



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

Volume 44, Number 9
September, 2012

Worship

Saturday
5:00 pm

Sunday
7:45 am
8:45 am
11:00 am

Radio Broadcast
KRNT 1350 AM
Sunday Mornings
8:30 am

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

It's Time for Everyone to Rally!



At Rally Sunday, which is Sept. 9 this year, we celebrate the beginning of St. John's annual Sunday School season (regular classes begin the following Sunday). But that's not all! During the entire month of September, we want to rally everyone to our many other traditional "school year" activities – for children, middle-schoolers, high-school students and adults as well. Here's a brief rundown:

Rally Sunday is an event all families should experience! Come to Neumann Hall and the Fireside Lounge on Sept. 9 from 10 to 11 a.m. to play games, hear tales and make crafts related to this year's Sunday School theme, **I Love to Tell the Story**. The Growing Together Ministry Team has planned fun interactive activities, and you're invited to register for Sunday School, which starts Sept. 16!

Beloved Community, our Wednesday evening multi-generational opportunity for fellowship, learning and music, resumes on Wednesday, Sept. 5. We begin with a home-cooked meal for all at 5:30 p.m. in Weertz Hall, followed by a brief time of worship at 6:15. Then confirmation classes, choirs for all ages, a lectionary Bible study and a music-and-movement class for children ages 3, 4 and 5 start at 6:30 p.m. Come for all or part of the evening. Now entering its seventh year, this multi-generational gathering is the place to be on Wednesday evenings! Eat, pray, study, and sing with friends in Christ. You will be loved!

Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, Sept. 5, following Beloved Community. Megan Clausen will teach seventh- and eighth-graders from 6:30 to 8 p.m., assisted by mentors. At the same time, ninth-graders will be taught by Pastor Bob Speirs with parent volunteers helping. St. John's has nine 10th-grade students who will be confirmed Reformation Sunday, Oct. 28, and will spend the rest of the year studying the Bible, our Lutheran faith, global issues, local issues and doing community service.

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

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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
September 17 at 12 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Bob Speirs

“O give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.”
 Psalm 105:1-6

The theme of this Psalm (which actually has 45 verses) recounts the history and the faithfulness of God's wonderful works on behalf of his people, Israel. It is a passage that was used in worship as a remembrance and to express thankfulness to God for his creating the nation of Israel. The beginning of this Psalm is a call to praise, as the people remember the past, but also casts a hopeful eye towards the future.

As I write, I do so with thankfulness to the Lord and our congregation for the wonderful summer we have experienced. I am especially thankful for the support and prayers we have received from all of you that made it possible for 10 of our middle school youth to attend Confirmation camp this past June, and for 16 of our high school youth to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. I, along with Megan and our adult chaperones, enjoyed ourselves immensely, participating with our young people in the programs and activities that both events offered. Several of our high school youth will also offer their reflections in this issue of the Eagle Call, on their experiences in New Orleans, the impact it has had on them, and their insights on the work of the wider church, so I'll let them do most of the talking. We are blessed with such a great group of young people, who represented all of us with great distinction, which gives me confidence and much hope for a bright future for the church. I look forward to working again with both our Confirmation program and our high school youth and all of our willing and capable adult mentors; we should have a fine year together.

Now that our very hot and dry summer is mostly a memory, a few things to look forward to as we approach the coming fall season, and the full schedule of activity that it brings:

Our Global Mission Team is asking that our congregation continue our participation in the ELCA Malaria campaign, which is a program to assist in the efforts in treating, educating and preventing Malaria from killing thousands of people a year in Africa, many of whom are young children. We will begin our efforts in supporting this program beginning the week of September 16th and will continue up to Advent. Informational pamphlets will be available on the tables in the narthex beginning September 16th, and a member or two of our Global Mission team, or I, will be available to answer questions you might have regarding this campaign. We look forward to working with all of you, and thank you for your consideration toward this effort.

Our Sunday Adult Forum series start up once again on September 16th with Megan Clausen, our Director of Youth Ministry, and our High School participants offering a presentation on the New Orleans Youth Gathering experience. Mark Mattes, Diana Sickles and Dwight DuBois from Grandview University's Center for Renewal will also be here to offer presentations on their fields of expertise. The brochure for this with all the information will be available by early September.

