



The EAGLE CALL

Volume 44, Number 2
February, 2012

Worship

Saturday

5:00 pm

Sunday

7:45 am

8:45 am

11:00 am

Radio Broadcast

KRNT 1350 AM

Sunday Mornings

8:30 am

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For the Healing of the Nations

Last summer, as the Arts Visioning Ministry Team was planning the 2011-12 performing arts series, Pastor Rachel was thinking about a movie she had seen, *Almost Normal*. She was touched by its moving portrayal of a family dealing with the mental illness of one of its members. That issue is very real to many in this congregation, including me and my family, but then, many needs in this world cry out for attention and are personal as well.

The idea for a benefit series, "For the Healing of the Nations," was born.

Page 9 has more detailed information about the concerts listed below.



Tropical Steel performing on Transfiguration Sunday

Sunday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m.

Benefit Concert for Relief and

Aid to the Citizens of Haiti

**Tropical Steel: Caribbean Steel Pan Ensemble,
conductor Stan Dahl**

Sunday, March 11, 5 p.m. (new date and time)

Benefit Concert for Japan

Earthquake and Tsunami Relief

**Drake University String Ensemble,
conductor Akira Mori**

**Benefit Concert for National Alliance on
Mental Illness to be rescheduled to 2012-13
Performing Arts Season**

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A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman



It is early in the season of Epiphany as I write these words about Lent, so I am feeling a bit “out of joint;” however, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, and because it is such an important season, I want to give you some tools for prayer and devotion. But first, a brief review...

- The word “lent” literally means “lengthen,” thus referring to the time of year when days grow longer. For Christians, it is a 40-day period of preparation for the celebration of Good Friday and Easter.

- In the early centuries of the church Lent was a time of instruction and examination of those who wished to be baptized at Easter. In the Middle Ages, Lent became a season of penitence for sin and had a focus on Jesus’ suffering. Now, in the 21st century church, it is a “mix” of both those themes: we prepare for baptisms and baptismal renewal at Easter but also use the time to ponder and pray for the amendment of our sinful lives.

What I want to offer you is a line or two from the Prayer of the Day for each Sunday in Lent, along with a person of faith whose witness we remember during the Lenten season and about whom you may want to learn more.

Ash Wednesday: *Gracious God...Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

We remember *Elizabeth Fedde*, deaconess. (died 1921) Born in Norway, Fedde came to New York in 1882 to minister to the poor and Norwegian seafarers. She established the Deaconess Hospital in Brooklyn, as well as Deaconess House & Hospital in Minneapolis.

First Sunday in Lent: *Holy God...Renew in us the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

We remember *George Herbert*, hymn-writer. (died 1633.) After serving in parliament for two years, Herbert was ordained a priest and was known for his unfailing care for his parishioners. But he is best known as a writer of poems and hymns such as “Come, My way, My Truth, My Life,” ELW 816.

Second Sunday in Lent: *O God...Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

We remember *Harriet Tubman* (died 1913) & *Sojourner Truth* (died 1883), both born into slavery. Tubman helped about 300 people escape slavery through the Underground Railroad. Once freed from slavery, Sojourner Truth became a preacher, speaking against slavery and for women’s rights.

Third Sunday in Lent: *Holy God...Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.*

We remember *Patrick, Bishop & Missionary to Ireland* (died 461), At age 16, Patrick was kidnapped by Irish pirates and sold into slavery in Ireland. He escaped and later returned to the north of Ireland as a bishop and successful missionary.

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In the City for Good!
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 9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Next Eagle Call Deadline
February 20 at 12 p.m.

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Fourth Sunday in Lent: *O God...Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

We remember *Oscar Romero, Bishop of El Salvador*, and martyr. Romero preached against political repression in his country and took a bold stand for justice, defending the rights of the poor. For this, he was considered a traitor. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist, March 24, 1980.

Fifth Sunday in Lent: *O God...Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

We remember *Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church*. (died 1824.) An itinerant preacher in Norway & Denmark, Hauge proclaimed "the living faith." Arrested several times for leading religious gatherings without the supervision of an ordained pastor, he also faced great personal tragedy.

