



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

In July... Add 1!

And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved...Acts 2:47b

Volume 44, Number 7
July, 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

Rachel Thorson Mithelman
Senior Pastor
pastorrachel@stjohnsdsm.org

Robert Speirs
Associate Pastor
pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org

Gene Anderson
Visitation Pastor
pastorgene@stjohnsdsm.org

Website

www.stjohnsdsm.org

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

Every morning on my way to work I pray Martin Luther's Morning Prayer – aloud! It begins with these words: *I give you thanks, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ thy dear Son, that thou hast protected us through the night from all harm and danger...*

In other words, I thank God for adding yet another day of grace to my life. When I was younger I took the gift of a day “for granted.” But life experience and the privilege of ministry have deepened my understanding of the precious nature of each additional day God gives. Indeed, if you are reading this, God has added the precious gift of another day to your life, as well! And as a community of faith we celebrate each additional day of grace by sharing God's love with one another, with this city, and this world.

In gratitude for God's gracious addition of day after day, I am asking you to add to your financial support of St. John's for the sake of our daily witness to God's great love. Please join me by either...

Adding 1 extra week's offering

OR

Adding 1 extra month's offering *

OR

Adding 1 extra year's offering (!)... to your July 2012 financial support of St. John's!

Our community needs that additional support now, at the mid-year mark. So please join me, and “add 1” in gratitude and praise to God!

I thank God for you!!
Pastor Mithelman

* This is how I'm ***adding 1*** in July!



WHAT'S INSIDE

A Word from Our Pastors	2	From the ELCA.....	5	LSI Update.....	8
From our Council President, WELCA		Small Groups & Central Iowa Shelter		Faithful Garden.....	9
Update & Faithful Artist Returns	3	Volunteer Celebration	6	Hospitality & Outreach.....	10
Prepare for Worship	4	In the City & Interfaith Hospitality ..	7	Children & Youth Ministries.....	11

St. John's Lutheran Church
In the City for Good!
Phone 515.243.7691

Staff

Larry Christensen
Director of Music,
Worship and the Arts
larryc@stjohnsdsm.org

Megan Clausen
Director of Youth Ministry
meganc@stjohnsdsm.org

Amber Jackson-Elwer
Nursery Coordinator
amberbeth22@yahoo.com

John Kelly
Security / Maintenance

Amanda Kuhlman
Nursery

Scott LaBlanc
Director of Parish Operations
scottl@stjohnsdsm.org

Kim Lamb
Front Office Manager
receptionist@stjohnsdsm.org

Laura Lundy
Financial Assistant
laural@stjohnsdsm.org

Jeff McNeely
Security / Maintenance

Katie Tippins
Hospitality & Outreach
katie Tippins@stjohnsdsm.org

Teresa McKeever
Financial Assistant
financeoffice@stjohnsdsm.org

Leslie Moeller
Maintenance Supervisor
lesmoeller@stjohnsdsm.org

Sheryl Reed
Director of Children's Ministries
sherylreed@stjohnsdsm.org

Darla Stiles
Christian Involvement
darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org

Office Hours:
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
July 16 at 12 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Bob Speirs

"I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

At a recent Global Mission Team meeting our chairperson, Phyllis Olson, began with this passage from Joshua as our opening devotion. It is a timely verse, because it fits in well with many of the activities we will be involved with during the month of July – and July is a month when we definitely will be going places!

To begin with, on **Thursday, July 12**, at 5:30 p.m., in our St. John's Weertz Fellowship Hall, we will be going to Liberia in West Africa. Accompanying us on this journey will be **Pastors Brian and Christine Palmer, missionaries** whom we at St John's help support through the ELCA Global Missions ministry. The Palmers will offer a PowerPoint presentation about their missionary work in Liberia. We will begin with dinner (provided by the Global Mission Team), consisting of fried chicken and rice pilaf, along with assorted salads and desserts. Then the program will be presented, with a question-and-answer time to follow. Please put this date on your calendars, and come out and join us to support our missionaries and our Global Mission Team. If you have any questions about this event, e-mail Global Mission Chairperson Phyllis Olson at paolson@mchsi.com or me, Pastor Bob, at pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org.

