



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

Volume 43, Number 2
February, 2011

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

Ramon Runkel
Visitation Pastor
Runkel1060@msn.com

Website

www.stjohnsdsm.org

TZ11 Group Prepares to Visit Mramba Parish in February



Back row: Pastor Rachel, Carol Fisher, Calista Oberhelman, Greg Anderson, Jim Hammer
Front row: Judi Langholz, Sheryl Reed

The charming group pictured above will leave on February 15th to visit our companion congregation in the Pare Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania! We have been companions of the Mramba Lutheran Parish since 2007, and this will be the third trip by members of St. John's to visit the parish for 4 days. While there, the group will be guests in the homes of members of the Mramba Parish, tour the area, visit the local primary school, and participate in worship and other Sunday activities. Of special interest on this trip is the opportunity to see one of our collaborative projects at work – a Saturday "Kid's Club" for the most vulnerable children in the parish. After leaving Mramba, the group will visit an ELCT Bible college in the area (where a pastor from the SE Iowa Synod is teaching), spend two days in a fair-trade coffee project on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro, and have a one-day safari to the Ngorongoro Crater. The group will return to Des Moines – with stories to share! – on March 2nd. Please pray for safe travels and a wonderful reunion with our friends in Mramba.

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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

Sarah Garner

Organist
 sgarner22@me.com

Jack Huff

Evening / Weekend
 Security / Maintenance

Amber Jackson-Elwer

Nursery Coordinator
 amberbeth22@yahoo.com

John Kelly

Evening / Weekend
 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

Katie Tippins

Hospitality & Outreach
 katiertippins@stjohnsdsm.org

Teresa McKeever

Financial Assistant
 financeoffice@stjohnsdsm.org

Leslie Moeller

Maintenance
 lesmoeller@stjohnsdsm.org

Sheryl Reed

Director of Children's Ministries
 sherylreed@stjohnsdsm.org

Darla Stiles

Christian Involvement
 darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org

Office Hours are:

Monday – Thursday
 9:00 am – 5:00 p.m.

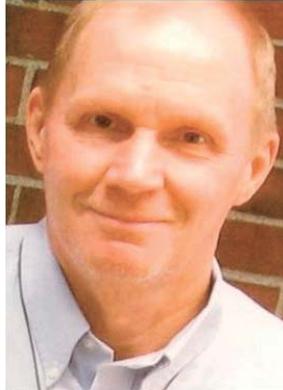
Friday

9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Next Eagle Call Deadline
February 14 at 12 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Bob Speirs

2011: A YEAR OF SERVICE

It has been my experience (and hopefully yours) that one of the signs of a faithful, vibrant and growing congregation is the enthusiasm and willingness of the church members (disciples) to offer their time and gifts for the ministry of the church, in service to others, and for the wellbeing of the community. A passage from 1 Peter

4:8-11, offers an exhortation on this theme of service, as it speaks to a community that is suffering from an identity crisis and is being marginalized by their society since their conversion to Christ, "Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking with the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen."

The challenge for many of us in offering our time and gifts is not that we don't have the desire to contribute to the life of the community of faith, but our dilemma is that we are sometimes uncertain about the gifts we have been given, and how to use them for the benefit of our faith community. As a way to help us with identifying our spiritual gifts, the ELCA has made available through its website (www.elca.org), an abundance of articles and information dealing with the spiritual gifts each and every one of us possess, simply type in Spiritual Gifts in the search engine and voilá, you'll have access to these articles. The interesting and encouraging message we discover is that each one of us has something to offer. All of us have gifts that differ slightly, if not significantly, from the person sitting next to us in the pew on Sunday morning. What this means is that we can all share our gifts without worrying about duplicating a gift that someone else offers (not that there's anything wrong with that) but rather that each of us has something unique to offer, our own experiences, stories and perspectives, to serve the body of Christ in the world.