Palm/Passion Sunday: *O God of mercy...Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

I offer you the above as a small Lenten discipline. Begin your daily prayers with the prayer for the week and learn something more each week about the witnesses mentioned above. It is my hope that this will help center your devotion and strengthen your life as a witness to God's love.

I will be praying for you.

DID YOU KNOW?

St. John's offers Wi-Fi from Weertz to DDI. Just look for the STJOHNS wireless network and use 'inthecity' for the passcode.



Women of the ELCA

Women of the ELCA Groups Will Meet Thursday, Feb. 2

Sarah Group will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Caribou Coffee on Ingersoll Avenue.

Lois Group will meet at 12:30 p.m. in Neumann Hall. Sandy LaBlanc will speak about health ministry.

Lenten lunches to begin

Lenten Lunches will again be offered for worshipers starting on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22 at noon. Each Wednesday after the Lenten service, soup, sandwich, salad and cookies will be available in Wertz Fellowship Hall for only \$6.

Outreach Project is for Central Iowa Shelter

The St. John's Women of the ELCA outreach project for February will be for the Central Iowa Shelter. The congregation is invited to participate by supplying men's gloves (size large), women's gloves and small-sized underwear as well as small toothpastes, toothbrushes, cough drops, chap sticks, bus tokens, hand sanitizer (large & small bottles), Kleenex (large boxes and small packages) and full-sized bottles of shampoo and conditioner. These items should be placed in the WELCA box in the Narthex or the box near the office/reception area.

Kisasa Update

Kristen Stanton to Conduct Kisasa Choristers for Winter & Spring

I'm pleased to announce that Kristen Stanton has accepted the invitation to lead our Kisasa Choristers through the rest of this program year. Kristen also has made herself available to accompany and help in other ways during this time of transition after Sarah Garner's departure.

Kristen is artistic and executive director of Iowa Children's Chorus. She has extensive training and experience in choral conducting and music education, having served as a public school music educator. She has held a number of church music positions, both full- and part-time, and is a talented pianist and organist.

During the coming months, much thought and discernment will be given to St. John's music and arts ministries to determine the configurations and job descriptions that make the most sense for our present needs and short-term goals. Until that work is completed, it is not appropriate to make long-term appointments and commitments. Kristen understands this and has been most gracious in offering to help out as her time and schedule allow.

Please welcome Kristen when you have the chance.
Larry A. Christensen,
Director of Music, Worship and Arts



Prepare for Worship

Sunday, Feb. 5, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

In Isaiah, it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars – it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service. Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and service too. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

The readings are Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 and Mark 1:29-39. The hymns will be ELW 314, "Arise, Your Light Has Come!" ELW 843, "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness," offertory, ELW 460, "Now the Silence" and ELW 665, "Rise, Shine, You People!" At 8:45 a.m. the offering music will be Cathy Skogen-Soldner's "Baptized and Set Free," sung by Larry Christensen, and music during communion will be "Eagle's Wings," by David Haas, sung by Megan Hartwig. At 11 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing "I'm So Glad," by Michael Hassell, for offering. Francine Griffith will be the guest organist Sunday.

Sunday, Feb. 12, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

In our gospel reading for this Sunday, a leper is confident in Jesus' power to heal. However, in the Old Testament reading, the Syrian general Naaman is comically hard to convince that he can be healed by such an unlikely foreigner as Elisha, who directs him to wash in such a sorry excuse for a river as the Jordan. Jesus' healing power is here among us in the ordinary water of the font, in the ordinary bread, in the ordinary people who make up the body of Christ. We would be well-advised to take the advice of the least powerful among us (like the servant girl in Naaman's household) if we want to find the one who will heal us.

The readings are 2 Kings 5:1-14, Psalm 30, 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and Mark 1:40-45. The hymns will be ELW 310, "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise," hymn of praise, ELW 853, "When Morning Gilds the Skies," ELW 612, "Healer of Our Every Ill," offertory, ELW 483, "Here Is Bread," and ELW 604, "O Christ, Our Hope." The offering and communion music at both 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. will be provided by the St. John's Chamber Orchestra. Guest organist will be Nancy Stafford.