We continue to support and attend to the needs of our members who are unable to come to church on a regular basis, through home visits. Pastor Gene Anderson, our Visitation Pastor, is doing a marvelous job visiting and bringing communion to many of our shut-ins on a regular basis. But more help is needed! Pastor Gene and I still need volunteers to step forward to take part in our Faithful Friend program. Faithful Friends is our visitation program that attempts to set up one-to-one visits between able church members and those who are in some way unable to attend church, but like to feel that they are still very much a part of our faith community. Faithful

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Friends are those people who make a commitment to occasional home visits, phone calls, and even bring Communion to those of our members who have a desire to receive the sacrament. If you have interest in being a Faithful Friend to one of our members, please call me or Pastor Gene at church. We would love to speak with you about the details of this program.

Our Tuesday morning Bible study continues to be one of the many bright and enjoyable parts of my week. We have on average 20-25 folks who are faithful in attending each week, but always have room for a few new faces. The studies are engaging, fun, thought provoking and challenging. At present we are working and singing our way through the book of Joshua ("Joshua fought the Battle of Jericho, and the walls came a tumbling down"), and will be concluding this study by the end of September, after which we will begin the next book that is yet to be selected. If you have time Tuesday morning and want to learn and have some fun, consider joining us for coffee, cookies, conversation and Bible Study.

Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Bob

From Our Council President



Thank you for your wonderful support to "Add 1" in July. We asked if you could increase your giving in July to support the ministry of St. John's (you increased your offering by adding one more week, one more month or whatever you could do). An additional \$10,940 has been contributed so far. Thank you! Your support is helping close the gap between ongoing expenses and contributions to date.

The council also asked the St. John's Foundation to fund the Miscellaneous Property expense. Although the request was not a specific building or restoration project, they agreed to provide the financial support. This money will be held in a special account to be used for property maintenance as needed. So, when we incur general property repair expenses, we won't need to use funds from the General Ministry Plan.

With these two requests, our finances have improved, but we are still about \$20,000 behind (giving vs. ministry expenses). That means the council will need to authorize our treasurer (Dan Corron) to withdraw those funds from our Unendowed General Fund. This fund's balance is currently at \$109,000. However, the guidelines for this fund require congregational approval to dip below a \$100,000 balance. A special congregational meeting will be held on September 23 at 10 a.m. to discuss the details and vote on this request. Dan and I will provide background on this account, our expenses, and answer your questions.

Please plan to attend,
Kris Gregersen
2012 Council President

ASAP is Growing

ASAP Growth Means More Volunteers Needed

The After School Arts Program is doubling enrollment this school year, to provide arts enrichment for 300 underserved students from six urban schools.



ASAP meets a real need in our community, thanks in large part to dozens of committed, caring volunteers. ASAP's expansion is funded by a 21st Century Learning Centers federal grant with Des Moines Public Schools, but the grant does not provide the invaluable volunteers who make ASAP a success.

Please consider getting involved with ASAP this year, starting this fall.

With double the number of students ASAP needs double the number of volunteers to help them. Volunteers serve as table hosts, studio assistants, artist assistants, and transportation helpers. ASAP will take place at St. John's on both Tuesdays and Thursdays starting October 23/25.

Contact Michelle Bolton King for more information: michelle@asap-dsm.org, mboltonking@mchsi.com, or 515-770-3380.

S'more Fall Fun!

Save the date!!!

Saturday, October 13 - 6-8pm in Weertz

Pumpkin Carving Contest - Cookie Decorating Contest - Games - Fall Snacks - S'mores - FUN!

Come for this all ages event and bring your friends! Watch for more information soon!



Prepare for Worship

Prepare to worship for September, 2012

September 2, 2012, Labor Day Weekend

This will be the last Sunday for our summer Sunday morning worship schedule and the first Sunday when Nancy Stafford assumes her position of Principal Organist at St. John's.

In this Sunday's gospel reading Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things but from the intentions of the human heart.

The readings are Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; and Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, and 21-23. The hymns are ELW 520, "Dearest Jesus, at Your Word", ELW 519, "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People," ELW 772, "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways", ELW 186, "Create in Me a Clean Heart", and ELW 534, "Savior, Again to Your Dear Name." At 10 am Shana Liu will play piano solos for offering and Communion.

Sunday, September 9, Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 23 "Rally Sunday"

(The weekend schedule will be Saturday 5 pm, Sunday 7:45, 8:45 and 11:00 am through the end of December.)

In this Sunday's readings James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. In the Gospel reading, Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophenician woman, so it has always been a challenge to Christians to try to imagine what Jesus was thinking or what he, the woman, and the Holy Spirit were up to.

