

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025

"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: Whitney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Intern Pastor Beth Hurt:
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary: Toni Hicks
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

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@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.

Senior Pastor Russ Leeper



Oooops!!
Pastor Russ forgot his
letter this month.
Sorry...

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!!*

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!



**Charles City Community
Blood Drive**

Messiah Lutheran Church
705 3rd Ave. | Charles City

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: lifeserve.info/schedule



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>
May	April 16 th
June	May 21 st
July	June 18 th

*Dates are subject to change. Please keep an eye on them
ahead of special events and holidays.*



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.



Grief Share will meet on
*Tuesday evenings at 6:30
to 8:00 p.m. in the
Chapel.*
Last meeting will be
April 8th.
Join us anytime!

EASTER

Egg hunt

Donations Needed

Please bring donations of
candy, small toys, etc to the church
office marked "Easter Egg Hunt"
before April 1.



Game Night Is BACK!

Friday, April 4th

6:30 – 8:30 pm

3rd Floor – St John Church

1st–6th Grade welcome

Snack provided

Adult volunteers needed



EASTER EGG HUNT



9:00 a.m. – Saturday,
April 19, 2025

St. John Lutheran Church
200 S Main St, Charles City IA

Meet in the parish hall for registration & crafts.

Easter egg hunt will start at about 9:15.

All kids 5th grade and below are welcome!



The youth will be hosting the annual Palm Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, April 13. Serving will be 8:30am-11:30am. The menu includes egg bakes, cinnamon rolls, and fruit. Your free will donation will go towards future youth service trips.

Youth in grades 7-12 and their parents are needed to help with serving and providing egg bakes. To sign up, please go to <https://bit.ly/41DyHAX>. Contact Alison Pettit with any questions at pettita@neiasynod.org.

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**.



St John's Stewardship Board is planning a Reverse Offering for the Blessing Box on April 27th...with a return of items on May 4th.

We would appreciate it if everyone would place their items on the table in the tree/cross area in the Sanctuary. Thank you...

Wednesday Night Supper

(Lent Hours)

Supper is from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 for adults

Children through 12th grade

free thanks to

Kans for Kids

(Menu subject to change)

March: Wednesday Supper Menu

April 2: Maidrites, Potato Chips, Rainbow Sherbet

April 9: Pork Loin, Au gratin Potatoes, Green Beans, Cakes/Bars

April 16: Holy Week

April 23: Spaghetti Pizza, Lettuce Salad, Pudding

April 30: Bacon Cheeseburgers, Cheesy Hashbrowns, Graham Crackers with Frosting

Upcoming Activities & Events

* 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.

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.

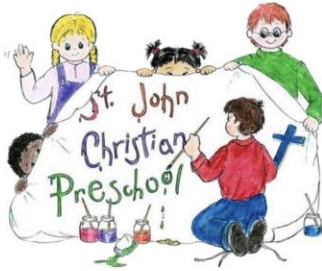
Here are our weekly themes:

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)



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

*Go to www.stjohncharlescity.org
for the full job description.*



St. John Lutheran Church in Charles City, Iowa is seeking a Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator. This person is responsible for facilitating K-12 faith formation in collaboration with the Board of Parish Education, the Youth & Family Ministry Board, and other volunteers. This position is full-time with a competitive benefits package.

To view the full job description and qualifications, click here: Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator Full-time <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XlHiQyXtiAKGs7SvZrL5Wbq-OnFyZQzb/view?usp=sharing>

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Pastor Russ Leeper at
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com.

People's Page...

CELEBRATE!

April birthdays 80 & older!

Mike Leraaen	4/2/1931
Georgie Miller	4/2/1937
Imhuicha Bohner	4/3/1943
Richard Harrington	4/4/1943
Marcia Olesen	4/8/1941
John Ayers	4/9/1924
Elisie Ferguson	4/10/1931
Joyce Wood	4/11/1941
Connie Rasmussen	4/14/1938
Harlyn Kolb	4/17/1936
Leon Hall	4/20/1936
Mariel Kilby	4/20/1942
Dorothy Watson	4/24/1929

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

Ron & Marilyn Venz	4/7/1973
Randy & Jean Evans	4/7/1973
Paul & Yolanda Van Ausdall	4/12/1975
Don & JoAnn Knowlton	4/20/1963
Don & Shirley Holm	4/27/1974

Acolytes for April 2025		Wednesday Kitchen for April 2025
Sunday...	<u>Wednesday Lent Service</u>	**Note** Supper will begin at 4:30pm <u>through Lent</u> .
6 Alesia Garden Grace Marth	2 Brayden Caffrey Ajay Johnson	2 Graham Hansen & Scott Hansen Cooper Holm & Jessie Holm Maxtyn & Phil Hammermeister
13 Addisen Lantz Cooper Holm	9 Brayden Caffrey Ajay Johnson	9 Graham Hansen & Scott Hansen Cooper Holm & Jessie Holm Maxtyn & Phil Hammermeister
Easter 20 Riley Quade 8:00am Kielyn Bahe	Maundy Thur. 17 Brayden Caffrey 5:30pm Ajay Johnson	16 Graham Hansen & Scott Hansen Cooper Holm & Jessie Holm Maxtyn & Phil Hammermeister
Easter 20 Devony O'Brien 10:00am Ben Hammond	Good Friday 18 Brayden Caffrey 7:00pm Ajay Johnson	23 Charley Sweet & Michelle & Barry
27		30 Charley Sweet & Michelle & Barry

St. John Christian Preschool...



