the members of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Charles City, Iowa! SO...

MARK FEBRUARY 14, 2021 as a date to keep open for a special noon event at St. John. We don't have the details all worked out but on this typical day of showing our love to the special people in our lives, we want to share that love with each and every one of you. Your faithfulness to St. John, financially and by your actions, has been very heart-warming and we thank you for that!!

Stay tuned for more information coming soon...

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

January 2, 1964 Leland & Pam Lumley

Celebrated the baptisms of ...

Clint Michael Murray, 12/12/20
Liam Wayne Hoeft, 12/20/20

2021 Offering Envelopes: Are now available. Call the office at 228-3397 to arrange picking yours up.

Altar Flower & Radio Sign-up:

If you would like to sign up to sponsor the Altar flowers &/or the radio broadcast contact Kathy in the office at 641-228-3397! We will continue to have flowers as they are on the online service & the radio broadcast reaches many of our at home congregation!



Youth & Families...

*"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
Hebrews 11:1
Blessings, Laurie*

Confirmation

Thank you to everyone that donated non-perishables to the confirmation Food Drive (Thru) on December 16th!

What a wonderful show of love and support for those in need!

Sunday School News

December brought a different type of Christmas Program for our Sunday Schoolers who are 3 years old through 9th grade. Be sure to check out the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Christmas Eve worship service, if you haven't already, to see our students participate.

Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, January 17th after a break for the holidays. Be watching for an announcement about when our Sunday School classes will start in-person. Sunday School lessons will continue to be available in an online format from January-May.

This winter/spring we will be learning about the stories of Jesus and His disciples from the book of Luke!

**The St. John youth held a
Food Drive (Thru) on Wednesday, December
16th & collected over
700 items to be donated to the Charles City
Food Pantry!
Thank you, to our St. John youth!**



What to do when it's cold outside??? Brain Teasers!!!

Answers scattered through newsletter.

BT 1: There are 3 houses. One is red, one is blue, and one is white. If the red house is to the left of the house in the middle, and the blue house is to the right to the house in the middle, where is the white house?



BT 2: How far can a rabbit run into the woods?



BT 3: I have no voice, yet I speak to you. I tell of all things in the world that people do. I have leaves, but I am not a tree. I have a spine, but I am not a man. I have told you all. I cannot tell you more. What am I?

BT 4: What can you hold without ever touching or using your hands?

St. John Christian Preschool...



Happy New Year from all of your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! We are so excited to welcome back our wonderful friends and families for the second semester of our preschool program. As we look forward to our new semester, we would like to remind everyone that there are a few openings remaining in our program. Please contact the preschool if you have any questions.

The month of December was a great one, full of anticipation and excitement towards the birth of our Savior! We started the month with the introduction of the letters "Ii," "Ll" and "Kk". The last two weeks before break was even more exciting! We introduced our very special Baby Jesus doll, who slept in His very own manger. The children loved rocking him and singing to him. It was awe-inspiring to witness the love they showed to that special baby and it was a constant reminder to the adults of what the Christmas season is *truly* all about. We worked to emphasize the special Christmas story with projects that highlighted that precious baby boy. We hope that your Christmases brought you the same joy and satisfaction.

Starting this month, we will open up our 5-day program again. Each day will be a continuation of the weekly themes already set for the MWF week. We will be working on our literacy skills with writing activities and lots of books. We will also introduce sight words and explore our artistic side with frequent art projects. Integrated within each day's lesson will be many opportunities to work on our math skills, artistic expression, and reasoning abilities. This is all in addition to singing, dancing, playing and lots of fun!

As we end another year at SJCP, we thank you for your continued support that not only sustains our preschool but also helps our preschool grow and flourish. Not to mention all of the preschoolers within it!

We start the New Year feeling blessed by the job God has given us. We work with great friends and we are supported by a board full of dedicated moms and a congregation that has given so generously in so many ways to our ministry. We hope that the New Year is full of just as many blessings for your family.

BT 2: Halfway. After that, he is running out of the woods.

With His Love,

Whittney Franke



January 2021 Schedule...

MONTHLY:

1st Sunday of month 10:00 – 11:30: Drive through Communion

January 20 : Newsletter Deadline

BOARD MEETINGS:

Building & Grounds: Jan 5, 5:00 p.m. (Zoom)
 Council: Jan 12, 6:00 p.m. (Zoom)
 Communication: TBD 6:00 p.m. (Zoom)
 Deacons: Jan 10, 10:00 a.m. (Zoom).
 Family Board Jan 6, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)
 Finance Board Jan 7, 5:30p.m. (Zoom)
 Parish Ed Jan 5, 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)
 Stewardship Jan 10, 11:00 a.m. (at Quade's)
 Youth Jan 7, 5:15p.m. (Zoom)

EVENTS OF NOTE

January 1st: Office Closed



BT 4: Your breath

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Barbara Tommingo	Bruce Hovden Patrick Lumley
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Elizabeth Gassman Teresa Knecht Cassandra Schiesher Wallace Schilling	Laura Marth	Ryan Hallett Ledger Hicks Richard Olesen		Lawrence Hibbs	Irene Gabe Grace Marth	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Evan Schmidke	Mark Parsons Ann Voelker	Lee Hoeft	Mike Hammond Larry Milleson	Tami Jakel Kay Tjaden Sawyer Wiltse Avery Wiltse		Jennifer Seckar
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Dean Toebe	Gary DeBower Jared Tieskotter Sheryl Veen	Parker Hicks	Josiah Hervert Sarah Kendall Joshua Keyes Sherman Loudermilk	Kathy Hoeft Steve Shankland		Doris Hibbs
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sharon Bledsoe Terry Meyer	Sharon Streich	John Selvig Ryan Venz		Scott Aspholm Betty Ball Emma Heidebrink Cameron Kakac Dale Lamprecht	Dale Bond Eunice Tommingo Jaclyn Van Horn	Harlow Venz
31						
Randy Brunner Benjamin Hammond Nancy Nelson Olive Tracey Abigail Wolf						