# *THE GOOD NEWSLETTER*




ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## *October 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 Tara at 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 & Family Ministries Coordinator: Whitney Howe
yfcoordinator@stjohncharlescity.com



# *Diane Sande, Church Council President*

**Good News-** God continues to bless our congregation in many ways. We recently received an anonymous donation that has allowed us to pay the parking lot off in full. This is great news and a reminder that God will find a way to provide and meet our needs.

**Interim Pastor**-We have also been blessed with an interim pastor who will assist in congregational duties and ways to continue our ministries. Pastor Kris Ferkin will be providing pastoral services until we receive a call. He comes to us with 27 years of parish experience. He will be starting up in the next few weeks once details have been finalized.

**October** 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 September continuing their work on the Ministry Site Profile and church video. The Ministry Site Profile is nearing completion and will be sent to the council and synod for approval. This is an important step in calling a new pastor. As we continue to move forward keep in mind there will be additional opportunities for you to be active in the church. Emily Garden is continuing to gather video footage highlighting our church and its mission.

**God's Work Our Hands** was a successful day and we were able to bless our community in a variety of ways. Coats for Kids will be taking place on October 10. If you signed up for that event, be sure to contact Jessica Hoeft for information.

Blessings,

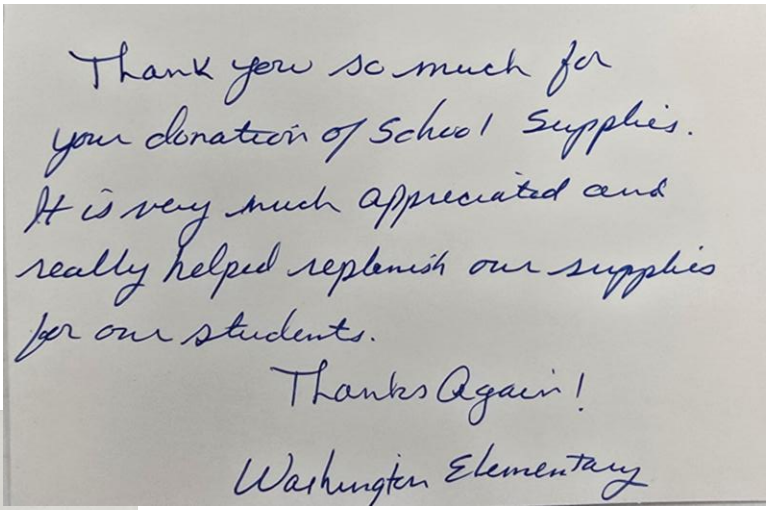
Diane

# Let Us REJOICE!

**We would like to send out a HUGE Thank You to an anonymous donor who has paid off the Parking Lot loan! Thank you so much to all those who have donated toward the Parking Lot fund. You are all appreciated! If you feel the need to give to a project at the church, please consider donating toward our next project, the Kitchen Renovation Fund.**

