

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

July 2021



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

“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 Kathy at
khoeft@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

Rev. Anita Nuetzman
Part time Visitation/Preaching Pastor

Office Secretary: Kathy Hoeft
khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Linda Hughes
lhughes@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

Youth & Family Coordinator:
Laurie Heidebrink
lheidebrink@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor Anita Nuetzman:

Pastor/Priest \ PA-stuhr/preest\ n.

A sinner who is so aware of the power of sin in his or her own life that he or she feels called by the Holy Spirit to announce that God loves sinners.

--- from *Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Dictionary of Theological Terms*, Rolf A. Jacobson, Editor, Augsburg Books, 2008, p. 127.

When I meet someone for the first time, I try to avoid telling them what I do unless they ask directly. Because more often than not, their first reaction is to cover their mouth with one hand and gasp, “Oh my gosh! I hope I didn’t swear!!”

Relax. I didn’t spend four years of my life and tens of thousands of dollars on books and tuition just to police profanity. It really is the least of my concerns. In fact, I’ve been known to swear on occasion, too. Here’s another shocker for you: I enjoy craft beers.

If that shatters your image of what a pastor should be like, so be it.

Because there’s no one more surprised that I’m a pastor than I am. Ministry wasn’t part of my plans. I never expected to get past the first interview with the Assistant to the Bishop, much less accepted into seminary, pass Greek, or clear the many other hurdles one must in order to be ordained. That’s *not* a backdoor way of fishing for compliments, so please don’t try extra hard to reassure me; I just don’t think of myself as someone who deserves this rare privilege.

But that’s the thing; nobody is. Because pastors are sinners, just like everyone else.

Yep, every single one you’ve ever had in the last 149 years of St. John’s history. Sinners. All of ‘em. Sure, sometimes it’s more *visible* than others, but there’s not a one who wasn’t (or isn’t) a sinner. Some of us are just more up front about it and that makes folks uncomfortable sometimes because they want their pastor to be holier than they are, a shining example of Christian living.

That’s the *expectation*, and pastors may even perpetuate that myth, that they are somehow an improved version of humanity, but the reality is, we can’t *really* do any better job than any of you. We are still subject to the same kinds of temptations and weaknesses as every other human being.

My prayers are not better than yours. My faith isn’t stronger than yours. Many of you have committed more scripture to memory than I have. Reciting the Catechism was never a requirement for me.

So why the heck is someone like *me* serving a congregation? Only by the grace of God, who has called me to utilize the gifts I have for the sake of the good news of Jesus Christ, at this time, in this place, as affirmed by your votes on June 13. Believe me, it’s not as if I haven’t *tried* to say no, but as a wise pastor once told me, “God always wins.”

Think you’re exempt from being called because you’re not holy or smart or faithful enough? Think again. God calls *everybody* in some way, shape or form.

“...the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ...”

---- from Luther’s explanation to the Third Article of the Creed.

So, it’s not a matter of “if” God is calling *you*, but “how?” Your prior record is not a disqualifier, and neither are your faults. Whenever you hear it, you might just as well answer the same thing we pastors do in our ordination,

“I will, and I ask God to help me.”

Yours by the grace of God,

Pastor Anita

OF NOTE...



Following CDC guidance,
masks are **NO** longer required for fully vaccinated people in the building.
However, those who are not fully vaccinated or at high risk from the COVID-19 virus are strongly encouraged to wear a mask.
Everyone is welcome!

In 2020 St. John had provided worship by video on our Website & YouTube. Attendance at in person worship has been rising and it has been decided that starting in June we will provide videos 2 times per month.

Videos will be provided on July 11, July 25, August 1 & August 15.

The radio broadcast will continue EVERY Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

Our Generosity in May

Your offerings to St. John were shared beyond our walls in May in the Following ways:

8% of our regular May offering (\$2202.69) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In May (\$701.51) was given to the Foster Grandparent Program in honor of Evelyn Schmidt, long time foster grandparent for St. John Christian Preschool.