The readings are Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-17; and Mark 7:24-37. We will use ELW Setting 8 in September at 8:45 and 11, and the hymns will be: ELW 886, "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing", ELW 715, "Christ, Be Our Light", ELW 691, "Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring", ELW 661, "I Love to Tell the Story". At 8:45 and 11 am the summer handbell choir, led by Beth Ann Edwards, will ring on the first hymn, the psalm, and the gospel acclamation breaking a long bell-less dry spell at St. John's! The adult choir will be divided between 8:45 and 11 this Sunday and will sing Marty Haugen's "Abundant Life" for offering and "Come, All You Weary" by Greg Scheer for Communion. Asphalt & Stained Glass will accompany the "Kyrie" at 8:45 and 11 am.

Sunday, September 16, Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 24

On August 26th we heard Peter's confession of faith as found in the Gospel according to John. This Sunday we hear Mark's

version when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' own words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of "messiah") in Mark only on the way to the cross; so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross. At 8:45 am this year's Sunday School teachers will be installed and Bibles given to three year olds, third graders, and new confirmation students.

The readings are Isaiah 50:4-9a; James 3:1-12; and Mark 8:27-38. The hymns will be ELW 651, "Oh, Praise the Gracious Power", ELW 667, "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said", ELW 583, "Take My Life, That I May Be", and ELW 660, "Lift High the Cross." The adult choir will sing at 11 am: "He Shall Direct Your Paths," Robert Wetzler for offering and "Thee We Adore," for Communion.

Sunday, September 23 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 25

This Sunday we hear James warn against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which one of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be great is to serve. Then, to make it concrete, he puts in front of them an actual flesh-and-blood child. We are called to welcome these particular children God puts in front of us, to make room for them in daily interaction, and to give them a place of honor in the assembly.

The readings are Jeremiah 11:18-20; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; and Mark 9:30-37. The hymns will be ELW 526, "God is Here!", ELW 712, "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service", ELW 523 "Let Us Go Now to the Banquet", and ELW 595, "Jesus Loves Me". The adult choir will sing at 8:45, "He Never Failed Me Yet," by Robert Ray for offering and "My Soul Does Magnify the Lord," by Grayson Warren Brown during Communion. The St. John's Chamber Orchestra will provide the offering and Communion music at 11 am.

Sunday, September 30 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 26

Someone is casting out demons in Jesus' name who isn't part of Jesus' own circle, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we would not do it by people we cannot keep tabs on.

The readings are Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; James 5:13-20; and Mark 9:38-50. The hymns will be ELW 807, "Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing", ELW 804, "Come Down, O Love Divine", ELW 800, "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart",

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and ELW 633, "We've Come This Far by Faith". At 8:45 Kisasa Choristers will sing the offering music and at both 8:45 and 11 am a mixed gospel quartet, will sing "Send It On Down!" by Geron Davis. At 11 am the adult choir will sing "Our God Is a Rock," by Katherine K. Davis for offering.

Women of the ELCA

Monthly Meetings Begin Sept. 6

The Women of the ELCA will begin their 2012-13 year with meetings on Thursday, Sept. 6:



- Sarah Group will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Kathy Kroll's home, 1745 East Diehl Ave., Des Moines. Megan Clausen will speak about St. John's Youth Ministries.
- Lois Group meets at 12:30 p.m. in Neumann Hall at church. The group will hear their leader, Judy Munger, conduct a program about the Lord's Prayer.

Help WELCA with Donations

The Women of the ELCA will continue to provide items to Children and Family Urban Ministries and New Directions (Women's Shelter) for their outreach project for September. The congregation is also invited to participate in supplying the following school supplies. Ideas include non-permanent markers, dry erase markers, wide-line spiral notebook paper, loose-leaf paper, pencils (wood or mechanical), pocket folders, boxes of 100% juice, boxes of tissue, crayons, erasers and back-packs.

If you have any questions please, call [243-3856](tel:243-3856).

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**.

Cover Story Cont.

Journeys in Faith (JIF), resumes Wednesday, Sept. 5, and is offered to all ninth- through 12th-graders. The group meets from 8 to 9 p.m. each Wednesday to grow in their faith, learn about Bible "ancestors" and practice discipleship, justice and peacemaking throughout Des Moines. (Check out this month's youth-ministry article on the ELCA National Youth Gathering.)

Midweek Music, a series of musical performances sponsored by The Arts at St. John's, begins Wednesday, Sept. 26, with a full slate of noon-time concerts for 2012-13. Join us Wednesdays at 12:05 p.m. for 30 minutes of music in the sanctuary, and then head downstairs to Weertz Hall for lunch. All concerts are free and open to the public. Lunch is only \$6 per person. The season begins with Rod Lumbard, blues singer and guitarist. The full schedule will be available online and in periodic St. John's communications. For more information or to offer volunteer assistance, contact Beth Ann Edwards at bethann@stjohnsdsm.org.

