

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

August 2020



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

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

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's Note

One of the most memorable weddings I was ever a part of, was also one of the stormiest. A sprinkling of rain fell lightly onto guests as they arrived at the church for the ceremony. By time the service started, it was thundering and lightning. As I shared the wedding message, a hard, drenching rain started to pound against the church roof. During the exchange of vows the rain turned into golf ball-sized hail. The noise made it almost impossible to hear the bride and groom. And just as the service ended, the tornado sirens began to blare. Instead of the bride and groom processing out of the church, the whole congregation had to process to the church basement!

Luckily, no tornado actually touched down that day and, as far as I know, the couple's marriage hasn't been as stormy as their wedding. We did, however, keep all of the local insurance agents busy for weeks processing automobile hail damage claims (it was a small town and almost everyone in town was at the wedding).

Like it or not, storms happen. It's part of life. We buy sump pumps for our basements, snow blowers for our driveways, and insurance for our property, because we know there's a storm coming. The question isn't "Will there be a storm?" but "How will we handle the storms when they come?" So, we prepare for the worst and hope for the best. That goes for the weather, and it goes for life.

As we continue to face the storm that COVID-19 has brought to our lives, in addition to all of the other storms, I want to remind us that we have a shelter from the storms of life in Jesus. He knows your griefs and fears. He knows your joys and sorrows. He's as close to you as the air you breathe, and he wants you to talk to him. He's already overcome the evil of this world and has saved a place for you in his Father's house for eternity. He's the Head of a Church that cares about you.

Even though we're sacrificing our meeting together for the moment, so that we can keep those who are at risk safe, Christ is still very much at work through his Church. We continue to support the Northeast Iowa Food Bank as they help those in our community who are food insecure. We continue to put out weekly worship services on the radio and online, so that we can encounter Christ in our homes and daily, pandemic lives. We continue to pray and offer support in Jesus' name over the phone. We're having video and email meetings to take care of and plan for the ministries Jesus is calling us to. Last week we offered a 3-day Online VBS for families to learn about Jesus together at home. We're planning a brief Parking Lot Service on August 16 at 10:30 AM for those who long to worship Jesus in a safe, communal setting. We will be offering Drive-Thru Communion in the near future, so that we can safely experience the presence of Christ in His body and blood.

Jesus has not abandoned you in the storm. He is your storm shelter in the midst of it ... and so are we. We may not be able to take the storm away, but we are here to keep you company and encourage you until it passes.

Peace,
Pastor Russ

Our Generosity in June

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

8% of our regular May offering (\$1597.68) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In June (\$517.32) was given to "Stitches Fabric and Yarn" for expenses associated with sewing cloth face masks for many groups and individuals in the community.

The Finance Board designates the 8% of the total Thank Offering quarterly and would welcome any suggestions of beneficiaries for these funds. Just call the church office.

St. John is enacting Phase 1 of our reopening plan. This means that we will...

- Maintain worshiping through radio and internet services.
- Funerals and weddings may occur in the sanctuary should they be permitted by law (but will be encouraged to occur outdoors). These gatherings are limited to ten people or less in the entire facility.
 - Persons participating in a funeral or wedding are required to certify verbally they are not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 as outlined by the CDC. They are required to verbally certify they have not been with anyone who is sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 as outlined by the CDC.
 - Do not attend or visit the church if you are feeling ill, have been exposed to COVID-19, have a compromised immune system, or are at high risk of exposing others. You are responsible for your own health and also that of your neighbor.
 - A record of the people attending the funeral or wedding will be kept to help with contact tracing should one of the attendees become ill.
 - Participants are to maintain proper social distancing of six feet or more.
 - **Participants are to wear a face mask at all times when in the building.**
 - Participants are to practice proper hand hygiene (soap and water or 60%+ alcohol hand sanitizer) immediately upon entry into the building.
 - The church will be cleaned and sanitized after the event.
- **The church office will continue to operate; however, the church building will remain locked to visitors.** If a visitor is invited into the building, any people present must adhere to the guidelines above in relation to a funeral or wedding.
- If any visitor to the church becomes ill, they must inform the church so others who may have had contact with the visitor may monitor their own health.
- Church council and board meetings must occur electronically.

CDC guidelines for Covid prevention: Wash your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It's especially important to wash:
 - Before eating or preparing food
 - Before touching your face
 - After using the restroom
 - After leaving a public place
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After handling your cloth face covering
 - After changing a diaper
 - After caring for someone sick
 - After touching animals or pets
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.** Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

FYI...

