

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2026

"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
office@stjohncharlescity.com

Worship service broadcasted on
KCHA FM 95.9 at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

Office Secretary:
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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.

Senior Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

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Music Director:
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Custodian:
Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com



Pastor Russ Leeper

When I scheduled to retire in July of 2026, it never occurred to me that I would be writing my last newsletter article for the same month our nation is celebrating its 250th birthday! To me, this shared, national celebration is much more important than the retirement of one, ordinary pastor. But, as I thought about it, I realized that there are some similarities. For example, both are a celebration of freedom! But all kidding aside, just as our 250th birthday is about us together as a nation, my retirement is about us together as a congregation. Both are an important opportunity to remember and to give thanks.

As a nation, we remember the faith and bravery of the men and women before us who were willing to forge out a new kind of government ... one in which all people are created equal, everyone has unalienable rights, and is built on liberty and justice for all. Though we're not perfect, we've stood the test of time and are still here to celebrate 250 years later. We give thanks to God for that!

My retirement at the end of this month is also an opportunity for us to look back at our 9 years of ministry together. We, too, have been through seasons of joy and seasons of challenge together. The spiritual strength and faithfulness I've seen in all of you has strengthened my own faith and causes me to give thanks to God for you!

Though, I'm retiring from my role as pastor, know that you will always be in my prayers. When things have gone well, it's difficult to say good-bye. But I hope you will join me in being thankful for the time we've had together and trusting, with anticipation, in the good things God still has in store for all of us!

May God bless you as we celebrate our 250th birthday AND as we all move into the next chapter God has for us.

With Heartfelt Thanks,
Pastor Russ



Of Note...



Our Generosity in the First Quarter

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

8% (\$2,218.79) of the First Quarter went to the following programs:

- \$1,000 – Foster Kid Backpack Kit Program
- \$1,000 – Local food pantry
- \$218.79 – Veterans of Foreign War Cemetery Flag Program

2% of your giving went to:

- *January*
 - o \$312.65 – 3rd Floor Project
 - o \$611.53 – Schools for emergency clothing items
- *February*
 - o \$463.63 – Food Pantry
 - o \$463.64 – Kitchen Fund
- *March*
 - o \$658.38 – Vacation Bible School
- *April*
 - o \$761.13 – Hope Family Resource Center
- *May*
 - o \$495.52 – Ministerium Fund (help with utilities for community members)

Thanks for your monthly generosity to the mission and outreach of St. John!



Life can be difficult, but you don't have to go through it alone. Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers who provide one-on-one, confidential, Christ-centered support during life's challenges. Whether you're experiencing grief, illness, or another hardship, a Stephen Minister can walk alongside you with care and prayer. If you or someone you know could use a listening ear and spiritual encouragement, contact Pastor Russ Leeper, Intern Pastor Beth Hurt, or Linda Johnson.

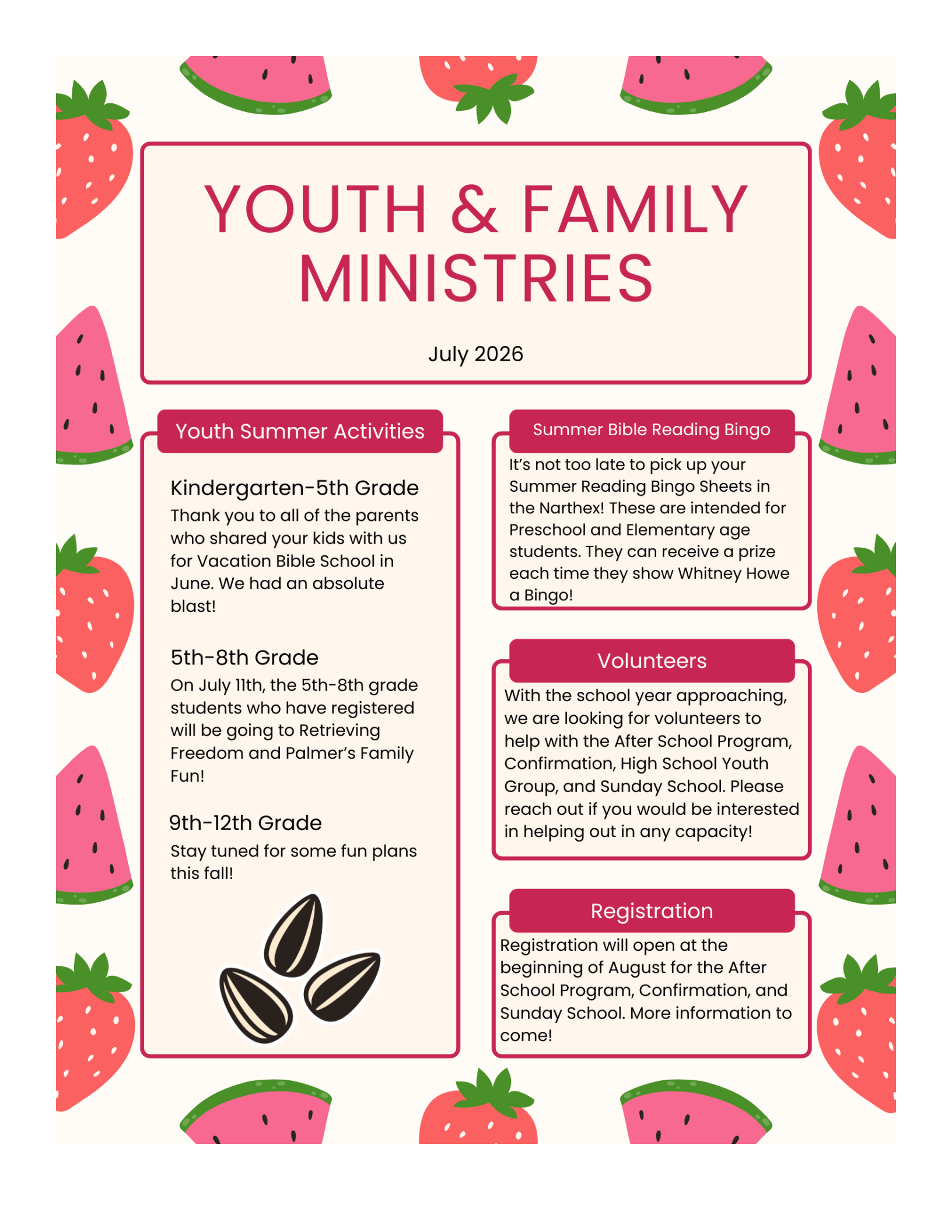
DO YOU REMEMBER THE KAYWOS CLOTH?

