

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



**September
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: 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 Olesen
businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

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



Diane Sande, Church Council President

September brings lots of changes not only in the weather but in the activities at St. John. Sunday School, After School Program, and Confirmation will be starting up, resulting in many opportunities for members to volunteer with these activities. Whether you can help out each week or once in a while, your talents and expertise will always be welcome. Contact Whitney Howe to be a part of these important ministries.

The **Call Committee** had a busy August beginning their work on the Ministry Site Profile and church video. They have been actively brainstorming ideas for our promotional video and will be seeking out members to participate in this opportunity. As we continue to move forward keep in mind that it is a great opportunity for you to be an active part in the church and assist our committee in the choice for a new pastor.

The **Transition Team** continues to work towards filling our pastoral needs. This is a great opportunity for our congregation to experience a variety of styles and types of pastors, remembering that our new pastor will have their own ideas and ways of doing things. If you have any ideas for events or messages during the sermon times, reach out to Transition Team members.

Welcoming Committee- To ensure that our supply pastors feel welcome, we are asking congregation members to volunteer to meet with the pastors prior to the service to review any questions and help them feel more comfortable. The responsibilities of these members will be to greet the pastor, provide guidance on equipment, give a brief tour of the building and provide any assistance that may be helpful during the service. You will also be asked to begin the service and will have a script to guide you. Contact Becky Meyer if you are interested in being a part of this group.

Blessings,

Diane



Thank you note from Pastor Russ and Susan:

Dear friends at St. John,

We were overwhelmed and so touched in all the kind ways you showed your appreciation for us in the days and weeks as we left St. John for retirement. Our last weeks in Charles City were a blur! We felt your love in all the small conversations after church or in the grocery store. Our final Sunday was a day filled with laughter and tears, affirming the good work and ministry we accomplished together with God's help. We're still enjoying the video ...all those faces through the years, especially the kids! We're still taking in all the names and pictures on the beautiful quilt. And we're still giving thanks for our years at St. John. Thank you for sending us off in the best way!

Peace,

Pastor Russ and Susan

Thank You...

St John Even. Lutheran Church
Thank you beyond words
for your recent donation
to the Floyd County Food
Pantry! The food pantry
experienced record numbers
in July - 200 households
and 464 individuals.
Food is a basic human right.
Thank you for supporting the
pantry and helping those
facing food insecurity.
Jan Burton
Floyd Co Food Pantry

Of Note...

The Safety Committee is looking for more members!

- Meet once a month
- You can join part-time or full-time
- Zoom meetings are possible if you need them



This committee is structuring guidelines of safety for the church. They are also creating procedures to keep our church community safe. Contact Tara in the office if you are interested in joining. 641-228-3397 or office@stjohncharlescacity.com



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 Linda Johnson.

Your **St. John Lutheran Church Scholarship Committee** met at the end of the second quarter and reviewed the six applications which had been received at the church office by May 1, 2025. The principal sections of the application are divided into **general background, church activities, good citizenship, and career interest**. It is important to be aware that the applicants' names are removed from each application by the church office before they look them over, so that the committee has no knowledge of what the name of each applicant is as they look them over.

The committee unanimously moved to grant each applicant \$1000.00 for the 2026-27 academic year. The office has informed us that the six grant recipients are:

Bennett Hansen

Carson Holm

Tayleigh Lantz

Jadyn Van Horn

Bryce Walker

The Saint John Lutheran Church Scholarship Committee is composed of: Shirley Holm, Cherie Schafer, Kay Tjaden, and Kip Hauser, Chair.

The **grants** of the Scholarship Committee are available to **any St. John Lutheran member** who wishes to **enhance their education** whether at a **junior college, a trade school, a four year college, or a professional college which is a "non Epic supported college."** The Scholarship Committee is supported by the generous contributions made through memorial gifts and contributions. Thank you!

St. John also awarded one EPIC grant. The Education Partners in Covenant (EPIC) grant is a cooperative matching grant venture between congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and participating Lutheran colleges. Blake Dean received \$750 from St. John to be matched by Wartburg College.

Congratulations to all who received these awards to further their education!