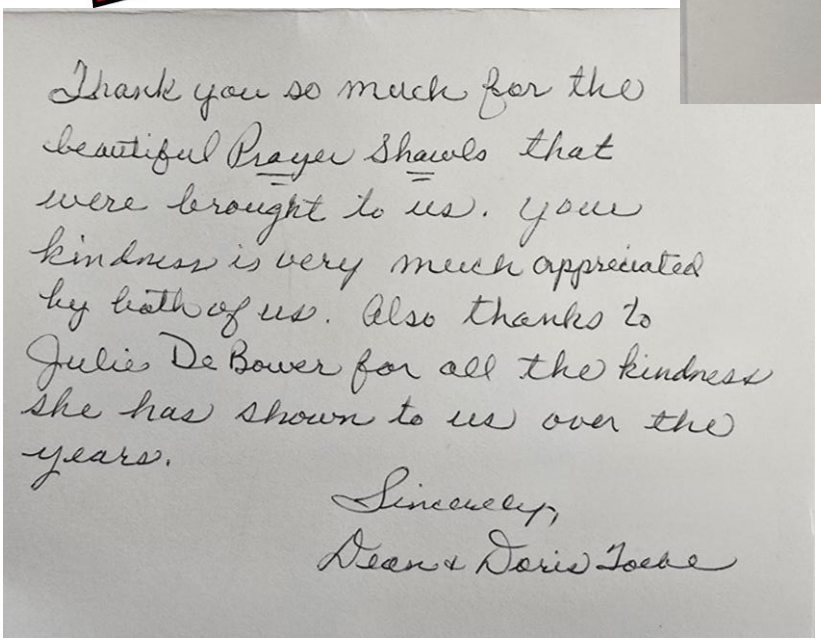
## A Note of





Thank you so much for your donation of School Supplies. It is very much appreciated and really helped replenish our supplies for our students.

Thanks Again!

Washington Elementary


Thank you so much for the beautiful Prayer Shawls that were brought to us. Your kindness is very much appreciated by both of us. Also thanks to Julie De Bower for all the kindness she has shown to us over the years.

Sincerely,

Dean & Doris Toebe

**Thank you** to all who showed up and donated either their time, money, or materials for the many projects during the God's Work, Our Hands event. And thank you to Don and Shirley Holm for providing the delicious treats for God's Work, Our Hands.

# *Of Note…*

**Oct. 28—Trick or Treat**

**6:00-8:00 PM**

**In the Narthex**

This will be put on by a couple of members of our Congregation and our Confirmation students. We look forward to seeing everyone's costumes.







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.

**There will be NO Sunday School on Sunday, October 25th due to the Burrito Breakfast.**

**MUSIC AT ST. JOHN**

**Trinity Choir** will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 30th 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 up is welcome. Students may use this for confirmation service hours and/or 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. It's not too late to join us! Any questions may be directed to Melanie Johanningmeier at 641-330-0963.

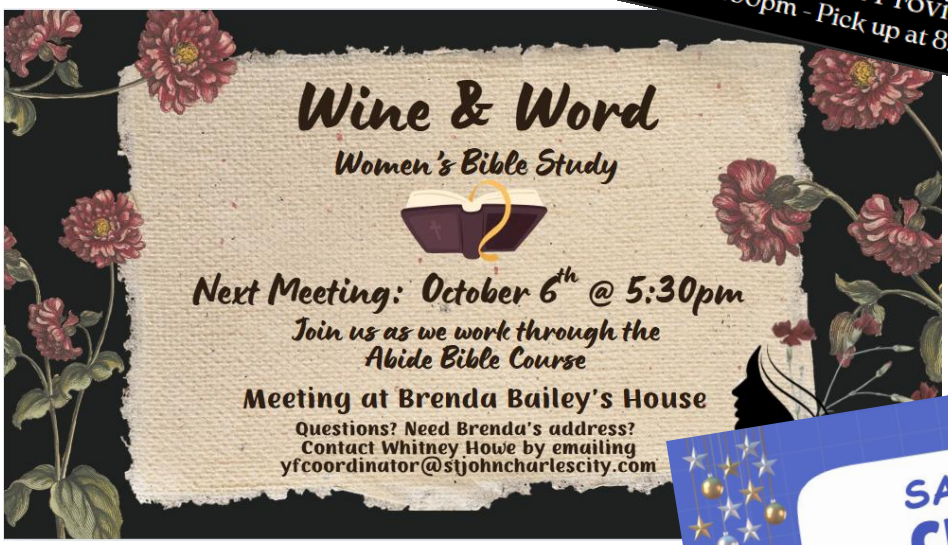
**Kids Choir** will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 30th from 4:30 pm-5:00 pm in the music room in the basement. Kids Choir is open to kids in Kindergarten-5th grade. All After School Program kids will be participating in Kids Choir as a part of the After School Program. Any kids who do not 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 Chimes Choir** Tara Dean will be directing 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 one service per month. We would love to have all former members plus any new members who are interested to join us. Anyone from 6th Grade up is welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Tara Dean at (319) 230-6427.


