

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2025

"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

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Shaune Fields
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com

Pastor Russ Leeper:
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt, Intern Pastor
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Office Secretary: Tara Dean
office@stjohncharlescity.com
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
& 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

Business Manager: Tonia Olsen
businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com

Music Director:
Melanie Johanningmeier
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian: Jamie Carolan
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com



Intern Beth Hurt

Dear Congregation,

As we step into the heart of summer, many of us turn our attention to the 4th of July- this is a time to celebrate the gift of freedom and reflect on what it means. This year I find myself asking, “Can I really live in freedom when my neighbor does not?” From a completely individualistic point of view maybe it is possible, depending on how we spin the definition of freedom. I think, though, that freedom calls to our spirits because it means more than Oxford’s definition of “the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.” As Christians we recognize that we are connected by the power of the Holy Spirit and that each human being is a beloved child of God created in God’s own image. Our freedom is not individualistic but interconnected. While individual liberties and privileges still exist and are afforded to us by the human ordering of society, the lack of freedom for our neighbor significantly impacts the quality and extent of our own experience. The well-being of our communities matters. We are called to not only live in the freedom that Christ has given each of us but in faithful responsibility towards others because when we serve our neighbors, we serve our Savior. Our freedom is not self-serving it is Christ-serving.

Matthew 25:35-36: [Jesus said] “for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”

In *The Freedom of a Christian*, Martin Luther boldly declares: “A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.” While this may sound like a contradiction it is a profound truth of the Christian life. In Christ, we are freed from the burden of trying to earn God’s love. We are saved by grace– not by our works, but by God’s mercy. That freedom brings deep resounding peace. We no longer need to live in fear of judgement or failure because we know that we belong to God, fully and forever. Luther also reminds us that Christian freedom isn’t about doing whatever we want, or our individual liberties. It’s about being freed for something – for loving and serving our neighbor. Out of the deep well of God’s love, we are empowered to turn outward: to care, to forgive, to act in compassion and justice. We can recognize God’s love in action within us because we are called to action beyond us. We are freed by Christ, to express empathy and love boldly in our thoughts, words, and actions. We are freed by Christ so that we may work to set our neighbors free from all the ways that human beings continue to deal death to one another due to the influence of sin.

In Christ,

Intern Pastor Beth Hurt

Our New Members!



Welcome

New Member

Kathy
Vandeventer



ST. JOHN CHURCH Golf Tournament



Wildwood Golf Course, Charles City
4 Person Best Shot, 9 Holes
\$120 per team
To sign up, contact Kyle or Megan LaBarge

AUGUST 10, 2025 | 2:00 PM

Kyle: 641-330-7974 Megan: 319-671-0052

Wine & Word

Women's Bible Study



Next Meeting: July 7th @ 5:30pm

Join us as we continue to explore
Romans

Meeting at Brenda Bailey's Home

contact intern pastor Beth Hurt for address
beth@stjohncharlescity.com



Of Note...

St. John Lutheran Church in Charles City, Iowa is seeking a **Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator**.

This person is responsible for facilitating K-12 faith formation in collaboration with the Board of Parish Education, the Youth & Family Ministry Board, and other volunteers.

This position is full-time with a competitive benefits package.

To view the full job description and qualifications, go to stjohncharlescity.org

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to Pastor Russ Leeper at rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com.

Our Generosity in December

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

8% (\$542.05) of the First Quarter went to support ELCA flooding.

2% of your giving went to:

February (\$695.65)- Magdeline Light

March (\$768.44)- Vacation Bible School

April (\$848.32)- Food Pantry

May (477.49)- Nora Springs Church Supper Program through our synod

Thanks for your monthly generosity to the mission and outreach of St. John!