MUSIC AT ST. JOHN

Trinity Choir will start rehearsals on Wednesday, September 30, at 7:00 pm. Trinity Choir will plan to sing about twice a month. Any new members, as well as past members are welcome to join us. Anyone from 6th Grade and up is welcome. Students may use this for silver cord hours. This group is very non-threatening and enjoys having a good time while praising God. Please come join us. We would really like to see our numbers grow. Come and bring a friend. Any questions may be directed to Melanie Johanningmeier at (641) 330-0963.

Kids Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 30 from 4:30-5:00 pm in the sanctuary. Kids Choir is open to kids in Kindergarten-5th grade. All After School Program kids will be participating in Kids Choir as a part of the After School Program. Any kids who do not go to After School Program are also welcome to be a part of Kids Choir. Kids choir will include music activities, movement and singing. Kids Choir typically sings at about one service per month. Any questions may be directed to Melanie Johanningmeier at (641) 330-0963.

Tone Chime Choir Tara Dean will direct the Tone Chime Choir again this year. Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 30th. Rehearsals will be held at 6:00 pm in the chapel. Tone Chime Choir will play for services several times throughout the year. Anyone from 6th grade and up is welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please contact Tara Dean at (319) 230-6427.

the Chitans

The Chitan Family Singers will be singing at St. John Lutheran Church on Sunday, September 13th. International recording artists, The Chitans are a family in full-time ministry from Toronto, Canada, whose sweet harmony is what you can only get from a family who joins their voices together in praise to the Lord.

The Chitans consist of five siblings, Kaiziah, 28, Kayandra, 26, Jesse, 24, Jayden, 22, and Karlainah, 19. The siblings have been singing together for eleven years. They and their parents, Layne and Karen, have been taking their music ministry on the road for the past seven years.

Their music encompasses Southern Gospel, Contemporary Christian, Black Gospel,



Caribbean, and traditional Hymns. Incorporating various styles in their concerts is what makes this unique blending of these styles truly special.

Although they are young, their ministry has taken them throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean. While ministering in churches, schools, civic and cultural gatherings, hospitals, prisons, or on the streets, the heartbeat of this family group is to point souls to Jesus Christ.

Besides singing, they minister through musical instruments including the steel pan (a musical instrument native to the Caribbean) which they have featured in several concerts. They also minister through clothing, food and scholastic drives, aid in construction and any capacity that they can be of service in.

They received from the United States of America the Congressional Award in 2012 for volunteer work done on the streets of Brooklyn, New York and the President's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023 for volunteer work done throughout the US.

They have also shared the stage with such gospel music greats as Bill Gaither and his Homecoming Friends, Lynda Randle, The Talleys, The Collingsworth Family, Karen Peck and New River, and Wintley Phipps, to name a few.

Their music ministry has also taken them to many prestigious venues and events. They have performed on Capitol Hill, The White House, NQC, The Ark Encounter, the Brooklyn Tabernacle, Singing In the Sun at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, the Gatlinburg Gathering, Daystar television network and 3ABN television.

The Chitans are great examples and role models to Christian youth, but their musical ministry presentation appeals to people of all ages.

It is their desire to carry out the great command in Matthew 28:19 & 20 and, in the process, fulfill their motto "to inspire, inform and challenge a new generation of God-fearing leaders, to rise up, straighten up and take their rightful place in their homes, churches, communities and the world."

Whether you're streaming their latest song, listening to them on Christian radio, or seeing them in concert, you can be sure that you will be challenged, encouraged, and ready to hear more from this inspiring family, The Chitans.



Kans for Kids: Small Cans, Big Impact!

Have you ever wondered what happens to the cans that are donated to **Kans for Kids**? Those cans – and the generosity of our congregation and community – are making a real difference in the lives of the children and youth of our church!

The money raised through our can redemption program is used to help fund and reimburse expenses for youth activities and programs. Here are just some of the ways Kans for Kids has supported our children and youth:

