



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

Get in Touch with Your Inner Artist This Summer

Volume 44, Number 6
June, 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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The Eagle Call is published monthly by St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA 600 6th Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1606.

St. John's will offer "The Faithful Artist" to any and all people for the second summer in a row! No matter what your perceived artistic ability is, nor your age, you can participate. We create because our creator first created us, and we create within a community to support and encourage one another. So, come create and have fun with us!

There will be five sessions of "The Faithful Artist" this summer and, depending on the success, we may continue into the school year. Invite your neighbor, your son or daughter, your best friend, your grandparents – the possibilities are endless!

Each session will cost \$10 (if money is an issue, please let us know and we will work something out). Drinks and snacks are included. Sign up for one or all sessions.

- **Monday, June 11**
Fabric Prayer Flags
- **Monday, June 18**
Wooden Inspirational Signs
- **Monday, July 9**
Mixed Media Collage on Canvas
- **Monday, July 30**
Fun with Clayed by Deb Anderson
- **Monday, Aug. 13**
Surprise project!



The sessions will run from 6 to 9 p.m. Feel free to leave once your project is finished. To sign up or ask questions, contact Megan Clausen at meganc@stjohnsdsm.org or 243-7691.

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A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

St. John's Lutheran Church
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
June 18 at 12 p.m.



Dear Friends,

I often forget to express – at annual meetings or during Coffee with the Council gatherings every few months – how grateful I am for the continuing education time and financial allowance you provide to your pastors. Please know that I am thankful for the encouragement and resources to “get out of Dodge” a couple of time a year to read and reflect, to listen to and learn from others who have much more expertise in ministry than I have.

One of my favorite continuing-education events is the annual Festival of Homiletics, which I attended last week in Atlanta, GA. This is the fourth time I have been fortunate enough to attend this week-long preaching festival that brings the “who’s who” of American and Canadian preachers to one location for the sake of encouraging parish pastors like me in their preaching ministry. I would guess there were approximately 2,000 pastors in attendance this year, and we listened to great preaching morning, noon and night – literally! Between worship services where some of the best in the business preached, those same preachers offered lectures and workshops on the art and task of preaching. And, while I realize that some of you might think that such a week qualifies as something akin to torture, it is, for me, like a tall glass of cold water on a hot summer day – refreshing and delightful!

Allow me to share a few highlights of the week with you ...

- Tom Long from Candler School of Theology in Atlanta preached on the expectation, the “electric moments” in preaching. Long is a great storyteller, and he shared the story of a man who returned a book to the local library after keeping it past its due date. It was a musical score, a copy of Handel’s *Messiah*. The fact that he had checked it out never was recorded in the library system, however, so the staff had been searching high and low for the book for months, because the records said it was “in” when it was actually “out.” When the fellow walked in one day and handed it to the young woman at the desk, she exclaimed in a loud voice, “It’s the *Messiah*!” And for a moment, every one of the library patrons raised their heads expectantly. Good preaching, Long says, is expectant preaching, proclaiming the One who does, indeed, intervene in our lives every day!
- The Episcopal Bishop of North Carolina, Michael Curry, preaches in the African-American tradition and, in a sermon on John 20:1-10, declared that Mary Magdalene was one crazy believer, given the risks she took for love of Jesus. In fact, he said, “We need more crazy Christians ’cause the sane ones are killin’ us!” And his blessing offered at the end of worship was this: *May God bless us with consecrated craziness and sanctified insanity. Amen.* It was awesome!
- During a day spent at Ebenezer Baptist Church, site of the Martin Luther King, Jr., memorial, the senior pastor ended his sermon with a prolonged cadence of celebration in true African-American style: *Jesus is... Jesus is... Jesus Is... everything from A to Z!* It loosened up even the most straight-laced Caucasian preacher in the room!
- And the United Methodist Bishop of Alabama, Will Willimon – the traditional closer of the entire event – spoke about ending one’s sermon before it has gone on too long as a sign of trust in God. What arrogance on the part of the preacher, Willimon said, to think that she or he can somehow bring the Gospel to a conclusion with our own “Amen.” God continues to work on God’s people, and God, alone, will finally bring the Gospel to an end. “Because

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Jesus Christ is Lord, there is always more," he said. And with that, he left the pulpit and sat down!

