



The EAGLE CALL

Eight Days

Volume 44, Number 4
April, 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

Pastors

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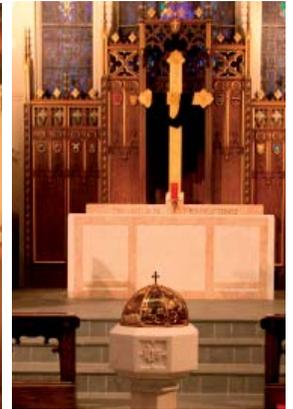
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The Eagle Call is published monthly by St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA 600 6th Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1606.



The eight days from Palm/Passion Sunday through Easter Sunday constitute the foundation and the pinnacle of our Christian faith. We worship a crucified and risen Lord, a God who suffers and is with us in our individual and communal suffering while overcoming death with life and hate with love and bringing diverse, alienated people together into one Body. *See full service details on page four.*



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In the City for Good!
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Monday – Thursday
9:00 am – 5:00 p.m.,

4:00 p.m. Friday

Saturday

9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Next Eagle Call Deadline
April 16 at 12 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

My dear friends,

As you know, Easter is a “moveable feast,” celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox – and it falls on April 8th this year. I anticipate that worship here at St. John's on Easter morning will be as dignified & festive as it has been in past years, filling our hearts with praise for a Savior who allows nothing to separate us from God's love – not even death. We could know an even more profound experience of Easter joy, however, by entering into the worship and prayer of

the full Three Days – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter (which continues through the festive worship of Easter Day.) The liturgical scholar, Gail Ramshaw argues that for those who only worship on Easter Day, *Christian identity has shrunk to only a small part of its meaning*. Therefore, she concludes: *Since the death of Christ has meaning for Christians only because of the resurrection, and since the resurrection has no weight without attention to Jesus' suffering and death, it is wise to understand the Three Days as one single feast, three days long. We journey together through the feast, beginning on Maundy Thursday, including Good Friday, culminating at the Vigil of Easter, and continuing through Easter Day.*

This renowned scholar is correct! We are changed, challenged, and blessed when we keep this Three Day Feast together. And even though the discipline involved in “keeping” the Three Days may be a challenge in itself - after all, few of us are accustomed to attending worship for 4 days in a row! - there is a **depth and richness** to the days that defy description.

Each of the three days holds particular moments of beauty...

Maundy Thursday provides one of the most “tactile” worship experiences we have during the church year. Frankly, if I was a child, I'd want to be in the front row on Maundy Thursday so that I wouldn't miss any of the “action!” The most moving part of the service for me is the foot-washing. There is a rhythm to it that I love: I take off my stole, I put on an apron, I get down on my (arthritic) knees, and I gently wash & wipe feet of all sizes and shapes. Again and again. And when one of you says, “I'll wash the next person,” I am grateful to rest my back and nearly moved to tears watching this sign of servant-love.

Good Friday's beauty is its stark nature. The chancel appointments have been stripped away – the altar, pulpit, lectern are all bare. There is no prelude, no postlude, only music that serves the reading of *The Passion According to St. John* through choir anthems and – this year – dance, by Hurley & Dancers....As a friend of St. John's for many years, we know that whenever Kathleen Hurley puts the Word in motion, we “hear” it proclaimed a second time in vivid and surprising ways!

The Vigil of Easter often provides more fun than you may think is possible in church! From the dramatic beginning in the courtyard around the New Fire (where Pastor Speirs once burned a hole in his alb!), to the creative presentation of the Old Testament stories by our confirmation students, to the return of the Alleluia and the festive Vigil Party in the Fireside area following worship – it is a night of beauty and joy!

And after a few hours of rest, the joy of the Vigil leads us into the Festive Worship of Easter Day, where our worship is enhanced by strings, brass, and choirs – the wonderful musicians of St. John's!

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In order to sing our Easter “alleluia’s” from the depths of our being, we need to walk through the whole story of our Lord’s death and resurrection – the story of Divine Love that defies human description for the full Three Days. It is truly my prayer that our beloved community - always in the city for good - will keep this Three Day Feast together.

Peace be with you.

Memorial Concert

Alice Jordan Memorial Concert – First United Methodist Church, April 22, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Friends and former students will honor the late Alice Jordan with a concert on Sunday, April 22, at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary of First United Methodist Church.