As of now...

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, click on the Worship & Sermon tab & then on YouTube. From there just click on the service you would like to watch!

Though the St. John building is **closed to the public**, you can call the office with **any questions or concerns**. Kathy is in the office from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. You can also reach her by emailing khoeft@stjohncharlescity.com.

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

OR...

If you would like to sign up for Simply Giving, the program that allows you to give to the church through electronic transfer, call Linda at 228-3397. The Simply Giving form is on the following page and can be filled out & sent to Linda at St. John.

A SPECIAL ONE TIME EVENT IS BEING PLANNED FOR AUGUST 16TH!

Even though St John will remain in Phase One of our reopening plan for now, we would like to invite anyone who would feel comfortable with a special outdoor service in the church parking lot to come on August 16th at 10:30 a.m. We will be using specific parking spots to maintain spacing. Masks will be a requirement and we will encourage everyone to still maintain appropriate social distancing for this event. This event is still in the planning stage so further details will be announced soon!



Want to watch the Sunday worship service video?

Go to www.stjohncharlescity.org, click on the Worship & Sermon tab & then on YouTube. From there just click on the service you would like to watch!



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®

People Page...

August birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

14th Ruth Farmer
18th Skip Ward
21st Diane Cross
22nd Elaine Ekebrecht
23rd Bob Friend
27th Harlan Reints
29th Marian Hoeft
29th Arlene Hollar
31st Helen Hagen
31st Diann Jacobson



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

August 11, 1962	Al & Betty Manning
August 17, 1969	Donn & Cherie Schafer
August 22, 1959	Lynn & Peg Poppen
August 23, 1969	John & Jean Rima
August 26, 1967	David & Judy Wessel
August 28, 1965	Mike & Becky Panter
August 31, 1963	Roger & Shirley Regel

With sympathy...

The Funeral of

***Margaret "Meg" Louise Haugland Tjaden,
July 13, 2020***

**The Stewardship Board wants to thank our
St. John family** for your generosity in
supporting our church during this difficult
time. It is encouraging to see that, because of
your dedication, we are meeting our financial
obligations. Thank you, Thank you!

Memorials were given in memory of...

Donald Poppen: Monte & Kathy Waldorf, Leon & Jan Mulford, Edna Stott

Doug Watson: Monte & Kathy Waldorf

Kathleen Juanita Rex Schilling: Russell & Betty Ball, Leona Howe, Lynn & Peg Poppen, Cal & Joyce Wood, Marilu Wohlers, Arlene Thomas, Karen Streich, Dawson & Jackie Strutt, Elaine Ekebrecht, Franci Ritter, John & Jean Rima, Marilyn Isakson, Marlene Holthaus, Joel Holthaus, Edgar & JoAnn Hervert & sons, William & Carol Oldfield

Margaret "Meg" Louise Haugland Tjaden: Linda Hughes, Norma Overlee, Clark & Judi Yeager, Kay Tjaden, Al & Betty Manning

Curtis North: Arlene Thomas

What season of the church are we in now?

PENTECOST!

The season of Pentecost is the longest season in the Christian Church year. It begins the Monday following the Day of Pentecost and lasts until the season of Advent begins. It lasts anywhere between 22 and 27 weeks, depending on when Easter takes place. The season of Pentecost is often referred to as the non-festival half of the church year because during this time the Christian Church does not celebrate a major festival commemorating the life of Jesus. During the season of Pentecost, the Christian Church focuses on the teachings of Jesus. During the season of Pentecost, the Christian Churches celebrate other special festivals such as Reformation Sunday, All Saints Day, Thanksgiving, and others.



"Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

Hello! Well, my August newsletter article is usually a recap of the mission trip and VBS and all the fun things we have done during the summer months. As I write this, our Online VBS hasn't gone online yet, so you'll have to wait until next month to hear about our first attempt at virtual VBS!

I don't have much information to put in the newsletter again this month because we are still unsure of how everything will look in September when our program year would normally begin. We are thinking about all the possibilities and options. We won't be making any decisions until we know what the public school's plans are and what the current guidelines recommend and what phase the church is in at that time. Our hope is to be able to offer ministries that reach, teach, and engage the children, youth, and families of this congregation like we have always tried to do in the past.

Please be patient with us as we work on all of our plans and how to implement them safely. In the meantime, remember, faith starts at home. Martin Luther's Small Catechism was written to help parents teach their children. We want to help you do that, even if it looks different than in the past!