Adult Forums begin on September 16 with a presentation by Megan Clausen on the New Orleans Youth Gathering held this summer. Additional presenters through December include Mark Mattes, Diana Sickles, Dwight Dubois, among others. Topics will consist of hunger, the Gospel of Luke, living our faith in our daily lives, domestic abuse, plus a few surprises. Adult Forum will continue to meet between the 8:45 and 11:00 am services in Room 8. Keep an eye out in the weekly announcements, the Eagle Call and, soon-to-be-published, brochure.

A Lot to Talk About

Conversation about Sunday Morning Schedule to Begin September 30th

After two months of an alternative Sunday morning schedule this past summer and a return to our former one on September 9th, the congregation will begin a formal process of discernment about how our Sunday morning schedule – both current and any proposed alternative – can best serve the ministries of the St. John's faith community. Because Sunday morning not only encompasses worship but fellowship, Sunday School, adult Christian Education, forums, congregational meetings, choir rehearsals, and children's chapel time, simply making a choice about what worship time is most convenient does not adequately address all ministry issues. Add to this web of complexity the needs of various age groups, parents and singles, children and teens, workers and retirees, those who live in the suburbs and those who live downtown and you have a truly dizzying matrix of puzzle pieces.

To lead us in this process Denise Essman has agreed to share her professional expertise in decision-making process. Denise will advise, help create a process, and lead us toward decisions that will not simply be "something we can live with" but can truly energize us for ministry that is "In the City for Good." The process will take several weeks and have a number of components, but it will begin on Sunday morning, September 30th, between a shortened 8:45 am service and the 11 am liturgy. Watch for details and be part of discerning a new chapter in St. John's mission and ministry.

Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

Quilting, Tuesdays, 9:30 am in Room 308;

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement, Tuesday, September 4, 6:00 pm at Zombie Burger in East Village.

Saturday AM Bible Study, Saturdays, September 8, 15, 22, and 29, at 8:30 am at a location to be announced. Contacts: Ellen Fisher at ellenfisher123@gmail.com or Rod Snavelly at rsnavely@aol.com

WIRED Yoga is planning a fall session for Thursdays, October 18 through November 15, at 5:30 pm in the Fireside Lounge. Contact Corinne Lambert at callingwisdom1@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Hardanger, Wednesdays, September 12 and 26, 9:00 am in Neumann;

EAGLES, Friday, September 14, at Jester Park for picnic and elk/bison viewing

Scrapbooking is not meeting in September, but will meet on October 27.

St. John's Networking will meet on Monday, September 17, at 5:30 pm at Gateway Market.

Lunch Bunch II, Wednesday, September 19, 12:30 am;

Lunch Bunch I, Thursday, September 20, 11:30 am;

St. John's Social Club, Saturday, September 22, at noon for a tour of the World Food Prize building, followed by lunch at a place to be determined, Contact: Judy and Phil Latessa at philjudy4209@gmail.com or 270-8811 if you can attend.

Photography will meet on Sunday, September 23, 10:00 am in Neumann.

Recreational Reading, Wednesday, September 26, at 4:30 pm in Rose Holm;

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

More information

Quilting Group: The quilting group meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 am in Room 308 at church. Anyone interested in quilting, tying, or learning how is welcome.

WIRED Yoga is planning a fall session for Thursdays, October 18 through November 15, at 5:30 pm in the Fireside Lounge. Contact Corinne Lambert at callingwisdom1@hotmail.com if you are interested.

Saturday AM Bible Study will resume on Saturdays, September 8, 15, 22, and 29, at 8:30 am at a location to be announced. Contacts: Ellen Fisher at ellenfisher123@gmail.com or Rod Snavelly at rsnavely@aol.com

Hardanger will resume on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, September 12 and 26, at 9:00 am in Neumann. Contact Arlene Field at fjeldt@q.com if you are interested.

EAGLES will enjoy a picnic on September 14. They will meet at Shelter 5 at Jester Park at 11:00 am, view the Elk/Bison and Exhibit which is past shelter

5, then return to Shelter 5 for a picnic around noon. Plates, silverware, napkins, water and tea will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Bring games if you would like. Please respond to Karen & Arlin VanHoever at karenandarlin@gmail.com or phone 282-1637.

St. John's Networking has changed their meeting dates to the third Monday of the month, so will meet on Monday, September 17, at 5:30 pm at Gateway Market. Contact: Ellen Fisher at ellenfisher123@gmail.com

Lunch Bunch II: This group will meet on Wednesday, September 19, at 12:30 am. If interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg, 279-6326.