Participating in this event will be James W. Thrash, a former organist at First Church for 14 years, the American composer Michael McCabe, baritone Clay Hulsey, flutist Sandra Walcha, and friends of Alice Jordan who will sing two of her popular anthems, “See the Land, Her Easter Keeping,” and “America, the Beautiful.” Also, taking part in this program will be JoLee Scarborough, Kimberly Rockwell Baudino and Pastor Kevin LaGree. Those in attendance will sing two hymns, based on organ preludes.

Alice Jordan joined First Church with her family in 1918 and became one of America’s premier composers for the organ.

The public is invited. Please park in the parking lot on the north side of the church for your convenience.

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.



From Our Council President



I want to give you an update on your 2012 Church Council. In January we had a wonderful retreat. Not only did we eat well (potluck!) but we got better acquainted with each other, the work of the council, and met some of the staff. We also identified the following goals for 2012:

Welcome new members into our community and encourage current members to deeper participation in ministry.

Grow even more deeply into our identity as a community of faith “in the city for good,” striving to share the Good News in creative ways.

Seek to discern God’s presence in all we do, both as individuals and as a community of faith, understanding that ministry is “part & parcel” of daily life.

Each council member selected one goal to work on with others. We will spend time at each of our monthly meetings to suggest actions, develop plans and review. I will update you on our progress. This is the rewarding part of being in this group. We have talented people who are passionate about St. John’s and have dreams for ministry, community and this people of faith.

Unfortunately, we have also been spending more time than I would like on finance. Of course it is important to review the Ministry Plan and explain sources of income - offerings, special gifts, endowed funds, etc. - in order to help everyone understand the careful balance of both planning and living with faith. So far, we have not seen the increase in giving we had anticipated for the first quarter of 2012. New Year’s Day was the first Sunday in January and giving was disappointing. We also did not receive as many “prepaid” offerings this January as we have in past years, i.e. a full year’s commitment given at the beginning of the year. As of the end of February, we have a shortfall of approx. \$14,000. The good news is that nearly everyone who returned an Estimate of Giving Card is current in their giving – and we thank you for that! As always, we are watching our expenses, and even though we anticipate a need to withdraw some funds from the Unendowed General Fund this summer, we are working to keep other withdrawals to a minimum. Scott LaBlanc, our Director of Parish Operations, and I have put together a task force to look at the “gap” we always seem to have between income and expenses and how we can reduce it before we exhaust the Unendowed General Fund. This group hopes to have recommendations for the fall stewardship campaign.

So, with new goals for council and a task force to look at special funds, I am hopeful for spring. Lent is ending and soon comes the celebration of Easter resurrection. Spring has come early this year, and that is a good sign for all who like to garden (or who have family who farm). I love to plant flowers and vegetables and I always look forward to what can be produced. I look forward to the new growth that comes from your council and the bounty of our church!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Kris Gregersen, 2012 Council President

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, April 1, the Passion of Our Lord, Palm Sunday

The service schedule is our normal one. The 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services will begin outdoors in the alley west of the church, weather permitting, and the assembly will process into the sanctuary with shouts of "Hosanna!" Kisasa and Joyful Noise will sing at 8:45 a.m. as does Cantorei. Cathedral Choir is at 11 a.m.

There are no services on Wednesday of Holy Week.

-The Three Days -

Thursday, April 5, Maundy Thursday, 12:05 and 7:30 p.m.

Our evening communion service will include choir music by Joyful Noise and Kisasa Choristers. Assembly song will be led by the Holden Evening Prayer ensemble. The service concludes with the Altar Guild and Confirmation classes stripping the chancel to the solemn chanting of Psalm 22.

Friday, April 6, Good Friday, 12:05 and 7:30 p.m.

The Eucharist is not celebrated on Good Friday. Instead, the Passion According to John is read in its entirety. Kathleen Hurley will add interpretive dance at the noon service. At 7:30 p.m. our Chamber Orchestra, Cantorei, Cathedral Choir, Hurley & Dancers, and the middle / high school youth along with their mentors will give musical, visual and dramatic depth to the story.

Saturday, April 7, Vigil of Easter, 7:30 p.m.