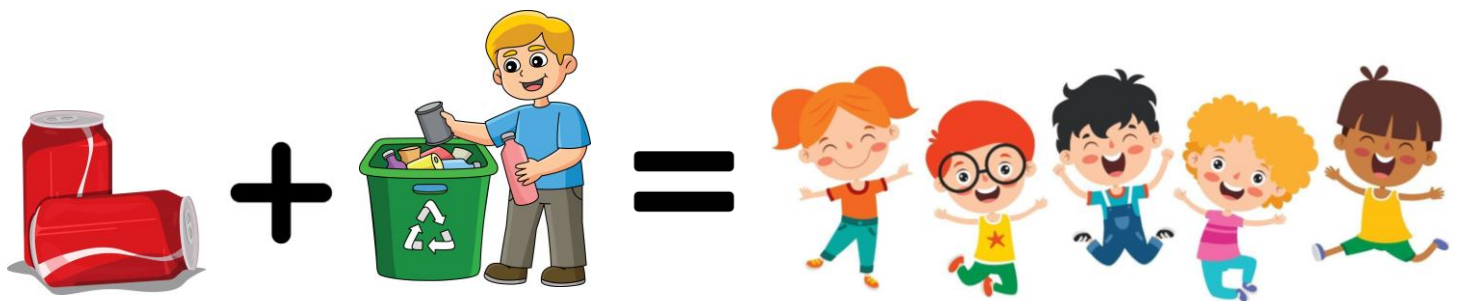
- **VBS registration fees**, helping make Vacation Bible School accessible for our children
- **The 5th-8th Grade Youth Trip to Palmer's Family Fun in Waterloo**, providing our youth with an opportunity to have fun and build friendships together
- **Jump ropes for the Jump Rope Clinic on Rally Sunday**, helping make a fun and active event possible for our children
- **Items for children's sermons**, providing hands-on materials that help make the message meaningful and engaging for our youngest members
- **Boomwhackers for the Children's Choir and After-School Program**, giving our children a fun and creative way to make music together
- **Reimbursements for food and snacks** purchased by individuals for youth activities throughout the year

What may seem like a small contribution – a bag of cans – can become something much bigger. It can become a VBS experience, a fun youth outing, a musical instrument, a snack shared with friends, or an object that helps a child better understand a Bible lesson.

The Stewardship Board would like to say **thank you** to everyone who donates cans, takes them to be redeemed, and supports Kans for Kids. Your generosity is helping provide opportunities for our children and youth to **learn, grow, laugh, serve, and build their faith together**.

Keep those cans coming! Every can makes a difference, and together, those little cans are helping make a big impact in the lives of our church's children and youth.

Thank you for investing in our kids!



BEHIND THE (Kitchen) SCENE...

Wow! Is there ever a lot to talk about this month!

Have you been in the kitchen lately? We have a beautiful new stove with 2 ovens and an upright oven unit. We now have additional oven space but not as many burners. We found that we were struggling with getting all the food in the oven while we never used all 16 burners.



We have a much cooler kitchen now. The 16-burner stove also had 16 pilot lights that heated the kitchen to uncomfortable temperatures. It was not unusual to see the air conditioners turned on in the kitchen during the winter!!!! So come in and see the new equipment. It sure is pretty!

Next, we are hoping to be able to purchase a new dishwasher. Our current dishwasher is of 1990's vintage and is in desperate need of being replaced. The sanitizing unit is zip-tied together to keep it functional and anchored to the unit with zip ties, too. It fell off the unit last year and **the part needed to keep it working is no longer available – as are all parts for this model and year** of dishwasher. If it breaks down, we will be doing dishes by hand. That is something no one wants to do! So, as the money becomes available and we can order the dishwasher we have chosen to have installed, we will be able to proceed. When it is said that the kitchen is the most expensive room in the house, they weren't exaggerating!

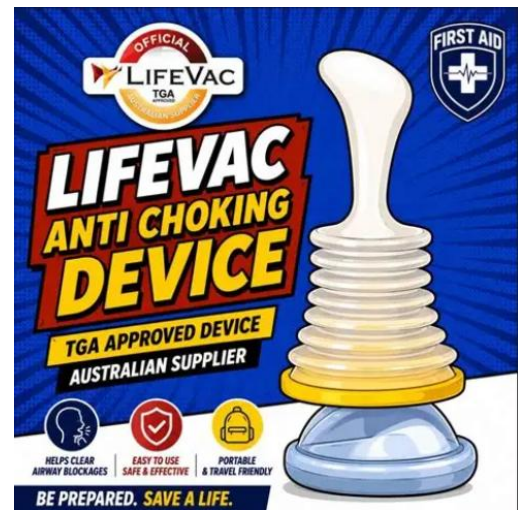
Our kitchen crew is looking forward to the start of the year, and we hope that many children and adults once again take advantage of our Wednesday night suppers. We enjoy cooking for you and being part of the Wednesday night activities. Every year is different and we are amazed at the growth and changes in our youth from year to year.

