

# *THE GOOD NEWSLETTER*

*May 2020*



200 South Main Street  
Charles City, IA  
50616-2751

Phone:  
641-228-3397

Website:  
[www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)

**“God’s Love in Action”**

## Pastor's Note

One of the things I've really been missing during this time of physical distancing is reading Bible stories to our preschool students in person. I've been doing weekly Facebook Live videos, but it's just not the same. I miss seeing their faces as they listen in rapt attention and I miss seeing them all put their thumbs up with me at the end of the story and hearing them exclaim with me, "Our God is awesome!" Our God IS awesome ... even in hard times, even in storms, even in a global pandemic.

I had a parent tell me once that every night before bed they let their preschooler go to the bookshelf and pick out one book for them to read together before going to sleep. On nights when she doesn't want to go to sleep, she always picks her Bible because it's her thickest book and she figures it will allow her to stay up the longest. Smart kid! The Bible is her friend and a help in time of trouble.

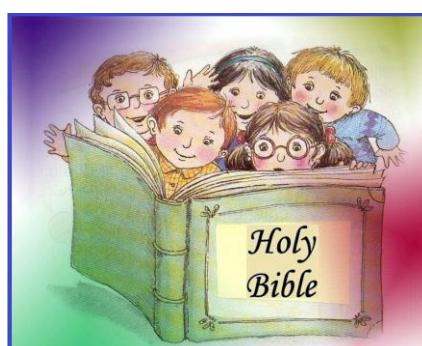
I love it that our preschool students and other St. John kids are learning at an early age, from their teachers and parents, that the Bible is their friend, too. In a very real and concrete way, they also see their Bibles as a help in times of trouble and a refuge when they face the storms of life. As they get older, those troubles will become bigger than having to do what Mom or Dad says, but so will their understanding of the God who walks with them in those troubles. Their storms will become much more profound than having to go to sleep for the night, but so will their sense of the profound love of Christ that surrounds them in those storms. Their Children's Bibles are very basic at this point, but they're just what the kids need right now. Everybody's got to start somewhere. And I'm thankful for our parents and our teachers who are getting them started right.

I think we would all do well to be more like our kids... to turn to the Bible for help in our troubles and shelter in our storms. The books of the Bible offer us some of the most beautiful and comforting words of hope ever written, like:

- "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." *Psalm 34:1*
- "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." *Luke 6:21*
- Jesus said: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." *John 14:27*
- "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, 'Do not fear; I will help you.'." *Isaiah 41:13*
- "The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." *Zephaniah 3:17*

Gorgeous! And there's SO much more! As we go through these troublesome days together, whether your life is just beginning or it's almost time for you to say "Good night", don't forget the friendship, shelter, and hope you have in the words of Scripture. Take it from the kids and take it from me, the Bible can put a grin on your face even in the toughest of times.

Peace,  
Pastor Russ



### **Worship services & activities at St. John are cancelled...However...**

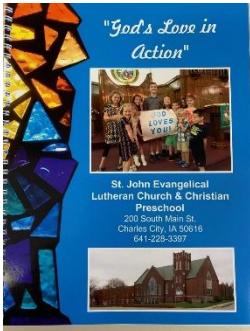
Worship services are being recorded for you to listen to and watch. The Sunday service will be available on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. or a few minutes later on KCHA FM 95.9.

You can also go to [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org), click on "Watch & Listen", then podcast, then choose the date of the service you want to listen to.

To watch the service go to the St. John Facebook page or to YouTube, (search St. John Lutheran, Charles City, Iowa). The E-skinny also provides a link.

**It has been recommended by the Governor of Iowa that all those who can work from home SHOULD work from home.** St. John has the technology that enables the staff to do so. Kathy's work computer has been connected to her home computer. When you call the office please leave a message for Kathy. All messages will be relayed to Kathy. You can also reach her by emailing [khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com).