Lunch Bunch I will meet on Thursday, September 20, at 11:30 am. Anyone interested in joining the group please call Margaret Roby at 288-6304 to reserve a space. New members are most welcome!

St John's Social Club will meet for a World Food Prize Tour on Saturday, September 22nd at noon. The tour lasts one hour, then the group will go out to a restaurant for lunch (to be determined). Reply to philjudy4209@gmail.com or 270-8811 if you can attend.

Photography will meet on Sunday, September 23, 10:00 am in Neumann. The theme is "pictures that make you laugh." Please join them with a couple pictures or just to view others' pictures. Contact: Rod Snavelly at rsnavely@aol.com

Recreational Reading is resuming on Wednesday, September 26, at 4:30 pm in Rose Holm. The book to discuss is *The Sisters and Brothers*, by Patrick deWitt.

Bicycle St. John's will have a ride on Saturday, September 22. The details are not worked out yet for this ride, so follow us on facebook.com/BicycleStJohns. (You don't have to have a facebook account to see our page.) The October ride will take place after lunch at Jester Park on Sunday, October 7. Bring your bikes with you to Jester, then join Bicycle St. John's on a ride across the High Trestle Bridge. We will start the ride in Madrid and enjoy a ride to Woodward and back. If you have always

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wanted to experience the High Trestle Bridge, this is your chance! It is a short ride, and ANYONE with a bike can do this ride. In fact you can get to the bridge by walking if you don't ride bikes.

Mark your calendar for November 17 for Bicycle St. John's Cranksgiving. This will be a scavenger hunt/bike ride to benefit Move The Food. If you have questions, or ideas for future rides, call Rod Snavelly 277-1301.



If you would like to participate in the next St. John's journey to Tanzania to see our friends in Mramba Lutheran Parish, attend one of several informational meetings being held this month.

Those who participate must be in good health, able to walk significant distances, and not be troubled by changes to the itinerary once we are "on the ground."

Our time in the parish does not include physical labor, but it is spent building and deepening relationships and planning for future ministry.

Trip Dates: Jan. 22 - Feb. 6, 2013

**Questions? Contact:
Pastor Mithelman (243-7691) or
Carol Fisher (537-2648)**

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.



In the City (and World) for Good!

Lutheran World Relief

Personal Care



Kits

The Global Mission Ministry Team is collecting supplies to make Personal Care kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits are given to people that have lost everything due to a natural disaster or other catastrophic event. They often arrive in a refugee camp or other place of safety scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in the kit allow them to wash away the dirt and sweat and shows them that someone out there cares about them.

Items in kit:

- One (1) light-weight dark-colored bath-size towel (maximum 52" x 27").
- Two (2) bath-size bars (4-5oz) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping.
- One (1) adult-size toothbrush in original packaging. Multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.
- One (1) sturdy comb, remove packaging.
- One (1) metal nail clippers, remove packaging.

Wrap all items in the towel and tie securely with ribbon or yarn. All items should be new and in good condition. Do not add extra items or put them in plastic bags.

You may bring the completed kits or any of the individual items to the church by September 30, 2012. The Global Mission Ministry Team will assemble kits from the donated individual items.

It costs approximately \$2.65 to handle and ship one Personal Care Kit overseas. If you are not able to assemble kits, why not give to help ship them? Make checks payable to St John's Lutheran Church, designated for LWR shipping costs. Thank you, you are making someone's day just a little better.

Save the Date

If you are a member of St. John's age 70 or above, you (and your spouse/partner) are invited to a...

SENIOR'S LUNCHEON
Sunday, September 23, Noon
Weertz Fellowship Hall

A letter of invitation is being sent to all in this age group with more details about the event, but add it to your calendar now! Enjoy a meal (at no cost!) and a time of fellowship with old friends from St. John's - and make some new friends, too!

Children's Ministries

KDZ@SJLC Begins Sept. 5

The first class of KDZ@SJLC – for 3- through 5-year-olds – meets after Beloved Community, Wednesdays (beginning Sept. 5) from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Room 5. John Elwer and his guitar, along with Kat Lunde, will help children link faith to their daily lives through music and movement.

Rally Sunday is Sept. 9

All families can and should experience Rally Sunday! Come to Neumann Hall and the Fireside Lounge on Sunday, Sept. 9, from 10 to 11 a.m. to play games, hear tales and make crafts related to this year's theme, "I Love to Tell the Story." The Growing Together Ministry Team has planned interactive activities like playing with Bible-story puppets, creating "spin-a-Bible-yarn" spin art, competing against the clock during the Books of the Bible Challenge and The Greatest Story Ever Told game, and collecting and coloring mysterious Bible memory cards. Stick your head through a David and Goliath board while having your picture taken. And, while munching on popcorn, browse through 1950s Bible comic books, and listen to fellow St. John's brothers and sisters tell their favorite Bible stories! You are also invited to register for Sunday School!