On **Monday, July 16**, a group of 21 youth and adults from St. John's will once again travel to New Orleans for the **ELCA National Youth Gathering**. The theme for this year's program is "citizens with the saints" and is drawn from the second lesson for July 22nd, 2012, Ephesians 2:14-20. Our week will be packed with many learning and serving activities, along with the worship events that are scheduled for each night at the New Orleans Superdome. A few of the activities we have scheduled are a "Swamp Tour" of the Bayou country by Airboat. We'll encourage our youth "not" to bring home any pet Alligators if they have mind. We will also take part in thematic programming each day that revolves around the spiritual practices of peacemaking, justice and discipleship. I believe this will be a very eye-opening and enriching experience for all involved and we all thank of our friends and family at St. John's again for your generous support and prayers.

After a two-week hiatus, on **Tuesday, July 3**, at 9:30 a.m., St. John's **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will resume in Room 8 at church. Together we will go back in time, to the end of the Exodus, as we start studying the book of Joshua. Joshua was one of the two original Israelites who made it through the wilderness to the Promised Land. Our studies are geared toward all levels of learning and biblical expertise. The only requirement is that you come ready to meet others and have a good experience. We'll have a great time and a few laughs along the way, as we begin to work our way through another book of the Bible. Coffee and snacks are provided.

This is also the time of year when I begin **planning our Sunday Morning Adult Forum series** for the fall season and would appreciate ideas on the topics and issues most interesting and appealing to you. We want to ensure lively, stimulating discussions for the best use of our adult education time. If you have any suggestions, call me at the office (243-7691) or e-mail me at pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org.

I hope you all enjoy your summer, and I look forward to seeing you in worship.

Pastor Bob

From Our Council President



I grew up in a farming community so I have always enjoyed the seasons. I especially looked forward to planting season and then listening to the farmers talk about the weather. Now I live in the city, but I still have a garden and look forward to each growing season. I love to pick and eat the fresh produce and enjoy some flowers. At harvest, I am always grateful and pleased with whatever is produced. My garden got off to an early start this year (lots of fresh greens) but now the hot dry weather has come and I don't know how other crops will mature. Time (and some watering) will tell.

I have been on two church councils and served on many committees over the years. I always look forward to the planning and involving the people who do God's work. In the three years I have been on your council, I have been part of the current financial shortfall between giving and our ministry plan. We have cut expenses and adjusted staffing but still maintained programming. Fortunately, we have the Unendowed Fund to help fill the "gap" between giving and expenses. However, that fund is getting low. I had all hoped the economic recovery would be strong and giving could be greater this year. I do have some good news: our expenses are less than last year; more people are participating in Simply Giving; and most pledges are current. And the "gap" task force has met and given council four ideas to help with budgeting for 2013. However, other giving is behind last year. As of the end of May, we have received \$368,450 in 2012 compared with \$395,567 last year (June has not closed at the time I am writing this article).

Your council and church staff are very good gardeners with our resources. But it takes your gifts to carry out the mission of St. John's. We need your help to make it rain. Please "Add 1" in July. Consider adding to your regular offering -- add one more week, one more month or one more.... It will sustain our youth, preach the gospel, sing God's praises, reach out to the community and so much more.

As God's stewards, be grateful for each gift and how you can give thanks.

Kris Gregersen
2012 President
Congregational Council



Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA have purchased a new commercial grade refrigerator for the church kitchen. The old refrigerator that needed its coolant recharged once or twice a year has been delivered to a DMARC distribution point in south Des Moines.

The General Meeting of the Women of the ELCA was held at Scottish Rite Park on June 7th. They were served a delicious lunch of chicken salad, banana muffin and relishes. Dessert was strawberry shortcake. Following the luncheon, President Margaret Townsend lead devotions on wildflowers and Karen Zaabel presented a power point and audience participation program on healing touch. At the business meeting next year's board was elected as follows.

- President – Gretchen Lindsey
- Vice President & Membership – Mitzemarie McCloskey
- Treasurer -- Nancy Budrevich
- Secretary – Margaret Townsend
- Lois Leader – Judy Munger
- Sarah Leadership is Shared by the month
- Mission in Action – Joyce Hansen and Carol Dittmer
- Funeral Lunches and Historian – Evelyn Cole

The new board will take the reins in September. In the meantime please fill our bins with personal items for the homeless shelters, old eyeglasses, new underwear and old magazines. The September Mission in Action drive will be for school supplies so stock up when the sales are on in August.

Faithful Artist Returns

For the second summer, St. John's is offering "The Faithful Artist" events to any and all people! You can participate, no matter what your perceived artistic ability or age. We create because our creator first created us, and we create within a community to support and encourage one another.