Sunday, Feb. 19, Transfiguration of Our Lord

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration, and they hear the same voice Jesus heard at his baptism: "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" We, like those disciples, see the God-light in Jesus face, and that same light shines through us for others to see.

The readings are 2 Kings 2:1-12, Psalm 50:1-6, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 and Mark 9:2-9. For the third year in a row, we are celebrating "Transfiguration of our Lord" and God's light in Jesus with our friends, "Tropical Steel," and their conductor, Stan Dahl. That Caribbean steel-pan band will join with Cathedral Choir, Cantorei and Kisasa on four sections of "St. Francis in the Americas: a Caribbean Mass" and with the assembly on a hymn. Remember to wear your sun glasses and your tropical shirts as we head "off to the islands" for one winter Sunday. The hymns will be

ELW 671, "Shine, Jesus, Shine," ELW 838, "Beautiful Savior," ELW 531, "The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing" and ELW 866, "We Are Marching in the Light." Guest organist will be Francine Griffith.

Wednesday, Feb. 22, Ash Wednesday Two services: 12:05 and 7 p.m.

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. As we hear in today's reading, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

The readings are Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 and Matthew 6:1-16, 16-21. At the 7 p.m. service the music will be: entrance music, "Canticle of Joel," Psalm 51:1-17, "Have Mercy on Me, O God," offering music, "Dust and Ashes," by David Haas, sung by Cantorei and Cathedral Choir, and, during the imposition of Ashes, "Remember That You Are Dust." The preservice prayer, sung by Kisasa Choristers and Joyful Noise, will be "A Lenten Prayer," by Robert Powell.

Sunday, Feb. 26, First Sunday in Lent

This year the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. This Sunday Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

The readings are Genesis 9:8-17, Psalm 25:1-10, 1 Peter 3:18-22 and Mark 1:9-15. The service music will be: processional litany, "Lord, Save Your People," gospel acclamation, "Return to the Lord," ELW 517, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," offertory, ELW 483, "Here Is Bread" and ELW 454, "Remember and Rejoice." Nancy Stafford is the guest organist.

Bon Ton Roule

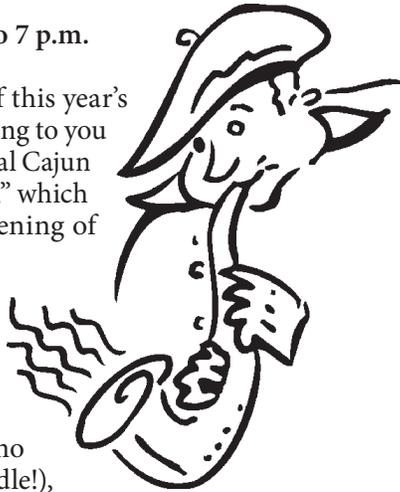
Shrove Tuesday Event Feb. 21, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

If you are fluent in French, the title of this year's Shrove Tuesday party will mean nothing to you at all. However, the phrase is a colloquial Cajun expression for "let the good times roll," which is exactly what we plan to do the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 21.

The St. John's Christian Involvement Ministry Team is planning some new twists on our old Shrove Tuesday tradition. This year baked French toast will be served rather than pancakes (no waiting for the next batch off the griddle!), and the meal will be in Neumann Hall rather than Weertz Fellowship Hall to allow for a greater sense of community. Then you may wish to move to the French Quarter Sidewalk Café, also known as the Fireside Lounge, to enjoy coffee and dessert (offered for sale by our youth group as a fund raiser for *their* trip to New Orleans) while you are mesmerized by a variety of entertainment.

And there will be some great entertainment! Starting at 5:30 p.m., the St. John's "house band," Asphalt & Stained Glass, will provide some background music for those early birds enjoying their dinner next door in Neumann. Then around 6 p.m. there will be a variety of performers of all ages: Nora King singing, "Popular" and Megan Hartwig singing "Defying Gravity," the two best-loved songs from the musical *Wicked*; the sister act of Julie Lowe, Nancy Stafford and Rachel Almlie singing "Downtown," and mother-daughter act Sheryl, Elizabeth and Ellen Reed singing "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."