If you have an over-abundance of produce from your gardens that you would like to share, give the church office a call. We will work it into our menus for Wednesday night. If it is enough for one meal or many meals, please give us a call. We have freezer space!!

If you think you would like to be part of the kitchen crew, please give one of us a call and we will visit with you about what our day in the kitchen typically looks like. There is always something to do when we are preparing the meals. We would welcome you!

(Kathy's letter is continued on the next page...)

And finally: We have been given an item I sincerely hope we never have to use! It is to be used in the event that someone is choking and helps to get the obstruction removed. I haven't had the time to really look at it yet, but it will be mounted in the kitchen and be visible to anyone that needs it to help someone with this emergency. Just like the fire blankets available for use in the kitchen, I sincerely hope we never have to use them.



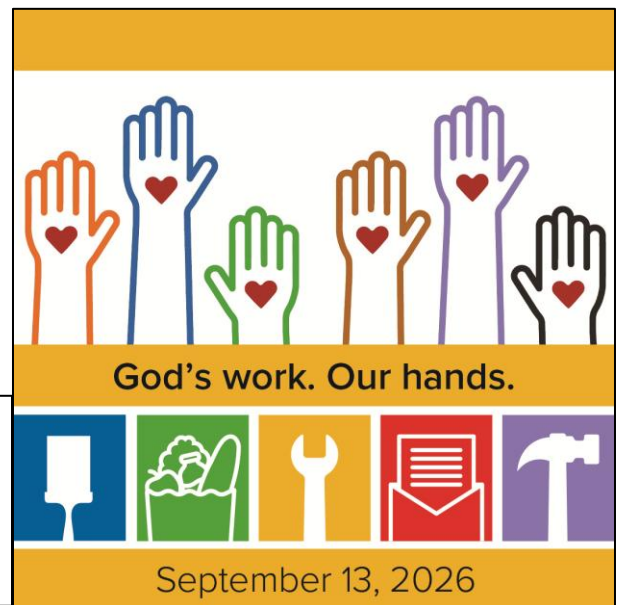
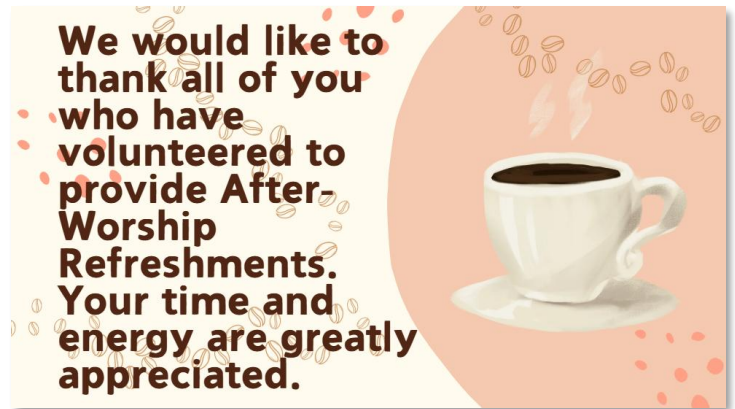
So, it has been a busy summer. And it will be very good to see all of you again.

Kathy

Our kitchen is where I see "God's love in action" all the time. Please consider joining us. If you have any questions or would like to work with us at some point, please give us a call! My telephone number is 641 228-6927 and my email address is ctrygma@gmail.com.

Kathy Crooks





GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
 If you would like to volunteer to help our community, sign-up sheets are on the whiteboard in the Narthex.



The Amazon wish list is for school supplies to go to our local schools for God's Work, Our Hands. If you are not "tech savvy," please consider donating money for the committee to purchase these items.

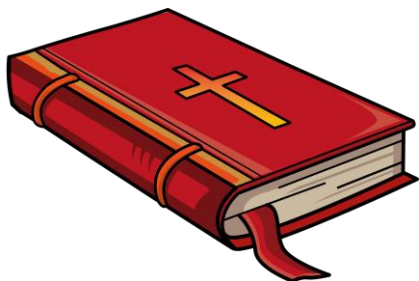


Let's Grow in Faith Together!



DO YOU WANT TO BE A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER?

Please inform someone from the Parish Ed. There will also be an orientation on Sept. 20th following worship. This is an excellent opportunity to share your love of Christ with our youth and to help them grow in faith.



Please register for the youth programs by September 1st!!