The culmination of The Three Days is the Easter Vigil. It is like a progressive dinner in that it both moves and changes flavors as it goes along: striking of a new fire and lighting the new Paschal Candle in the courtyard; procession and service of light; reading and enacting of the Biblical salvation history; with the assistance of the Confirmation classes, bells, Alleluia! with lights full-up, and Eucharist. No sermon, but the saving Word of God is enacted and experienced physically. A dessert Vigil celebration will follow in the Fireside Lounge.

Sunday, April 8, Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

6:30 a.m. A simple, quiet, devotional Sunrise preaching and communion service.

8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. Festival services with choirs, full orchestra, organ, preaching and communion. The 8:45 a.m. service will include music by Joyful Noise and the Kisasa Choristers.

The Companion Parish Ministry Team will be serving Easter breakfast in Weertz Hall throughout the morning, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and continuing until shortly before 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 15, Second Sunday of Easter

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace and forgiveness with material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

The readings are Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2 and John 20:19-31. The hymns will be ELW 363, "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain," ELW 635, "We Walk by Faith," ELW 646, "The Peace of the Lord," and ELW 869, "We Have Seen the Lord." During communion at both services the assembly will join in a lovely, short Jamaican refrain, "Peace and Love." At 11 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether" by Harold Friedell during the offering. The guest organist will be Nancy Stafford.

Sunday, April 22, Third Sunday of Easter

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Lord's day. In today's gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples' food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death and resurrection through the scriptures – the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

The readings are Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7 and Luke 24:36b-48. The hymns will be ELW 531, "The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing," ELW 389, "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing," ELW 486, "God Extends an Invitation," and ELW 391, "This Joyful Eastertide."

The choir at 8:45 will be Cantorei and at 11 Cathedral Choir. Both will be joined by our own Blower Room Brass on offering music, "Easter Rejoicing," by Jonathan Willcocks and communion, "Be Known to Us, Lord Jesus," by Carl Schalk. The guest organist will be Francine Griffit.

Sunday, April 29, Fourth Sunday of Easter

The image of the Good Shepherd shows us how the risen Christ brings us to life. It is the relationship between the shepherd and the sheep, one of mutual knowledge and love, that gives the shepherd authority. The shepherd's willingness to lay down his life for the sheep shows his love. First, John illustrates what it means to lay down our lives for one another by the example of sharing our wealth with any sister or brother in need.

The readings are Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24 and John 10:11-18. The hymns will be ELW 385, "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing," ELW 764, "Have No Fear, Little Flock,"

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ELW 646, "The Peace of the Lord," and ELW 362, "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing." Our St. John's Chamber Orchestra will provide offering music at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Cathedral Choir will be joined by that ensemble on "The Lord is My Shepherd," by John Rutter at both services. Nancy Stafford will be guest organist.

LSI Update

Preventing child abuse and neglect

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:13-15

Truly, the kingdom of heaven belongs to little children. Unfortunately, children across Iowa are suffering from abuse. In 2010, over 12,500 children in Iowa were abused through physical abuse, sexual abuse or through the denial for critical care, such as providing adequate food, shelter or clothing. The abuse of even one child is too many.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) works to prevent child abuse and neglect through parent education, intervention and support and helps children of abuse heal and find hope. Through early childhood services LSI helps stop abuse before it starts, and our Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers empower children of abuse so that they may resolve their past and look forward to a bright future. The support of our partner congregations allows LSI to maintain these important programs for the children of Iowa. Thank you for being an important partner in our mission of service to all.

For more information on ways LSI provides hope to Iowa's most vulnerable populations, visit www.LSIowa.org.

Intervention and education keep family together

A single father of two sons, ages 7 and 5, Rich has been clean and sober for three years. For years, his life was consumed by a string of challenges, but after connecting with a chain of community resources he's put himself on a path of success.

"I didn't know what to expect at first," Rich said of FaDSS (Family Development and Self-Sufficiency), the LSI program that helps families achieve goals to become more self-sufficient. "The FaDSS program helped me set goals that were attainable and reachable."



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.

Those goals included finding preschool for his youngest son, starting and facilitating a group for fathers, getting out of the child welfare system, applying for jobs and finding child care during his work hours.

"I started to see I needed more positive supports in my life," he said. "I started using my dad's group, recovery supports, FaDSS and my church."

Obtaining a more secure employment situation was one of his immediate goals. LSI staff encouraged and supported him in his job search, and since last May, Rich has merged personal and professional experience through his job with Parent Partners, a program that matches parents currently involved in the child welfare system with other parents who previously had their children removed and successfully reunited with them.