The cost is \$10 per session. Join in the fun and create with us!

Sign up by contacting Megan Clausen at meganc@stjohnsdsm.org or 243-7691.

Three sessions are left:

- Monday, July 9: Mixed Media Collage on Canvas
- Monday, July 30: Fun with Clay lead by Deb Anderson
- Monday, Aug. 13: Children's Book Inspired Art



Prepare for Worship

For the months of July and August there are two services on Sunday mornings: 8 a.m., which will be the same format as our usual 7:45 a.m. service, and 10 a.m., which will be in the style of the 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. The details below regarding offering and communion music apply to the 10 a.m. service. The Saturday 5 p.m. service is unchanged.

Sunday, July 1

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 13

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases, a boundary is crossed: In Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel, Jesus breaks down barriers – from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain was torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

The readings are Lamentations 3:22-33, Psalm 30, 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 and Mark 5:21-43. The hymns will be ELW 858, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," ELW 886, "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing," ELW 617, "We Come to You for Healing, Lord" and ELW 860, "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me." Both offering and communion music at 10 a.m. will be vocal duets by Alicia Frasier and Joel Gettys.

Sunday, July 8

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 14

Jesus does great deeds of power and gives his disciples authority over demons. Yet none of this power is unilateral; it all must be received by faith. Jesus asks his disciples to go out without money or supplies, so that they will be dependent on how others receive them. The Spirit always operates in the between: between Jesus and his Abba, between Jesus and us, between you and me, between us and those to whom we are sent.

The readings are Ezekiel 2:1-5, Psalm 123, 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 and Mark 6:1-13. The hymns will be ELW 641, "All Are Welcome," ELW 575, "In Christ Called to Baptize," ELW 519, "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People," ELW 595, "Jesus Loves Me!" and ELW 720, "We Are Called." Offering and communion music at 10 a.m. will be by Sandy Moore Wacha, flute, and Sue Odem, oboe. There will be anointing with oil and prayers for healing at the communion rail at all services this weekend.

Sunday, July 15

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 15

When Amos told what he saw when God held up the plumb line of justice next to Israel – that the poor were being trampled, he was a threat to the power of priest and king. John the Baptist also spoke truth to power, and Herod had him beheaded. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: that all the prophets killed through the ages

are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them.

The readings are Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85:8-13, Ephesians 1:3-14 and Mark 6:14-29. The hymns will be ELW 807, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," ELW 507, "O God of Light," ELW 717, "Let Justice Flow Like Streams," ELW 481, "Come to the Table" and ELW 805, "Lead On, O King Eternal!" The offering and communion music at 10 a.m. will be flute trios by Carol and Kat Lunde and Ann Strom.

For four Sundays this summer – the last two in July and the first two in August, we will take a break from the revised common lectionary for a series on Creation. July 22 will be Earth Sunday; July 29, Humanity Sunday; Aug. 5, Sky Sunday, and Aug. 12, Mountain Sunday.

Sunday, July 22

First Sunday in Creation: Earth Sunday

Norman C. Habel l... reads [Genesis 1:1-25] as "a consistent story about Earth that affirms the intrinsic value of Earth ... When Genesis 1 is read as a story of Earth, the account of God creating humans does not represent a climax to the narrative, but a sharp conflict of plot and perspective within the narrative." Reading Genesis 1:1-25 with Earth as the central character of the story is appropriate on Earth Sunday. The Season of Creation: A Preaching Commentary, page 127.

The readings are Genesis 1:1-25, Psalm 33:1-9, Romans 1:18-23 and John 1:1-14. The will be: Gathering Song will be ELW 824, "This is My Father's World." Hymn of Praise: "For the Beauty of the Earth." Gospel Acclamation: ELW 731, "Earth and All Stars," verse 1. Hymn of the Day: ELW 739, "Touch the Earth Lightly." Offertory: ELW 734, "God, Whose Farm Is All Creation." Sending Song: ELW 836, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee." Offering and communion music at 10 a.m. will be provided by violinist Nina Liu.

Sunday, July 29

Second Sunday in Creation: Humanity Sunday

Contrasting the role assigned to human beings in Genesis 1:26-28 to that espoused in Genesis 2:15, Biblical scholar Norman Habel writes: "The role of humans in Genesis 2 is to serve and preserve this Earth. Serving is what people did when they devoted their attention to a person or a task. Members of the court served the king. Laborers served in the fields. Priests and worshipers served their God in the temple. Here, humans are to serve Earth, that is, dedicate themselves to Earth by attending to her needs." The Season of Creation: A Preaching Commentary, page 146.