It was a great week, and I always wish that you could have heard the great preaching I had the opportunity to hear at the Festival. (Perhaps you could "Google" any of the names above and find a sermon you could listen to on-line!) And, I simply want to say "thank you" for the opportunity and encouragement to seek refreshment for the ministry I am called to in your midst. It means the world to me.

From Our Council President



I am thankful!

I have been involved with two groups who are meeting to look at how to enhance our endowed funds while reducing our dependency on the Unendowed Contingency Fund. The meetings have involved details, defining terminology and brainstorming. I will share more about our thoughts and plans in a future article.

But when I step back and think about these funds, I realize how blessed we are as a congregation. The saints who have come before us have done so much for the ministry of St. John's and the spreading of the gospel. Take a moment to think about what past members of St. John's have done. We have a wonderful place to worship in the heart of the city. We have supported great pastors to preach and teach the word. We have fostered wonderful musicians, teachers and volunteers to carry out the mission of the church.

In addition to the place and the people, we have received great financial blessings from the saints. St. John's has seven *endowed funds* to help us with ministry. (*Endowed funds have larger balances that earn interest that may be spent each year, but the principal is preserved for long-term use.*) Our endowed funds include the:

- Dahl Health Fund to help with the works of the health ministry team
- Logan-Samuelson-Beil Scholarship Fund to support theological studies at an ELCA seminary or ELCA colleges.
- Mary Holstad Harpsichord Fund to maintain the instrument and its use in performances.
- Gfeller Music Scholarship to support the choirs with church music.
- Davies Educational Fund assist in the education of our children.
- Holt/Forker Youth Scholarship Fund to underwrite the costs of youth trips and retreats.
- Becker Global Mission Fund to support our global mission ministry team's work.

We also have *unrestricted funds*, which have a wide range of balances and *allow for the principal AND interest to be spent* to help the mission of the church. One unrestricted fund is the Cathedral Preservation Fund, which takes care of our property, including roof, heating, kitchen, plumbing, electric and furnishings.

Another is the Unendowed Contingency Fund, which has helped us balance our ministry plan (budget) for the past few years. Finally, memorials and special gifts are used to further the mission and vision of the church in a variety of ways.

And, of course, we have the *St. John's Foundation* to further the mission of our church. In the past, the Foundation has helped with major maintenance and restoration projects to keep our property in great condition.

The saints before us have given their time, talent and wealth to secure the future of St. John's and our mission to be God's people. We are blessed, and I am thankful. We continue their work by sustaining the church, preaching the word, fostering the arts and music and reaching out to help our neighbors (near and far). We are "In the City for Good."

So, be thankful for our blessings. Pray for the council and the task force as we wrestle with enhancing the value of the funds, and please consider a major gift for the future of the church as you also provide your gifts for day-to-day ministry.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Kris Gregersen
2012 President
Congregational Council

Women of the ELCA



The Women of the ELCA Annual General Meeting will be held at Scottish Rite Park, 2909 Woodland Ave., on Thursday, June 7, beginning at noon. Karen Zaabel will present a program called "The Healing

Touch." Reservations will be required for the \$6.50 meal. If you wish to attend, please RSVP by June 1 to Evelyn Cole at 967-3989 or leave a message at the church office by calling 243-7691.

Please continue to fill our Mission in Action baskets this summer with donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap and sanitary supplies. The drives will resume in September with an emphasis on school supplies, which are usually on sale during the month of August.

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, June 3 The Holy Trinity

When we say God is the triune God, we are saying something about who God is beyond, before and after the universe: that there is community within God. Our experience of this is reflected in Paul's words this Sunday. When we pray to God as Jesus prayed to his Abba (an everyday, intimate parental address), the Spirit prays within us, creating between us and God the same relationship Jesus has with the one who sent him.

The readings are Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17 and John 3:1-17. The hymns will be ELW 413, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty," ELW 735, "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth," ELW 482, "I Come With Joy," as the offertory and ELW 839, "Now Thank We All Our God." The gospel acclamation will be "*Santo, santo, santo, santo*" (Holy, holy, holy, holy), ELW 762, sung by a soloist at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. Holy Communion is offered at all weekend liturgies at St. John's, and the rite of "Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil for Healing" will be available at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the east transept.

