

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

February



February 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

Find & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the e-Skinny by emailing
Tara 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: Shaune Fields
sjep@stjohncharlescity.com



Lead Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Future Pastor Beth Hurt
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary:
Tara Dean

office@stjohncharlescity.com
Office Hours: M-Th 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
& 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
Fridays 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00
p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Business Manager:
Tonia Olsen
businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator:
Whitney Howe
yfcoordinator@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian:
Jamie Carolan
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.

Pastor Russ Leeper

“24 Hours That Changed the World”

Have you ever wondered what it would've been like to be a witness to the last day of Jesus' life? What would it have been like to sit at the table with Jesus and the disciples at the Last Supper or pray with Him in the Garden of Gethsemane or see His cross on Calvary Hill? We can't go back to that time, but we can go back to those places.

Starting this month, we'll have the opportunity to take a video journey together to the Holy Land and visit sites where the events of Jesus' last day took place. I will be leading a Sunday adult class called, “24 Hours That Changed the World.” The video, hosted by Methodist pastor, Adam Hamilton, will guide us, step by step, through Jesus' final hours. As we learn together, we'll also have opportunity to read the biblical accounts of the events of Jesus' passion, contemplate their significance, and share with each other what they mean for us. We'll meet Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 11:15. Here's the itinerary for our journey:

February 22 – The Upper Room

March 1 – The Garden of Gethsemane and The High Priest's House

March 8 – The Fortress of Antonia, The Stone Pavement, and The Via Dolorosa

March 15 – The Chapel of Flagellation

March 22 – The Church of the Holy Sepulcher and The Rock of Calvary

I invite you to travel with me, this Lent, on a spiritual pilgrimage to re-discover how much God loves us!

Peace,
Pastor Russ



Of Note...

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

**We still need volunteers to bring
the treats (roughly 5 dozen)!!**

*There is a sign-up sheet at the
Welcome Center!!*



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 every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. through April 14th.

Scholarship Applications:

- Those students attending a Lutheran college who would like to receive an EPIC grant must notify the church by **May 1st**.
- 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 1st**.
- Please notify the office if you would like an application emailed to you.

Thank you for the delicious Salads, desserts and meal that was provided for our Dad's funeral fellowship meal.

Karen Hagarly	Sarah George
Dorothy Parson	Sandy Hicks
Sandra Dugan	Karen Streich
Barb Fuls	Yolanda Van Arsdale
Judy Grimm	Kim Watkins
Jaqueline Moon	Linda Hughes
Gloria Carr	Joyce Wood
John Corbett	Gloria Hulbert

We are deeply grateful for everything that was provided
The family of
Duane Ortmyer

February is SOAP MONTH

St. John Sunday School students can

bring wrapped bars of soap to Sunday School each week. The

soap will be donated to our Blessing Box outside the church.



Adult Prom

"Be the Light"

Join us for a memorable night

March 21, 2026

6 PM to 10 PM

St. John Lutheran Church

**Tickets can be purchased at St. John
for \$25 each. Dinner is included.**

Recommended Attire: Formal

**All proceeds go to the Youth
Programs at St. John.**

AFTER PROM

LOCK-IN

For youth 8th-12th

Grade

**Following the Adult
Prom on March 21st**

Wednesday Lenten Series 2026

Join us for Wednesday worship during Lent at 5:30 PM, starting February 18 (Ash Wednesday), as we remember that the good news really is good news! Our Lenten series, "Tell Me Something Good," is based on the teachings of Jesus and will take us back to the roots of our faith in the Gospel. In a world so full of bad news, we'll explore how we can be good news people with Christ as our example. Here are our weekly themes:

Ash Wednesday, February 18 – Luke 14:15-24

The good news is ... all are invited.

Wednesday, February 25 – John 2:1-11 & Matthew 13:31-32

The good news is ... so good it catches us by surprise.

Wednesday, March 4 – Luke 7:36-50 & Matthew 25:35-40

The good news is ... great love for God and neighbor.

Wednesday, March 11 – Mark 6:32-44 & Ephesians 3:20-21

The good news is ... together, the impossible is possible.

Wednesday, March 18 – Matthew 19:13-15 & Deuteronomy 24:17-22

The good news is ... protection and care for the vulnerable.

Wednesday, March 25 – John 8:2-11 & Matthew 23:23

The good news is ... rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

Maundy Thursday, April 2 – John 13:1-35

The good news is ... even Judas gets his feet washed.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

February 2026

What We Will Learn

After School Program

We will learn about Jesus teaching on giving, Jesus teaching on how to pray, Jesus teaching on worrying, and Jesus and the rich young ruler.

Confirmation

The Confirmation students will learn about using Creation wisely and will have an introduction to the Small Catechism.

High School Youth Group

Our second Wednesday study in February will be on the book of Job. We look forward to learning together.