The readings are Genesis 1:26-28, Psalm 8, Philippians 2:1-8 and Mark 10:41-45. The Gathering Song will be ELW 771, "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens." Hymn of Praise: ELW 835, "All Creatures, Worship God Most High." Gospel Acclamation:

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

ELW 741, "Your Will Be Done." Hymn of the Day: ELW 740, "God of the Sparrow." Offertory: ELW 734, "God, Whose Farm is All Creation." Sending Song: ELW 881, "Let All Things Now Living."

From the ELCA

A year later, ELCA members remain committed to restoring Minot, N.D.



CHICAGO (ELCA) -- The Souris River began rising June 22, 2011, in Minot, N.D. Five days later it would crest nearly 13 feet above the flood stage, driving 12,000 people from their homes and damaging more than 4,100 homes and businesses, including four church buildings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) -- three in Minot and one in nearby Burlington, N.D.

One year later, ELCA members and congregations there are still in the process of rebuilding. ELCA Disaster Response remains in the region, coordinating volunteers and meeting both short-term and long-term recovery needs.

"We're ecstatic to be able to talk about the outpouring of support from around the country," said the Rev. Mark E. Narum, bishop of the ELCA Western North Dakota Synod, but, he admits, "A year later lives are still pretty bruised."

Of the six ELCA congregations in Minot, three were harmed by the floods. In the flood's immediate aftermath, affected congregations were paired up with the unaffected congregations for support and assistance in rebuilding and recovery.

"Right as the flood waters were approaching, Bishop Narum called the six congregations together," said the Rev. Michon Weingartner of Augustana Lutheran Church in Minot.

Augustana lost the use of their building entirely. The congregation is currently paired with Bread of Life Lutheran Church in Minot, where they share office space while they hold worship services at Minot State University in Minot. Weingartner calls the partnership "very

helpful." The congregation plans to hold services back at its building on June 24.

Members of Christ Lutheran Church in Minot have just recently moved back to their space, but Narum said, "They're using folding chairs. The building is really stripped out."

First Lutheran Church in Minot, where damage was less extensive, has moved entirely back into their building.

Peace Lutheran Church in Burlington is also back in its space but is unable to use its basement where youth events and Sunday school were held. Mission Builders, an organization dedicated to constructing and rebuilding ELCA facilities, is on site there to construct an above-ground addition to house those events.

According to Narum, the two biggest needs in the rebuilding effort now are "prayer and finances."

When donated funds were distributed to congregations at the ELCA Western North Dakota Synod's recent Synod Assembly, "there were a lot of tears in the eyes," Narum said. "I think that the members of those congregations would say the money is great. It makes a huge difference, but I would also say that it's the partnership and the love and the care that's expressed through that money that is equally important."

Narum estimates that the floods caused nearly \$3 million in damage to the four affected ELCA church buildings. In addition to the church buildings affected by the flooding, ELCA members are also working to rebuild their homes and lives. About 10 percent of the households affected had flood insurance, making financing a hurdle in the reconstruction, said Narum.

ELCA Disaster Response has also continued to be active in the area. In collaboration with Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota and other faith-based and secular organizations, it is still working in the region to provide long-term support and services.

The ELCA is playing a vital role in Hope Village, a one-stop service center where volunteers can eat and sleep and access supplies, assignments and transportation as they continue mucking out flooded homes and working to eradicate mold.

The ELCA Western North Dakota Synod is also active in Camp Noah, a day camp for first- through sixth-graders that helps children work through their feelings about the disaster experience.

To commemorate the anniversary of the flooding, all of the ELCA congregations in Minot will be holding special services. The town will also be hosting the Weekend of Hope, a celebration culminating in the reopening of the area's largest public park.

It is estimated that the complete redevelopment and restoration of the area could take nearly nine years to complete, and ELCA Disaster Response remains committed to meeting those needs. For more information about ELCA Disaster Response, visit www.ELCA.org/disaster.

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.

Gardening: Tuesday, July 10, 6 p.m., Margie Brennan's place, 1730 Walnut Woods Dr., West Des Moines. Tuesday, July 24, 6 p.m., home of Carol and Peter Dittmer, 8920 Oakwood Dr., Norwalk.

WIRED Zumba: Wednesday, July 11, 5:30 p.m., Fireside lounge at church.