Then Sunday School Starts on Sept. 16

Rally Sunday will give you a sneak peek at the Bible stories you'll be exploring this year in Sunday School when regular classes begin Sept. 16. Children (3-year-olds through sixth graders) are invited to register for Sunday School. Registration forms are available on the kiosk near the west entrance to the sanctuary. You also can find the registration form on the St. John's website at www.stjohnsdsm.org.

Children's Ministries still needs Sunday School teachers and helpers. If interested, contact Sheryl Reed at 243-7691.



Audio Sermons

Now available at stjohnsdsm.org or subscribe on iTunes.

Dates to Remember

- Sept. 5: KDZ@SJLC (for 3- through 5-year-olds) begins its 2012-13 season. Held every Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Room 5 after Beloved Community.
- Sept. 9: Sunday School teachers installed at 8:45 a.m. service.
- Sept. 9: Rally Sunday, activities start at 10 a.m. in Neumann Hall and Fireside Lounge.
- Sept. 16: Bibles given to 3-year-olds and third-graders at the 8:45 a.m. service.
- Sept. 16: Sunday School begins: Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-9)
- Sept. 23: Abram's Call (Genesis 12: 1-9)
- Sept. 30: Abraham and Sarah's Visitors (Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; 18:1-15; 21:1-7)

Youth Ministries

After a very busy but wonderful summer, we are ready to get back into weekly youth programming at St. John's! Below you will find the basic weekly schedule along with some key dates to mark on your calendar! If you have any questions beyond what can be found here, do not hesitate to contact me (Megan Clausen at meganc@stjohnsdsm.org or 243.7691).

- **Confirmation 7/8** - Meets Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room (MPR)
- **Confirmation 9** - Meets Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m., Room 307
- **Confirmation 10** - Meets selected Sunday afternoons until confirmation, Reformation Sunday, Oct. 28
- **JIF: Journeys in Faith (Grades 9-12)** - Meets Wednesdays, 8 to 9 p.m., Do Drop Inn (DDI)
- **Breakfast Club (Grades 7-12)** - Meets Sundays, 10:05 to 10:55 a.m., locations around the church

Important Dates for your Calendar

- Sept. 5: First night of Wednesday night programming
- Sept.16: Breakfast Club begins. Adult Forum: Youth summer trips review, between services in Weertz Hall
- Sept. 29: Grades 7-12 community service project, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (details to be decided)
- Oct. 28: Reformation Sunday, Affirmation of Baptism for 10th graders
- Nov. 2-3: Grades 7-9 fall confirmation retreat, Y-Camp in Boone
- Dec. 8: Grades 7-12 community service project, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (details to be decided)
- Early Spring (possibly first Friday in March): Annual Youth Dinner and Auction Fundraiser



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

E-mail businessoffice@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**.

Making Music



We have some exciting changes and additions to our music program. If you have considered joining a choir or ensemble, this new season presents an excellent opportunity. Choirs, handbell choirs, and music ensembles begin rehearsing the first Wednesday of the month, September 5th, along with our first “Beloved Community” of the fall. Our gifted leadership team is in place and ready to go including:

- Larry Christensen, Director of Worship and Music, larryc@stjohnsdsm.org
- Beth Ann Edwards, Director of Arts, Handbells, and Youth Choirs bethann@stjohnsdsm.org
- Nancy Stafford, Principal Organist

We are seeking additional helpers and rehearsal assistants for the children’s choirs, and we are currently determining the best time for handbell choir rehearsals. Below is a brief summary of the music program and leaders.

Joyful Noise – Kindergarten through 2nd grade - This early childhood music program meets from 6:30 to 7:30 in Room 7 (right off Weertz Hall), after the Beloved Community meal and worship. The first half of the hour will be music and singing led by Elizabeth Reed, and the second half will be activities (stories, games, crafts) led by Elizabeth Arthur. Additional helpers for both portions are needed and welcome.