Reminder

Adult Prom will be March 21st. Tickets are \$25 each. All proceeds will go towards youth activities. There will be a Lock-In that follows for those in 8th - 12th grade.

First Communion For Fifth Grade Students

- **First Communion Class:** February 8th
- **Baking Bread:** February 15th
- **Ash Wednesday:** February 18th

Lent/Palm Sunday/Egg Hunt

Save the Dates:

- **Lent Event** - February 22nd
- **Palm Sunday Breakfast** - March 29th
- **Egg Hunt** - April 4th

Parking Lot Update

Our final payment was due to Heartland Asphalt, so our loan, through the ELCA Mission Investment Fund, was finalized to make that payment. Thanks to the generosity of those that made pledges or donations we were able to raise all but \$88,800 of the project.

Our Building and Grounds Board, Gaylen Hicok, Don Holm, Al Brandau, Lenis Buseman, Diane Loudermilk, and Rod Hinz, along with several volunteers, were able to help reduce our cost, by donating their time and talents to complete several of the projects originally included in the Heartland bid.

Currently we have monthly and weekly pledges, that cover our monthly payment of approximately \$500.00. All donations and memorials that come in directed to the Parking Lot Fund are being applied to the loan on top of the monthly payment to further reduce the principle of the loan. As of January 26th, the loan balance has been reduced by 17.9% to \$72,900. The fundraising thermometer has now been changed to reflect the payments/ balance on our loan.

St. John is hosting the High School Girls Basketball Team for a team meal on Monday, February 9th at 6:00 p.m. We need donations and a couple of volunteers to help out.



Spaghetti
French Bread
Parmesan Cheese
Salads
Cakes/Bars

A couple of workers to help serve



BEHIND THE (Kitchen) SCENE...

January sure has been a brutal month this year. Planning meals is one thing – actually getting to serve them is another! Our oven-fried chicken was on the menu for a few weeks. Because of the extremely cold temperatures one week, we changed it to a meal that was faster to prepare in case the day was cancelled. A second time, school was dismissed early enough that a meal didn't get out of the refrigerator or freezer! Hopefully, Mother Nature will settle down and give us better weather moving forward.

I don't know how old our food processor was in the church kitchen, but it decided to retire. That little unit gave us many quarts of chopped foods – especially chopped onions. Onion aroma wafts through the church halls frequently and always brings comments – and tears. Ask Jacque about that; she usually pulls food processing detail! But we are still in business with the purchase of a new one.

Our church has the privilege of serving the Charles City Girls Basketball Team a team meal on Monday, February 9, 2026. This is a smaller group than the football team, but I have no doubt that they bring the same enthusiasm for the sport, their team, and their appetites as the boys did! There is a sheet in the Narthex with some kitchen needs if you would like to help with this meal. Check it out!

The Lenten season will soon be here. Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, February 18th and the Wednesday Night Suppers will be served a little earlier through this season. We will start serving at 4:30 PM. Please mark your calendars.

We have some tummy-warming meals planned for the month of February. Please come and enjoy them with us. You can find the menus in the weekly bulletin and the Good Newsletter. It is a great chance to sit down at a meal as a family and enjoy each other and touch base with the other families.

Stay warm and safe,
Kathy

February: Wednesday Supper Menu

February 4: Tater Tot Casserole, Salad, Dessert

February 11: Pork Chops, Dressing, Corn,
Dessert

February 15 (Ash Wednesday): Beef Stew, Hot
Bread, Fruit, Apple Crisp

February 25: Maidrites, Potato, Pudding

Wednesday Night Supper

Supper is from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**Lenten Wednesdays (begins
February 15th): supper is from
4:30-5:30**

Cost: \$5.00 for adults
Children through 12th grade
free thanks to
Kans for Kids
(Menu subject to change)

Meet the Church Council and Board members for 2026

Church Council:

President: John Corbett
Vice President: Diane Sande
Secretary: Karol Carpenter
Treasurer: Tonia Olsen
Bev Selvig
Kyle LaBarge
Becky Meyer
Shannon Venz
Sarah Merrifield
Brenda de Buhr
Monte Waldorf
Linda Hughes
Dennis Sande

Building and Grounds:

Don Holm
Al Brandau
Rod Hinz
Diane Loudermilk
Dan Kehret
Barry Sweet
Jamie Carolan

Caring Ministries:

Jessica Hoefft
Jodi Reetz
Jenisha Garden
Brenda Bailey
Gloria Frerichs
Judy Grimm

Deacons:

Kathy Crooks
Joyce Boehmer
Julie Corbett
Josh Dean
Michelle Sweet
Dan Lantz

Finance:

Jeremy Heyer
Ryan Venz
Jessie Schultz
Brad Bailey
Rod Norland
Kyle Mehmen
Tonia Olsen

Parish Ed:

Greig Grimm
Brandi Lantz
Yolanda Van Ausdall
Whittney Franke
Megan O'Brien
Carolyn Marth
Whitney Howe
Shaune Fields

Stewardship:

Jeanne Hansen
Tami Miller
Lisa Kreger
Peggy Andrews
Karen Hagarty
JoAnn Hervert

Youth & Family:

Vicki Hoffman
Amanda Keyes
Alison Pettit
Megan LaBarge
Lisa Hinz
Jaclyn Van Horn
Devony O'Brien
Whitney Howe

St. John Christian Preschool...