Sunday, June 10 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 10

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray this day are sisters and brothers of the Lord. With them, we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

The readings are Genesis 3:8-15, Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 and Mark 3:20-35. The hymns will be ELW 665, "Rise, Shine, You People!" ELW 684, "Creating God, Your Fingers Trace," ELW 860, "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me" as the offertory and ELW 543, "Go My Children, with My Blessing." The rite of "Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil for Healing" will be at the communion railing this Sunday at 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Sunday, June 17 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 11

The mustard seed becomes a shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

The readings are Ezekiel 17:22-24, Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:6-17 and Mark 4:26-34. The hymns will be ELW 524, "What Is This Place," ELW 880, "O God beyond All Praising," ELW 679, "For the Fruit of All Creation" as the offertory and ELW 547, "Sent Forth by God's Blessing."

Sunday, June 24 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 12

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped, but Jesus is here now, and when we call him he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

The readings are Job 38:1-11, Psalm 107: 1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 and Mark 4:35-41. The hymns will be ELW 632, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," ELW 755, "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me," ELW 763, "My Life Flows on in Endless Song" as the offertory and ELW 756, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save."

Central Iowa Shelter

Potluck planned for Shelter volunteers



Central Iowa Shelter volunteers – all St. John's members who have contributed to the shelter in any way – are invited to an outdoor potluck in Peter and Carol Dittmer's yard on Sunday, July 29, at 5:30 p.m. This will be an opportunity for all volunteers to get together while discovering how much they are appreciated!

Bring a potluck dish to pass and a lawn chair, if you have one. Dinnerware, lemonade and ice tea will be provided. Peter and Carol live in the Lakewood section of Norwalk, just off Highway 28. Specific directions will follow in the July Eagle Call.

RSVP to Carol and Peter by calling 287-7860 or by e-mailing them at dittmercl@msn.com.

JULY & AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
5:00 P.M.

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES
8:00 A.M. & 10:00 A.M.

Hospitality & Outreach



Are You Ordinary?

Many of you may know our weekly staff meetings begin with devotions. We all share in searching for something unique to challenge, comfort or inspire. Recently, I came across a resource by The Reverend

Peter J. Gomes, who served as minister at The Memorial Church at Harvard University and was then appointed Plummer Professor of Christian Morals, also at Harvard. Pretty good credentials, wouldn't you say? He was also an incredibly gifted preacher with a wonderful sense of humor and down-to-earth way of expressing himself.

I enjoy his compilation of sermons, and one in particular resonated with me. It was in a section entitled *Eastertide*. He quoted Acts 4:13: "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered: and they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

Pastor Peter goes on to point out that Peter and John, as well as the rest of the apostles, were ORDINARY people. And, in our day and age, the last thing anyone wants to be called is ordinary. To say someone is "ordinary" is considered insulting. Most people consider themselves extraordinary in some way, shape or form – reputations, careers, various skills. Try complimenting a parent on their ordinary child – then duck! And, if you are an ordinary employee, kiss any chance of advancement goodbye.

Yet, we need to realize that our Christian faith was built on ordinary people. Because we know what we know in hindsight, we're accustomed to talking about SAINTS Peter, Paul, Matthew, Mark, etc. With my Catholic upbringing, being called "Saint" anything translates into special, extraordinary, extremely blessed. Definitely not something I consider myself.

But, as Scripture tells us, early Christians were ordinary people believing an extraordinary thing – a man raised from the dead, loving your enemies, everyone had value. God didn't work through the powers of the time; God worked with and through the people – ordinary people like you and like me.

In fact, God thinks of each of us as good enough – extraordinary enough – that we were created in his image. Feel humbled and grateful for Isaiah 43:2: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."

Ponder that statement, own it and when (or if) you feel that you're not special or have no discernible talent – toss out those thoughts! And, conversely, you need to toss out the belief that you don't have anything to offer. You are here on this planet because God gave you a unique SOMETHING that makes you able (and called) to share it with others. Be ordinary and do something extraordinary. St. John's can help you find something spiritual, social or service-related. Serve God by serving others. Please contact me at 243-7691 or katiet@stjohnsdsm.org, and I will provide you opportunity.

Couples, Singles & Mini Golf



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.

3D: Wednesday, June 6, 10 a.m.

WIRED Yoga: Thursday, June 7, 5:45 p.m., Fireplace Lounge at church.
Contact: Corinne Lambert, callingwisdom1@hotmail.com (556-3679).