Kisasa Choristers – Grades 3 through 6 - The Kisasa Choristers meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in Fuller Rehearsal Room, and this group presents music in worship about once a month. In addition to vocal music, this year we will learn how to ring handbells. During our hour together each week, we’ll sing, ring handbells, and play rhythm instruments. From time to time, we will also explore the role of visual art in worship and create our own liturgical art. Plan to attend each week, and please invite your friends! For more information, or if you would like to volunteer as a rehearsal assistant or accompanist, please contact Beth Ann Edwards, Kisasa Choristers director (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

Adult Choir - There will be one adult singing choir this year combining the former *Cantorei* and *Cathedral Choirs* directed by Larry Christensen and accompanied by Nancy Stafford. This group will rehearse Wednesdays in the choir loft from 6:30 to 8 pm, although some parents will need to leave at 7:30 pm when their children are done with their choir, class, or confirmation. This yet-to-be-named choir will alternate singing between the 8:45 and 11 am services this fall as the congregation discerns the Sunday morning worship schedule that works best for the ministries at St. John’s.

Handbell Choirs - The handbells are ringing again at St. John’s! Our adult choir(s) will rehearse once a week and present music about once a month in worship. All are welcome, and no experience is necessary. Rehearsal times will be determined according to the availability of the ringers. Children grades 3 through 6 will ring handbells during Wednesday night rehearsal times, and we are looking at the possibility of forming handbell choirs for youth grades 7 through 12. If you are interested in ringing, please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

Chamber Orchestra - Our *St. John’s Chamber Orchestra* rehearses on Sunday mornings from 9:55 to 10:45 on the third floor of the education wing in the Multipurpose Room (MPR.) It is directed by Larry Christensen and led by our “String Scholars,” students who receive a stipend to lead the string sections. Student players of at least middle school age as well as adults returning to instruments that have been in storage for a while are welcome. The SJCO plays for Sunday morning liturgies, festival worship, and some concert dates.

Blower Room Brass - St. John’s own brass ensemble is led and directed by accomplished trumpeter Audrey Hustad and rehearses Sunday mornings at 10 am in the *chambre du vent* (organ blower room) along with other times the group arranges to get together. This ensemble too is open to new members.

Contact Beth Ann for any questions regarding Kisasa and Handbells and Larry for questions about the other programs.

Reflections from NOLA

Lander Geadelmann

New Orleans was one of the greatest times of my life. I met new people and made new friends from all over the country, and I made closer bonds with all of my friends from St. Johns and St. James. I also loved experiencing the culture of New Orleans. It is such a diverse and unique place to be. The food there was amazing, and the jazz was awesome.

Every night, all 33,000 youth would go to the Superdome and just have a good time. This was something I looked forward to every day. After dancing and having a good time, we would listen to amazing speakers. Then we would crash and go to bed.



The experience I will always remember about this trip is our day of service. For our day of service, St. Johns and other groups were sent to a summer-school program for any K-12 student. There, we interacted with the children and had a good time. I will always remember the time when we had to leave. The child I was assigned to was named Breaa. When we first met her, she was shy like most kids her age but, as the day went on, she opened up to us. When we had to leave though she just closed up and looked very sad. It helped me understand what some of these kids might be going through in their personal lives.

Greg Anderson

I've volunteered with the St. John's high school youth in various ways for the past 11 years. I continue to volunteer, because I get back far more than what I put in. The rewards I receive are the friendships I've made with the youth. When I greet them at church, reach out and shake their hands, more often than not, they pull me in and hug me. I've had the pleasure to watch them grow and mature over the years. We have built relationships.

So, when Megan asked if I would help out for the eight days at the 2012 youth gathering in New Orleans, I said yes.

It took most of two days to drive down to the city

and another two to get back. So, for four days we shared a bus with the youth and adult leaders from St. James Lutheran Church in Johnston. You might think it would be a terrible four days, but it gave us plenty of time to communicate, not only within our youth group but also with St. James youth. We shared conversations, photos and music. We played cards and watched movies. We got to know one another.

It's hard to describe what it's like to be part of a group of 33,000, all gathered in one place. Maybe it's like a concert or a sporting event, except that it goes on for five days and nights, and everybody's walking everywhere. Thousands of people were trying to see the same things and go to the same restaurants, all at the same time – a giant crush of people. At one point, I turned to Pastor Bob (Speirs) and said, "This is a little like being in Manhattan, only there you don't have groups of people high-five-ing you throughout the day, like you had just finished a football game."

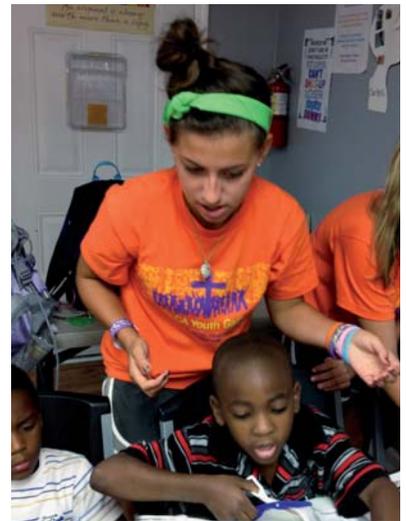
People with the gathering, and also locals, would stop and talk to us. One person asked who we were; what group was in town? We told them the ELCA. One of them asked if it was the same church group that had been there in 2009. When we said that it was the same group, he exclaimed happily to a friend, "They're back!!" We saw it in the streets and in the shops and restaurants, the relationships we'd built in 2009 were lasting.