Altar Flower & Radio Sign-up: If you would like to sign up to sponsor the Altar flowers &/or the radio broadcast contact Kathy in the office at 641-228-3397! We will continue to have flowers as they are on the online service & the radio broadcast reaches many of our at home congregation!

HAPPENINGS...



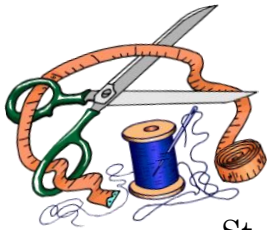
St. John Sesquicentennial 2022: It is time to start planning! We can plan for a lot of little things or one big thing, but whatever we do it will take some forethought.

We would like to have a meeting **at 10:15 a.m. on July 18th in the Parish Hall.** With something as important to our congregation as this there should be involvement from every board and people of varied talents throughout our church family. Youth, music, crafters even possibly sports ideas could be ideas to toss around. After covid we deserve something to look forward to. This sort of thing only happens with “many hands making light work”. Everyone has some kind of talent that can be shared.

Possible activities include.... We could have a historical Sunday A few of us worked on putting together scrapbooks and gathered historical documents before covid stopped us. We could celebrate old fashioned music at designated times throughout the year. How about an old-fashioned baseball game with people wearing jeans and chambray shirts or bib over-all's and/or women with long dresses. What kind of old games could we come up with for a picnic on the lawn. Start forming some ideas and please come to the meeting to get things rolling.

If you can't attend July 18th, please let Kathy know that you are interested.

Janet Petefish



Do Day Quilters

St. John has a group called “*Do Day Quilters*”. They make tied quilts to donate to the local homeless shelters. They will begin meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (July 21) from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (bring a sack lunch). All are welcome to come! You don't need to be an experienced quilter to help out! If you are interested in joining the quilters, call Kathy in the office at 641-228-3397 for more information!



Vacation Bible School is coming July 26 - 29th!

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Who: Preschool age - 5th grade

Theme: "Rocky Railway - Jesus Loves to Pull Us Through"

Cost: Free! Thanks to Stewardship Board's Kans for Kids program!

Registration information will be available soon.

People's Page...

July birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

7/3 Loyal McLean
7/4 Judith Troge
7/8 Lola Vest
7/9 Bob Peterson
7/11 Bobby Wolff
7/13 Evelyn Schmidt
7/13 Carl Johnson
7/14 Tilleen Litterer
7/20 Shirley Ripley
7/21 Patricia Miller
7/24 Karen Streich
7/29 Glenn Jacobson
7/31 Anna Mae Woolworth



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

July 10, 1970 Eugene & Ina Heitz
July 12, 1969 Paul & Mary Augustin
July 29, 1968 Ronald & Vicki Hoffman

After Worship Social Time!

Coffee & a treat will be served outside the Narthex doors each Sunday (weather permitting). Enjoy a moment to reconnect with each other!

Celebrated the baptisms of...

Mindi May Sande, 6/13/21
Mandi Rose Sande, 6/13/21
Dawsyn Lorene Chatfield, 6/20/21

Thank you to the 9 youth from St. John who painted picnic tables at Bayou Bend Park for a service project! They did a great job!
Julie Begemann, Park Chairperson.

With Sympathy...

The funeral of

Sharon Kay Mrachek Miller, 6-10-2021

Memorials were given in memory of...

Sharon Kay Mrachek Miller: Don & Shirley Holm

James Lyle Zirbel: Kip & Judy Hauser, Don & Shirley Holm

Arlene Tebben: Wanda Sprout

We celebrated anniversaries by the "10's" in June...