His former LSI FaDSS worker, Judy, helped him see the difference he could make in helping many other families become successful and productive members of society.

"I love the work I do," Rich said. "You're helping make a lasting impression, and it's a good feeling when you see people in stores who are doing good and staying sober. Now I cover nine counties, and am well-respected by DHS and the courts."



The Sixth Annual DMARC Soup Supper and Pottery Sale

April 1, 2012, 4:30-7 p.m.

West Des Moines Christian Church, 4501 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines

Free will donation for supper. Prices as marked for handcrafted pottery sale.

Take home a free one-of-a-kind ceramic bowl while supplies last. Proceeds to benefit the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

Register now! (Not required, but helpful for food counts.) Call: 515-277-6969
Email: info@dmreligious.org

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: Thursday, April 5, 5:45 p.m. (last session of current session) and Thursdays, April 19 and 26 and May 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, 5:45 p.m. (new session), Fireside Lounge at church. Cost: \$10 per class or \$60 for the entire 7-week session. Contact Corinne Lambert, callingwisdom1@hotmail.com (556-3679). *The April 5th session will be located in Rose Holm.*

Saturday Morning Bible Study: Saturdays, April 7, 14, 21 and 28, at 8:30 a.m. Location to be announced. Contact Ellen Fisher, ellenfisher123@yahoo.com or Rod Snavelly, rsnavely@aol.com.

St. John's Networking Group: Monday, April 9, 5:30 p.m., Gateway Market. Contact Ellen Fisher, ellenfisher123@yahoo.com (274-5236).

Hardanger: Wednesdays, April 11 and 25, 9 a.m., Neumann Hall at church.

EAGLES: Thursday, April 12, 7:45 a.m. departure time. Meet at St. John's before 7:45 a.m. for this day-trip to Waterloo. Contact David Stewart, stewjd428@gmail.com (265-6897).

WIRED Zumba: Thursday, April 12, 5:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge at church.

Scrapbooking: Saturday, April 14, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Room 8 at church.

St. John's Social Club (formerly known as Couples/Singles): Sunday, April 15, 12:15 p.m., brunch at Star Bar; then at 2 p.m. attend "Ring of Fire" (music of Johnny Cash), Des Moines Playhouse. RSVP to Kris and Kathy Gregersen, kkgregersen@gmail.com.

3D: Wednesday, April 18, 10 a.m.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, April 18, 12:30 p.m., location announced later.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, April 19, 11:30 a.m., location announced later.

Photography: Sunday, April 22, 10 a.m., Neumann Hall. Theme: Iowa State Capitol Grounds.

Recreational Reading: Wednesday, April 25, 4:30 p.m., Rose Holm at church.

WIRED Luncheon and Program: Sunday, April 29, 12:30 p.m., Weertz Fellowship Hall at church.

Keep up to date with all events by subscribing to our weekly email newsletter (sign up on the homepage of our website) or keep an eye on www.stjohnsdsm.org

Coming up:

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

WIRED Yoga is finishing a 4-week series of classes on Thursday, April 5, at 5:45 p.m. in Rose Holm. The next 7-week session will start Thursday, April 19, and run through Thursday, May 31. The cost is \$10 per class or \$60 for the entire 7-week session. If you have questions, contact Corinne Lambert at callingwisdom1@hotmail.com or 556-3679.

Saturday Morning Bible Study will meet Saturdays, April 7, 14, 21 and 28, at 8:30 a.m. Please contact one of the facilitators to learn the location: Ellen Fisher at ellenfisher123@yahoo.com or 250-9916 or Rod Snavelly at rsnavely@aol.com.

St. John's Networking Group will meet Monday, April 9, at 5:30 p.m. at Gateway Market. The Networking Group is open to all — those who have a job or are looking for their first job or a new job and those who just want to enjoy some good conversation! Contact facilitator Ellen Fisher at ellenfisher123@yahoo.com or 274-5236.

Hardanger will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, April 11 and 25, at 9 a.m. in Neumann Hall. If you have questions, contact Arlene Field at fjeldt@q.com or 964-3363.