Gardening: Tuesday, June 12, 6 p.m., St. Paul's Episcopal Rain Garden, 815 High St., Des Moines.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, June 20, 12:30 a.m. Location announced later.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, June 21, 11:30 a.m. Location announced later.

Bicycle St. John's: will ride to the Cumming Tap in Cumming, Iowa on June 12, 2012 for Tacopocalypse.

St. John's Social Club: Sunday, June 24, 5:30 p.m., Mexican progressive dinner (starting at John and Barb Bachman's house).

EAGLES: Friday, June 22, meet at church 9 a.m., Reiman Gardens and Hickory Park for lunch, Ames.

Photography: Sunday, June 24, 10 a.m., Neumann Hall at church. Theme: insects.

WIRED Night Out: Tuesday, June 26, 7 p.m., home of Darla Stiles.

WIRED Zumba: Watch for dates as sessions are planned.

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 interested in quilting, tying or learning how is welcome.

3D will meet Wednesday, June 6, at 10 a.m.

WIRED Yoga Group will have its last evening of this session on Thursday, June 7, 5:45 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. Cost is \$10 per class. If you have questions, contact Corinne Lambert at callingwisdom1@hotmail.com or 556-3679.

The St. John's Gardening Group will meet next on Tuesday, June 12, at 6 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Rain Garden at 815 High St. in Des Moines. John Doherty will tell us about the rain garden behind St. Paul's. Then we will move on to the Asian and Character Gardens by the Riverfront. The 2012 summer schedule is available online at the St. John's website at www.stjohnsdsm.org/Ministries/ChristianInvolvement&SmallGroups/Gardening. Printed schedules also are available in the hospitality center in Fireside Lounge at church. Questions? Contact Darla at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org or 243-7691.

WIRED Zumba decides on the next date after each gathering, so watch for details in the St. John's announcement sheets.

All-Congregational Historic Baseball Game & Picnic will be held at Living History Farms will be held on Saturday, June 16, at noon. We will tailgate (sub sandwiches, chips and beverage provided) in the parking lot at Living History Farms. Then at 1:30 p.m. we will watch a historic baseball game played by the Walnut Hill Blue Stockings – according to 1870s rules. Sign up in the lounge or online at St. John's website at www.stjohnsdsm.org. You may spend the entire day at Living History Farms (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.), so we will make your tickets available ahead of time. Or you can just come for the picnic and baseball game. Living History Farms will have a new exhibit, called Lipstick and Line Drives: Women in Baseball. Feel free to bring lawn chairs, especially for the tailgate picnic (or you may sit on the bleachers provided for the baseball game). Sign up by June 3 (tickets will be distributed June 10). Cost for adults for both the picnic and the ticket to get into Living History Farms is \$15 at the group rate. Cost for children ages 3-12 is \$10, and children under age 3 are free.

Lunch Bunch II will meet on Wednesday, June 20, at 12:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg at 279-6326.

Lunch Bunch I will meet on Thursday, June 21, at 11:30 a.m. New members are most welcome! If you are interested in joining, you will need to reserve a space by calling Margaret Roby at 288-6304.

Bicycle St. John's will ride to the Cumming Tap in Cumming, Iowa on June 12, 2012 for Tacopocalypse. We will meet at the trailhead near the Izaak Walton League on George Flagg Parkway, near Park Avenue. The start time is not yet determined, but check <https://www.facebook.com/BicycleStJohns> for details. The ride is a little more than 8 miles one way and is on the Great Western Trail for the whole distance. You might need lights for the ride home!

The EAGLES are planning a day trip to Ames on Friday, June 22. Meet at the church at 9 a.m. to carpool. They will tour Reiman Gardens with a private tour guide and see everything from the butterfly gardens to the 14 garden sculptures made out of Legos. Cost for senior admission is \$10. The group will then enjoy lunch at Hickory Park. RSVP to Ginny Pauling at rg.pauling@att.net or 285-4709.

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Photography will meet Sunday, June 24, at 10 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church. Please bring a couple photos of insects.

St John's Social Club will meet Sunday, June 24, for a Mexican progressive dinner, beginning with appetizers at 5:30 p.m. at the home of John and Barb Bachman. Then at 7 p.m. the group will move to Bob and Mary Miller's house for the main course and dessert. RSVP is required by Friday, June 15. Cost will depend on the number attending. RSVP to the Millers at 984-6207 or the Bachmans at 270-6487.