EAGLES: Friday, July 13. Meet at church at 10 a.m. Gold Star Museum, Camp Dodge.

Bicycle St. John's: Sunday, July 15. Ride to church, then ride to brunch. Facilitator: Rod Snavelly, rsnavely@aol.com.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, July 18, 12:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, July 19, 11:30 a.m.

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 Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 308 at church. Anyone interested in quilting, tying or learning how is welcome.

The St. John's Gardening Group will meet twice in July. The first gathering will be Tuesday, July 10, at 6 p.m. at Margie Brennan's place, 1780 Walnut Woods Dr., West Des Moines, to see many interesting sculptures in her yard as well as a water feature and day lilies, roses, etc. This is an amazing place!

On Tuesday, July 24, at 6 p.m., the group will tour Carol and Peter Dittmer's place, 8920 Oakwood Dr., Norwalk. See the many terraces, perennials and interesting things they have been working on the last few years. They invite us to enjoy light refreshments as we take in the view of the lake. You won't want to miss either of these tours! Questions? Contact Darla Stiles at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org or 243-7691.

WIRED Zumba will meet Wednesday, July 11, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at church to dance/exercise to a Zumba DVD. Please join us, if you are interested.

The EAGLES will meet Friday, July 13, at 10 a.m. at St. John's to carpool to Camp Dodge for a private tour of the Gold Star Museum. Larry Spencer, a POW for seven years in Viet Nam, will guide us through the museum. He will describe first-hand experiences as he directs us through a 90-minute tour. Then we will have lunch at Ruby Tuesday's on 86th Street. RSVP to Carol Dittmer at dittmercl@msn.com or 287-7860.

Bicycle St. John's, St. John's newest small group, has had a couple of very successful rides this summer. We will meet at church after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, July 15, then we will ride somewhere to have brunch. For more information, go to facebook.com/BicycleStJohns or contact Rod Snavelly at rsnavely@aol.com or 277-1301.

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

Lunch Bunch I will meet Thursday, July 19, at 11:30 a.m. New members are most welcome!

Anyone who is interested in joining the group should reserve a space by calling Margaret Roby at 288-6304.

St John's Social Club will not meet in July.

Scrapbooking is taking a break for summer.

St. John's Networking Group is taking a break for summer.

Saturday Morning Bible Study is taking a break for summer.

Hardanger is taking a break for summer.

Photography is taking a break until Sept. 23 when the theme will be "pictures that make you laugh."

Recreational Reading is taking a break for summer.

WIRED Yoga is taking a break for summer.

Central Iowa Shelter

Appreciation Event
Planned for Shelter
Volunteers



Calling all Central
Iowa Shelter

volunteers, whether you are a server, food preparer or any other type of contributor! A potluck supper will be hosted by Peter and Carol Dittmer in their backyard on Sunday, July 29, at 5:30 p.m.

Please bring some food to share. Dinnerware, lemonade and ice tea will be provided. Bring a lawn chair if you have one. This will be an opportunity for all volunteers to learn how much they are appreciated!

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

Peter and Carol live at 8920 Oakwood Drive in the Lakewood section of Norwalk, just off of Highway 28. Take 63rd Street south toward Norwalk (it turns into Highway 28). When you see the Lakewood sign on the brick wall, turn right (west) onto Lakewood Drive, and count three corners on the left. The Dittmer house is at the corner of Lakewood Drive and Oakwood Drive, right across the street from the boat marina.

Please RSVP to the Dittmers by calling 287-7860 or e-mailing dittmercl@msn.com.

In the City (and World) for Good!

If you're going to care about the fall of the sparrow you can't pick and choose who's going to be the sparrow. It's everybody. ...Madeleine L'Engle

Thank you for being in the city for good: for sharing the *Good News* of God's love, for doing *good* and beautiful things for your neighbor, and for your commitment to stay – for *good* – as witnesses in the heart of the city! Ongoing opportunities to care for one another and our neighbors abound...

July brings us another opportunity to partner with Windsor Heights Lutheran Church as they host families in transition through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. We are responsible for the evening meal, as well as evening and overnight hosting on Tuesday, July 17 and Thursday, July 19. A sign-up sheet with specific tasks listed is posted in the narthex. Windsor Heights Lutheran hosts the families in their former parsonage, immediately west of the church.