Youth
GAME NIGHT
1st-6th Grade Invited
Friday, October 2
6:30-8 pm
3rd Floor
Crafts
Devotional
Games
Socializing


COATS FOR KIDS
Saturday, October 10th
from 9:00-11:30 a.m.


Confirmation & High School
Youth Group Event
Sunday, October 4th
at Ron James & Linda Klemesrud's cabin in Nashua
Sign up at the Welcome Center
GAMES
Food!
Transportation Provided
Drop off at church at 4:00pm - Pick up at 8:15pm at church


Wine & Word
Women's Bible Study
Next Meeting: October 6th @ 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@stjohncharlescity.com


SAVE THE DATE
CHRISTMAS
PROGRAM
December 13th
BED BETHLEHEM &
BEYOND
When Heaven Touched Earth

***BEHIND THE (Kitchen) SCENE…***

On August 27, St. John had the privilege of hosting a pre-game meal for the Charles City Comets football squad. What a fun night! Approximately 60 young men, grades 8-12, and coaches enjoyed a meal of baked spaghetti, breadsticks, complete with a salad and dessert bar.

Parents, you should be proud of your young men. Your sons were respectful and polite. The evening started with a short team meeting and a team prayer was said before the meal was served. Everyone came with a hearty appetite and seemed to feel comfortable helping themselves to second (and third) servings. The kitchen workers couldn't help but laugh at their appetites! It was fun seeing them enjoy our cooking!

Many of these young men approached us in the kitchen or as we were working in the dining room to express their thanks. That was very much appreciated by us. They also made short work of tearing down the tables and chairs to help us with this chore. Yes, parents and coaches, you are raising and guiding a fine group of young men. Keep up the good work!

Wednesday Night Suppers are back! It is good to see our faithful group of families who have joined us in the past coming back to enjoy the fellowship with young and old alike. If you know of anyone who might like to join us, please invite them to try us out!

The After School Program is different this year since the early out the school scheduled in previous years is no longer part of the Wednesday school schedule. But our schedule is the same in the kitchen. Serving starts at 5:00 until all are served. We served our first meal on September 30.

Everyone is seeing a large increase in cost for groceries. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we won't have to make any adjustments to the cost of our meals. Kans for Kids is again helping with the cost for all children aged 0 - graduation. We also have many generous people who help fill our freezers and pantry. We can't thank you enough and truly appreciate your gifts.

As in past years, from time to time, we will put out a request for cakes or bars, etc. to help complete our menus. We have many good cooks in our congregation, and we really appreciate it when you can help us. Check out our menus as posted in the Good Newsletter and in the Sunday bulletins. However, we do reserve the right to change the menu!

Come and join us. We would love to see you!

Kathy






## Wednesday Night Supper

**September 30:** Maidrites, Chips, Baked Beans, Dessert

**October 7:** Chicken Supreme, Lettuce Salad, Cupcakes

**October 14:** Au Gratin Potatoes and Ham, Green Beans, Relishes, Texas Sheet Cake

**October 21:** TBD

**October 28:** Weiner Winks, Tater Tots, Apple Wedges, Dessert

Supper is from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Cost: $5.00 for adults
Children through 12th grade eat for free thanks to Kans for Kids
(Menu subject to change)

# Youth Programs at St. John

## Sunday School

- Begins October 4th
- Sundays 10:15-11:15
- PreK-6th Grade
- Youth Hour- 7th-12th Grade

## Confirmation

- Begins September 30th
- Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m.

## After School Program

- Begins September 30th
- For students in Kindergarten-5th Grade
- Wednesdays after school 3:30-5:00 p.m.

## Kids' Choir

- Begins September 30th
- Wednesdays 4:30-5:00 p.m.
- Kindergarten-5th Grade

## HS Youth Group

- Begins September 30th
- Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. on the 3rd floor
- For any youth from 9th-12th Grade
- Bring a friend; they don't have to be a member of the church
- Attend Trinity Choir first, then come on up to the 3rd floor!