And that is just the beginning! Put the date on your calendar, invite friends and *bon ton roule* – let the good times roll!



Midweek Music

Drake University takes the stage the first two Wednesdays this month with violinist Sarah Plum on Wednesday, Feb. 1, and the Drake String Ensemble with conductor Akira Mori on Wednesday, Feb. 8. All Midweek Music concerts begin at noon.

Dr. Plum has performed and recorded in both Europe and the United States, has served as concert master in prestigious orchestras, and is a much sought-after violin instructor. She has a special love for new music and finds great joy in chamber music as well.

Arriving at Drake just a year after Dr. Plum, Prof. Akira Mori has brought new life and energy to the Drake Orchestra program. The Drake University String Ensemble, the *crème de la crème* of orchestra players, plays with professionalism and great beauty.

On the third Wednesday of the month, Feb. 15, St. John's once again welcomes the IMTA District Piano Audition winners. Hearing these fine young players will be musically satisfying and will renew your hope for the future of our nation and world.

There is no Midweek Music from Feb. 22 through April 6 during the season of Lent. Midweek Music concerts resume April 11 for the final four concerts of the 2011-12 series. As always, the concerts are free and open to the public. They are followed by a home-cooked lunch in Weertz for only \$6.

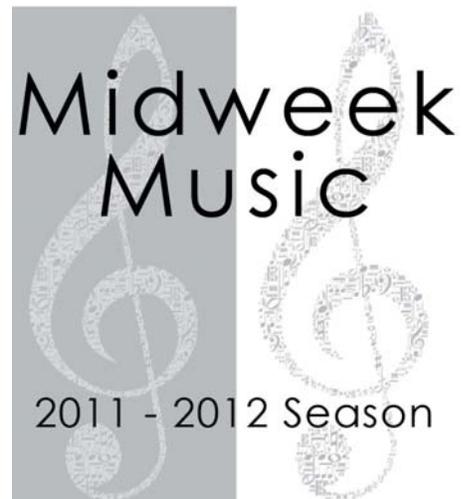
For more information about the arts at St. John's, go to the St. John's website at stjohnsdsm.org and click on "ministries."

Smitten for Mittens



Thank You for the Mitten Tree Donations

The Mitten Tree received 300 donations of mittens, gloves, scarves and stocking caps during the Christmas-New Year season. Many will be warmer because of your generosity. These items were delivered to Des Moines schools, Harbor of Hope, Central Iowa Shelter, New Directions, Beacon of Life and YESS.



Small Groups

Questions? Contact Darla Stiles, Small Groups Coordinator
243.7691 or darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org

CALENDAR

Quilting: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., Room 308 at church.

WIRED Yoga: Thursdays, Feb. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 5:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge at church. Contact Corinne Lambert, callingwisdom1@hotmail.com (556-3679).

Saturday Morning Bible Study: Saturdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25, 8:30 a.m. Location to be announced. Contact Ellen Fisher, ellenfisher123@yahoo.com, or Rod Snavelly, rsnavely@aol.com.

EAGLES: Tuesday, Feb. 7, 10:20 a.m. Meet at church to go to O.W.L.S. program at Jester Park.

Hardanger: Wednesdays, Feb. 8 and 22, 9 a.m., Neumann Hall at church.

St. John's Networking: Monday, Feb. 13, 5:30 p.m., Gateway Market. Contact Ellen Fisher, ellenfisher123@yahoo.com (274-5236).

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, Feb. 15, 12:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, Feb. 16, 11:30 a.m.

Couples/Singles Group: Watch the church bulletin and e-mail for information.

Recreational Reading: Wednesday, Feb. 22, 4:30 p.m., Rose Holm at church.

Scrapbooking: Saturday, Feb. 25, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Room 8 at church.

Photography: Sunday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m., Neumann Hall at church. Theme: "Experimenting with Camera Settings."

3D: Wednesday, Feb. 29, 10 a.m.

Fireside Lounge at church. Contact Corinne Lambert at 556-3679 or callingwisdom1@hotmail.com.

Lunch Bunch II will meet Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 12:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg at 279-6326.

