

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



2022



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 is now live streamed &
can be viewed on our website or the St John
Charles City YouTube channel
& will be broadcasted live on
KCHA FM 95.9 at
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

The live broadcast is also recorded and is
available on the St. John website & YouTube

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

St. John Christian Preschool
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whittney Franke
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com
Teacher: Carleen Laue



Pastor Anita Nuetzman:

Dear People of God at St. John,
As a little girl, one of the highlights of my day was watching Bart's Clubhouse every afternoon on channel 3 - KGLO from Mason City. The host, Bart, appeared on a set that looked something like a clubhouse kids might have built and spoke as if he could see you at home, *right through the television*. There were also cartoons and puppets; standard fare for local kids' shows in a time long before Nickelodeon.

Of course, the viewer never saw the people *operating* the puppets, nor, as a farm kid, had I ever *seen* a puppet before, so it should come as no surprise that I believed the characters were real. Imagine my excitement, then, when my mom decided to stop by the TV station on one of our rare trips to Mason City. As we walked up the sidewalk, I couldn't wait to meet Bart and all these magical friends *in person*!

Well, you've probably figured out by now that little Anita was in for a *huuuuuge* let-down. Inside, a station employee explained to my mother that Bart wasn't available, but we were more than welcome to look around the set.

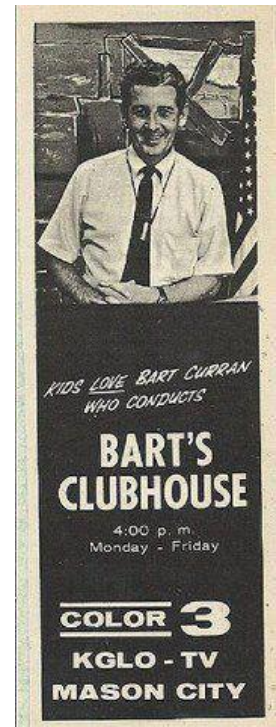
I don't know if I can effectively convey the disappointment I felt when I realized that the "clubhouse" had only one wall which was propped up and painted on one side to resemble weathered boards. Still puzzled as to the whereabouts of the little friends I'd come to know, I stepped behind the desk that Bart used and slowly pulled open a drawer. To this day, I still remember the horror I felt when I discovered their lifeless bodies lying inside that drawer!

As children of God, we are all created with a need for relationship. So, for a farm kid who didn't attend daycare or preschool or Sunday School, television characters took on that important role, even if they were fictitious.

But, unlike puppets, or any of the other things in which we've mistakenly trusted, Jesus Christ *is real*. God crossed the barrier between heaven and earth, entering the *real* world as a *real*, human infant, nurtured by *real*, human parents, during a specific historical time period in a geographic location we can point to on a map. Through the birth of Christ, relationship with God becomes reality for all.

Accept no substitutes.

Pastor Anita



The worship service at St. John has gone LIVE!!!

Our 9:00 a.m. worship service is now live! To watch the service, go to www.stjohncharlescity.org. On the front page click on the Live Streaming Link post or go to the Worship & Sermon tab & click on YouTube. You can also go to YouTube and in the search box type St. John Charles City IA to find our channel. On our channel click videos, then the down arrow next to uploads, then upcoming live streams. The service is recorded as it streams & will be available after 10:00 a.m. to watch at any time.

150th Anniversary...

150 years for the Church at the Crossroads 1872 to 2022

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church is celebrating its sesquicentennial, 150 years as a congregation. A group of German Lutherans worshiping in homes, schoolhouses and an occasional store front, extended a call to a Lutheran pastor, Reverend Christian Wilke, in February of 1872. In September of that year a resolution was passed to buy three lots and build a church at what is now the corner of Gilbert and Main Street in Charles City, the crossroads of two bustling roads. That small white church, finished and dedicated in 1873, was the first of three churches that would stand in that spot. The language spoken in the church was German and that remained in effect until the 1930s.

It took ten years to pay off the debt that was incurred to build that first building, but at the 10th anniversary the congregation's thank offering liquidated its debt and had enough to purchase its first organ and other church furnishings and ornaments. In 1879, the Reverend E.H. Caselmann was called to be the new pastor. Under his guidance a school was built and more lots were purchased for future expansion. In early 1893 it was decided to build a new church, which was built in the shape of a cross and dedicated in September 1893. It is noted in the church history that a German brass band was on hand as well as several Lutheran pastors who took part in the celebration. The number of people present that day overwhelmed the church sanctuary with some members having to stand and to spill over to the outside of the building. The offering that day paid off all debt for the church.

