

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: Whittney 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...

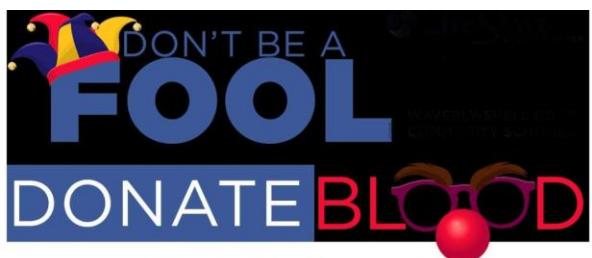
Of Note...

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 18th

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 Whittney 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!





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

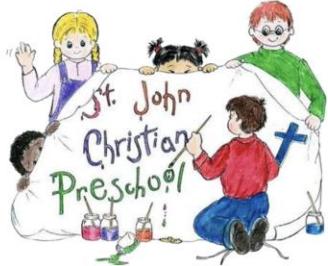
Between Lost & Found (Parable of the lost sheep)

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/1X1HiQyXtiAKGs7SvZrL5Wbq-OnFyZQzb/view?usp=sharing>

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

People's Page...



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 Lent Service

Sunday...

6 Alesia Garden
Grace Marth

2 Brayden Caffrey
Ajay Johnson

Wednesday Kitchen for April 2025

****Note**** Supper will begin at 4:30pm through Lent.

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.

Board Meetings:		
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 Keger's birthday	31 Jessie Holm's birthday Sandra Harrington's birthday	1 Colton Croots' birthday	2 Mike Lerasen's birthday Georgie Miller's birthday	3 Imhuichia Bohner's birthday Megan LaBarge's birthday	4 Richard Harrington's birthday Marilyn Venz's birthday	5 Greg Grimm's birthday Sarah Murray's birthday
6 Annette Tupy's birthday Shirley Platte's birthday	7 Cooper Holm's birthday Carter Janningmeier'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 Ayers' birthday Edgar and JoAnn Jener's 24th anniversary	10 Keith Westergard's birthday Al Brandau's birthday Diane Loudermilk's birthday Elsie Ferguson's birthday	11 Joyce Wood's birthday Brian Voeltier's birthday	12 Ann Kabel's birthday Clayton Heier's birthday Ryan Heier's birthday Bennett Hansen's birthday Paul and Yolanda Van Ausdall's 50th anniversary
13 Palm Sunday	14 Sydney Hinz's birthday Connie Rasmussen's birthday Laker Kubik's birthday	15 Owen Prichard's birthday Tammy Quade's birthday	16 17 Hariyn Kolb's birthday	18 Maundy Thursday Shannon Venz's birthday Pamela Lumley's birthday Cameron Hanson's birthday Carter Hanson's birthday	19 Good Friday Linda Hughes' birthday Kaylie Keyes' birthday	20 19 Oaklyn Nordmeyer's birthday Beckett Ings' birthday Greg and Laurie Heidebrink's 28th anniversary Logan and Megan O'Brien's 17th anniversary
20 Easter	21 Sally Gilliland's birthday Leon Hall's birthday Emilee Sande's birthday Donaven Sande's birthday Donald and Joann Knowlton's 62nd anniversary	22 David Litterer's birthday Jodi Heyer's birthday	23 Kyle Mahmen's birthday Lisa Krieger's birthday Calle Hammond's birthday Phil and Jana Hammemeister's 19th anniversary	24 Dorothy Watson's birthday	25 Jessica Hoeff's birthday Heidi Nielsen's birthday Darci Tracey's birthday	26 1 Anastasia Baldus' birthday Wolfgang Baldus' birthday Hailey Rul's birthday Colton Baldus' birthday
27 Kimmy Callison's birthday Scott and Stacey Vance's 23rd anniversary Don and Shirley Holm's 51st anniversary	28 Dennis Krieger's birthday Jason and Sue McDonald's 35th anniversary	29 Paul Augustin's birthday	30 Bruce Boerschel's birthday	31 Kiki Connell's birthday	2 Anastasia Baldus' birthday Wolfgang Baldus' birthday Hailey Rul's birthday Colton Baldus' birthday	3 Ellie Lantz's birthday Leon and Shirley Hall's 57th 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 Vick 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