Lunch Bunch I will meet Thursday, Feb. 16, at 11:30 a.m. New members are most welcome! Interested people should reserve a space by calling Margaret Roby at 288-6304.

Couples/Singles Group is planning the year's activities after the deadline for *Eagle Call*, so watch the bulletin announcements and your e-mail for information about the February event.

Shrove Tuesday's "Bon Ton Roule" will be held Tuesday, Feb. 21, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at church. *Bon ton roule* is a Cajun phrase meaning, "Let the good times roll!" We will begin in Neumann with a wonderful baked French toast meal accompanied by background music wafting from Fireside Lounge. Then you may move to the French Quarter sidewalk café in Fireside to enjoy coffee and dessert while being mesmerized with a variety of entertainment. You won't want to miss out on a great time!

Recreational Reading will meet Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm at church. The book to read and discuss is Willa Cather's *Oh Pioneers!* If you have questions, contact Carol MacDonald at macpac00@mchsi.com.

Scrapbooking will meet Saturday, Feb. 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 8 at church. Bring pictures and materials to scrap. Anyone who is interested in scrapbooking is welcome.

Photography will meet Sunday, Feb. 26, at 10 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church. We will experiment with camera settings while taking photos.

WIRED Small Groups activities currently are being planned. Watch the bulletin for more information.

Coming up:

Quilting Group meets Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 308 at church. Anyone who is interested in quilting, tying or learning how to quilt is welcome.

Saturday Morning Bible Study will meet Saturdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18 and 25, at 8:30 a.m. Contact one of the facilitators for the location: Ellen Fisher at ellenfisher123@yahoo.com or 274-5236 or Rod Snavelly at rsnavely@aol.com.

EAGLES will meet at church Tuesday, Feb. 7, at 10:20 a.m. to go to Jester Park Lodge for an O.W.L.S. program, "Return of Iowa's Bald Eagles." The group will then enjoy lunch at Ruby Tuesdays. RSVP to Jim Hanson at gymfil56@q.com or 255-6148.

Hardanger will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, Feb. 8 and 22, at 9 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church.

St. John's Networking will meet Monday, Feb. 13, at 5:30 p.m. at Gateway Market. The Networking Group is open to all – those who have a job, those looking for a job or people who just want to enjoy some good conversation! Contact Ellen Fisher at 274-5236 or ellenfisher123@yahoo.com.

WIRED Yoga will continue on Thursdays in February at 5:45 p.m. in the

Creating in Community

February is the perfect time to renew your creative energies and explore the arts that you have always wanted to try but haven't had the time to do. Creating in Community offers learning opportunities ranging from the very practical to the fine arts, with instruction provided by professionals in the field or gifted, skilled amateurs.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, February 11, 2012. There are many great sessions to choose from. The classes will include drawing, calligraphy, ceramics, bread making, class collage pendants and magnets, block printing, creative writing, nutritious cooking, jewelry making and zumba!

Schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. Check-in; coffee and coffee cake
- 8:45 Welcome and Opening Activity
- 9:00-10:30 Session 1
- 10:30-10:45 Break
- 10:45-12:15 Session 2
- 12:30-1:00 p.m. Lunch

Participants will also have a chance to show off their baking skills with our Bar Bake Off competition! Register by February 6 to participate in this wonderful day that combines the arts, along with good food, fellowship, and fun. Register in Fireside Lounge between services on Sundays, on-line, or by filling out and returning the registration form in the brochure.



Creating IN community

Youth Ministries

Seeking Big-Ticket Items for Youth Auction

A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

4TH ANNUAL YOUTH FUNDRAISING AUCTION
march 2nd, 2012 | 6:30pm | state historical building

Do you have connections? Can you call in a favor? If so, the youth of St. John's need YOU to call those favors in, use your connections and donate what you can! We are planning our fourth annual youth fundraising auction and dinner and need big-ticket items to auction!

Here's some ideas:

- Could you cook or bake or paint or sew something for the silent auction?
- Could you offer a unique class for people or space for an event?
- Do you have access to tickets to a sporting or cultural event that you could donate?
- Do you or anyone you know own a business that could give us a gift certificate?
- Could you put together a themed gift basket?