We are excited to welcome February and share all the wonderful learning and activities happening at St. John Christian Preschool!

We are thrilled to announce that St. John Christian Preschool has been awarded a **Growing Iowa Grant**. These funds will be used to purchase new tables and chairs for our classrooms. This update will provide a more comfortable and functional learning environment for our students. We sincerely appreciate the support that helps strengthen early childhood education in our community.

As we move into February, our classroom studies will focus on exercise and recycling. Children will learn how movement keeps our bodies strong and healthy, and how we can care for God's creation by reducing waste and reusing materials. Through hands-on activities, stories, and play, students will explore how their everyday choices can make a positive difference.

We are also looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with our preschool families! We will host a Valentine celebration where children can share activities and fellowship with loved ones.

Additionally, we are thankful to have several community volunteers scheduled to visit our classrooms this month. They will share their skills and knowledge related to dentistry and exercise & movement, teaching children about caring for their teeth and fun ways to stay active. These visits enrich our curriculum and help children learn about different professions and healthy habits.

Blessings,

Shaune Fields
SJCP Director/Lead Educator



People's Page...

Memorials were given in memory of...

Diane Melrose: Judy Thornton; Gale & Rhonda Dana, Tim Melrose

Elsie Ferguson: Katherine Parks; Karen Streich, Peggy Boutelle

Greg Buenger: Judy Thornton; Jan & Leon Mulford; Brad & Brenda Bailey; Kip & Judy Hauser; Duane & Ileen Jerdee; Monte & Kathy Waldorf

Connie Rasmussen: Karen Streich, Cal & Joyce Wood, Craig & Lisa Jergenson, Cedar Ridge Owners Association, Kip & Judy Hauser, Fernando & Lynn Hernandez, Thomas & Kay Becker, Gary & Sandie Quade, Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Ellen Doll-Brewer, Larry & Sondra Coen, Patricia Goss, Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall Jon & Ann Schneckloth, Nancy Joerger, Steven & Cindy Becker, Stewart Realty Company, Kathy & Robert Whiteside, Gregory & Lisa Uhlir, Kay Tjaden

Allen Holm: Don & Shirley Holm, Randy & Sandy Taylor, Bill & Val Biwer



February Wedding Anniversaries of our members who have been married 50 or more years!

Steven and Diane Barr	2/14/1969
Lenis and Nadonne Buseman	2/14/1964
Jim and Donna Gambaiani	2/14/1960



Board Meetings		
Parish Education	2/1	10:15 AM
Deacon Board	2/8	10:15 AM
Finance	2/10	5:00 PM
Church Council	2/10	6:00 PM
Stewardship	2/17	5:30 PM
Building and Grounds	2/17	6:00 PM
Caring Ministries	2/19	4:30 PM
Youth and Family	2/19	5:30 PM

Wednesday Kitchen for February 2026

Acolytes for February 2026

Sunday...

<p>1 Kaylie Keyes Saeli Chase</p> <hr/> <p>8 Saeli Chase Samuel Northrop</p> <hr/> <p>15 Saeli Chase Owen Prichard</p> <hr/>	<p>4 Alesia Garden Lela Hammond Sierra Hinz Owen Prichard</p> <hr/> <p>11 Lela Hammond Owen Prichard Sierra Hinz Isaac Gassman Benny Tracy</p> <hr/> <p>18 Kynsie Eckhoff Owen Prichard Sierra Hinz Isaac Gassman Benny Tracy</p> <hr/> <p>25 Kynsie Eckhoff Owen Prichard Sierra Hinz Isaac Gassman Benny Tracy</p>
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February Events 2026

2/1/2026	9:00 AM	Worship with Communion
	10:05 AM	After Worship Social Time
	10:15 AM	Education Hour
		5th Graders work on Banners
		Parish Ed Board Meeting
2/2/2026	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
2/3/2026	6:30 PM	GriefShare
2/4/2026		No SJCP classes
	9:00 AM	Do-Day Quilters
	5:00 PM	Wednesday Night Supper
		Wednesday Night Activities
2/6/2026	5:00 PM	Fast Food Friday (7th-12th Graders)
	6:30 PM	Game Night (1st-6th Graders)
2/8/2026	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:05 AM	After Worship Social Time
	10:15 AM	Education Hour
		First Communion Class
		Deacon Board Meeting