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



We would like to offer an opportunity to pick up the church directory in a COVID compliant way. On Sunday, May 3, Lydia Johnson will be outside the church between 10 and 11 AM to do a "Drive By Directory Distribution". Drive up in a queue and she will hand the directory through your car window. The directories will have very minimal handling and you can always wipe it down when you get home. If you would like your directory but these times don't work for you, please contact Kathy Hoeft to arrange a drop off/pick up time.

### **Volunteering Opportunities...**

We would like volunteers to call some of our members during this time of isolation. We would like to make a list of people that would like to call and also those that would perhaps enjoy that call.

Another volunteer opportunity would be an "errand group" to help those of you that are older or more health compromised that might need something picked up at the grocery store, etc. We have a member who works in Mason City and has volunteered to run errands to and from there Monday – Thursday.

To volunteer or to have calls and errands done for you call the church office at 641-228-3397 and leave a message for Kathy. You can also email her at [khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com)

### **Also happening...**

- Music at St. John: due to the extension of the "Social Distancing" recommendation of April 30<sup>th</sup> by the federal government, all St. John choirs will not reconvene until the Fall season. However, Melanie asks that if you have a favorite hymn or song that you would like to be part of our electronic worship service or summer worship service when we can come together again as a congregation, to let her or Kathy in the office know. You can reach the office at 641-228-3397 or email Kathy at [khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com)
- We still hope to be able to go on the mission trip & have Vacation Bible School later this summer. See the Youth & Family Coordinator's newsletter article for more information.

## Simply Giving Form

The St. John Stewardship Board would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a simple way you can guarantee your offering to God. It's called **Simply Giving**.

Simply Giving is a stewardship program that allows anyone from St. John the chance to give their offering through electronic funds transfer (EFT) directly from their checking or savings account.

You determine the amount you want to give and the frequency of your giving. Want to give \$50 every week? Perfect! Wish to donate \$125 every other week? You got it! Perhaps you'd like to give \$200 once a month? Absolutely!

It's easy to set up. Fill out this form, attach a voided check or savings deposit slip, put it in the offering plate or return it to the church office.

Simply Giving assures your offering to God is given as you see fit. It's easy, convenient and helps assure that St. John can meet its financial obligations.

For more information, please contact Linda at 641-228-3397.

### St. John Lutheran's Simply Giving "God's Love In Action"

**Your Name**

**Address**

**City, State, Zip**

**Email Address**

**Telephone**

**Contributions:**

1. **Enroll in Simply Giving with my giving going to:**

St. John Ministry Support Plan \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Contribution** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. **I would like to \*change my contribution**

to the following amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Changes can be done by a phone call, a voided check or deposit slip is not required*

**Effective Date of First or Changed Contribution** \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Frequency of Contribution (Total Contribution divided as indicated)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Per Week on Mondays

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Semi-monthly - 1st & 15th

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly on the 1st

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly on the 15th

**Checking/Savings Account Authorization Please Debit my...**

Checking account (Attach voided

check)

Savings account (Attach voided deposit slip)

Routing # \_\_\_\_\_

*Valid routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3*

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to the above account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

*Simply*   
*giving*®

*“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ And he laid his hands on them and blessed them.”*

Matthew 19:14-15

Blessings, Laurie Heidebrink

**YOUTH NEWS:** Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, will be Graduation Sunday.

WIYLDE has been postponed because Synod Assembly has been postponed. I will advertise the new date as soon as I know when it is.

Summer Mission Trip 2020 – We hope to still be going **to North Dakota July 22-26, 2020**. This trip is open to St. John students that have completed 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades and their friends. Get these days on your calendar now and be watching for additional information in upcoming newsletters, bulletins, etc. for updates.

**CONFIRMATION:** Confirmation classes were scheduled to finish on April 29<sup>th</sup>. To keep everyone safe and healthy, we will not gather in groups until the state and county give the okay. So, Pastor Russ and I have decided that we will NOT be meeting (or making up) the last two sessions of confirmation classes or the study session or tests this year. Please email Laurie if you have any questions or concerns.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:** The last day of Sunday School was originally scheduled for Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. I will continue to email activity pages with the page number and Scripture reference of the related Bible Story to the Sunday School parents through at least the end of May.

