

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER



2025

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

Pastor Russ Leeper:  
rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com

Beth Hurt, Intern  
beth@stjohncharlescity.com

Website: [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)

Office Secretary: Toni Hicks  
[office@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:office@stjohncharlescity.com)  
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
& 1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

 Find & like us on Facebook!

Subscribe to the E-Skinny by  
emailing Toni at  
[office@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:office@stjohncharlescity.com)

Business Manager: Tonia Olsen  
businessmanager@stjohncharlescity.com

Worship service broadcasted on  
KCHA FM 95.9 at  
9:00 a.m. on Sunday

Music Director:  
Melanie Johanningmeier  
mjohanningmeier@stjohncharlescity.com

St. John Christian Preschool  
641-228-7274

Preschool Director: Whitney Franke  
wfranke@stjohncharlescity.com



Youth & Family Director: Dani Neve  
yfcoordinator@stjohncharlescity.com

Custodian: Jamie Carolan  
jcarolan@stjohncharlescity.com

*As precautionary steps for safety and security, we would like to ask all attendees and visitors of St John, to make sure you are locking your vehicles anytime you are inside the church or away from your vehicle.*

## Pastor Russ Leeper

Mary Mooberry is one of the many volunteers who help with our Wednesday After School Program. Each week she helps prepare and serve snacks to our hungry kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> graders when they get off the bus. Mary recently told me this story:

*"I was sitting at a table in the parish hall last Sunday during after worship social time and one of the kids from our after school program, Henry Marth, came up to me and asked, 'Are you the snack lady from after school program?' I told him that I was. Then he handed me a quarter and said, 'Thanks.' It made me feel so good! I'm going to send him a thank you."*

I love that story for so many reasons! I love it that kids are recognizing and forming bonds with the adults who are helping in our programs. I love it that Mary got her spiritual cup filled by a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader. I love it that our helpers are experiencing the joy of being part of our ministry with children, youth, and families. I love it that appreciation is being shown and generosity is happening at all ages in our congregation. And I love it that Jesus is making himself known in our congregation through these simple caring moments.

We're in the season of Epiphany right now. In this season, we celebrate that God was revealed to us in the person of Jesus Christ. And Jesus is still making God's love known to us all the time ... in the kindness we receive, in the joy we get from serving others, and in the generosity we share.

Where is God being revealed to you today? How is Jesus making Himself known in your life? I'd love to hear your story, too!

Peace,  
Pastor Russ



# Of Note...

**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!

**We still need volunteers to bring the treats!!**

*There is a sign-up sheet by the Narthex doors!!*

## NEW SIGN-UP FOR 2025 IS OUT!!

### After Worship Social Time

Coffee & a treat are served in the Parish Hall each Sunday!!

### \*\*\*Special Note\*\*\*

We need volunteers to sign up to bring treats. There is a sign-up sheet by the Narthex doors.

(We currently plan for “approximately” three (3) dozen treats.)



### Please help support...

### St. John Christian Preschool

Purchase Kwik Star gift cards and the preschool

receives 5% of the face value!!

Please contact Whittney or Toni if you are interested.

### St. John Helping Hands...

If someone needs help with in-town transportation, light household chores, changing a lightbulb, etc.

call St. John at 641-228-3397 & help will be arranged for you!

## **SUNDAY BULLETIN**

&

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

Requests for adding information to the Sunday Bulletin need to be in the Secretary’s Office *no later than Wednesday at 9am each week.*

Announcements and information for The Good Newsletter need to be submitted to the Secretary’s Office by 11:30am on the following dates.

<u>Newsletter for:</u>	<u>Submit by:</u>
March	February 19 <sup>th</sup>
April	March 17 <sup>th</sup>
May	April 16 <sup>th</sup>
June	May 21 <sup>st</sup>
July	June 18 <sup>th</sup>

*Dates are subject to change. Please keep an eye on them ahead of special events and holidays.*



### **Dartball is back!!!!**

*Wednesday at 7pm*

Join anytime by just showing up or calling the church office at 641-228-3397

You can find a schedule posted in the Parish Hall on the Dartball board.

**FEBRUARY  
GAME NIGHT**

**For youth ages 1st grade through 6th grade.**

**Small snack provided.**

**DATE**  
**FRIDAY, FEB 7TH**

**TIME**  
**6:30-8:30 PM**

**PLACE**  
**St John - 3rd Floor**

**ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

# GriefShare®

Join us to find help and encouragement after the death of a loved one. At GriefShare, you'll find understanding, guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the challenges of grief. Each meeting consists of an educational video about a grief topic, as well as time to share with others in a confidential setting.