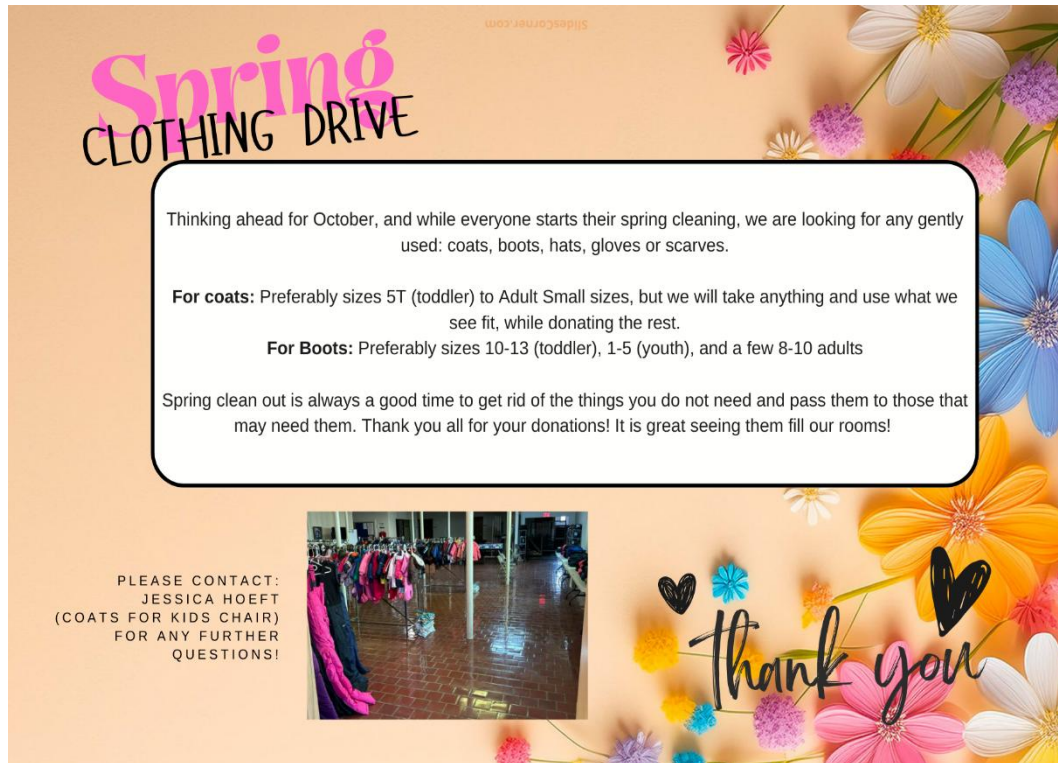


Life can be difficult, but you don't have to go through it alone. Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers who provide one-on-one, confidential, Christ-centered support during life's challenges. Whether you're experiencing grief, illness, or another hardship, a Stephen Minister can walk alongside you 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.

New St John T-Shirt

The Stewardship Board is finishing details for a new St. John T-Shirt. In Mid-May, you will have the opportunity to place an order for one. Watch for details on final design, price and how to order the T-Shirt.





Spring CLOTHING DRIVE


Thinking ahead for October, and while everyone starts their spring cleaning, we are looking for any gently used: coats, boots, hats, gloves or scarves.


For coats: Preferably sizes 5T (toddler) to Adult Small sizes, but we will take anything and use what we see fit, while donating the rest.

For Boots: Preferably sizes 10-13 (toddler), 1-5 (youth), and a few 8-10 adults

Spring clean out is always a good time to get rid of the things you do not need and pass them to those that may need them. Thank you all for your donations! It is great seeing them fill our rooms!

PLEASE CONTACT:
JESSICA HOEFT
(COATS FOR KIDS CHAIR)
FOR ANY FURTHER
QUESTIONS!





DO YOU REMEMBER THE KAYWOS CLOTH?

This was a very popular product sold by the St. John Women's Ministry before the Covid pandemic and many of you purchased them for gifts and use in your own homes. These cloths have been inquired about several times over the last few years. So, a supply has again been ordered to support the Women's Ministry in our church. The cost is \$3.00 each or 4/\$10.00!

The Kaywos Cloth is a streak free, spot free, lint free and chemical free cleaning cloth. The Kaywos "Zezofiber" cloth cleans with just water. All your glass, mirrors, floors, counters, furniture, stainless, chrome...anything non-porous will come shiny clean with the cloth and water alone! Wet the cloth, wring it out, and you're ready to clean - Never use glass cleaners, polishes and many other chemicals again. The cloth is machine washable with soap and bleach. (Do not use fabric softener or your dryer on the cloth.) The cloth uses absolutely no chemicals to clean and leaves no lint or streaks behind. It measures 15" x 16" and are first quality.

It is estimated that 1 "Kaywos Cloth" replaces 6 bottles of glass cleaner and 12 rolls of paper towels. The "Kaywos Cloth" can also cut cleaning time by up to 70%.

Sounds interesting? Please contact the church office to purchase your Kaywos cloth!

People's Page...

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



Paul and Mary Augustin	July 12, 1969
Eugene and Ina Heitz	July 10, 1970

July birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!



7/3	Loyal McLean
7/8	Lola Vest
7/9	Robert Peterson
7/11	LaVonne Reysack
7/14	Tilleen Litterer
7/24	Karen Streich
7/29	Glenn Jacobson
7/31	Anna Mae Woolworth

Memorials were given in memory of...