This was a very popular product sold by the St. John Women's Ministry before the Covid pandemic and many of you purchased them for gifts and use in your own homes. These cloths have been inquired about several times over the last few years. So, a supply has again been ordered to support the Women's Ministry in our church. The cost is \$3.00 each or 4/\$10.00!

The Kaywos Cloth is a streak free, spot free, lint free and chemical free cleaning cloth. The Kaywos "Zezofiber" cloth cleans with just water. All your glass, mirrors, floors, counters, furniture, stainless, chrome...anything non-porous will come shiny clean with the cloth and water alone! Wet the cloth, wring it out, and you're ready to clean - Never use glass cleaners, polishes and many other chemicals again. The cloth is machine washable with soap and bleach. (Do not use fabric softener or your dryer on the cloth.) The cloth uses absolutely no chemicals to clean and leaves no lint or streaks behind. It measures 15" x 16" and are first quality.

It is estimated that 1 "Kaywos Cloth" replaces 6 bottles of glass cleaner and 12 rolls of paper towels. The "Kaywos Cloth" can also cut cleaning time by up to 70%.

Sounds interesting? Please contact the church office to purchase your Kaywos cloth!



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

July 2026

Youth Summer Activities

Kindergarten-5th Grade

Thank you to all of the parents who shared your kids with us for Vacation Bible School in June. We had an absolute blast!

5th-8th Grade

On July 11th, the 5th-8th grade students who have registered will be going to Retrieving Freedom and Palmer's Family Fun!

9th-12th Grade

Stay tuned for some fun plans this fall!



Summer Bible Reading Bingo

It's not too late to pick up your Summer Reading Bingo Sheets in the Narthex! These are intended for Preschool and Elementary age students. They can receive a prize each time they show Whitney Howe a Bingo!

Volunteers

With the school year approaching, we are looking for volunteers to help with the After School Program, Confirmation, High School Youth Group, and Sunday School. Please reach out if you would be interested in helping out in any capacity!

Registration

Registration will open at the beginning of August for the After School Program, Confirmation, and Sunday School. More information to come!

People's Page...

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

Eugene and Ina Heitz	July 10, 1970
Paul and Mary Augustin	July 12, 1969
Leon and Janice Mulford	July 12, 1975
Dennis and Carol Brahn	July 21, 1974



Memorials were given in memory of...

Charlotte "Sally" Joan Klaver: Daniel & Julia Randall, Stephen & Constance Schiller, Leon & Janice Mulford



July birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

7/3 Loyal McLean ★
 7/8 John Rima ★
 7/9 Robert Peterson ★
 7/11 LaVonne Reysack ★
 7/14 Tilleen Litterer ★
 7/24 Karen Streich ★
 7/29 Glenn Jacobson
 7/31 Anna Mae Woolworth



Celebration of Baptism!

Dylan David LaPolice	May 24, 2026
Melody Estrella Williams	May 31, 2026
Levi Kent Hoeft	June 7, 2026

Confirmation Sunday was June 28, 2026. The following individuals reaffirmed their faith through Confirmation:



Brayden Robert Caffrey
 Isaac Ryan Gassman
 Graham James Hansen
 Sierra Lynn Hinz
 Samuel Ryan Northrop
 Owen William Prichard
 Riley Jean Quade
 Hailey Jean Rule
 Charlie David Sweet
 Benjamin Henry Tracey





Attn:
Kitchen Ladies -
Thank-you for
the amazing
lunch for mom's
(Charlotte Klaver) funeral
Jodie Randall

Thank you for your generous
check donation to our center.
We are truly grateful for your
partnership in our mission.
Because of donors like you,
we can continue to
provide care, encouragement,
and practical resources to
our clients.