As one article points out, each and every one of us at the very least has two significant gifts: the first is faith in Jesus Christ and his work of redemption that offers us the forgiveness of sin. The second gift is that which we receive through Baptism and these gifts are the ones we use to serve the church and our neighbors in order to build up God's kingdom in the world. What are these gifts you might ask? Hospitality, Music, Teaching, Writing, Service, Leadership, Giving are just several of these gifts, there are many more. We are not limited in the use of our gifts with a lack of opportunity; there is an abundance of ministry areas with which serve. Here at St John's we have identified at least thirteen different ministry areas that need the gifts we can claim and offer our support: Arts Ministry, Christian Involvement, Health Ministry, Rainbow Ministry, the Children, Youth and Family Ministry to name just a few.

In serving our faith community with our time and talents, we not only help to build

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and strengthen our commitment to God's mission in the world, but we also personally receive very significant rewards as well: we grow in faith and gain personal fulfillment, develop and enrich personal relationships, improve and strengthen our spiritual gifts, gain confidence, learn and experience what others can offer, respond faithfully to Jesus' greatest commandment to love your God with all your heart, soul and mind and to love your neighbor as you love yourself. We are a gifted and blessed people, with much to offer and a great promise to receive. How will we respond to God's call to serve in this new year?

Fields of Hope



The proceeds from donations and sale of the Fields of Hope crop were \$8500 this year, less than usual but still a very useful amount. The crop will be planted again in the spring. The Foods Resource Bank, the overall program managing entity, will hold its annual meeting in Des Moines in August. At that time several farmers from among the 65 international projects will be here to tell their stories as well as representatives from some growing projects here in the U.S. This has been an inspirational event in the past. If you have interest attending this gathering, contact Jean Williams at rwilli1195@aol.com and watch the *Eagle Call* for messages.

The proceeds from donations and sale of the Fields of Hope crop were \$8500 this year, less than usual but still a very useful amount. The crop will be planted again in the spring. The Foods Resource Bank, the overall program managing entity, will hold its annual meeting in Des Moines in August. At that time several farmers from among the 65 international projects will be here to tell their stories as well as representatives from some growing projects here in the U.S. This has been an inspirational event in the past. If you have interest attending this gathering, contact Jean Williams at rwilli1195@aol.com and watch the *Eagle Call* for messages.

February is a Good Time...

...to Join a Choir

The holiday season is over, the relatives have gone home, and yet there is some time before you begin yard work. Sounds like a perfect time to join a St. John's choir! Maybe you could substitute it for a New Year's resolution you already have given up. And what better way to meet interesting and friendly people, while making beautiful music and getting up-close and personal with our mighty Schlicker pipe organ?



Contact Larry Christensen for details, larryc@stjohnsdsm.org or 515-243.7691 x.343.

WELCA Updates



With the hope that the congregation will want to participate, the WELCA invites you to learn about the **Harbor of Hope**. The Harbor of Hope accommodates 24 men and serves as an addiction recovery center. As a placement option for the Drug Court participants, it provides an environment for positive growth, mutual respect, hope and solutions that become a blueprint for a successful drug-free life. The executive director is Andy Anderson, known to many of us as a long time St. John's member, and our evening security person for a number of years. Andy requires the residents to be accountable to a weekly support group, respect a curfew, be employed or seeking work. Residents pay a modest rental fee, are expected to participate in financial training and other expectations for building a more productive and responsible lifestyle. The values the Harbor and Andy proclaim are relationships, responsibility and renewal (harborofhopeiowa.com). **For the month of February**, WELCA boxes marked Harbor of Hope will be in the reception area and the hallway across from the Chapel. Especially useful are cleaning products: paper towels, toilet paper, laundry soap, toilet bowl cleaner and shower cleaner are items that would be appreciated.

February Group meetings will be held Thursday the 3rd. Sarah Group will meet at Caribou Coffee on 3220 Ingersoll 9:30 AM. Lois Group will meet in Neumann at 12:30 PM. Lois group will have a presentation by Michelle Bolton King on ASAP (After School Arts Program).