10-year Anniversary:

Josh & Lydia Johnson 7/30/2011
Tony & Jennifer Lessin 9/17/2011
Larry & Jodi Milleson 10/9/2011

20-year Anniversary:

Chad & Jenette Kakac 5/25/2001
Mike & Tammy Quade 9/15/2001

30-year Anniversary:

Patrick & Candice Lumley 5/25/1991
Richard & Sandra Harrington 5/31/1991
John & Angie Ayers 6/22/1991

40-year Anniversary:

Frank & Jeanette Anderson 6/6/1981

50-year Anniversary

Dennis & Janice Brinkman 3/27/1971
Algie & Kay Slindee 6/19/1971
Monte & Kathy Waldorf 9/4/1971
Gary & Sandie Quade 10/23/1971
David & Jennifer Seckar 11/14/1971
Mark & Ann Kabele 12-29-1971

60-year Anniversary

Bob & Marian Dight 12/2/1961
Gary & Janice Dana 12/23/1961

70-year Anniversary:

Al & Shirley Davidson 11/8/1951

St. John Christian Preschool...



Things are a lot quieter around St. John Christian Preschool during the summer months, but we are still keeping busy! We are excited to be gearing up for the new school year with some cleaning projects around the preschool and the assembly of our family packets. We are definitely enjoying the slower pace of the summer and extra time with my family, but we are also eagerly anticipating the start of the new St. John Christian Preschool school year!

Families will need to pick up their information packets July 21-23. These packets are full of information for the upcoming school year! Our parent information meetings will be in August, so look for that information to come later. These meetings are a great opportunity for question-and-answer sessions and for our families to get to know the other families that will be in their child's class. Open houses will also be in August, and we look forward to seeing all the littles with their families!

Carleen and I would also like to take a moment to thank the preschool board members who work so very hard to keep our program running smoothly: Leslie Trettin, Brittany King, Lezlie Weber, Lydia Klinkel, Jessica Hoeft, and Payton Johnston. It is with their dedication and hard work that our preschool program continues to thrive! THANK YOU!

Thank you for the many blessings that you bestow upon our preschool program. Without your prayers and support we would not be able to do what we do. We love sharing God's love with our friends and we thank you for helping us share that important message!

In closing, we do still have some openings in our program. Our morning classes are open to any child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15, 2021. Our afternoon classes are open to any child who will be at least 4 on or before September 15, 2021. Please call the preschool (228-7274) if you would like more information.

With HIS Love,

Whittney Franke

July 2021 Schedule...

MONTHLY:

9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

July 21st: Newsletter Deadline

BOARD MEETINGS:

Building & Grounds:	7/6	5:00 p.m.	
Council:	7/13	6:00 p.m.	
Communication:	7/19	6:00 p.m.	(Zoom)
Deacons:	7/11	11:30 a.m.	(Zoom).
Family Board	TBD	5:00 p.m.	
Finance Board	7/8	5:30 p.m.	
Parish Ed	7/14	5:30 p.m.	
Stewardship	7/20	2:30 p.m.	(Quade's)
Youth	TBD	5:00 p.m.	

Events of Note...

Sunday, July 4th: Pastor Anita preaches

July 5th: Office closed.

July 9th: 9th St Chautauqua Worship Service

July 21st: Do Day Quilters, 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

July 26th – 29th: Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Jeanette Anderson	Susan Shankland	Wayne McClintock Loyal McLean
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Judith Troge	Chris Hoeft	Quinn DeBower June Kehret		Mark Kabele John Rima Lola Vest	Bob Peterson	Jodi Milleson
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Jeanne Hansen LaVonne Reysack	Lisa Garden Devon Murray Ed Platte Emma Wolf	Carl Johnson Evelyn Schmidt	Tilleen Litterer	Jacquie Watson	Don Holm Rylie Keyes	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Katherine Ortmyer David Seckar		Craig Begemann Dewey Chase Joslyn Cotton James Jensen Marron Murray Shirley Ripley	Madelynn Hoeft Patricia Miller Scott Kendall	Rosie Baldus Gloria Hulbert	Todd Prichard	Wendy Castillo Aaron Lacour Karen Streich
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Linda Girken Harley Hinz Allen Manning			Glenn Jacobson	Ana Blickenderfer Lori Griffin Michael Quade	Kayden McDonald Hannah Menken Anna Mae Woolworth