WIRED Night Out will meet Tuesday, June 26, at 7 p.m. at Darla Stiles' home for wine and cheese and an interesting night with Lindsay Donald, a professional make-up artist. Lindsay, who has had many adventures with well-known celebrities, will give hints on make-up and skin care as well as talk about her experiences. RSVP to Darla at darlastiles@stjohnsds.org or Jacque Warming at jrwarming@msn.com.

Groups taking a break for the summer:

- Scrapbooking
- St. John's Networking Group
- Saturday Morning Bible Study
- Hardanger
- Recreational Reading



In the City (and World) for Good!

*May your Spirit make us wise ... May your Spirit strengthen us;
So that we will be strong in faith, discerning in proclamation,
courageous in witness, persistent in good deeds.
This we ask through the name of the Father.
...A blessing from the West Indies*

We have numerous opportunities to be "courageous in witness, persistent in good deeds" in this city and world through the ministry of St. John's. Invite others to join you in serving God through serving others in some of the following ways:

It's time to "re-up" your support for the Children's Club in Mramba! If you have been sponsoring one of the Most Vulnerable Children in our companion parish in Tanzania, you should have received a letter recently asking for your gift for the next year. But even if you are not sponsoring a child, you now have the opportunity to "sponsor" a school uniform (\$37) or a *chicken* (!) for the chicken-cooping project that the children want to build! Use the envelopes in the pew racks that have a bright sticker on them, or send your gift to St. John's marked "companion parish."

Speaking of our companion parish, our next visit to Mramba is planned for February 2013. Informational meetings will be held in early fall. If you have

questions prior to that time, feel free to contact Carol Fisher or Pastor Mithelman.

The next opportunity to assemble quilts for Lutheran World Relief is Saturday morning, June 23. An LWR quilt serves not only as a warm covering on a cold night, but also as makeshift shelter and even burial shrouds. They have great value to the people – often residing in refugee camps – who receive them. No sewing experience is required, and all ages are welcome on June 23.



All are welcome to walk behind the St. John's banner in the Pride Parade on June 10th! Meet the St. John's Rainbow Ministry Team and other members and friends on the east side of the Capitol at 12:30 p.m. Enjoy the camaraderie of the event while making the St. John's welcome known to all people through our participation in the parade.

And, as always, remember that hunger does not take a summer vacation in our community. Please continue donating food items – and financial support – to the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry on a regular basis; participate in keeping the St. John's Faith Garden at the Speirs' residence in good shape; and sign up to furnish food for the evening meal at Central Iowa Shelter and Services on the 18th and 19th of each month.

Thank you for your commitment to being in the city – and the world – for good! May we continue to be "courageous in witness [and] persistent in good deeds" in the name of Jesus!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE EAGLE CALL?

E-mail scottl@stjohnsds.org and request the eEagle Call. Help us save on the cost of postage, use less paper, and see each issue in **FULL COLOR**.

All women of St. John's – and friends – are invited:

Second Annual Evening Social and Fundraising Event

for

The Johanna Scholarship

Wednesday, June 13, 6:30-8 p.m.

Pastor Mithelman's backyard, 434 56th St., Des Moines



Established in 2011, the Johann Scholarship is provided by the women of St. John's for women students at Usangi Leadership and Training College in Usangi, TZ.

We currently sponsor two women students with full-tuition scholarships for two-year certificates in evangelism and parish work. Help us expand that to four women students!

Pastor Mary Jo Maas, who teaches at Usangi, will join us for the event, along with our own Judi Langholz, who represents the SE IA Synod on the Board of Directors of ULTC.

In case of rain, the event will be held in Neumann Hall at St. John's.

Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be June 25-28 for Kindergarten through sixth-graders. This year's VBS will once again be led by the staff from Lutheran Lakeside Camp. We will base all activities on the Bible verse from John 10:10, "I came that they may have life ..." Registration forms are available on the kiosk on the west side of the sanctuary and on the St. John's website at stjohnsdsm.org/sunday-school.



Sunday School teachers needed for the 2012-13 year, beginning in September. Could you share your faith with a class of kids once or twice a month? Teacher's guides are provided that make lessons easy and rewarding to plan and lead. You'll learn right along with the kids! A schedule can be designed for even the busiest person! If interested, contact Sheryl Reed at 243-7691.