Sunday School Registration & Volunteer Sign Up



After School Program
Registration &
Volunteer Sign Up

Confirmation Registration & Volunteer Sign Up



High School Youth Group
Registration &
Volunteer Sign Up

Wine & Word
Women's Bible Study



Next Meeting: September 1st @ 5:30pm
Join us as we work through the
Abide Bible Course

Meeting at Brenda Bailey's House
Questions? Need Brenda's address?
Contact Whitney Howe by emailing
yfcoordinator@stjohncharlescitiy.com



Upcoming Dates for our Youth and Adult Volunteers

September 20th

Sunday School Teacher Orientation

- Following Worship
- Parish Hall

September 23rd

All Wednesday Programming Volunteer Orientation

- After School Program | Confirmation | HS Youth Group
- 4:00 p.m.
- Parish Hall

Confirmation Orientation

- 6:00 p.m.
- Parish Hall
- 7th-9th Graders and Parents

September 27th

Youth-Led Worship Service

- Preschool-12th Grade students are encouraged to participate
- Sign up at the Welcome Center

Rally Sunday

- Following Worship
- Jump Rope Clinic

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

September 2026



Youth Activities

After School Program

The After School Program will officially resume on September 30th! We are looking forward to watching the kids grow in their faith this year!

Confirmation

Orientation will be September 23rd and then our first official night will be September 30th. We are re-structuring the program this year, so make sure you attend orientation to learn more!

High School Youth Group

We can't wait to get this group started again for this school year starting September 30th! This year we are excited to learn together by using resources from TENx10. Our leaders are hoping to see many new faces this year!

Volunteers

If you feel called to serve in St. John's youth programs, it's the perfect time to get involved! There is a Sunday School Teacher Orientation meeting on September 20th or a Wednesday Night Volunteer Meeting on September 23rd. If you can't make it to either meeting, please contact Whitney Howe to get more information.

God's Work. Our Hands.

"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday will be September 13th this year. This is an opportunity for individuals and families of St. John to come together and serve our community. We hope you will join us!

Orientations

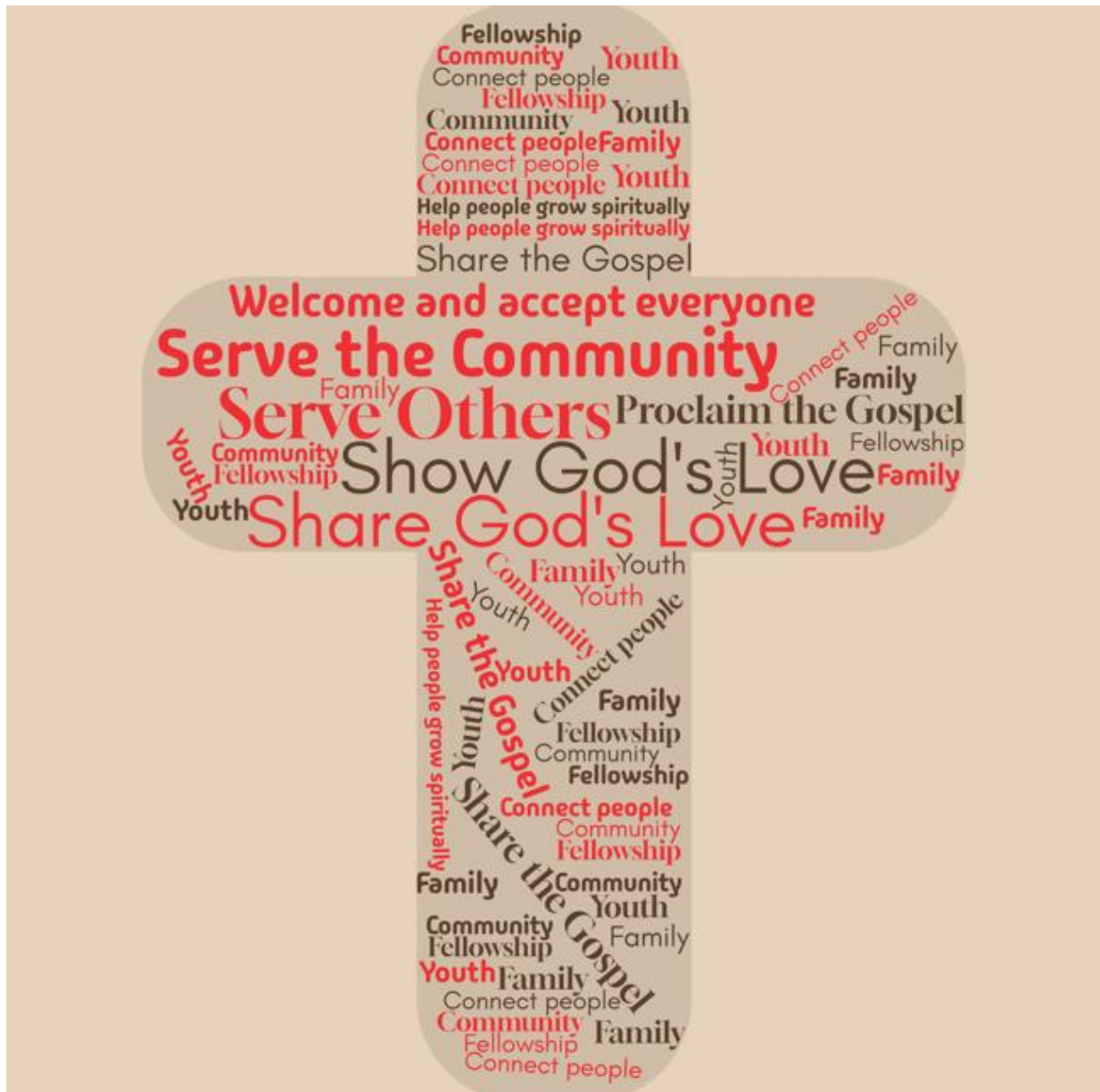
We have two orientations coming up:
September 20th | Following Worship
Sunday School Teacher Orientation
September 23rd | 6:00 p.m.
Confirmation Orientation