The possibilities are endless! If you have an item or an idea, contact a member of the youth auction committee: Tammi Reyes, Heidi Slinker, Terri Speirs, Lora Simpson or Megan Clausen, meganc@stjohnsdsm.org.

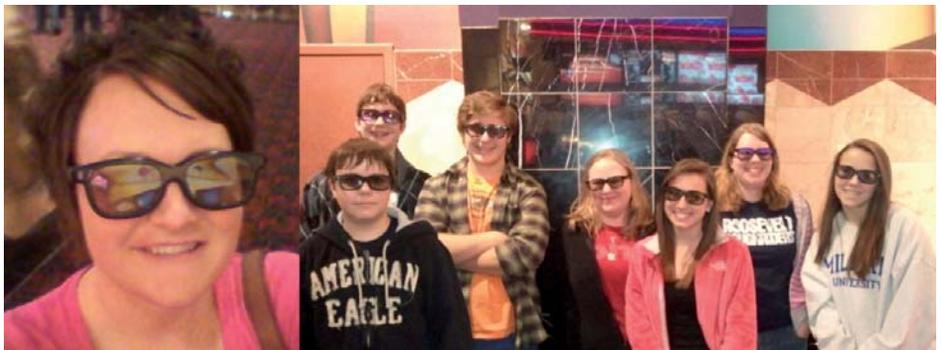
Auction tickets go on sale Sunday, Feb. 12

Tickets for "A Night at the Museum," which is set for Friday, March 2, will go on sale Sunday, Feb. 12, in the Fireside Lounge. Admission price includes a catered meal by Baratta's, appetizers, dessert and beverages.

Adult tickets are \$12, and tickets for children older than age 5 will be \$6. A family of four or more who attends the auction will pay no more than \$36 for tickets. This year there is the option of purchasing an entire table, reserved specifically for you and your guests, for \$100. If you want to be sure you get seats with all of your friends, this is the best way to go!

"A Night at the Museum" will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the State Historical Building. Nursery care will be provided for children up to age 3. There also will be activities for school-age children provided by St. John's high-school students, all of whom have been trained in child safety.

To the right: Megan Clausen (left photo) and the high school youth (left to right in right photo) Aidan Speirs, Daniel Lunde, Ian Anderson, Ann Strom, Olivia Simpson, Kat Lunde and Elizabeth Macro saw the 3D movie HUGO recently.



Children's Ministries

February Sunday School Schedule

February 5

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Discuss these questions with your child:

- How did the Good Samaritan live as Jesus said we should live?
- Who is your neighbor?
- What are some of the ways we can live as Jesus said we should?

February 12

The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin (Luke 15: 1-10)

Discuss these questions with your child:

- Why was it so important for the woman to find just one missing coin and for the shepherd to find one missing sheep when they still had many others?
- Have you ever lost something important to you?
- How did you celebrate when you found what was lost?

February 19

The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32)

Discuss these questions with your child:

- What is one way you put God first in your life?
- Why do you think God welcomes us back after we mess up?
- What type of parties does your family like to host? Who are the guests?

February 26

Mary and Martha (Luke 10: 38-42)

Discuss these questions with your child:

- Do you like to be busy? Why or why not?
- How can we keep God in the center of our busy lives?
- What activities or work do you think people of Jesus' time did that might have made them too busy to take time for God?

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Maps of Palestine in the Time of Jesus

Have you ever wondered where these Bible stories actually took place? Maps and globes will be available each Sunday to the first- through sixth-graders. They will be encouraged to find the Sea of Galilee, Samaria, Jerusalem and Jericho on several different types of maps. A beach-ball globe will be tossed about in the Chapel so the kids can find Israel. This will help our children gain a more complete understanding of the stories they are hearing.



Help Sort Sunday School Materials

A new shipment of Sunday School leaflets and stickers has arrived, and Sheryl Reed needs help sorting them. You would receive a container of leaflets and stickers to sort at home and return to the church by Monday, Feb. 6. If you can help, please call Sheryl at 243-7691 or e-mail her at sherylreed@stjohnsdsm.org.

Financials

A statement of our financial position can now be obtained in the weekly bulletin or by contacting the church office.