GriefShare meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm to 8 pm. It will end on Tuesday, April 8. Any adult from the community who has experienced the death of a loved one is invited to join us at any time for this healing and hopeful experience.

LifeServe  
*Share your heart.*  
**Donate blood.**

AMERICAN  
Heart Month



SCAN ME

Charles City Community  
Blood Drive

Messiah Lutheran Church  
705 3rd Ave. | Charles City

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025**

12:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: [lifeserve.info/schedule](http://lifeserve.info/schedule)



The 25 cent Christmas store was on hold this year, but it will be up and running next year. Please bring new and gently used items to donate. There is a wrapped box in the Narthex for you to drop off your donations. If you have donations that you would like to be picked up, call Jodi Reetz 641-330-4119.

We're to putting the sundae in Sunday! Pastor Russ is leading a six-week adult class called "Ice Cream Theology." Each week we'll eat ice cream and talk about God and the Bible. Come and explore with us as we look for God in our daily lives through the simple pleasure of enjoying ice cream together. Even if you're not an ice cream eater, we welcome your presence with us! This class meets in the chapel on Sundays at 10:15 AM (or as soon as Pastor Russ can get there).

The schedule of topics is:

February 2 – Mint Chocolate Chip / Stewardship and Generosity

February 9 – Rocky Road / Crucifixion

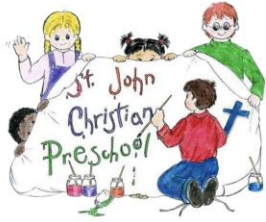
February 16 – Moose Tracks / Resurrection



## Scholarship Applications:

Those students attending a Lutheran college who would like to receive an EPIC grant must notify the church by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.

St. John scholarship applications for non-Lutheran colleges can be emailed to you and should be returned via email or dropped off to the office by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**.



## A Full-Time Preschool Director/Lead Teacher

An exciting and fulfilling position  
with salary + benefits package  
+ **recruitment bonus!!!**

To apply, please send a cover letter and  
resume to Pastor Russ Leeper at  
[rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com](mailto:rleeper@stjohncharlescity.com)

Go to [www.stjohncharlescity.org](http://www.stjohncharlescity.org)  
for the full job description.

A note from your church kitchen...

The Wednesday night meal crew would like to take a moment to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the donations (large or small), help and prayers that we have been fortunate to receive. There have been donations of meats, fruits, vegetables, desserts, money and kitchen supplies. We ask for desserts and salads for our events. We ask for help in preparing, cleaning up and serving. Parents and students help us on Wednesday night. For other activities, it takes a team to organize and prepare these days. You respond with your smiles and a cheerful "yes." Costs have jumped dramatically and you do make a difference. Thank you.

Our Wednesday night suppers have been steadily increasing in attendance. It is bringing together all ages. There are new friendships made and joy in watching and interacting with all age groups. We have seen steady growth in attendance and now prepare for 100 people each week. An addition this year is the "ringing of the *supper(?)* bell – or is it a pan? You never know what the Wednesday crew might think up! We work hard. We are having fun! We are spoiled by some of you!!!! We are blessed to work together, enjoy our day together, enjoy all of you. We are truly blessed!

Thank you and God bless all of you!  
Sandie, Jacque, Shirley, Kathy

## Wednesday Night Supper

Supper is from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Cost: \$5.00 for adults

Children through 12<sup>th</sup> grade

free thanks to

Kans for Kids

(Menu subject to change)

### February: Wednesday Supper Menu

February 5: Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Chips, Pretzel Salad

February 12: Meat Loaf, Baked Potatoes, Corn, Cherry Bars

February 19: Turkey Tetrazzini, Peas, Bread Stix, Fruit Cocktail

February 26: Hot Dogs, Mac & Cheese, Texas Sheet Cake with cooked frosting



## Noisy Bucket Sunday Coming

(Start saving your change!!!)

We will have a Noisy Bucket Offering on Sunday, February 2nd!

This offering will go toward helping kids attend our **VBS Day Camp** this summer. It will be held here at St. John **June 9-12** and will be led by staff coming from **EWALU** Bible Camp in Strawberry Point. Thanks for supporting this great experience for kids in our community!