I have faith that we will get through this with God's help. Maybe He will guide us to an even better way of teaching and leading than before. I truly believe the Lord DOES work in mysterious ways! ☺

In Him,
Laurie Heidebrink

St. John Christian Preschool



We are off to explore another year, here at St. John Christian Preschool and we couldn't be more excited!

August is a busy month at the preschool. On August 17th, we will be holding informational parent meetings for each age group. These meetings are great opportunities for question and answer sessions and for our families to get to know the other families that will be in their child's class. The meetings will look a little different due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we are planning to meet with parents via Zoom and share our Power Point with them at that time.

August 25th and 27th are our "Get Acquainted" open house dates. These evenings are planned to allow our little ones to explore our center in the comforting presence of their families. They also get to drop off their school supplies, meet the teachers and take their school pictures. It's a busy evening but makes for a smooth start to our school year. As with our parent meetings, the Open Houses will look a little different as well. We are hoping to be able to schedule each family a time to come in and drop off supplies and meet the teachers.

Our first day of school August 31st and we are excited to be welcoming back some familiar faces and also some new faces to our center. Our "Return-to-Learn" plan will be announced soon. We currently have spots available in our 3-year-old programs. If you know of someone still in need of a preschool for their little one (who is or will be turning 3 on or before September 15th), please give us a call at 228-7274 and we will do our best to help out!

In HIS Name,
Whittney Franke

Outdoor Games for Families:



Red Light / Green Light

One child is *it* and turns his back to a line of players. When it says "Green Light," the players move forward trying to reach him. When it says "Red Light," he turns around to look at the players. Anyone seen moving has to return to the starting line. The first child to reach *it* wins and takes over that job for the next



Ghost in the Graveyard

Kids can play this at any time of day, but it's particularly fun when light is low. Ghost in the Graveyard is essentially a hybrid of Tag and Hide-and-Seek; the child who is *it* hides, and when the others are finished counting they start looking for the hidden child. The first player to see *it* shouts, "Ghost in the graveyard!" and everyone must run back to base with *it* in hot pursuit. If someone is caught, that person becomes the ghost for the next round.

Don't have a fire pit or it's too hot outdoors, and want S'Mores?

Then make Microwave S'Mores

On paper towel place 1 graham cracker square, top with $\frac{1}{2}$ a plain chocolate bar and 1 large marshmallow. Micro on high 15 seconds or until marshmallow puffs. Remove from microwave and cover with graham cracker square & eat like a sandwich!



AUGUST 2020 CALENDAR

MONTHLY:

Sunday: Worship services cancelled at this time

August 19th: Newsletter Deadline

BOARD MEETINGS:

Building & Grounds:	Aug. 4, 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)
Council:	Aug. 11, 6:00 p.m. (Zoom)
Communication:	TBD
Deacons:	Aug. 2, 10:30 a.m. (Zoom)
Family Board	Aug. 2, 10:30 a.m. (Email)
Finance	Aug. 12, 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)
Parish Ed	Aug. 12, 5:15 p.m. (Email)
Stewardship	Aug. 2, 11:00 a.m. (at Quade's)
Youth	Aug. 9, 10:30 a.m. (Email)

EVENTS OF NOTE:

August 16, 2020: A one-time special, outdoor worship service in the St. John parking lot at 10:30 a.m.

August 31st: 1st day of St. John Christian Preschool



AUGUST BIRTHDAY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Chad Kakac
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Elijah Lumley			Alesia Garden Alyvia Vance		Vicki Hoffman Linda Klemesrud	Ali Blickenderfer Barbara Fuls Ann Prichard Macy Ross
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Gloria Frerichs	Katie Hammond		Janet Petefish Laura Walker	Olivia Ayers Ruth Farmer Karen Hagarty	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Tim LaBarge Joshua Laue Kathy Michael	Katherine Prichard	William Hollar Delbert Ward	Doris Lovejoy Mary Mooberry	Olivia Litterer	Lenis Buseman Diane Cross Chris Garden	Elaine Eckebrecht
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Karol Carpenter Bob Friend		Kaleb Davis	Mason Meyer	Erin Gassman David Lindaman Shirley Regel Harlan Reints Alexis Vance	Julie DeBower Stephanie Hanson Quincy Johnson Rosalie Pieper	Marian Hoeft Arlene Hollar Jennifer Lessin Lukas Vance
30	31					
John Marth	Helen Hagen Diann Jacobson Jenette Kakac James Kreger					