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 Citigroup Global Markets, Inc/Smith Barney to Ameritrade. When gifting please use the following information to make transfers to Ameritrade: **Ameritrade's DTC number is: 0188. Ameritrade's account number is: 788-285389. The name on the Ameritrade account is: St. Johns 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, post 9/11, 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.

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, February 6,

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, Lectionary 5

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

The readings are Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; and Matthew 5:13-20. The hymns will be ELW 688, "Lord of Light," Gospel verse ELW 815, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light", ELW 665, "Rise, Shine, You People!" Offertory ELW 815, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" vs. 2, and ELW 717, "Let Justice Flow Like Streams." At 8:45 a.m. trumpeter Audrey Hustad will play "Lead On, O King Eternal," for offering and "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" for communion. At 11:00 a.m. St. John's Chamber Orchestra and Cathedral Choir will present, within the context of the liturgy, the Cantata "Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen," by J.S. Bach sung in English with soloists Erik Horak Hult, countertenor, Paul Stageberg, tenor, and Mark Garner, bass.

Sunday, February 13,

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany, Lectionary 6

In the first reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We, too, are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

The readings are Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; and Matthew 5:21-37. The hymns will be ELW 582, "Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling," ELW 772, "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways," ELW 815, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light," and ELW 544, "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing." For offering music at 8:45 a.m. the Kisasa Choristers will sing "If You Love Me," by Natalie Sleeth, and Cantorei will sing "Lead Me, Lord," by S.S. Wesley for communion. At 11:00 a.m. Cathedral

Choir will sing "Everything You Do," by Dietrich Buxtehude for offering and the S.S. Wesley piece for communion. There will be the laying on of hands and anointing with oil for healing at all services this weekend.

Sunday, February 20,

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany, Lectionary 7

In the first reading for this Sunday we hear, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Yet we know we cannot achieve perfection. Our attempts to love neighbors and even our enemies fall short of what God desires for us. Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism, and forgiven at the table of God's mercy. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.

The readings are Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18; Psalm 119:33-40; 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23; and Matthew 5:38-48. The hymns are ELW 452, "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death," ELW 711, "O Day of Peace", and ELW 707, "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us."

The offering and communion music at 8:45 a.m. will be by Asphalt and Stained Glass. At 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing "Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake," by Farrant for offering and for communion, "If Ye Love Me," by Thomas Tallis.

Sunday, February 27,

Eighth Sunday after Epiphany, Lectionary 8

Christians recognize that the source of all good things is the God who feeds the birds and clothes the grass of the field. We rejoice that we are held in the palm of God's hand. God cannot forget us any more than a woman could forget her nursing child. Nourished at the Lord's table, we share these gifts with those who are anxious, hungry, poor, or in any kind of need.

The readings for this Sunday are Isaiah 49:9-16a; Psalm 131; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5; and Matthew 6:24-34. The hymns will be ELW 858, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," ELW 589, "All Depends on Our Possessing," and ELW 867, "In Thee is Gladness." At 8:45 a.m. Cantorei and at 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing "Father, O Hear Me," by G.F. Handel and for communion "Seek Ye First," by Karen Lafferty.

Stained Glass Hearts



We honor those we love on St. Valentine's Day. What better way to honor your own loved one than with a gift that also touches the hearts and lives of the world's poorest people? This seven-year project has generated proceeds to build 15 water wells in Africa. We ask for the support of St. John's worshippers once more.

Handmade stained glass hearts are \$8.00 each and will be sold before and after all worship services on February 12th and 13th. The proceeds will be shared by the African Well Project and the Coalition in Support of Hungry Children, which is working to eliminate childhood hunger in Greater Des Moines by 2015. What a blessed way to celebrate the spirit and example of St. Valentine. Questions can be directed to Angie Larson at 240-1643.

Cleaning for a Reason

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemotherapy, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - once per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along. <http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>



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**.