The Parish Education board would like to thank all our Sunday School teachers, substitutes, helpers and all the parents who brought their children to Sunday School classes. You have **all** made a difference in these kids' faith journeys.



**SAVE THE DATES: July 28-31, 2020 for VBS.** We are still really hoping we can have all your kids attend Tuesday-Friday from 5:30pm-8pm! Look for more information and updates in upcoming newsletters.

## FAMILY BOARD

Since we are not able to spend time together in person, the Family Board created a Charles City Scavenger Hunt as something fun for folks to do while we are spending time apart physically.

The Family Board postponed the Ladies' Luncheon and we will let you know the new date for that event once we decide when that will be.

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM:** Thank you to the St. John bus drivers (Jeremy Heyer, Don Holm, Dave Ripley) who safely delivered the students to us each Wednesday – without the bus many of our friends wouldn't have been able to attend. Thank you to Jessica Hoeft and Rhonda Schmidtke for being co-leaders of this awesome program with me. Thank you to all the Middle School and High School helpers and everyone who donated snacks!

## St. John Graduating Class of 2020

In this unusual year, our graduates may or may not have a Graduation Ceremony. Addresses are included so that cards can be sent to let them know how proud we are of their accomplishments!



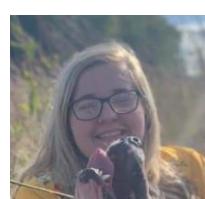
*Mackenzy Marie Bilharz*  
1842 Cedar View Rd, CC



*Lauren Diane Connell*  
507 Sunset Pl, CC



*Joslyn Helena Cotton*  
603 Kellogg St, CC



*Adrianna Theresa Ann Ferch*  
205 Patten Ave, CC



*Kristin Kay George*  
1254 220th Street,  
Ionia 50645



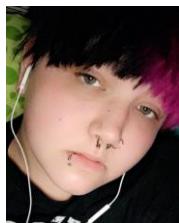
*Lynn Ann Hoeft*  
2451 underwood Ave, CC



*Joseph Harm Heidebrink*  
3061 240<sup>th</sup> St, CC



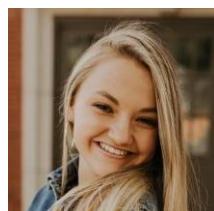
*Alexandria Kristine Litterer*  
1771 Shadow Ave, CC



*Aleiksander Rose Prigge*  
905 8th Ave, CC



*Mindi May Sande*  
1782 Maple Dr, CC



*MaKenna Lynn Schmiedel*  
303 Kelly St, CC



*Alexis Kay Vance*  
595 Redwood Ave, CC



*Brooke Ranae Vance*  
2065 Noble Ave, CC

*Not pictured...*

Cassie Lilas DeBower: 2277 Timber Avenue,  
Jacie Ann Wink: 300 Charles St, CC

***Jeremiah 29:11-14 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.***

## St. John Christian Preschool

We have made it through another great year at St. John Christian Preschool, even under such crazy circumstances. Friday, May 8th will be our last day of the 2019-2020 school year. Even through this pandemic quarantine, it's so refreshing knowing our families were still able to get outside to enjoy God's beautiful world! However, we're saddened that we cannot be with our students during their last days at SJCP, especially our older friends who will be going off to Kindergarten. But we know that they will be given a whole new and exciting learning experience.

Our preschool friends ended their school year **ONLINE!** As everyone is aware, our preschool has been closed since March 6. March 9-13 we were on Spring Break, and then the Coronavirus pandemic forced all of the schools in the state to shut down through the end of school year, which is May 8th for us. We continue with the different daily themes: Make It Monday (crafts/projects), Story Time Tuesday (we read 3-4 stories associated with the theme of the week), Worship Wednesday (devotion/praise music), Thinking Thursday (learn something new/ STEM experiments), and Foodie Friday (kitchen creations)! All lessons are done **LIVE** daily on our Facebook page, beginning around 1:00pm! Join us!! We also meet weekly with each class via Zoom to check-in, chat, and to just see our friends!!