Reverend Caselmann lead the congregation through 38 years and several renovations. When he died in 1918, he left his estate to the congregation to build the final church that would stand in its present location. Several delays caused the congregation to delay building until 1924. Parts of the previous church were actually dismantled and sold to complete the cost of the church building which was known as the Caselmann Memorial. There is currently a plaque in the back of the sanctuary commemorating Caselmann's dedication and contribution to St. John.

Many wonderful pastors have been at the helm of St. John and have led the congregation through more celebrations and some hardship, such as when the tornado hit the town and in later years when some devastating floods caused our parish hall to feed hundreds of people in service to the community. Additions to the building over the years including the Parish Hall, kitchen, Sunday school and office areas and the Narthex and Annex attached to the original sanctuary of the church, have enhanced and modernized the ministry and its outreach. The current pastor at St. John, Russ Leeper, has spearheaded the most recent additions to the church by bringing it into the current digital age with sound, video and live streaming video of the church service on YouTube. This is an addition to the audio over KCHA radio and the local access channel that have been going on for many years.

St. John is excited to celebrate this wonderful heritage and invite the community to worship with us and attend any or all of the special events that will be coming in 2022. One of the first things the community will note when driving by the church are the banners that will be displayed all year at the corners of the church property. Some of the anticipated events range from the simple display of historical documents, pictures and interesting items to Wartburg and Luther musical groups, a gospel group leading the service, an old-fashioned Easter Sunday and other monthly mini celebrations. The culmination of the year will take place in October with a large celebration, dinner and Bountiful Harvest and Heritage Craft Fair. St. John looks forward to sharing our year long celebration with the community. Our church is open to any and all that wish to attend.

Janet Petefish, 150th Anniversary Committee



OF NOTE...

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
CONGREGATION
JANUARY 23, 2022, AT 10:00 A.M.
IN THE PARISH HALL**

The Youth will be hosting a brunch in the Parish Hall during the Annual Meeting.
Menu: eggs, ham, cheese, pancakes, and cinnamon rolls
Free will donation goes to youth working at the brunch.

Jello Bowl Contest

On January 23rd, the 150th Anniversary committee would like to invite you to participate in a Jello Bowl contest. Laurie Heidebrink and the youth will be serving brunch during the meeting, and we are going to add on a bit of fun. Immediately following the meeting, we will announce the winning Jello (with prizes in select categories!). Let's get back to our red Jello Lutheran roots and see what we can come up with for the most scrumptious, interesting, or breakfast-accenting Jello. Think of it as sort of Jello potluck add-on. Maybe a fruit Jello would be a good accent or something with ?meat? (Do you remember the Jello aspic salads we used to have at potlucks? I barely do, but I found a recipe). Get those creative juices flowing and have some fun with us. More information will follow in the bulletin and e-Skinny.

Helping Hands in the New Year 2022!!

What better way to start our 150th year of God's Love in Action than to start a new ministry?! We have about 20 people ready, willing, and able to help run errands, do minor household help, and provide transportation.

If you need any of these services, please call Kathy at the church office during regular business hours. Someone will contact you within 48 hours of receiving the message to make arrangements to help.

We will continue this ministry as long as we have volunteers to serve.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

After Worship Social Time

has been an enjoyable way to reconnect with each other! Coffee & a treat are served in the Parish Hall each Sunday! If you would like to volunteer to bring the treats, please sign up on the chart just inside the doors on the table or call Kathy in the office. What you choose to bring for a treat is entirely up to you! Coffee & napkins are provided by St. John.

In 2020, we took 22 fleece blankets to the Floyd County Hospital for a Christmas Eve present for all patients that couldn't go home for the holiday. We did the same in 2021.

The Prayer shawl and blanket ministry is a great winter project for anyone that can sew, knit, crochet or quilt. If you need yarn, there is free yarn in the clothing room at church. If you want to sew the fleece blankets, just contact me at petefishj@mchsi.com and I will get you some fleece (I have a pattern for a single layer blanket that requires some sewing).