Harold, Irma, and Lorraine Meyers from Eldon and Lynne Meyers

Marjorie Gardner from the Barbara Zbornik Conservatorship

Roger Regel from Shirley Regel



Acolytes for July Sundays:

July 6: Sierra Hinz, Alesia Garden

July 13: Meghan Korbel, Kielyn Bahe

July 20: Graham Hansen

July 27: Owen Prichard



Celebration of Baptism!
Lillian Kathryn Garden 6/22/2025





Recently, it was noticed that the bulletin board by the Business Manager's office contained cards addressed to the church. The comment was made that these cards should be shared with everyone in the church since all members of our Congregation are the intended recipients. Many individuals enter and leave the church by the Narthex and do not have an opportunity see these communications. While these cards may have been received some time ago, it is never too late to share them with you! These cards remind us that what we do in love and caring spreads joy, hope and love. We are God's love - in action!



St. John Christian Preschool...

It's hard to be unhappy when God blesses us with a beautiful springtime world! While it was sad to say good-bye to our little ones who are moving on to Kindergarten, it is a blessing to be able to continue touching the lives of new friends who will enter our preschool in the fall.



We are excited to welcome many of our preschool friends back for classes next year and are also anxious to meet many new friends. We do have a few openings in our program, but spots are filling up fast! Our morning class is open to any child who will be at least 3 on or before September 15, 2025. So please let us know if you or someone you know is looking for a preschool for his/her 3-year-old! Our afternoon classes (there is a FREE 4-day and small fee 5-day option) are open to any child who will be at least 4 on or before September 15, 2025. Please call the preschool (228-7274) if you would like more information.

We are SO EXCITED to announce that a new director/lead teacher has been hired for next year!! We are so pleased to welcome Ms. Shaune Fields!! She has over 30 years of experience in early childhood and has a passion for developing a love of Christ in our younger learners!! Welcome, Shaune!!

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 HIS Name,

Whittney Franke



July 2025 Schedule...

7/1	3:00 p.m.	3 rd Floor Committee
7/2	9:00 a.m.	Do-Day Quilters
7/4		Office Closed
7/6	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Communion
	10:15 a.m.	After Worship Social Time
7/12	3:00 p.m.	Litterer/Gebel Wedding
7/13	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:15 a.m.	After Worship Social Time
7/16	9:00 a.m.	Do-Day Quilters
7/20	9:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Communion
	10:15 a.m.	After Worship Social Time
7/23		Newsletter Deadline
7/27	9:00 a.m.	Worship
	10:15 a.m.	After Worship Social Time
7/29	3:00 p.m.	Salvation Army

Board Meetings

Buildings and Grounds:	7/15	6:00 p.m.
Caring Ministries:	7/10 or 7/24	4:00 or 4:30 p.m.
Council:	7/8	6:00 p.m.
Deacons:	7/13	10:05 a.m.
Finance Board:	7/8	5:00 p.m.
Parish Ed:	7/6	10:15 a.m.
Stewardship Board:	7/15	5:30 p.m.
Youth and Family Board	7/2	5:00 p.m.

July 2025 Birthdays & Anniversaries...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Jeanette Anderson Blaine Van Ausdall	Anna Mehmen Susan Shankland Anniversary: Justin and Raelynn Chase	Wayne McClintock Loyal McLean Larance Nordmeyer Anniversary: Dennis and Diane Sande		Chris Hoeft
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Quinn DeBower June Kehret	Anniversary: Jordan and Whitney Smith	Mark Kabele John Rima Lola Vest	Robert Peterson	Jodi Hammond Anniversaries: Eugene and Ina Heitz Dennis and Janet Petefish	Jeanne Hansen LaVonne Reysack	Lisa Garden Devon Murray Ed Platte Anniversaries: Paul and Mary Augustin Josh and Tara Dean Leon and Janice Mulford
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Tilleen Litterer Anniversary: Jacob and Rachel Page	Anniversary: Mark and Skyler Tiedemann	Don Holm Rylie Keyes		Katherine Ortmyer David Seckar Anniversary: Brian and Kimberly Watkins	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Craig Begemann Dewey Chase Joslyn Cotton Marron Murray	Madelynn Hoeft Scott Kendall Anniversary: Dennis and Carol Brahn	Rosie Baldus Gloria Hulbert Jackson Mehmen	Todd Prichard Anniversaries: Russ and Susan Leeper Levi and Mercedes Wolf	Wendy Castillo Karen Streich Anniversaries: Jeremy and Jodi Heyer Keith Westergard and Laurie Jean Kristiansen		Linda Girken Harley Hinz Jace Montange
27	28	29	30	31		
Anniversary: Guy and Karol Carpenter	Landon Schultz Anniversary: Don and Sharon Tieskotter Ryan and Shannon Venz	Glenn Jacobson Anniversary: Michael and Darcy Tracey	Ana Blickenderfer Brady Callison Michael Quade Anniversaries: Gary and Julie DeBower Jake and Lori Gassman Joshua and Lydia Johnson Wayne and Gina McClintock	Kayden McDonald Emma Velez		