**Wednesday Night Activities:**

3:30-5:00- After School Program
4:30-5:00- Kid's Choir (K-5th Grade)
5:00-6:00- Supper
6:00-7:00- Confirmation
6:00-6:45- Tone Chime Choir (6th Grade and Up)
7:00-7:45- Trinity Choir (6th Grade and Up)
7:00-9:00- High School Youth Group

**SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP ACTIVITIES**

**10:05 After Worship Social Time**
**10:15 Sunday School (PreK-6th Grade)**
**10:15 Youth Hour (7th-12th Grade)**

**Sunday School and Youth Hour will now be called "Education Hour"**

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

OCTOBER 2026

## What We Will Learn

### After School Program

We are so excited to be back! This month we will be learning about Jonah and the Giant Fish, Jeremiah and the Fall of Judah, Daniel and the Deadly Dream, and Shadrach Meshach, and Abednego.

### Confirmation

In October the Confirmation students will be learning about how Peace Becomes Sin, God's Choosing vs. Your Choosing, and Jacob: God Plays Favorites. On October 28th they will assist with our Trick-or Treating Night as a service project.

### High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group will continue the first series of the TENX10 curriculum. Topics covered will include From Harmony to Disharmony, Rescue, and New Creation.

## Trick-or-Treating

On October 28th we will have a Trick-or-Treating event in the Narthex put on by a couple of members of our Congregation and our Confirmation Students. This event will go from 6:00-8:00. We look forward to seeing everyone's costumes.

## The Gathering Expedition Retreat

8th - 12th grade students are invited to the Gathering Expedition Retreat at Camp Ewalu October 30th - November 1st. If you are interested in attending, please contact Whitney Howe.

## Additional Upcoming Events

- Confirmation/HS Party: October 4
- Burrito Breakfast: October 25
- Bible Sunday: October 25

# ***People's Page…***

***Memorials were given in memory of…***

*Charlotte Platte:* Kent and Lorie Hoeft

*Helen Hagen:* Kent and Loie Hoeft

*Linda Girkin*: Chris and Lisa Garden

*Dorothy Watson*: Todd & Lori Kruse, Jeremy & Jodi Heyer

***With sympathy, we recognize the passing of:***

***Linda Girkin***

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

| | |
|---|---|
| James & LaVonne Reysack | 10/2/1960 |
| Gary and Sharol McCoy | 10/11/1968 |
| Gary & Sandie Quade | 10/23/1971 |

## *October birthdays 80 & older!*

| | |
|---|---|
| Bernice Voelker | 10/2/1932 |
| Carol Quade | 10/5/1946 |
| Doris Toebe | 10/5/1941 |
| Janice Brinkman | 10/7/1946 |
| Phyllis Hillis | 10/13/1939 |
| Ruthanne Ellis | 10/14/1939 |
| Shirley Davidson | 10/15/1931 |
| Russell Ball | 10/16/1935 |
| Wanda Sprout | 10/17/1934 |
| Donna Patten | 10/22/1938 |
| Patricia Petersen | 10/23/1945 |
| Ronald Rasmussen | 10/26/1936 |
| Norma Overlee | 10/28/1934 |
| Larry Tjaden | 10/30/1942 |
| Leonard Erickson | 10/31/1944 |

| ***Board Meetings*** | | |
|---|---|---|
| Buildings and Grounds: | 10/6 | 5:00 p.m. |
| Youth and Family Board | 10/11 | 8:00 a.m. |
| Parish Ed: | 10/11 | 10:15 a.m. |
| Deacons: | 10/11 | 10:15 a.m. |
| Finance Board: | 10/13 | 5:00 p.m. |
| Council: | 10/13 | 6:00 p.m. |
| Stewardship Board: | 10/20 | 5:30 p.m. |
| Caring Ministries: | 10/25 | 8:00 a.m. |