Starting in January, on Friday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. we will have a **prayer shawl group** starting up. I would be happy to teach you how to knit if you would like to make a knitted prayer shawl. We have extended an invitation to some knitters from other churches that I have been acquainted with over the last few years to come and have some fellowship with us as we have a cup of coffee and knit or crochet. Anyone is welcome. Conversation is the best part. We will meet in the fireside room unless there is a funeral or something that needs the space. If I know you are interested, I can add you to an email list to notify when it is not taking place. Please let me know at the above email and I can get you on the list. Janet Petefish

People's Page...

January birthdays of our members who are 80 & older!

1/3 Wallace Schilling
1/5 Richard Olesen
1/7 Lawrence Hibbs
1/8 Irene Gabe
1/14 Kay Tjaden
1/17 Dean Toebe
1/20 Sherman Loudermilk
1/26 Dianne Harrold
1/28 Betty Ball
1/28 Dale Lamprecht
1/29 Dale Bond
1/29 Eunice Tommingo

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

January 2, 1964 Leland & Pamela Lumley

**2022 Offering Envelopes are
available in the
Narthex to pick up!**

Altar Flowers & Radio Broadcast

Call the office at 641-228-3397 to sign up to sponsor Altar flowers &/or radio broadcasts in 2022

With sympathy, the funerals of:

Matthew Ray Lovik, 11/23/21
Herbert Eric Hinz, 12/4/2021
Leon Hardy Gemaehlich, 12/13/21
Allen Donald Manning, 12/23/21

Memorials were given in memory of...

Algie Slindee by Marilyn Isakson

*Herbert Hinz by Russell & Betty Ball &
Dean & Doris Toebe*

Wednesday Night Suppers in January:

Jan 5: Yummy chicken, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegetables, doughnuts

Jan 12: Potato soup & cheese soup, pulled pork sandwiches, ice cream bars

Jan 19: Salisbury steak, garden pasta bake, fruit salad, brownies

Jan 26: Lasagna, green beans, lettuce salad, pudding



Remember to bring items for the **Blessing Box!** Many people are using our Blessing Box, so let's keep it filled! **Popular items:** protein (chicken, tuna, meat sticks), boxes of cereal, individual easy-to-prepare meals. Bread & peanut butter. Cake mix & frosting. Pancake mix & syrup. Hot chocolate & marshmallows. **Personal care items** (bar soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo), toilet paper, tissues. Dish soap, laundry detergent (small containers).

Our Generosity in November

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

8% of our regular November offering (\$1713.43) went to support the mission of the larger church.

2% of our total offering goes to support our community needs. In November (\$550.97) was given to the CC Cares fund to help purchase Christmas gifts individuals in need. This group has taken over the responsibilities of the Chamber Of Commerce "Holiday Cheer Fund".

Youth & Families...

Winter is in full swing and while the days ARE getting longer – the weather sometimes doesn't cooperate with us. If school is cancelled or dismissed early on a Wednesday (due to weather) we will NOT hold the After School Program or Confirmation classes or have ANY of our Wednesday night activities.
Blessings, Laurie

Youth News

The Youth Board is hosting a breakfast on January 23rd in the Parish Hall at 10:00 a.m. during the Annual Meeting.

Come support the youth of St. John while enjoying eggs, ham, cheese, pancakes, and cinnamon rolls, too!

Confirmation

Our second Session of classes continues this month and the thirty-four students in our Confirmation program are taking either The Apostles' Creed, The New Testament or Ten Commandments.

Sunday School News

December brought the Christmas Program for our Sunday Schoolers who are 3 years old through 6th grade. The Program went so well this year, and I am so thankful for all the work the students, teachers, and directors did to make it so great!

Sunday School classes resume on Sunday, January 9th after a break for the holidays. We are learning about New Testament Bible stories this semester.

There will be NO Sunday School on January 23rd due to the Annual Meeting being held that day at 10am.

Attention: **5th Grade Parents!** The 1st Communion **parent/student/pastor instructional classes** will be February 13th and February 20th at 10:15am. Please put these two dates on your calendar now.

Family Board

Thank you to everyone that donated to our "Christmas, Crafts, and Kids \$0.25 Gift Store"! We had a great turn-out and heard lots of positive comments afterwards. We will be taking donations of **Christmas items** from now until January 15th for next year's sale. (Sorry, but we just don't have the space to take donations all year long. We will take donations again next fall.)