God Bless You!

Hope Family Resource Center

Thank you so much for
supporting Hope Family Resource
Ctr here in Charles City.
Because of your generosity we
able to help meet needs to
young women and families
and show them the love of Christ.

Sincerely,
Your friends,
HFRc

Thank you for the scholarship
supporting my education at
NIACC. I appreciate your
support and generosity.

Carson Helm

Thank you for having Rod
on the prayer list. We
greatly appreciate all the
prayers from everyone.
(As for now) I believe we
are doing rather well.
While we are doing the
Immunotherapy every 2 weeks
in hope to move to 4 weeks
(every) in time.

So- let's send them prayers
on to others on the prayer list
for now.

We greatly appreciate you
all.

The Tuckers

Rod & Angie

We will keep in touch if
we're needing back on list. ♥

JULY 2026 AT A GLANCE

July 2026 Schedule

7/1/2026	9:00 a.m.	Do-Day Quilters
7/3/2026		Offices Closed
7/4/2026		Independence Day
7/5/2026	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Communion
7/7/2026	5:30 p.m.	Wine and Word
7/11/2026		Middle School Mini Trip
7/12/2026	9:00 a.m.	Worship
7/15/2026	9:00 a.m.	Do-Day Quilters
	6:00 p.m.	Safety Committee
7/19/2026	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Communion
7/23/2026	1:00 p.m.	Family Pool Meet Up
7/26/2026	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:00 a.m.	Farewell Reception for Pastor
		Russ and Susan



July Board Meetings

Parish Ed.	7/5/2026	10:15 a.m.
Building & Grounds	7/7/2026	5:00 p.m.
Deacons	7/12/2026	10:15 a.m.
Finance	7/14/2026	5:00 p.m.
Church Council	7/14/2026	6:00 p.m.
Caring Ministries	7/15/2026	4:30 p.m.
Stewardship	7/21/2026	5:30 p.m.
Youth & Family	7/28/2026	8:00 a.m.

July 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 Do-Day Quilters 9AM	2	3 Offices Closed for Holiday	4
5 Worship w/Communion 9AM Parish Ed Board 10:15AM	6	7 Building & Grounds Board 5PM Wine and Word 5:30PM	8	9	10	11 MS Mini Trip- Retrieving Freedom/Palmer's
12 Worship 9AM Deacon Board 10:15AM	13	14 Finance Board 5PM Council 6PM	15 Do-Day Quilters 9AM Caring Ministries Board 4:30PM Safety Committee 6PM	16	17	18
19 Worship w/Communion 9AM	20	21 Stewardship Board 5:30PM	22	23 Family Pool Meet Up 1-6PM	24	25
26 Youth & Family Board 8AM Worship 9AM Farewell Reception 10AM	27	28	29	30	31	1

July 2026 Birthdays & Anniversaries...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Jeanette Anderson Blaine Van Ausdall	2 Anna Mehnen Susan Shankland Anniversary: Justin & Rae Lynne Chase	3 Wayne McClintock Loyal McLean Laramie Nordmeyer Karsyn Watkins	4
5 Becky Boerschel Chris Hoefft	6 June Kehret	7 Anniversary: Jordan & Whitney Smith	8 John Rima David Seckar	9 Robert Peterson	10 Jodi Hammond Anniversaries: Eugene and Ina Heitz Dennis and Janet Petefish	11 Jeanne Hansen LaVonne Reysack
12 Lisa Garden Devon Murray Ed Platte Anniversaries: Paul & Mary Augustin Josh & Tara Dean Leon & Janice Mulford	13	14 Tilleen Litterer Anniversary: Jacob & Rachel Page	15 Anniversary: Mark & Skyler Tiedemann	16 Don Holm Rylie Keyes	17	18 Katherine Ortmayer Anniversary: Brian & Kim Watkins
19	20 Craig Begemann Dewey Chase Joslyn Cotton Marron Murray	21 Madelynn Hoefft Jason Korbelt Anniversary: Dennis & Carol Brahn	22 Gloria Hulbert Jackson Mehnen	23 Emily Garden Todd Prichard Anniversaries: Russ & Susan Leeper Levi & Mercedes Wolf	24 Kielyn Bahe Wendy Castillo Karen Streich Anniversaries: Jeremy & Jodi Heyer Keith Westergard & Laurie Jean Kristiansen	25 Ryann Watkins
26 Linda Girken Harley Hinz Jace Montange	27 Anniversary: Guy & Karol Carpenter	28 Landon Schultz Anniversary: Ryan & Shannon Venz	29 Glenn Jacobson Anniversary: Michael & Darci Tracey	30 Ana Blickenderfer Brady Callison Michael Quade Anniversaries: Gary & Julie DeBower Jake & Lori Gassman Wayne & Gina McClintock	31 Kayden McDonald	