# *October 2026 Schedule…*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10/2/2026 | 6:00 p.m. | Game Night- 1st-6th Grade |
| 10/4/2026 | **9:00 a.m.** | **Worship w/ Communion** |
| | | Pastor Gary Johnson |
| | 10:15 a.m. | First Day of Education Hour |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Confirmation/HS Youth Group Event |
| 10/6/2026 | 5:00 p.m. | Building & Grounds Board Meeting |
| | 5:30 p.m. | Wine and Word |
| 10/7/2026 | 9:00 a.m. | Do-Day Quilters |
| | 3:30 p.m. | After School Program |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Kids' Choir |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Wednesday Night Supper |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Confimation Class |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Tone Chime Choir |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Trinity Choir |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Youth Group |
| 10/10/2026 | 9:00 a.m. | Coats for Kids |
| 10/11/2026 | 8:00 a.m. | Youth & Family Board Meeting |
| | **9:00 a.m.** | **Worship** |
| | | Pastor Stacey Nalean-Carlson |
| | 10:15 a.m. | Parish Ed Meeting |
| | | Deacon Board Meeting |
| | | Education Hour |
| 10/13/2026 | 5:00 p.m. | Finance Board Meeting |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Council Meeting |
| 10/14/2026 | 3:30 p.m. | After School Program |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Kids' Choir |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Wednesday Night Supper |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Confimation Class |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Tone Chime Choir |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Trinity Choir |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Youth Group |
| 10/18/2026 | **9:00 a.m.** | **Worship w/ Communion** |
| | | Pastor Stacey Nalean-Carlson |
| | 10:15 a.m. | Education Hour |



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 10/20/2026 | 5:30 p.m. | Stewardship Board Meeting |
| 10/21/2026 | 9:00 a.m. | Do-Day Quilters |
| | 3:30 p.m. | After School Program |
| | 4:00 p.m. | Newsletter Deadline |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Kids' Choir |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Wednesday Night Supper |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Confimation Class |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Tone Chime Choir |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Trinity Choir |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Youth Group |
| 10/25/2026 | 8:00 a.m. | Caring Ministries Board Meeting |
| | | **Reformation Sunday** |
| | **9:00 a.m.** | **Worship** |
| | | Pastor Luther Thoresen |
| | | 1st and 4th Grade Bibles |
| | 10:15 a.m. | NO Education Hour |
| | | Burrito Breakfast |
| 10/28/2026 | 3:30 p.m. | After School Program |
| | 4:30 p.m. | Kids' Choir |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Wednesday Night Supper |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Trick or Treat |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Tone Chime Choir |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Trinity Choir |
| | 8:00 p.m. | Youth Group |




| **Wednesday Kitchen for October 2026** | |
|---|---|
| 10/7/2026 | Lela Hammond |
| | Laker Kubik |
| | |
| 10/14/2026 | Laker Kubik |
| | Addison Merrifield |
| | |
| 10/21/2026 | Drake O'Brien |
| | Blair Walker |
| | |
| 10/28/2026 | Addi Lantz |
| | Melia Lantz |

| **Acolytes for October 2026** | |
|---|---|
| 10/4/2026 | Lela Hammond |
| | Laker Kubik |
| | |
| 10/11/2026 | Drake O'Brien |
| | Saeli Chase |
| | |
| 10/18/2026 | Drake O'Brien |
| | Nathalia Dean |
| | |
| 10/25/2026 | Addi Lantz |
| | Melia Lantz |