EAGLES will meet at church Thursday, April 12, to depart at 7:45 a.m. for Waterloo where the group will tour the Grout Museum of Science and History and the adjacent Five Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum. Following lunch, they will tour John Deer Tractor Works, the Rensselaer Russell historic mansion and the Waterloo Center for the Arts. We will leave Waterloo around 5 p.m. for our return home. Cost will be \$10 plus lunch and gas sharing. If you have questions, contact David Stewart at stewjd428@gmail.com or 265-6897.

WIRED Zumba will meet Thursday, April 12, at 5:45 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at church.

Scrapbooking will meet Saturday, April 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. All are welcome.

St. John's Social Club will attend the "Ring of Fire" (music of Johnny Cash) at the Des Moines Playhouse on Sunday, April 15, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$28 per person. Join us beforehand at 12:15 p.m. at Star Bar for a Sunday Brunch (order off menu and pay directly). An area is reserved there for 30 people. Send a check for show tickets to Kris and Kathy Gregersen at 644 44th St., West Des Moines, IA 50265-3504. Also RSVP for the show and brunch by contacting them at kkgregersen@gmail.com.

Lunch Bunch II will meet Wednesday, April 18, at 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg at 279-6326.

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3D will meet Wednesday, April 18, at 10 a.m.

Lunch Bunch I will meet on Thursday, April 19, at 11:30 a.m. New members are most welcome! If you want to join them, reserve a space by calling Margaret Roby at 288-6304.

Photography will meet Sunday, April 22, 10 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church. The theme will be the Iowa State Capitol grounds. Bring a couple of pictures to share of anything that catches your eye around the grounds of the capitol.

Recreational Reading will meet Wednesday, April 25, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm. The book to read and discuss is Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral, by Kris Radish. If you have questions, contact Carol MacDonald at macpac00@mchsi.com.

WIRED Luncheon and Program will be held Sunday, April 29, at 12:30 p.m. in Weertz Fellowship Hall. After lunch a program, called "A Spiritual Path: Native American Medicine Wheel, Native American Flute and Walking the Labyrinth," will be held. Judy Olson will talk about the Medicine Wheel and Native American flute as a spiritual path, and she will perform for us. Linda Christensen will teach us about labyrinths as a spiritual path, and we will have the opportunity to walk the labyrinth. Sign up in the Fireside Lounge during the month of April. Cost for lunch and the program is \$20.

St. John's Gardening activities are being planned. Watch the announcement sheets for details.

Bicycle St. John's, an ALL NEW small group, is making plans for the coming months. Get the grease off your chains and pump up the tires! The weather is great for riding bikes. If you have ideas for this new group, contact Rod Snavely, rsnavely@aol.com (277-1301).

Bowling with the St. John's Social Club



Children's Ministries

April Sunday School Schedule

April 1 - The Day Jesus Died — Holy Week (Luke 19:28-40;22:14-23:56)

Talk about these questions with your child:

- What do you think it was like to be in Jerusalem between the first Palm Sunday and Good Friday?
- Why do you think people who originally praised Jesus turned on him and wanted him to die?
- What do you and your families do during Holy Week?

April 8 - Easter - No Sunday School

Growing in Faith at Home

The darkness and sadness of Good Friday is a sharp contrast to the rejoicing words and happy music that greet us Easter morning. Echoes of "He is risen!" and "He is risen indeed!" ring in our ears. Once away from church with the focus on meal preparations, Easter festivities, and fellowship, our attention wanders away from the real focus of the day. You can keep Jesus' resurrection at the center of your family's Easter celebration by focusing on the symbols of new life all around you (eggs, flowers, baby animals, caterpillars, budding or flowering trees and the cross). Remind your child through prayer and conversation that these are all reminders that our sins have been forgiven and we will be with God forever! Now that's something to celebrate!!!

April 15 - The Empty Tomb (Luke 24: 1-12)

Talk about these questions with your child:

- What other symbols remind you of Jesus?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus took on the burden of all our sins?
- How do you think the disciples might have felt when they heard that Jesus was alive on the first Easter?

April 22 - The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24: 13-35)

Talk about these questions with your child:

- If you were a disciple, how might you have felt on Easter morning when the burial tomb was empty?
- How long do you think it took for the news to spread that the body of Jesus had disappeared?
- When does God surprise you?

April 29 - Lydia (Acts 16:9-15)

Talk about these questions with your child:

- Where do you think Lydia went to tell others about Jesus?
- What challenges do you think Lydia had in sharing the message of God's love?
- How can we share the word of Jesus with people we know and meet today?