### Upcoming Activities & Events

- \* Puzzle and pizza is Feb 16th from 1130 to 1. This is for families and individuals. The fee is \$5 per person. Lemonade and water will be offered. Your group will be given a 300 piece puzzle to complete in the time frame.
  - \* Mystery dinner is March 22 6-9pm. We are looking for actors for a short play (kids or adults). The fee is \$40 per person. Dinner will be Olive Garden salad, garlic bread, lasagna and dessert.
  - \* Ladies luncheon will be April 13 from 12-2. We will have a short devotional, entertainment, activity and craft. The meal will be sandwiches and sides. Looking for table hosts, make dessert for the 8 people at your table and decorate table how you like. There will be some silent auction items available. We are asking for \$10 per person.
  - \* Family fun day will be May 17 at noon. We will float the cedar river from Brantingham bridge to Nashua. We will end at Linda and Ron cabin. This will be a potluck event. Canoe, kayak, and tubes will be available. If you are not floating, you can meet us at the cabin around 3pm. We will have yard games, bonfire, and possibly an outdoor movie.
  - \* Snowflakes in the narthex. We are asking that members make a paper snowflake. We will hang them as decorations.
  - \* You will be seeing Hug mugs in the pews. Pick it up and take it home, follow the directions and return the following Sunday with a mug to share.
  - \* **Soup Sundays will be the first and third Sundays.** Soup will be made on Friday before at 3pm in the kitchen. All are welcome to help. Soups will be packaged in 8-12 oz containers. You may pick up following the service in the parish hall. This will be a free will donation. We ask that members help with the ingredients. A list of items will be on the bulletin board by the business office. Money from donations will cover the cost of supplies any extra will be donated to the kitchen fund.  
Feb 2- chili, potato  
Feb 16- pasta fagioli, vegetable  
Mar 2- minestrone, tortilla soup with black beans  
Mar 16- chicken noodle, wild rice
- All of these events will need helpers. Please call Kim or Bev for more information.



December 31, 2024

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church  
200 S Main St  
Charles City, IA 50616

Dear Parishioners of St. John Ev. Lutheran Church,

**Thank you for your generous contribution to the Spencer Chamber Foundation Flood Recovery Fund.** Every gift we receive has a meaningful impact, and your support of \$750.50 on 12/13/2024 is deeply appreciated.

The flood disaster that struck Spencer and Clay County, Iowa, nearly six months ago, on June 22, 2024, caused widespread devastation. However, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of over 350 donors like you, the Chamber Foundation has been able to award grants to 51 businesses and 217 residents throughout Clay County through the Spencer Chamber Foundation Disaster Recovery Fund. In Spencer alone, floodwaters affected over 2,100 properties and approximately 100 houses have collapsed basement wall(s) as well as other severe damage. The flood impacted nearly every sector of our community, including: education, restaurants, hotels, social services, construction, medical facilities, and several city and county buildings.

The Spencer Chamber Foundation, along with the Foundation Board and the Grant Review Committee, extends our heartfelt gratitude for your contribution toward flood relief. We understand that the road to recovery is long, and with your donation, we are making significant strides forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sheriffa Jones".

Sheriffa Jones, Executive Director  
director@spenceriowachamber.org

*Thank you for assisting Clay County residents in businesses in recovery!*

*The Spencer Chamber of Commerce Foundation (EIN: 82-3499924) is a 501c3, organized to sponsor and fund community, educational, and community benefit programs.*

1805 Highway Blvd | Spencer, IA 51301 | (712) 262-5680  
#SpencerStrong

## People's Page...



Greetings, St. John Lutheran Church family! My name is Danielle Neve, and I am beyond excited to join this wonderful community as your new Youth and Ministry Coordinator. I'm from the town of Allison, but my roots trace back to Clarksville.

I am blessed with a loving family – my amazing spouse and our spirited son keep life beautifully vibrant. I was raised in the Catholic faith, but in April of 2024, I found a renewed sense of faith in the Lutheran tradition, a journey that has been both enlightening and fulfilling.

I am eager to support and engage with the youth and families of St. John, and I can't wait to create meaningful and joyous experiences together. Let's embark on this faith-filled adventure with enthusiasm and heart!  
Blessings,  
Danielle Neve

### ***February anniversaries of our members who have been married***

#### ***50 or more years!***

Dale & Helen Bond	2/1/1969
Steven & Diane Barr	2/14/1969
Jim & Donna Gambaiani	2/14/1960
Lenis & Nadonne Buseman	2/14/1964

### ***Memorials were given in memory of...***

Larry Stewart: Dean & Doris Toebe

Marian Hoefst: John & Bev Selvig

### **February birthdays 80 & older!**

Don Knowlton	2/3/1935
Duane Ortmyer	2/21/1937



**Wednesday Kitchen for February  
2025**

**Acolytes for February 2025**

Sunday...