NOTICE: All who give stock or other types of investments to St. John's, please be advised that St. John's has moved its investment portfolio from Ameritrade to Morgan Stanley Smith Barney (MSSB). When gifting please use the following information to make transfers to MSSB: **MSSB's DTC number is: 0418. MSSB's account number is: 461-00524-1-9-013. The name on the MSSB account is: St. John's Lutheran Church.** Those making a contribution of stocks or other equities, please notify the finance office at financeoffice@stjohnsdsm.org or call 515-243-7691. New rules do not allow brokers to identify donors without prior approval from the donor.

Thank you for your generous and continued support of the ministries of St. John's Lutheran Church.

For the Healing of the Nations

...cover story continued

The three concerts below are the result. However, because of scheduling difficulties, the National Alliance on Mental Illness benefit has been postponed to the 2012-13 season.

The **ARTs** at
ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, Feb. 19, 10 a.m.

Benefit Concert for Relief and Aid to the Citizens of Haiti

Tropical Steel: Caribbean Steel Pan Ensemble, conductor Stan Dahl

The second anniversary of the earthquake that devastated Haiti passed in mid-January, and half a million people still live in squalor and danger in tent settlements. Given the poverty of the country and the extent of the disaster, rebuilding will take many years and a long-term commitment. Benefit funds will be channeled through Lutheran World Relief and the Lutheran Hunger Appeal.

Sunday, March 11, 5 p.m. (new date and time)

Benefit Concert for Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief

Drake University String Ensemble, conductor Akira Mori,

with Momoko Tanno, soprano soloist, and Takako Seimiya Senn,

trumpet soloist, both from Minneapolis

The scale of the tsunami disaster in northwest Japan has overwhelmed the capacity of the government and local systems. While much of the recovery effort is focused on systems, neighborhoods and institutions, help is still needed for individuals as they attempt to put their lives back together. Benefit funds will be channeled through the American Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross and CRASH Japan (CRASH stands for Christian Relief, Assistance, Support and Hope).

Benefit Concert for National Alliance on Mental Illness

to be rescheduled to 2012-13 Performing Arts Season

The Arts Visioning Ministry Team had planned a benefit concert for the National Alliance on Mental Illness that was originally scheduled for the evening of Feb. 5. However, it has been rescheduled to next year, because it conflicts with the Super Bowl, which would likely limit attendance. We plan to reschedule this concert, which will feature the Des Moines Vocal Arts Ensemble, for season's performing arts series.

Watch the St. John's website, the "This Week at St. John's" e-mails and the Sunday announcement sheets for updates and additional information.

Larry Christensen

Director of Music, Worship and the Arts

"In the city – and the world – for good."

Hospitality & Outreach



What does Hospitality Really Mean?

In my monthly *Eagle Call* communication with you I attempt to inform – to let new and established members know the service and social opportunities that St. John's offers. I attempt to entice – spark an interest in something new – and urge you to take a chance with new people and/or new activities. I do this with two purposes in mind: to attract you to potential fulfillment and joy and, secondly, to meet a very practical need.

Our outreach efforts, for nearly 150 years, have been a constant tradition in St. John's mission. To fulfill that calling, we need people with willing hearts and willing hands. To make individuals feel comfortable in offering themselves, we strive to provide an environment of hospitality. If people don't feel safe, valued and competent, we cannot expect them to venture into new areas.

According to theologian Henri Nouwen, "Hospitality is the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place."

That is exactly what we are trying to do – offer a safe place for spiritual nourishment, growth, education and outreach. St. John's seeks to be a place where people feel comfortable pursuing new endeavors. Where they can ask questions and not be ridiculed. Where they are accepted and valued for who they are.

When we have new member classes we ask what first attracted people to St. John's. Many mention the excellent preaching, others the children's programs, but mainly it is the feeling of welcome and acceptance they feel from members. That is huge, HUGE! Not many, in fact very few, church communities make that claim. We all know of congregations so set in their ways that anything (or anyone) new is old by the time of acceptance. In a church with such a long history, being accepted is exceptional, and I would go so far as to say "spirit-driven."