Fine Arts Event

Doane College Choir joined by St. John's Choirs
Saturday, February 19th, 7:30 p.m.

The Doane College Choir from Crete, Neb., will perform at St. John's on Saturday evening, February 19th, at 7:30 p.m. The group is directed by Dr. Kurt Runestad whose father brought choirs to St. John's from Wayne State College in Nebraska in the 1980's.



Two St. John's ensembles, Cathedral Choir and Cantorei, will join the Doane Choir for three selections.

Repertoire for the concert will include a set of choral music from the Renaissance, three pieces of South American choral music, selections of North American tunes, and a final set of Spirituals and Gospel Songs. Part IV of the program will feature "Doublewide", a chamber-sized men's ensemble which performs lighter repertoire including tunes such as "You Make Me Feel So Young," "I'm Buildin' Me a Home," and "Down on the Corner."

There will be a reception following the concert which is free and open to the public with the usual free-will offering.

If you are able to house Doane College Choir members Saturday night contact Larry Christensen at St. John's.



February 2
 IMTA District Piano
 Audition Winners

February 9
 Mark Garner, baritone

February 16
 Lyric Winds

February 23
 Asphalt & Stained Glass

Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

Quilting, Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. in Room 308.

EAGLES, Tuesday, February 1, 11:00 a.m. at Jester Park Lodge for O.W.L.S. program on Wind Energy in Iowa, then out to lunch.

3D: Wednesday, February 2, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday AM Bible Study, Saturdays in February, 8:30 a.m., Check with Ellen Fisher, 250-9916, ellenfisher123@yahoo.com or Rod Snavely, rsnavely@aol.com for location.

Prayer Shawl Groups, Monday, February 7, 5:00 p.m. at church for Soup Supper to celebrate Jean McKinney's involvement in Prayer Shawl Ministry.

St. John's Moms, Saturday, February 12, 10:00 a.m. at the Science Center.

St. John's Networking Group, Monday, February 14, 5:30 p.m., Gateway Market on MLKing, Contact Ellen Fisher if questions, 274-5236 or Ellenfisher123@yahoo.com.

Lunch Bunch II, Wednesday, February 16, 12:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch I, Thursday, February 17, 11:30 a.m.

Night Out, Friday, February 18, 5:00 p.m. at Plaza Lanes on Douglas. (Childcare provided at St. John's starting at 4:45 p.m.) Contact Amy Wallman Madden, hope2_amy@yahoo.com (255-3109) or Rachel Corron, rpcorron@gmail.com (313-6645).

Recreational Reading, Wednesday, February 23, 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm.

Scrapbooking, Saturday, February 26, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Room 8.

Photography, Sunday, February 28, 10:00 a.m. in Neumann.

Couples/Singles Group, Watch the bulletin for announcement.

Be sure to check www.stjohnsdsm.org for small group dates and events.

More information on upcoming events

Quilting Group: The quilting group will be meeting on Tuesdays at 9:30 am in Room 308 at church.

The EAGLES will meet on Tuesday, February 1, for an O.W.L.S. program at Jester Park Lodge on Wind Energy in Iowa. Stephanie Simonson from Mid American Energy will discuss how wind turbines work, energy storage and share pictures. The EAGLES will go out to eat following the program. Contact Karen VanHouver at karenandarlin@aol.com or phone 282-1637 if you can attend.

Saturday AM Bible Study will meet Saturdays in February, 8:30 a.m. at a location to be determined by the group—Contact Ellen Fisher, 250-9916 or ellenfisher123@yahoo.com or Rod Snavely, rsnavely@aol.com for location.

Prayer Shawl Groups are meeting on Monday, February 7, at 5:00 p.m. in Neumann for a Soup Supper and to celebrate Jean McKinney's involvement in Prayer Shawl Ministry over the years. RSVP to Darla at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org or call 243-7691.