Mark your calendar:

Vacation Bible School will be **June 25-28** for Kindergarten- Sixth graders.

Youth Ministries

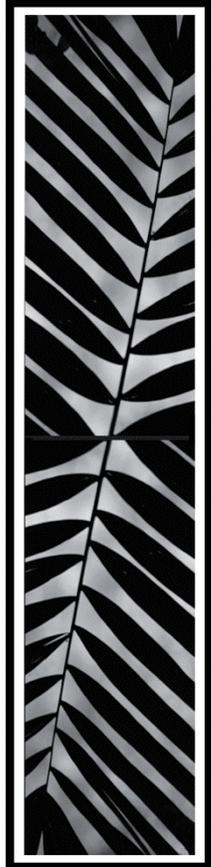
Plant Sale 2012

Thank you for your plant orders! You may pick up your plants on Saturday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 11a.m. in the north parking lot at St. John's. If you forgot to place an order, do not worry! We always have some extra plants available for purchase! If you have any questions, call Megan Clausen at 243-7691.

Youth Say Thanks

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We cannot say thank you enough for everyone's wonderful support at the youth auction this year! We raised over \$12,000 because of your generosity and support. The evening was so much fun, and the students are very excited to go to New Orleans and to Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Lakeside. This is possible because of all of you. *Check out photos below and on page 9.*





Palm Sunday Procession for Peace

Sunday, April 1, 2012

2:30 pm
Gather at the
Capitol West Mall

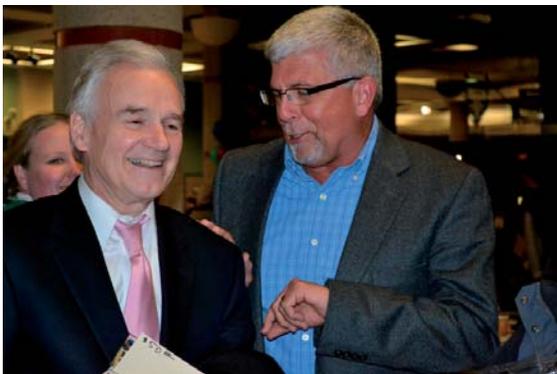
3:00 pm
Process down
Grand Avenue

3:45 pm
Worship at
St. Ambrose Cathedral
6th & High St., Des Moines

Fools for Peace—Prophetic Voices

A procession, led by our children and a donkey, followed by a prayer service for peace. We will raise our prayers, and strengthen our resolve to end war in Afghanistan, prevent war against Iran, seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Palestine/Israel and insist that "War is not the answer."

Des Moines Area Ecumenical Committee for Peace



Hospitality & Outreach



"I shall pass this way but once . . .

. . . any good, therefore, that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

We have all heard these words before, but I went to the internet to make sure I quoted it correctly and attributed the phrase appropriately. I found that the phrase can be found on page 32 of *How to Win Friends and Influence People* by Dale Carnegie but is not originally attributed to him. Who first uttered these words isn't important; the message they deliver, however, is forever timely and worthy of emulation.

Let me share a little about the journey I'm making with some friends. One is being treated for esophageal cancer; his wife is dealing with an auto-immune illness and an undiagnosed lung infection that leaves her exhausted and wheezing. Another friend was recently diagnosed with congestive heart failure; she had no warning – she just couldn't breathe one morning. And yet another friend, who had suffered a stroke during surgery a few years ago, recently had back surgery for a recurring problem with her sciatic nerve. The post-surgical pain literally leaves her screaming and in tears (and she has an incredible tolerance for pain).

The reason I'm sharing all these warm fuzzies (please note the irony) is certainly not to make you depressed, fearful or even to elicit sympathy for them (although your prayers would be appreciated for John, Phyllis, Lisa and Sally). I'm imparting this information to make us all acutely aware that NONE of us knows what lies ahead. As Christians we know whatever we face we will not face alone, but pain and despondency can still seep into every human being.

One aspect of our lives that we can control is to have as few regrets as possible. We all have our problem areas and have experienced "woulda/coulda/shoulda" moments. One of my worst faults (and I have so many from which to choose) are things I should, or shouldn't, have said. My mouth gets me into lots of trouble and, contrary to popular opinion, I do attempt to control it.