Update from the Call Committee:

The Call Committee met on Tuesday, August 25, to continue the process of preparing our church's Ministry Site Profile. During our meeting, we reviewed the results of the congregation survey and used your thoughtful responses to help guide us as we worked through the questions on the Ministry Site Profile. This profile will be submitted to the Synod and will serve as an important introduction to our congregation for potential pastors. It will help prospective candidates learn about who we are as a church, what is important to us, the ministries and gifts we have to offer, and what we are seeking in our next pastor.

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to complete the survey and share their thoughts. Your input is an important part of this process and helps ensure that our congregation's voice is represented as we look toward the future of our ministry together.

Question 1: What is our purpose as a church? The congregation responded with:



Question 2: What are we looking for in our next pastor? The congregation responded with:



People's Page...

Memorials were given in memory of...

Margaret "Maggie" Schultz: Tilleen Litterer

*With sympathy, we recognize the
passing of:*

Helen Hagen

Dorothy Watson

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

Bill and Sharon Bledsoe	9/4/1965
Monte and Kathleen Waldorf	9/4/1971
James and Jacqueline Moon	9/6/1970
Glenn and Diann Jacobson	9/8/1956
Gary and Sandra Marth	9/8/1968

September birthdays 80 & older!

Sondra Coen	9/1/1942
Robert Tommingo	9/6/1927
Norma McLean	9/8/1934
David Ripley	9/11/1939
Peg Poppen	9/11/1936
James Reysack	9/13/1940
Leland Lumley	9/17/1944
Larry Brewer	9/17/1934
Larry Coen	9/18/1940
Lyneen Brunsting	9/21/1940



Acolytes for September Sundays:

Sept. 6: Isaac Gassman, Graham Hansen

Sept. 13: Isaac Gassman, Blair Walker

Sept. 20: Blair Walker, Hazel Hansen

Sept. 27: Alesia Garden, Hazel Hansen

September 2026 Schedule...