Please remember that hunger does not take a summer vacation - in Des Moines or in any other community. Donations to our grocery carts for the DMARC Food Pantry are down of late, but are always needed. You may also provide food through a regular financial gift to DMARC. DMARC's "dollar," when spent on food from wholesalers and the Iowa Food Bank, buys 6 times more than your dollar does at the grocery store. So... whether you bring in food for the carts or make a financial donation, please be generous!

Financial gifts are also needed for the Good Samaritan Fund. Because of a generous donation at the beginning of 2012, we have been "banking" donations given during the first half of the year for use in the second half. We're now "into" those funds, but the need always exceeds our financial resources. Your gifts are always welcome!

And, as always, thank you for caring so well for neighbors near and far...

Thank you for your generous support of the Most Vulnerable Children's Club in our companion parish in Mramba, TZ! Because of your generosity, the students and teachers have sponsorship for the next year, uniforms will be provided, and the chicken cooping project will proceed.

Thank you for your generous support of the Johanna Scholarship for women students at Usangi Leadership & Training College in TZ! Two additional women will be able to enroll at Usangi for the next 2 years because of your generous gifts!

And thanks to all who are tending the St. John's Faith Garden at the Speirs' residence, cooking for & serving at the Connection Café and Central Iowa Shelter & Services, and supporting one another through countless kindnesses. May God continue to bless you to be a blessing!

Interfaith Hospitality

Tuesday, July 17 and Thursday, July 19, St. John's will host the INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK families at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church. We need help with preparing and serving supper + clean-up, hosting the guest during the evening and providing overnight support as follows:



- Supper for 10-15 people including main dish (**lasagna is requested for Tuesday and a casserole is requested for Thursday**), salad/vegetable, starch/bread, and dessert. This can be delivered to the parsonage just west of the church any time after 4:30. The side door should be open.
- Need 2 hosts for the evening hours, 5 pm until 8 pm.
- Need 2 hosts for the overnight shift from 8 pm until 7 am. (BRING SLEEPING BAG OR BLANKETS AND PILLOW) BEDS ARE PROVIDED.

Please see sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

This is an excellent ministry opportunity for small groups or families to provide food and fellowship for homeless families with children.

Call Jennifer Early with questions—264-6872.

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



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

LSI Update

Purposeful Parenting

July is Purposeful Parenting Month, a great time to remember the effort, commitment and love it takes to be a positive parent and role model for a child. Children look to their parents for guidance, care and love and it is important to recognize the role purposeful parenting plays in the development of a child's mental, social, emotional and physical self.

Lutheran Services in Iowa recognizes that sometimes parents need assistance in getting ready to become a parent for the first time or when struggling to work through difficult family situations. LSI's early childhood and family centered services promote positive parenting through education, counseling, family meetings and support. Through these services, LSI builds on strengths to enhance the emotional, psychological and physical well being of both parents and children, preventing child abuse and neglect and helping to keep families together.

With knowledgeable and loving parents in a safe environment, children can go on to reach their greatest potential and pass these skills on to their children creating generations of positive parenting.

For information on Lutheran Services in Iowa, visit www.LSIowa.org, or "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

"You can do whatever you want if you just do it."

She's an ambitious student, but Andrea knows there is one subject you can't learn in a classroom – parenting.

When her daughter Denise was born, the first months of motherhood were a whirlwind.

"She was a surprise," said Andrea, who was 19 when she learned she was pregnant. "I was a young mom, and I stopped college just because I was unsure what would happen next."

Andrea read stacks of pregnancy and parenting books to prepare, but she wanted to know more. Her sister-in-law encouraged her to sign up for LSI's HOPES home visitation program.

Sylvia, an LSI family support worker, now visits the family regularly to provide support, resources and information on everything from child development to parenting tips.

"Children don't come with instruction manuals," Andrea said. "Sylvia is a great replacement."

Gaining confidence, Andrea soon decided to return to college. Since high school, she's dreamed of being a nurse. She's now finishing her nursing degree while working at a local hospital.

"Sylvia got me to go back to school," Andrea said. "She said 'You can go,' and I thought, 'Yes, I can.' I love it. I love being with Denise, too, but it's a nice fulfillment to get that A."

Look for Andrea's motivation, and you'll find it in the happy little girl snuggled asleep in her lap, quietly drifting off to dreamland. Thanks to the strength of her parents and support of LSI, those dreams look bright.

"Your situation doesn't define you," Andrea said. "You can do whatever you want if you just do it."

Read more stories and see video at www.LSIowa.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.

Faithful Garden

It takes community to grow a garden!