“We all clap and sing. The stone is rolled away,
Jesus is alive and He is with us everyday!”

Spring greetings from your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! Our little ones have been excited to see the signs of spring around our community. It is truly refreshing to see the hope in the eyes of our young friends when the warm weather starts to arrive, and we FINALLY get to go outside and play! It is hard to imagine that we are getting close to the end of another great year at St. John Christian Preschool. The time has gone by so fast!

Our year is quickly winding down to a close, but we are still very busy at SJCP. We have been doing many fun activities with the letters Qq, Uu, and Ww. We also had a unit on Fairy Tales and Weather! All the little ones got to easel paint, which is always a class favorite. It won't be too long until we conclude our year-long study of the alphabet.

We will be taking all of our friends on a walk through the church the week before Easter and introduce the concept of Good Friday to them. We are excited to take that same walk on the Monday following Easter to celebrate our Risen Savior and to notice the differences in our church.

We would also like to remind everyone that the preschool still sells Kwik Star gift cards. Please stop down or call if you are interested in purchasing a gift card (228-7274.) The preschool receives 5% of the card's face value.

We currently have openings left for the 2025-2026 school year. Children who will be 3 on or before September 15 and all children 4 and 5 years old are welcome. A minimum registration fee of \$30 is due at the time of registration. Scholarships are available later in the summer. Please call 228-7274 or stop by the preschool for more information on the current enrollment.

With HIS love,

Whittney Franke

April 2025 Monthly Calendar

3/30/2025	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities
3/31/2025	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
4/1/25		Candy Deadline
	6:30 PM	GriefShare
4/2/25	9:00 AM	Do Day Quilters
	2:15 PM	Wednesday Activities
	5:30 PM	Lent Service
4/3/25	5:30 PM	SJCP Family Night
	5:30 PM	Wine & Word
4/4/25	6:30 PM	Youth Game Night (1st-6th grades)
4/6/25	9:00 AM	Worship/Communion/DeBower Baptism
	10:15 AM	Parish Ed
	10:05 AM	Deacons
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities
4/7/25	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
4/8/25	5:00 PM	Finance
	6:00 PM	Council
	6:30 PM	GriefShare
4/9/25	2:15 PM	Wednesday Activities
	5:30 PM	Lent Service
	6:15 PM	Y & F Board
4/10/25	4:30 PM	Caring Ministries
4/11/25	6:00 PM	Girl Scouts
4/13/25	9:00 AM	Palm Sunday-Bishop Jones
	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities
4/14/25	2:00 PM	Deadline for Lilies sign-up
	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
4/16/25	9:00 AM	Do Day Quilters
	11:30 AM	Newsletter Deadline
	2:30 PM	After School Program
	7:00 PM	Trinity Choir ONLY
4/17/25	5:30 PM	Maundy Thursday Service
4/18/25	7:00 PM	Good Friday Service
		No SJCP
4/19/25	9:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt
4/20/25	8 AM & 10 AM	Easter Sunday Worship/Communion
4/21/25		No SJCP
	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
4/22/25	5:30 PM	Stephen Ministry Group Meeting
4/23/25	2:15 PM	Wednesday Activities with Confirmation
4/25/25	6:00 PM	Girl Scouts
4/26/25	1:00 PM	Hospital Aux Tea
4/27/25	9:00 AM	Worship/ SS Teacher Appreciation
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities
4/28/25	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
4/30/25	6:00 PM	Wed. Activities with Last Confirmation Class

SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP ACTIVITIES

10:05 After Worship Social Time

10:15 Whirl Sunday School

10:15 Youth Hour

Wednesday Night Schedule

2:15 pm After School Program

4:15 pm Kids Choir

4:30 pm Supper (LENT)

5:00 pm Supper (REGULAR)

5:30 pm Lent Service

6:00 pm Tone Chime Choir

7:00 pm Trinity Choir

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.