Of prime importance, however, is that I'm conscious to not have regrets about opportunities missed or ignored. *"Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."* When you have the opportunity to help, to serve, to reach out, please DO IT! Do not wait until you are physically unable to help, when you may be the one waiting for someone to come forward and help you. Pay it forward NOW.

If you're looking for chances to do just that, St. John's is here to help you. We can connect you with a variety of opportunities. Please contact Katie Tippins at 243-7691 or katiet@stjohnsdsm.org.

"Nothing is so often irretrievably missed as a daily opportunity."
Marie van Ebner-Eschebback

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.

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA wish to thank the parishioners who attended the Lenten Lunches. The leadership wishes to make a special thank you to all the women of the congregation who provided the food and the help to provide this service.

The Sarah Group of the Women of the ELCA are meeting at 10 AM on April 5th at Caribou Coffee on Ingersoll.

Lois Group will have a Bible Study at 12:30 PM on April 12 in Neumann.

Family Violence Center is the project for April. Suggested items include: games and books for all ages, pillows, towels, disposable diapers, baby wipes. Check the weekly bulletin for more suggestions.



In the City (and World) for Good!

No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (The Message)

Thank you for your generous support of the Fine Arts benefit concerts held at St. John's this winter! On Transfiguration Sunday, nearly \$1000 was raised for ongoing relief & development in Haiti through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal - all while we enjoyed a concert by our friends, *Tropical Steel!* And in March, on the anniversary of the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster in Japan - March 11th - the Drake String Ensemble, under the direction of Professor Akira Mori, presented a beautiful hour of music, the outcome of which was \$1200+ to be shared equally between The American & The Japanese Red Cross for disaster relief in Japan. **Thank you for sharing in the "good work" God has asked us to do!**

April brings us another opportunity to participate in the Interfaith Hospitality Network as a support congregation to Windsor Heights Lutheran Church. We will be responsible for providing dinner & evening hosts (not overnight hosts) on Tuesday, April 10 & Thursday, April 12. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the narthex to participate in this ministry.

Pastors Mithelman & Speirs were invited to view progress on the new Central Iowa Shelter & Services building on Monday, March 12th. A gathering was held to announce a donation to the project from the Federal Home Loan Bank, and tours were provided following the program. Walking with members of the CISS Board of Directors, your pastors saw the "outlines" of a roomy kitchen, a beautiful dining room with large south windows, three 50-bed dormitory rooms, and two levels of efficiency apartments for people who need longer-term solutions to homelessness, including veterans. The Board expects the building to be ready for occupancy in September. **Thanks for your long-term commitment to the ministry of CISS and your generous gifts to this project!**

Once again this year, the palm you will be waving in our Palm Sunday Parade will be fairly-traded!

What does this mean? The palms (from Latin America) are gathered & sold in a socially & environmentally just way; harvesters are paid a fair price per palm based on quality (so they take fewer palms from the forest); community members sort, package & sell the palms themselves so the profit stays in the community; and a special \$.05 cents/palm premium is paid for the palms ordered for Palm Sunday!

And please be considering your Lenten "dime folder" gift for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. We do not actually have dime folders - but special envelopes for the Campaign can be found in the narthex. It is our privilege to participate in this "good work" to prevent a disease that literally takes the life of a child in sub-Saharan Africa every 60 seconds.

April Artist of the Month



The art of **Leslie Leavenworth** will be featured during April in Weertz Fellowship Hall. A nurse by profession, Leslie has worked diligently over the years to develop her artistic interests and skills. Although much of her work is representational, she has been experimenting with what she calls "colorscapes," studies in color relationships, texture and design. "The more I paint, the more a dialogue develops between the canvas, my spirit and my Creator," Leslie says.

Artist of the Month Needs Help

Calling all friends of artists! Do you have a gift for connecting with artists in the community? The Fine Arts Ministry Team needs your help recruiting artists for St. John's Artist-of-the-Month project! If you are able and willing to help us continue this rich tradition at St. John's! If you are able and willing to help us continue this rich tradition, contact Maria Brownell at brownell.maria@yahoo.com or 402-850-8591.

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Lutheran Lakeside Camp
19th Annual Quilt Auction
April 14, 2012

Grace Lutheran Church
3010 52nd St, Des Moines, IA

Quilt viewing and lunch 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Auction begins at 1:00 p.m.



**MAY EAGLE
CALL DEADLINE**

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, April 16**. 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!