2 Jackson Mehmen Addisen Lantz	5 Sam Northrop & Alison Molly & Jana Hammermeister Owen Pritchard
9 Meghan Korbel Kielyn Bahe	12 Kielyn Bahe & Family Owen Pritchard Meghan Korbel & Family
16 Meghan Korbel Kielyn Bahe	19 Kielyn Bahe & Family Owen Pritchard Meghan Korbel & Family
23 Meghan Korbel Kielyn Bahe	26 Benny Tracey Charley Sweet & Michelle Barry

<b><i>Board Meetings:</i></b>		
Youth & Family	1/29	5:30 PM
Parish Ed	2/9	10:15 AM
Deacons	2/9	10:15 AM
Finance	2/11	5:00 PM
Council	2/11	6:00 PM
Stewardship	2/18	5:15 PM
B & G	2/18	6:00 PM
Caring Ministry	2/20	4:30 PM

## St. John Christian Preschool...



For the many blessings that come from Heaven above; we thank you, Lord, with heart and soul  
and sing of Your great love!

Love is definitely in the air at St. John Christian Preschool, but perhaps not in the way that you traditionally think of during this month of greeting cards and chocolate. We feel honored to be able to share God's love with each of our 31 little ones each and every day. And you know what the really AWESOME thing is? It doesn't take very long before our little ones start sharing God's love right back!

We learned all about the letters B, M, O, & G; how to write them on our own, the sounds each letter makes, and how to sign each letter in American Sign Language. In our 4-yr-old classes, we started working on our Kindergarten Readiness Skills: how to quietly walk in a line down the hall, sitting on the listening rug quietly and raising our hand if we have something to share, and writing our names all by ourselves! The list goes on and on! In all classes, we worked on our self-help skills by working on putting on our coats, zipping them up, and putting on our backpacks! We're all doing quite well!

We would also like to remind everyone that the preschool is still selling Kwik Star gift cards. Please stop down or call if you are interested in purchasing a gift card (228-7274.) The preschool receives 5% of the card's face value.

Registration for the 2025-26 school year is also starting up in February! CURRENT families will begin registration Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> and NEW families will begin registration on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at our New Family Registration Open House! The open house will be from 4:30-6:30pm. Registration will remain open until we are full. Children who will be 3 on or before September 15, 2025 and all children 4 and 5 years old are welcome. Scholarships are available later in the summer. A minimum registration fee of \$30 is due at time of registration. Please call 228-7274 or email us at [wfranke@stjohncharlescivcity.com](mailto:wfranke@stjohncharlescivcity.com) for more information.

Last, but certainly not least, we are blessed with the many forms of support that the St. John congregation provides us. From financial gifts to prayers to the smiles that we receive when we pass a member of the congregation in the hall, we feel loved. In a world full of many difficulties, thank you for sharing your support with our youngest friends and making them feel special, needed and important.

With HIS love,  
Whittney Franke



## **February 2025**

2/2/2025	9:00 AM	Worship/Communion Kids Choir Sings Noisy Bucket Offering
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities Soup Sunday--chili, potato
2/3/2025	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
2/4/2025	6:30 PM	GriefShare
2/5/2025	9:00 AM	Do Day Quilters
	2:15 PM	Wednesday Activities
	4:30-6:30	
2/6/2025	PM	New Family Registration Open House
2/7/2025	6:30 PM	Youth Game Night (1st-6th grades)
2/9/2025	9:00 AM	Worship
	9:00 AM	Preschool Sings
	10:15 AM	Deacons
	10:15 AM	Parish Ed
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities
2/10/2025		No SJCP
	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
2/11/2025	5:00 PM	Finance
	6:00 PM	Council
	6:30 PM	GriefShare
2/12/2025	2:15 PM	Wednesday Activities
2/14/2025	10:45 AM	SJCP Valentine Tea
	6:00 PM	Girl Scouts
2/16/2025	9:00 AM	Worship/Communion
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities Soup Sunday--pasta fagioli, vegetable Puzzle & Pizza
2/17/2025	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
2/18/2025	5:15 PM	Stewardship
	6:00 PM	Building & Grounds
	6:30 PM	GriefShare
2/19/2025	11:30 AM	Newsletter Deadline
	2:15 PM	Wednesday Activities
2/20/2025	4:30 PM	Caring Ministries
2/23/2025	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:15 AM	Sunday After Worship Activities
	10:15 AM	First Communion Class
2/24/2025	6:00 PM	Cub Scouts
2/25/2025	5:15 PM	Stephen Ministry Group Meeting
	6:30 PM	GriefShare
2/26/2025	2:15 PM	Wednesday Activities
2/28/2025	6:00 PM	Girl Scouts