Youth Ministries

Middle School Summer Activities

- Book Club is back again this summer! We will read *Schooled*, by Gordon Korman. Watch your (or your parent's) e-mail for dates and times.
- Pool party at Pastor Bob's!
- Outdoor movie/family night!



Dates and times for the above activities will be announced soon.

High School Summer Activities

- Breakfast at the Waveland Café! Thursdays at 10 a.m.
- R & R and fun at Jacque Warming's home in the Lake of the Ozarks! This special vacation time together will be Thursday, Aug. 2, through Monday, Aug. 6. The cost will be \$75 (or less). If you would like to go, contact Megan Clausen at meganc@stjohnsdsm.org or 243-7691.

For exact times and details, watch your e-mail, Facebook and stjohnsdsm.org.



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.

A Growing Act

St. John's Faith Garden has grown this season. We'd staked a new portion of Pastor Bob's yard to plant rows of seeds, but the community volunteer who plowed it dug up last year's ground, too – the no-till part we'd covered with mulch-topped newspaper. Not to worry: Ed roto-tilled the newly plowed area, then we recovered the no-till area of the garden with newspaper and mulch. After we left, Pastor Bob and his pickup truck got another load of mulch, which he and Aiden spread over the garden. They also erected a chicken-wire fence to deter rabbits.

Diana and Phil procured plants and seeds. Diana, our producer-director, organized the cast of volunteers, scheduled the garden act, and provided her trademark home-baked cookies.

Diana, Phil, Margaret and Fred planted tomato and pepper plants in the no-weed (hope springs eternal) mulched portion of the garden, and Linda fertilized them with a fish emulsion. On May 14, a cast of 10 planted beets, lettuce, carrots, zucchini and pole beans in bare-earth rows that Margaret and Fred had marked with string. Fred made what looks like a Jacob's Ladder string game tied between tall poles he and Ed pounded into the ground. The pole beans will use the ladder to climb to the sky. Jean lettered row markers, so we'll all know what's planted where. We watered everything, then gathered in a circle as Pastor Bob led us in a brief service to ask God's blessing on the garden.

As we go to press, the first team of four are watering and waiting for seedlings to emerge from our stage, the black dirt. We have a full cast of four teams of four volunteer gardeners each. One team will be on duty for a week, followed by three weeks off.

At press time, these players have appeared on stage: Linda Christensen, Bonnie Ekse, Wanda Havard, Jean Rothfus, Diana and Phil Sickles, Ed and Mary Slattery, Jill Stromgren, Fred and Margaret Townsend, Deborah, Niko and Natalie Fortune and, of course, the Speirs family. As our gracious garden hosts, they're in the garden more frequently than the rest of us. Thank you, everyone!

All St. John's members can play a part in the garden. Our donations marked for St. John's Faith Garden will provide funds to purchase garden supplies. If you have extra tomato cages, we can use them, plus runny pantyhose to use as ties. (Please note: Pastor Bob blushes if we don't put the pantyhose in a bag before stuffing them in his mailbox at church.) And remember – you may donate excess produce from your own gardens to DMARC's food pantries. Working together, we can help feed hungry children and their families.

Next act: Rain barrels! Read the July Eagle call, which will include the story of a generous donation.



...and Found

Lost Boy Sponsored by St. John's Graduates from College



Eleven years ago, St. John's sponsored three Lost Boys of Sudan, who had been orphaned, traumatized by war, and had walked from one refugee center to another throughout Ethiopia and Kenya most of their lives. One of these three Lost Boys of Sudan, Sam Deng Makuach, who recently graduated from Grandview University with degrees in psychology and human services, said he studied psychology in order to help other Lost Boys who still experience the effects of post-traumatic stress to this day.

St. John's own Andy Anderson was there to watch Sam graduate. The two have stayed in touch ever since Andy was St. John's director of social ministries and took them under his wing. "We consider Andy as our father, like we were adopted by him," Sam said. "All the people at St. John's were so good to us. They're wonderful people."

"There was lots of teaching involved," Andy said. "They had never even been around a clock, so they had no sense of time. They had never, ever seen a car, so I drove them many places. Once I took them to Dahls to teach them how to buy groceries, and I ran into this woman who said, 'Oh, let me do it.'" Turns out that nice woman who took them all around the grocery store and explained the various types of food was Christie Vilsack, then First Lady of Iowa.