9/1/2026	5:00 p.m.	Building & Grounds Board Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Wine and Word
9/2/2026	9:00 a.m.	Do-Day Quilters
	4:00 p.m.	Mobile Food Bank
9/6/2026	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Communion
		Pastor Norm Bauer
		Gatorade Game
	10:15 a.m.	Parish Ed Board Meeting
9/7/2026	Labor Day	Offices Closed
9/8/2026	5:00 p.m.	Finance Board Meeting
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
9/9/2026	4:30 p.m.	Caring Ministries Board Meeting
9/13/2026	8:00 a.m.	Youth and Family Board Meeting
	9:00 a.m.	Worship
		Chitan Family Singers
		God's Work, Our Hands
9/15/2026	5:30 p.m.	Stewardship Board Meeting
9/16/2026	9:00 a.m.	Do-Day Quilters
	6:00 p.m.	Safety Committee Meeting
9/20/2026	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Communion
		Pastor Stacey Nalean-Carlson
		Sunday School Teacher Orientation
9/22/2026	5:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministries Supervision
9/23/2026	4:00 p.m.	Newsletter Deadline
	4:00 p.m.	Wed. Programming Volunteer Orientation
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Orientation
9/27/2026	9:00 a.m.	Worship
		Youth-Led Worship
		Teacher Installation
		Rally Sunday
9/30/2026	3:15 p.m.	After School Program Begins
	4:15 p.m.	Kids' Choir Begins
	5:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class Begins
	6:00 p.m.	Tone Chime Choir Begins
	7:00 p.m.	Trinity Choir Begins
	7:00 p.m.	Youth Group Begins



Board Meetings

Building and Grounds	9/1	5:00 p.m.
Parish Ed	9/6	10:15 a.m.
Finance	9/8	5:00 p.m.
Council	9/8	6:00 p.m.
Caring Ministries	9/9	4:30 p.m.
Youth & Family	9/13	8:00 a.m.
Stewardship	9/15	5:30 p.m.
Deacons	Sept. meeting in Aug.	

September 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 Building & Grounds 5PM Wine and Word 5:30PM	2 Do-Day Quilters 9AM Mobile Food Pantry 4PM	3	4	5
6 Worship w/Communion Gatorade Game Parish Ed 10:15AM	7 Labor Day Offices Closed	8 Finance Meeting 5PM Council Meeting 6PM	9 Caring Ministries 4:30PM	10	11	12
13 Youth & Family 8AM Worship Chitan Family Singers God's Work, Our Hands	14	15 Stewardship 5:30PM	16 Do-Day Quilters 9AM Safety Committee 6PM	17	18	19
20 Worship w/Communion Sunday School Teacher Orientation	21	22 Stephen Ministries Supervision 5:30PM	23 Newsletter Deadline 4PM Wed. Programming Volunteer Orientation 4PM Confirmation Orientation 6PM	24	25	26
27 Worship--Youth-Led Teacher Installation Rally Sunday	28	29	30 ASP Kids' Choir Wednesday Night Supper Confirmation Tone Chime Choir Trinity Choir HS Youth Group	1	2	3

September 2026 Birthdays & Anniversaries...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	
	Sondra Coen	Samantha Norton	Hallie Kubik Anniversary: Gary and Wendy Vance	Yolanda Van Ausdall Anniversaries: Bill and Sharon Bledsoe Monte and Kathy Waldorf	Sandra Dugan Rory Streich Anniversary: Ethan and Keegan Voelker	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Seth Nordmeyer Bob Tommingo Emersyn Unga Anniversary: Jim and Jacque Moon	Gloria Carr Lauren Connell	Linda Reit Anniversaries: Glenn and Diann Jacobson Gary and Sandra Marth	Dax Johnson Judy Kock Stanley Mehmen	Gracie Ferch Carolyn Marth	Marcia Grimm Peg Poppen David Ripley Anniversaries: Tom and Pam Litterer Mitchell and Chasity Engelhardt	Kendra Buenger Justin Chase Anniversaries: Tom and Pam Litterer Mitchell and Chasity Engelhardt
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Jim Reysack	Ethan Voelker	Barry Sweet Anniversaries: Roger and Patricia Townsend Mike and Tammy Quade	Whitney Smith Brenda Stone Matt Wolf Whitney Smith	Dennis Brahn Larry Brewer Jenisha Garden Leland Lumley Anniversary: Tony and Jennifer Lessin	Larry Coen JoAnn Hervert Becky Meyer	Frank Anderson Alexandria Gebel Jadyn VanHorn
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Anniversary: Evan and Sadie Schmidtko	Tom Heddens		Bob Brede	Justin Heyer Kent Hoeft Kurt Hoeft Anniversary: Landon and Jessie Schultz		Jack Murray Jean Rima Sophie Wilkens
27	28	29	30			
Sarah George	Kristin Brockney Carleen Laue	Isaac Gassman	Peggy Andrews Drake O'Brien Rachel Page Anniversary: Jim and Annette Tupy			