A couple of weeks ago, Jean Rothfusz took her turn tending the garden planted in our backyard by the St. John's Faith Garden team. Jean's timing was great, because she and her granddaughters arrived when we had cousins visiting us. So, as Jean dutifully watered, weeded and pruned the garden, a wild rumpus ensued in another part of our yard with the kids joining together for baseball and ice cream. And they didn't even know each other. It was glorious!

The garden is so much more than dirt and seeds. It's about community. It's about a vision of people living in harmony together, even if we don't know one another. We will probably never meet the families who will eat the produce harvested from our garden. We may never know the people who will receive our food donations to the DMARC Food Pantry Network – although people who go to food pantries could easily be our neighbors, friends, co-workers or fellow members of St. John's. We are all connected. May the generosity intertwine us through a wild rumpus of giving!

The St. John's Faith Garden team has done a meticulous job planning for this year's yield, hoping to harvest even more than the 144 pounds of produce yielded last year. They are keeping it organic and are purchasing worm castings from St. Paul's Episcopal Church to make worm tea for fertilizer. Team Faith Garden reports generous donations of plants and supplies, including an awesome rain barrel donated by Carol and Peter Dittmer's daughter, Dawn Mann. The rain barrel arrived like magic one day, installed by Joel Gettys while we were away from home.

There are many ways you can help! Even if you can't take a tending shift, monetary and in-kind donations continue to be welcome. Team Faith Garden would like to buy another rain barrel at a price discounted for St. John's, approximately \$165. Worm casting costs about \$3 per bag, and we need six bags to fertilize each month. (By the way, bags that individuals want to purchase for their own gardens cost \$5 per bag. Churches get a special price.)

Thanks to everyone for this cohesive effort to raise healthy food for the greater community.

For more information, contact Diana Sickles, Bonnie Ekse or Pastor Bob.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Speirs



Hospitality & Outreach



Welcome New Members!

A class of new members was held in June, and we extend a heartfelt welcome to them! Of special note, nearly half of these wonderful people are refugees from the Catholic Church. I promised not to name which ones are the former Catholics, but I will point out that I, the renegade Catholic-on-staff, had absolutely nothing to do with their recruitment!

Please make welcome:



Cheryl Evans-Pryor: Cheryl is a Des Moines resident who works at Aging Resources of Iowa as a gerontologist and mental health and aging specialist. She facilitates training for professionals and older adults with depression and provides consultation and education to the community and provider groups. Cheryl's interests include gardening, working with stained glass and wood, reading, music and cooking. She also is an

internationally certified reflexologist and enjoys the healing arts. Cheryl was attracted to St. John's by the friendliness and openness of the congregation. She says she likes the pastors, and we remind her of her home church.



Jerad and Kate Lally: Jerad and Kate's son, Isaac, preceded them as members to St. John's by three months – he was baptized in March! They are residents of Des Moines proper. Jerad is employed by CDS Global as director of sales and marketing operations. A former science teacher at Lincoln High, Kate is making a career change to stay-at-home mom with Isaac. Both enjoy reading and

traveling. Jerad is a Hawkeye football fan who enjoys running and baseball. Kate is into gardening, music, decorating and painting, spending time outdoors and drinking coffee! They also were attracted to St. John's by the openness and welcoming nature of our members – and being Lutheran didn't hurt either!



Derry and Tom O'Connor: Des Moines residents Derry and Tom are the parents of St. John's member Beth O'Connor. Tom is with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a program manager in the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Derry works at Broadlawns Medical Center in quality management. Both Derry and Tom enjoy

reading and gardening. Tom is a canoeist, while Derry likes to sew and is an animal and bird lover (so we are kindred spirits!). St. John's openness and inclusivity of all God's family appealed to them, and they appreciate our social consciousness, theology and liturgically-based worship.

Richard Sterba: Richard currently lives in Des Moines but comes to us via Colorado Springs and Indianola. He is very open and honest about having been incarcerated for a number of years. He is employed through Remedy Staffing as a warehouse worker. Richard has a wide variety of interests,



including carpentry, hiking, camping, walking and, on the quieter side, puzzles and games. He is a very caring person who is willing to help; he puts others first and himself second. He was attracted to St. John's by our

welcoming nature, he says, and because we do not look down on him for his sexual orientation.



Nathaniel Ostrander: Nate is engaged to St. John's own Calista Oberhelman (their wedding is planned for November). He is an accountant at Veterans Hospital who lives in West Des Moines. Nate's

interests include star-gazing, cooking, gardening and new experiences. Nate came to know St. John's through Calista's persuasion. He liked it here, so decided to become a member!