Eventually, Greg Anderson of St. John's taught Sam how to drive, so he could hold down a job. "I'd just bought a new truck, and Sam didn't even know what our traffic signs meant," Greg recalled. "Here's a guy who spent most of his life just trying to not get shot."

Andy selected an apartment for the three refugees – James Dutt, John Piot and Sam. Lutheran Services of Iowa paid six months of rent. On moving day, Wayne Erickson transported the furniture donated by St. John's members to the apartment, and Janie Clemensen and other St. John's women provided a meal. The congregation also raised \$600 for clothing, groceries and toiletries.

"Pastor Roy (Nielsen) was always there to give them advice and help them with their English," Andy said. "And Pastor Sue (Schneider) was instrumental in teaching them about courtesy and American customs. Pastor Heidi Williams took them shopping when I couldn't, and I'm sure there were others who helped."

John Piot, who had a brain injury, is living in Des Moines with help from Social Services of Iowa, and James Dutt lived here two years before moving to Salt Lake City, Utah, where Job Corps trained him as a licensed practical nurse. Sam has worked for the YMCA and Sodexo Campus Services at Drake, and for the last five years has been employed at Mosaic, a group home for people with mental and physical disabilities. All the while, he has been working on his education, first at DMACC, then finishing at Grandview. He wants to find work in Des Moines and help other Lost Boys who still live here.

For All People

Join Rainbow Ministry Team in Gay Pride Parade

St. John's members and friends are invited to join the St. John's Rainbow Ministry Team when the group again marches in the Des Moines Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 10. We will meet at 12:45 p.m. in the large parking lot on the east side of the Capitol. The parade begins at 1 p.m.

This is a great opportunity for us to represent St. John's as a **church for all people**. If you have questions, call Bruce Remy at 208-4386. Join us for this community event!



LSI Update

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.
 – Galatians 6:10

A Family of Believers

Each of us is born into our worldly families, however we are part of a much larger family – a family of believers. Every day, thousands of people in our family of believers struggle. Families struggle to find work, battle addiction, become victims of abuse and neglect. During National Family Month, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) reminds you that our Christ-centered family is bringing hope to families across Iowa.

Through the support of congregations like yours, LSI is part of building stronger, loving families. LSI understands that all families experience crises, and our programs help families work through these times and use the experiences to learn and grow. Through education and crisis management, our employees bring healing to Iowa families in need. The help of congregations like yours plays a pivotal role in the success of these family-centered programs. As a member of the family of believers, you allow us to do good.

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

“LSI does great work with families as well as kids”

Last autumn Brandie rooted for her twelve-year-old son Wylie from the sidelines at every middle school football game.

This kind of childhood experience would have been hard to envision just two years ago. Wylie twice stayed at LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames, which provides 24-7 mental health services for children with severe emotional or behavioral disorders.

“He had been in trouble at school, and we didn't know what else to do,” said Brandie. “He was arrested four to five times for assaulting teachers at school.”

Brandie turned to Beloit, hoping her son could find success there instead of in a detention center.

“If he had to be away, I would rather it be a place like Beloit. I could sleep at night knowing he was safe and getting good care there.”

While at Beloit, Wylie learned communication, coping and anger management skills to help him succeed at home, in school and in the community. Wylie, recently diagnosed with autism, is more stable at school this year, with zero arrests and fewer discipline issues.

Brandie's family also attended family therapy sessions and a family weekend at LSI.

“There were good tools and resources, and we could spend some quality time with him,” she said of the weekend sessions. “I love that LSI respects kids, and they do great work with families as well as kids.”

Playing football was a big step, but long-term independence for Wylie is Brandie's ultimate goal.

“I just hope he can find success in the real world,” she said. “I want to make sure he gets the opportunity to be in an apartment on his own and make it through school. We're working on the life skills and training for him to accomplish that.”



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.

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.



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Vacation Bible School

June 25-28

Kindergarten - Sixth graders

Registrations are available
online at stjohnsdsm.org/sunday-school/

or paper copies can be found at
the kiosk on the west side of the sanctuary

VBS is a Day Camp led by the staff from
Lutheran Lakeside Camp.

We will base all activities on the Bible verse
I came that they may have life... (John 10:10)

JULY EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all
Eagle Call information
is **Monday, June 18.**

Please send information
or articles in digital
format, to Scott LaBlanc,
scottl@stjohnsdsm.org.

If you cannot send it by
e-mail, drop it off at the
church office.

Thank you!