<u>Board Meetings:</u>		
Parish Ed	4/6	10:15 AM
Deacons	4/6	10:05 AM
Finance	4/8	5:00 PM
Council	4/8	6:00 PM
B & G	4/8	5:30 PM
Y & F	4/9	6:15 PM
Caring Ministries	4/10	4:30 PM
Stewardship	4/15	5:30 PM

April 2025

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
30	Michael Kregar's birthday	31	Jessie Holm's birthday Sandra Harrington's birthday	1	Colton Crooks' birthday	2	Mike Leraeen's birthday Georgie Miller's birthday	3	Imhuicha Bohner's birthday Megan LaBarge's birthday	4	Richard Harrington's birthday Marilyn Venz's birthday	5	Greig Gimm's birthday Sarah Murray's birthday
6	Annette Tupy's birthday Shirley Platte's birthday	7	Cooper Holm's birthday Carter Johanningmeier's birthday Logan O'Brien's birthday Blake Dean's birthday Ron and Marilyn Venz's 52nd anniversary Randy and Jean Evans' 52nd anniversary	8	Linda Hoy's birthday Marcia Olesen's birthday	9	Curt Hallett's birthday John Myers' birthday Edgar and JoAnn Heverl's 24th anniversary	10	Keith Westergaard's birthday Al Brandau's birthday Diane Loudermilk's birthday Elsie Ferguson's birthday	11	Joyce Wood's birthday Brian Voelker's birthday	12	Ann Kabele's birthday Clayton Heller's birthday Ryatt Heller's birthday Bennett Hansen's birthday Paul and Yolanda Van Ausdall's 50th anniversary
13	Palm Sunday Easter	14	Sydney Hinz's birthday Connie Rasmussen's birthday Laker Kubik's birthday	15	Owen Pritchard's birthday Tammy Quade's birthday	16		17	Maurdy Thursday Harilyn Kolb's birthday	18	Good Friday	19	Linda Hughes' birthday Kaylie Keyes' birthday
20	Sally Gilliland's birthday Leon Hall's birthday Emilee Sande's birthday Donaven Sande's birthday Donald and JoAnn Knowlton's 62nd anniversary	21	David Litterer's birthday Jodi Heyer's birthday	22	Kyle Mehmen's birthday Lisa Kregar's birthday Callie Hammond's birthday Phil and Jana Hammemeister's 19th anniversary	23		24	Dorothy Watson's birthday	25	Jessica Hoeft's birthday Heidi Nielsen's birthday Darci Tracey's birthday	26	Oaklynn Nordmeyer's birthday Beckett Uugs' birthday Greg and Laurie Heidebrink's 28th anniversary Logan and Megan O'Brien's 17th anniversary
27	Kimmy Callison's birthday Scott and Stacey Vance's 23rd anniversary Don and Shirley Holm's 51st anniversary	28	Dennis Kregar's birthday Jason and Sue McDonald's 35th anniversary	29	Paul Augustin's birthday	30	Bruce Boerschel's birthday	1	Kiki Connell's birthday	2	Anastasia Baldus' birthday Wolfgang Baldus' birthday Hailey Rule's birthday Colton Baldus' birthday	3	Ellie Lantz's birthday Leon and Shirley Hall's 67th anniversary
4	Hudson Hinz's birthday	5	Mindi Sande's birthday Mark and Cynthia Davidson's 35th anniversary	6	Stacey Vance's birthday Sue Hawke's birthday	7	Joseph Heidebrink's birthday	8	Veda Callison's birthday	9	Roger and Marcia Jacobs' 39th anniversary	10	Amy Kubik's birthday Vicki Schroeder's birthday

Senior Pastor Russ Leeper



At a recent staff meeting, we laughed about how we should play an April Fools' joke on you. It was suggested that, on the page where the pastor's article normally is, we should just put, "Pastor Russ forgot to turn in an article." And then, the last page of the newsletter would say, "April Fools'!" and my article would follow. We had a good laugh about it! April Fools'!

This month we're celebrating Easter, God's victory over sin, death, and the devil through Jesus' resurrection. And one of the ways Christians have traditionally celebrated the Easter season is by telling and playing jokes. As many of you know, I like to bring laughter (and groans) year-round by telling jokes. But jokes are particularly appropriate during the Easter season because we're celebrating that, in the resurrection, God played the ultimate joke on the devil by raising Jesus from death. So, laughter becomes our song of praise to our God who gives us hope and joy.

So, even though I decided not to play an April Fools' joke on you, I want to share a funny story that a St. John member shared with me. This is a true story that was sent in to "Our Iowa" Magazine:

"My daughter was about 2 years old and we were going to the grocery store. She told me we needed to buy 'God and Jesus.' I had no idea what she was talking about, so I asked her to point it out to me. We got to the dairy department where she pointed out the cottage cheese and said, 'There it is – God and Jesus!' From then on, cottage cheese was called 'God and Jesus' in our house until she was ready to go to school, then we figured we should correct her." *Rosie Knoebel, Maquoketa*

Whether it's cottage cheese, a joke, or something else ... I hope you will laugh this Easter season and know that, thanks to "God and Jesus," inexpressible joy is on its way! Happy Easter!

Peace,
Pastor Russ