Jason and Stephanie Schmid: Jason and Stephanie reside in the Beaverdale area of Des Moines. Jason is an engineer at PUTCO who designs car parts. Stephanie is employed by On with Life as an

occupational therapist; she works with people who are rehabilitating after a brain injury or stroke. Jason likes working on muscle cars from the 1960s, but remodeling their home has taken priority during the past year. He also enjoys snow- and water-skiing (not at the same time!), basketball and bicycling. Stephanie likes spending time gardening (particularly with flowers), reading, cooking, movies and home remodeling. Stephanie has lived in Missouri, Minnesota and Texas before moving to Des Moines three years ago. She and Jason met in Des Moines and were married in Colorado last August. Looking for a home church, they had been visiting congregations throughout Des Moines and Ankeny, but St. John's won by being the only church on which they could agree! They appreciate our traditional style of service, organ music and choir as well as Pastor Rachel's sermons. This anecdote highlights the couple's enthusiasm for St. John's: The Sunday afternoon when they attended St. John's new members' class

Continued on Page 11

Continued from Page 10

was immediately following a night and early morning spent at the hospital due to Stephanie's labor pains. Hospital staff sent her home, she and Jason still attended class on Sunday and on Monday Abigail Ina arrived! We're all looking forward to her baptism.



glad they're here!

Sarah Schneider and Brian Feist: Sarah and Brian are engaged, and their wedding will be held here in February. Sarah lives in Ankeny; Brian in Clive. Sarah is a program manager at Edaptive Systems and is interested in history, cooking and Hawkeye sports. Brian is an Emergency Room tech at Broadlawns Hospital. Their search for a new home church brought them to St. John's, and we're



Bob and feels a part of the congregation.

Daniel Wessling: Daniel lives just a couple of blocks away from St. John's and has already volunteered to help around the church. He would love to have a job but is currently on disability. His apartment is in a building newly renovated for seniors, and he enjoys assisting them in any way possible, including taking them to Iowa City for medical appointments. He has a clean background and driving record! He also helps with home care. He likes Pastor Rachel and Pastor

Please keep an eye out for our newest members and make them welcome. Invite them to coffee, clubs, socials, Bible study, whatever! We're blessed to have them in our family.

Support a St. John's Member in a Worthy Fundraising Effort

I recently heard of a new fundraising effort for pediatric cancer research, and it struck a chord with me. St. John's member Kirsten LaBlanc is shaving her head to benefit St. Baldrick's Foundation and to show her solidarity with those who are going through cancer treatments.

I have never promoted something like this before, but I feel it's important to spread the word. Please consider a contribution of thanksgiving for your healthy children – or in honor or memory of a loved one. Donating online is a very easy process, and your information is secure. Kirsten's St. Baldrick's page address is <http://www.stbaldricks.org/participants/kirstenlablanc>. Thank you.

If anyone else is looking for a connection to a new group or experience – be it spiritual, social or service, please contact me at 243-7691 or kati@stjohnsdsm.org.

Children's Ministries

Youth Lectors

If your child is entering fourth grade or is older, he or she is invited to be a youth lector. Every second Sunday of the month, children are invited to be the YOUTH LECTOR. The readings can be sent to you far in advance to give your child ample time for practice. Larry Christensen is available to help you understand why and how to be a lector. It's a very rewarding way to serve. It helps your child understand the text at a deeper level, and the entire congregation truly appreciates the effort! If your child is interested, contact Sheryl Reed at 243-7691.

Sunday School teachers needed for 2012-13 Sunday School year

Could you share your faith with a class of kids once or twice a month? **A schedule can be designed for even the busiest person!** Teacher's guides are provided that make lessons easy and rewarding to plan and lead. Learn right along with the kids!!! If interested, contact Sheryl Reed at 243-7691.

Youth Ministries

Attention: Middle School and High School Students and Families

We are having one busy summer! The high school students are busy getting ready to go to New Orleans, and the middle school students have been to Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Lakeside. Please keep the students and their families in your prayers over the next couple of months as they are traveling and growing in their faith.

Watch your e-mail accounts for details about other up-coming summer activities.

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.



July 2012
Volume 44, No. 7



JULY & AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY EVENING SERVICE
5:00 P.M.

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

**AUGUST EAGLE
CALL DEADLINE**

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

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!