# October 2026




| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2<br>Game Night<br>1st-6th Grades<br>6-8:30PM | 3 |
| 4<br>**Worship w/Communion**<br>Pastor Gary Johnson<br>1st Day Sunday School<br>10:15AM<br>Confirmation/HS Youth Group Event 4PM | 5 | 6<br>Building & Grounds Meeting 5PM | 7<br>Do-Day Quilters 9AM<br>ASP 3:30-5pm<br>Wed Night Supper 5-6pm<br>Confirmation 6-7pm<br>HS Youth Group 7-9pm | 8 | 9<br>Girl Scouts<br>6-8:30PM | 10<br>Coats for Kids<br>9-11:30AM |
| 11<br>**Worship**<br>Pastor Stacey Nalean-Carlson<br>Youth & Family Meeting 8AM<br>Parish Ed Meeting 10:15AM<br>Deacon Board Meeting 10:15AM<br>Education Hour 10:15AM | 12 | 13<br>Finance Meeting 5PM<br>Council Meeting 6PM | 14<br>ASP 3:30-5pm<br>Wed Night Supper 5-6pm<br>Confirmation 6-7pm<br>HS Youth Group 7-9pm | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18<br>**Worship w/Communion**<br>Pastor Stacey Nalean-Carlson<br>Education Hour 10:15AM | 19 | 20<br>Stewardship Meeting 5:30PM | 21<br>Do-Day Quilters 9AM<br>ASP 3:30-5pm<br>Newsletter Deadline 4PM<br>Wed Night Supper 5-6pm<br>Confirmation 6-7pm<br>HS Youth Group 7-9pm | 22 | 23<br>Girl Scouts<br>6-8:30PM | 24 |
| 25<br>**Worship**<br>**Reformation Sunday**<br>Luther Thoresen<br>Caring Ministries Meeting 8AM<br>1st & 4th Grade Bibles<br>Burrito Breakfast 10:15AM<br>NO Education Hour | 26 | 27 | 28<br>ASP 3:30-5pm<br>Wed Night Supper 5-6pm<br>Trick or Treat in Narthex 6-8PM | 29 | 30 | 31<br>Halloween |

CCLI #227-7055

# October 2026 Birthday/Anniversary

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | Kerrigan Venz | Bernice Voelker<br>**Anniversaries:**<br>James & LaVonne Reysack<br>Dan & Christie DeBower | **Anniversary:**<br>Matthew & Samantha Knoke |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Kathy Crooks<br>Lynn Throndson<br>Carter Van Horn<br>Addyson Vance | Carol Quade<br>Doris Toebe | **Anniversary:**<br>Matt & Abigail Wolf | Jan Brinkman | **Anniversaries:**<br>Brody & Cassie Stone<br>Alison & Corey Pettit | Shelly Parson<br>Alyssa Tommingo<br>**Anniversary:**<br>Mike and Katie Hammond | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Lillian Garden<br>Asher McDonald<br>James Moon<br>Dennis Sande<br>**Anniversary:**<br>Sharol & Gary McCoy | Christie DeBower | Brady Garden<br>Ina Heitz<br>Phyllis Hillis<br>Olivia Kreger<br>Charley Sweet | Ruthanne Ellis<br>Leon Mulford | Shirley Davidson<br>Marty Hicks<br>Beverly Jensen<br>Jason McDonald | Russell Ball<br>Annabel McDonald<br>Katlyn Parson | Wanda Sprout |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Laurie Heidebrink<br>Alex Montagne | Regan Connell<br>Liam Hoeft<br>**Anniversaries:**<br>Cody & Jaclyn Van Horn<br>Marten & Jennifer Van Ausdall | Lela Hammond<br>Julie Heddens<br>Ron James<br>Grace Kendall | Kinleigh Bahe | Donna Patten<br>**Anniversaries:**<br>Jared & Mikaela George<br>Doug and Jessie Holm | Christina Mannetter<br>**Anniversary:**<br>Gary & Sandie Quade | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| Savannah Baldus<br>Scott Hansen<br>Bryce Walker<br>**Anniversaries:**<br>Dennis & Diane Sande<br>Robert & Linda Frascht | Ronald Rasmussen | Violet Callison<br>Whittney Franke | Norma Overlee<br>**Anniversary:**<br>Cameron & Stephanie Hanson | Josh Marth<br>Dawn Schweizer | Landon LaBarge<br>Jaxon McDonald<br>Larry Tjaden | Leonard Erickson<br>**Anniversary:**<br>Brandon & Whittney Franke |