After School Program

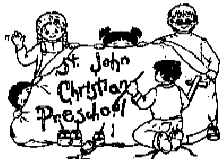
We have 16 kids enrolled in our After School Program, which is each Wednesday from 3:30-5pm. We have a snack and do a craft project and watch a short video each week. It's never too late to join!

**NO Sunday School
January 23rd!**

5th Grade 1st Communion Class
Will be February 13th & 20th at
10:15 a.m.

Parents & students will meet with
Pastor Russ





St. John Christian Preschool...

Happy New Year from all of your friends at St. John Christian Preschool! We are so excited to welcome back our wonderful friends and families for the second semester of our preschool program. As we look forward to our new semester we would like to remind everyone that there are a few openings remaining in our program. Please contact the preschool if you have any questions.

The month of December was a great one, full of anticipation and excitement towards the birth of our Savior! We started the month with the introduction of the letters "Oo," "Nn" and "Cc". Our bi-weekly themes were Gingerbread, Nativity and Christmas. The last day of our Gingerbread week, we made our own Gingerbread Houses! It was so much fun! The last two weeks before break, was even more exciting! We introduced our very special Baby Jesus doll, who slept in His very own manger. The children loved rocking him and singing to him. It was awe-inspiring to witness the love they showed to that special baby and it was a constant reminder to the adults of what the Christmas season is *truly* all about. We worked to emphasize the special Christmas story with projects that highlighted that precious baby boy. We hope that your Christmases brought you the same joy and satisfaction.

Starting this month, we will open up our 5-day program, again. Each day will be a continuation of the weekly themes already set for the MWF week. We will be working on our literacy skills with writing activities and lots of books. We will also introduce sight words and explore our artistic side with frequent art projects. Integrated within each day's lesson will be many opportunities to work on our math skills, artistic expression, and reasoning abilities. This is all in addition to singing, dancing, playing and lots of fun!

As we end another year at SJCP, we thank you for your continued support that not only sustains our preschool but also helps our preschool grow and flourish. Not to mention all of the preschoolers within it!

We start the New Year feeling blessed by the job God has given us. We work with great friends and we are supported by a board full of dedicated moms and a congregation that has given so generously in so many ways to our ministry. We hope that the New Year is full of just as many blessings for your family.

With His Love,
Whittney Franke



January 2022 Schedule...

Sundays: 9:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
Communion is the 1st & 3rd Sunday
10:05 a.m. Sunday Education Hour

Jan 19: Newsletter Deadline
9:00 a.m. Do Day Quilters

Jan 23: Worship at 9:00 a.m. featuring special music by Luther College Choir
10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting of the Congregation
10:00 a.m. Youth Brunch
10:00 a.m. Jello Bowl



Wednesday Night Activities...

3:45 – 5:00 p.m. After School
5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Supper
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Trinity Choir

Board Meetings:

Building & Grounds:	1/4	5:00 p.m.
Council:	1/11	7:00 p.m.
Deacons:	TBD	
Family Board	1/30	11:00 a.m.
Finance Board	1/13	5:30 p.m.
Parish Ed	1/9	11:00 a.m.
Stewardship	1/18	2:30 p.m. at Quade's
Youth	1/5	5:30 p.m.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
						Barbara Tommingo
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Bruce Hovden Patrick Lumley	Elizabeth Gassman Teresa Knecht Cassandra Schiesher Wallace Schilling	Laura Marth	Ryan Hallett Ledger Hicks Richard Olesen		Lawrence Hibbs	Irene Gabe Grace Marth
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Evan Schmidke	Ann Voelker	Lee Hoeft	Mike Hammond Larry Milleson	Tami Miller Kay Tjaden Sawyer Wiltse Avery Wiltse	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Jennifer Seckar	Dean Toebe	Gary DeBower Jared Tieskotter	Janna Behrendsen Parker Hicks	Josiah Hervert Sarah Kendall Joshua Keyes Sherman Loudermilk	Kathy Hoeft Steve Shankland	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Doris Hibbs	Sharon Bledsoe Terry Meyer	Sharon Streich	John Selvig Ryan Venz		Scott Aspholm Betty Ball Emma Heidebrink Cameron Kakac Dale Lamprecht	Dale Bond Eunice Tommingo Jaclyn Van Horn
30	31					
Harlow Venz	Randy Brunner Benjamin Hammond Nancy Nelson Olive Tracey Abigail Wolf					