Unfortunately, we were unable to do our end-of-the-year field trips...so we did them **VIRTUALLY!!** We "visited" the Charles City Public Library and the Charles City Police Department! Miss Stacey, the children's librarian, visited us via Zoom and read several books and we even got to sing some of our favorite library songs! We also got a visit from Officer Duane Ollendick at the CCPD! He gave us a **VIRTUAL** tour of the police station!! It was so fun!! Thank you to both Miss Stacey and Officer Ollendick for your flexibility during these strange times!

We have also started to work on beginning plans for the 2020-2021 school year. We have been blessed with a great start to our registration! We have some openings, but are filling up fast. If you know someone who is interested in attending, please encourage them to **EMAIL** us at this time, [wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com). We thank God that our ministry dedicated to providing a loving, Christian, educational environment for little ones is still going strong and we thank you for helping us spread the word!

Lastly, we would like to thank everyone who purchased cupcakes from our preschoolers for our All-School fundraiser! **HOWEVER**, we have a **NEW** pick-up date, Thursday, May 14. We will let everyone know about the time as it grows closer. We were able to raise more money than we thought during such a socially distant time! So thank you to our preschoolers who did sell and thank you to those who purchased!!

Have a great summer and **THANK YOU** for all that you do! Stay safe and stay healthy!!

With HIS love,

Whittney Franke



**May Birthdays**

8 <sup>th</sup>	Norma Breitbach	29 <sup>th</sup>	Sharon Stanbro
11 <sup>th</sup>	Marilyn Obermeier	29 <sup>th</sup>	Ed Benedict
16 <sup>th</sup>	Marilyn Scholle	29 <sup>th</sup>	Herbert Hinz
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Alvin Davidson	31 <sup>st</sup>	Margaret Schultz
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Edna Stott	31 <sup>st</sup>	Jerry Meader
26 <sup>th</sup>	Marjorie Gardner		

**Anniversaries**

May 3, 1958	Leon & Shirley Hall
May 17, 1969	Sherman & Diane Loudermilk
May 28, 1960	Cal & Joyce Wood



St. John's Parent Support Group will be meeting on an **as needed basis ONLY**. Anyone who needs to meet should contact Jill Connell at 319-215-8252 or [jillconnell@hotmail.com](mailto:jillconnell@hotmail.com).

*Memorials were given in memory of...*

**Doris Thorson:** Ron & Connie Rasmussen, Dale & Helen Bond, Georgie Miller, Larry Michehl, Lorraine Duffy, Alan & Penny Thorson, Marian Hinkelman

**Rev. Dr. Paul Mork:** Diane Melrose, Kay Tjaden, Leon & Jan Mulford, Robert & Helen Peterson, Kip & Judy Hauser

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Kiki Connell	Anastasia Baldus Colton Baldus Wolfgang Baldus Kaleb Bilharz
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ellie Lantz	Jacob Greenzweig Hudson Hinz	Ayden Gilliland	Stacey Vance	Joseph Heidebrink	Norma Breitbach	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Amy Kubik Vicki Schroeder	Brandon Franke Eric Johanningmeier Marilyn Obermeier Sara Sharp Michael Tracey Blair Walker	Jessica Carolan Jennifer Davidson Joel Holthaus Damon Sickman Larry Tommings Roger Townsend	Joshua Dean	Larry Bohner Scott Vance	Bryce Caffrey Dennis Carr	Kaleb Cotton David Schweizer
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Mary Augustin Brad Bailey Marian Dight Brinlee Merrifield Virginia Titus	Larry Michehl	Martha Brunner Tyler Hicks Dorothy Parson	Joyce Boehmer Candice Lumley		Al Davidson Madilyn Lessin Edna Stott	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Addison Merrifield	Taylor Quade Wendy Vance	Marjorie Gardner Russ Leeper Sandra Link	Matt Selvig Patricia Townsend	Brandon Castillo Deven Castillo	Edwin Benedict Herbert Hinz Tino Tamayo	Jacqueline Moon Emma Prichard
31						
Gaylen Hicok Randall Kreger Betty Manning Margaret Schultz						