St. John's is blessed in many ways, and, in using St. John's name, I collectively mean the people, the members. St. John's isn't the building; St. John's encompasses the souls who have preceded us, are currently with us and are yet to come. By allowing the Holy Spirit to work through us, lead us and move our hearts to compassion and acceptance, we can offer hospitality to all. From the safety of hospitality, people will gather courage and a will to offer themselves. From that, we can effect change in our corner of the world.

To offer your time and gifts to the St. John's family and mission, contact Katie Tippins at 243-7691 or katiet@stjohnsdsm.org.

February Artist of the Month



Landscapes in Pastel by Susan Grant

Susan Grant, our February Artist of the Month, is an artist on the weekends and a scientist during the week. Her pastels capture the beauty or interesting features of places she and her husband have visited in their travels around the world. Her paintings on display in Weertz Fellowship Hall are of sites in Brittany and Burgundy in France, with one from an English coastline.



SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

Do you have photos from a St. John's event or group activity? Do you have a photo that says "St. John's"?

If so, send them to scottl@stjohnsdsm.org or drop them off at the church office. You never know, you may end up in the next issue of the Eagle Call.

In the City (and World) for Good!

Preach the Gospel at all time.
When necessary use words.
...St. Francis of Assisi

When we asked you last fall for an over & above financial gift toward the construction of Central Iowa Shelter & Services new facility, we hoped that your offerings would come close to our goal of \$10,000. It has become obvious that we set our sights too low, however! As of January 15, 2012, you have given \$14,400+ for the new shelter. **Thank you for such a generous response to this appeal and your continuing commitment to being “in the city for good!”**

Another word of thanks for your responses to the Angel Tree & Mitten Tree appeals at Christmastime! You provided gifts for approx. 80 people who are regular guests of the Connection Café and 3 families who are currently in transition from homelessness to affordable housing through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. (This included providing for a family that had just exited IHN in Des Moines after finding a place to live in the Twin Cities.) Margaret Townsend – the Mitten Tree Lady – was thrilled with the dozens of hats, mittens, and gloves donated this year! Margaret delivers these items to various shelters in the city, as well as to the Des Moines Public Schools for distribution to children who need them.

Speaking of the Interfaith Hospitality Network – we have a new assignment as a support congregation for Windsor Heights Lutheran Church! Windsor Heights houses up to 3 homeless families for a week, 4 times per year, in their former parsonage (next to the church.). Our assignment as a support congregation is to assist them by providing the evening meal and evening hosts for two of the evenings every time they host. Our first two evenings are January 17 & 19. Please watch the announcements for news of the next opportunity to help out. Who knows, you may have a chance to chat with Pastor Chris Olkiewicz while you are there!

And a word about donations to the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry...DMARC is grateful for every item you donate to the shopping carts in the narthex. **Thank you** for your faithfulness to this

ministry! Please also remember to make a regular financial donation to the food pantry. DMARC can stretch your dollar by purchasing items from the Food Bank of Iowa, as well as directly from wholesalers - sometimes getting as much as 6 times as much “bang for a buck” as you can!

Looking ahead to our Lenten “dime folder” opportunity...For several years, we have used the ELCA World Hunger donation boxes as our 21st century dime folder for a special Lenten offering. (If you do not know what a dime folder is that’s fine – you are obviously much younger than this writer.) This year, the Global Mission Ministry Team will take the lead in lifting up a special Lenten offering for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Did you know that a child dies of malaria every 45 seconds? We can help change that statistic. Read more about the campaign at www.elca.org/malaria.

Photos of the Month

Two photos from a wonderfully starry Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary
Top photo by Scott LaBlanc. Bottom photo by Jacque Warming.



February 2012
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A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

4TH ANNUAL YOUTH FUNDRAISING AUCTION
march 2nd, 2012 | 6:30pm | state historical building

*FIND OUT ALL YOU NEED
TO KNOW ON PAGE 8*

MARCH EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Tuesday, February 20, 2012**. *This is one week earlier than normal.* Please send information or articles in digital format if possible, to Scott LaBlanc, scottl@stjohnsdsm.org. If you cannot send it by e-mail, drop it off at the church office. Thank you!