The first night at the Dome, where everyone comes together to worship each night, all 33,000 of us under the same roof, had some amazing speakers and inspiring music. And when the last band finished, there was an announcement that due to severe weather, we must remain in the dome until it was safe. After about an hour or so, we were permitted to leave and walk the mile back to the hotel, in the rain and now in the dark, with 33,000 other people.



This is where the grace, gratitude and compassion of the city showed. As we walked, cars would stop for the rivers of people that would cross the street. Half-way back to our hotel, someone in a car pulled up, rolled down the passenger's window and offered us a nice large umbrella – that we would have no way of returning. And when we reached the hotel, there was staff at the door constantly mopping the floor, so no one would slip, and another person handing out towels from a large rolling bin. These were all little things, but things that made us feel connected and welcomed in a big city.

Each day was filled with moments like this, and I'm glad I had the chance to



Continued from Page 10

return to New Orleans and witness the growth that's taken place since hurricane Katrina hit in 2005 and the last youth gathering. I got to witness some of the youth try out their leadership skills and see some of them stepping out of their comfort zones. They supported one another and grew not only in personal ways but as a group. They grew as leaders, and they grew in their faith. They grew in the understanding of people and the greater world around them.



The community of St. John's should be proud of its youth and Megan Clausen, our youth director. I've heard the high school kids say, on more than one occasion, how grateful they are for the support they receive from the St. John's congregation, a small but mighty part of the Body of Christ. Thanks Be to God.



Artist of the Month



Beth Ann Edwards graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Drake University in 1999, with studio emphases in graphic design, drawing, and painting. She continues to work as a designer, writer, and project manager, and she maintains a painting and fine art studio.

Since her graduation, she has curated and participated in liturgical and secular art exhibits for adults and youth. In addition, she has taught visual arts at summer arts camps and as part of youth curriculum in churches. She was invited

by the Des Moines Women's Club to judge the summer Art-A-Fair exhibit (2008) and student art portfolios for their Scholarship Program (1999 to present). Her work has been exhibited at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Heartland Presbyterian Church, Plymouth Congregational Church, Drake University, Fitch Galleries, East Village Art Consortium, Iowa State Fair, and with Jane 360 (a consortium of women artists). Beth Ann has consulted with churches on visual enhancement of worship space.

The work exhibited in Weertz Hall provides a retrospective of liturgical paintings from the past 14 years, all of which were created as an expression of faith to enhance corporate worship.

Faithful Garden



"The garden teams are working exceptionally well," says our volunteer coordinator Diana Sickles. "Everyone does their week of caring for the garden and have done a yeoman's job during the very hot, dry weather this summer. The recent rains have refilled the rain barrel."

We've sent a soil sample to be tested by ISU Extension. "Our soil is good," Diana reports. "All it needs is nitrogen. I'm looking for horse manure that is somewhat dried but not so dried out that all the nitrogen has been leached out of it." Does anyone in the congregation have access to horse manure that fits this description? Please contact Diana at dsickles@mindspring.com or 255-5055.

As of August 17 our volunteers at St. John's Faith Garden have donated about 190 pounds of lettuce, beans, zucchini, beets, cucumbers, green peppers and tomatoes to DMARC food pantries. This includes vegetables from several faithful volunteers' own gardens which they give to DMARC as donations from St. John's. According to Diana, "Linda and Larry Christensen have a garden at their home that is designated for the food pantry."

If your garden vegetables are ripening faster than you can eat or preserve them, or if your friends run away when they see you coming with yet more zucchini from your garden, please consider donating your excess produce to DMARC. You can even ask DMARC to record the weight of your vegetables as a St. John's donation!

To find the pantry nearest you, visit movethefood.org. Before you go, please call DMARC or the individual food pantry to inquire about their times and procedures for receiving donations. The faithful garden volunteers of St. John's are working to alleviate childhood hunger in greater Des Moines by 2015. Your donations to DMARC will help feed hungry children and their families. Thank you.

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Beloved Community
returns on
Wednesday, Sept. 5
at 5:30 pm

OCTOBER EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, Sept 17**. 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!