## **SUNDAY AFTER WORSHIP ACTIVITIES**

**10:05 After Worship Social Time**  
**10:15 Whirl Sunday School**  
**10:15 Youth Hour**  
**10:15 Ice Cream Theology**  
 (Adult Class)

## **Wednesday Night Schedule**

**2:15 pm After School Program**  
**4:15 pm Kids Choir**  
**5:00 pm Supper**  
**6:00 pm Confirmation**  
**6:00 pm Tone Chime Choir**  
**7:00 pm Trinity Choir**  
**7:00 pm Dartball**

### **\*\*SPECIAL NOTE\*\***

**First Communion Class** is  
 Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
 10:15am—11am  
 Sanctuary\*\*\*Students & Parents  
 At least one parent needs to come  
 with each 5<sup>th</sup> grader.

# February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Ryan Venz's birthday John Seelig's birthday	27 Beth Ball's birthday Emma Heidebrink's birthday Cameron Kakaac's birthday Scott Aspholm's birthday	28 Dale Bond's birthday Jacqyn Van Horn's birthday Adam and Ana Bickendeifer's 20th anniversary	29 Harlow Venz's birthday	30 Benjamin Hammond's birthday Olive Tracy's birthday Nancy Nelson's birthday Randy Bonner's birthday Abigail Wolf's birthday	31 Meghan Kobel's birthday Kurt and Sarah George's 20th anniversary Dale and Helen Bond's 36th anniversary	1 Max Smith's birthday
2 Rylee Van Horn's birthday Landy Voelker's birthday	3 Donald Krowlton's birthday	4 Kyndra McDonald's birthday Laurel Schlump's birthday Paula Kuthoff's birthday	5 Melia Lantz's birthday Rusty Rogozke's birthday Kamen Mehmen's birthday Carol Bauer's birthday	6 June Montagne's birthday Viv Boerschel's birthday	7 Megan O'Brien's birthday Elizabeth Hamm's birthday Diane Neerwaag's birthday Sandie Quade's birthday	8 Valentine's I
9 Isaac Hevert's birthday	10 Samuel Northrop's birthday Dan and June Kehret's 35th anniversary	11 Cody Van Horn's birthday	12 Ron Venz's birthday Alison Mehmen's birthday	13 June Montagne's birthday Viv Boerschel's birthday	14 Kayla Streich's birthday Lennis and Nadome Euseman's 61st anniversary Jim and Donna Cambariani's 65th anniversary Sleven and Diane Barr's 56th anniversary	15 Duane Otmayer's birthday
16 Henry Page's birthday Kathleen Waldorf's birthday	17 Washington's B- Talan Eckhoff's birthday	18 Brylton Quade's birthday Caleb Streich's birthday	19 Keaton Schmittke's birthday Hunter Northrop's birthday	20 Ron Venz's birthday Alison Pettit's birthday Cassie DeBower's birthday	21 Greg Buenger's birthday Michael Ekline's birthday Lori Gassman's birthday	22 Faye Krause's birthday Judy Grimm's birthday
23 Baro Garden's birthday	24 Dennis Peefish's birthday	25 Shirley Holm's birthday	26 Ash Wehnes	27 Jean Evans' birthday Xander Chase's birthday	28 Ash Wehnes	1 Sandra Miller's birthday
2 Jada Montagne's birthday Kathleen Schuman's birthday Rita Bookler's birthday Russell and Beth Ball's 67th anniversary	3 Rae Chase's birthday Phyllis Fover's birthday Norman Bauer's birthday Helen Bond's birthday	4 Diane Barr's birthday Linda Johnson's birthday	5 Ash Wehnes	6 Jean Evans' birthday Xander Chase's birthday	7 Faye Krause's birthday Judy Grimm's birthday	8 Sandra Miller's birthday