February Events 2026 continued

2/9/2026	6:00 PM	Girls Basketball Team Meal
2/10/2026	3:00 PM	Salvation Army meeting
	5:00 PM	Finance Board Meeting
	6:00 PM	Church Council Meeting
	6:30 PM	GriefShare
2/11/2026	5:00 PM	Wednesday Night Supper Wednesday Night Activities
12/13/2026	5:00 PM	Girls Scouts
12/15/2026		Transfiguration Sunday
	9:00 AM	Worship with Communion
	10:05 AM	After Worship Social Time
	10:15 AM	Education Hour
		5th Graders bake bread
	3:00 PM	Boy Scouts Awards Ceremony
2/16/2026	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
2/17/2026	5:30 PM	Stewardship Board Meeting
	6:00 PM	Building & Grounds Board Meeting
	6:30 PM	GriefShare
2/18/2026	9:00 AM	Do-Day Quilters
	4:30 PM	Wednesday Night Supper
	5:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
		First Communion
		Wednesday Night Activities
2/19/2026	4:30 PM	Caring Ministries Board Meeting
	5:30 PM	Youth & Family Board Meeting
2/22/2026		First Sunday of Lent
	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:05 AM	After Worship Social Time
	10:15 AM	Education Hour
		Lent Event
2/23/2026	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
2/24/2026	5:30 PM	Stephen Ministries Supervision
	6:30 PM	GriefShare
2/25/2026	4:00 PM	Newsletter Deadline
	4:30 AM	Wednesday Night Supper
	5:30 PM	Lenten Worship
		Wednesday Night Activities

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE DURING LENT

2-4:45 pm	After School Program
4:30 pm	Wednesday Night Supper
5:30 pm	Lenten Worship
6:00 pm	Tone Chime Choir
7:00 pm	Trinity Choir
7-9 pm	Youth Group



February 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship w/Communion Sunday School 5th Graders Work on Banners Parish Ed Meeting 10:15am	2 GriefShare 6:30pm	3 GriefShare 6:30pm	4 Do-Day Quilters 9am ASP 2-5pm Wed Night Supper 5-6pm Confirmation 6-7pm Youth Group 7-9pm	5 Fast Food Friday 5-6pm Game Night 1st-5th Grades	6 7	
8 Worship SJCP Songs Sunday School First Communion Class Deacon Board Meeting 10:15am	9 Girls Basketball Team Meal 6pm	10 Salvation Army Meeting 3-4pm Finance Board Meeting 5pm Council Meeting 6PM GriefShare 6:30pm	11 ASP 2-5pm Wed Night Supper 5-6pm Confirmation 6-7pm Youth Group 7-9pm	12 13	14	Valentine's Day
15 Transfiguration Sunday Worship w/Communion Sunday School 5th Graders Bake Bread	16	17 Stewardship Meeting 5:30pm Building & Grounds Meeting 6pm GriefShare 6:30pm	18 ASP 2-5pm Wed Night Supper 4:30pm Ash Wed Worship/ First Communion 5:30pm Ash Wednesday Youth Group 7-9pm	19 Caring Ministries Meeting 4:30pm Youth & Family Board Meeting 5:30pm	20 21	
22 1st Sunday of Lent Worship No Sunday School Lent Event	23 Presidents' Day	24 Stephen Ministries Supervision 5:30pm GriefShare 6:30pm	25 ASP 2-5pm Wed Night Supper 4:30pm Lenten Worship 5:30pm Youth Group 7-9pm	26 27	28	

February 2026 Birthday/Anniversary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Meghan Korbelt Anniversaries: Kurt & Sarah George Denick & Kari Unga	2 Rylee Van Horn Landry Voelker	3	4 Paula Kruthoff Kyndra McDonald Laurel Schlump	5 Carol Bauer Melia Lantz Karmen Mehmen Rusty Rogotzke	6	7 Megan O'Brien Liz Hamm Diane Niezwaag Sandie Quade
8 Maxwell Smith	9 Isaac Hervert	10 Samuel Northrop Anniversary: Dan & June Kehret	11 Cody Van Horn	12 Anniversary: John & Julie Zimmerman	13 Viva Boerschel June Montagne	14 Kayla Streich Anniversaries: Steven & Diane Barr Jim & Donna Gambaiani Lenis & Nadonne
15	16 Henry Page Kathy Waldorf	17 Talan Eckhoff	18 Brayton Quade Caleb Streich Anniversary: Tory & Kim Menken	19 Alison Mehmen	20 Cassie DeBower Alison Pettit Ron Venz	21
22	23 Barbara Garden	24 Dennis Petefish	25 Shirley Holm	26 Hunter Northrop Keaton Schmidtke	27	28 Lori Gassman