St. John's Moms will meet on Saturday, February 12th, 2011 at the Science Center of Iowa. We will meet at the Toddler Town section at 10:00 a.m. St. Johns Moms is open to all moms with children up to approximately age three. Please contact Kirsten LaBlanc (k.lablanc@gmail.com) or Rachel Corron (rpcorron@gmail.com) to RSVP or with any questions.

St. John's Networking Group will meet on Monday, February 14, 5:30 p.m., at Gateway Market on MLKing. If you are looking for a way to network and connect with others, please join in some great fellowship and sharing of ideas. Questions, contact Ellen Fisher at ellenfisher123@yahoo.com

WIRED Women's Night Out: Please rsvp to Lois Murphy or Darla Stiles (frlomurp5@q.com or darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org)

Lunch Bunch II: This group will meet on Wednesday, February 16, at 12:30 p.m. If interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg, 279-6326.

Lunch Bunch I will meet on Thursday, February 17, at 11:30 a.m. Anyone interested in joining the group please call Margaret Roby at 288-6304 to reserve a space. New members are most welcome!

Night Out: The next night out will be Friday, February 18, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Join us for bowling and a bite to eat at Plaza Lanes

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on Douglas. Childcare will be available 4:45 - 8:00 p.m. at the church nursery. RSVP to Amy Wallman Madden, hope2_amy@yahoo.com or 255-3109 or Rachel Corron, rpcorron@gmail.com (313-6645)

Recreational Reading will meet on Wednesday, February 23, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm. The book for discussion is *South of Broad* by Pat Conroy.

Scrapbooking will meet on Saturday, February 26, in Room 8. Come anytime between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to work on your scrapbooks.

Photography small group will meet Sunday, February 28, 10:00 a.m. in Neumann.



New WIRED small groups are organizing. These groups are open to all women. Please e-mail the facilitator to let her know of your interest and receive more information.

- **COOKING CLASSES:**
Carol Lunde (carollunde@q.com)
- **BOOK DISCUSSION:**
Mary Ritchie (ritchiem82@gmail.com)
- **WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT:**
Lois Murphy (frlomurp5@q.com) and Darla Stiles (darlastiles@stjohndsm.org)
- **SERVICE / LEARNING PROJECTS:**
Karen Andeweg (kandeweg@bankcsb.com)
- **Wii FITNESS:**
Delaine Marker (gramsmkr@hotmail.com) .
The group will be starting Friday, March 11.

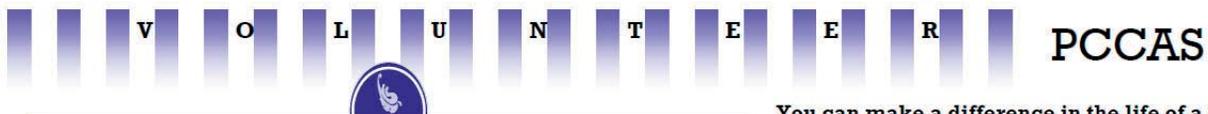
In the City (and the World) for Good!

Our community of faith seeks to make the love of God shown to us in Christ visible in our world. Below are updates on current opportunities for service to others and/or new opportunities for ministry through St. John's and partner organizations.

We met our 2010 goal of \$10,000 in support for the Connection Café! (In fact, we exceeded \$11,000 in donations!) **Thank you** for your faithfulness to feeding the hungry through this noon lunch program we share with the churches of The Bridge: St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Ambrose, and First United Methodist. Please continue to give generously and regularly. This support helps fund the cost of having Rob Hoover, the Coordinator of the Connection Café, as the one full-time employee of the Bridge. (If you have a small group that would like to know more about the Café, Rob is happy to speak about his work. You may contact him through the church office.)

Mark your calendars for our next opportunity to serve the Interfaith Hospitality Network! The next dates we will be responsible for an evening meal, evening hosting, and overnight hosting will be **March 8 & 10 at West Des Moines Christian Church**. If you live in West Des Moines, this would be a great way to engage in ministry very close to home! There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex by mid-February. Jennifer Early is available to answer your questions about IHN.

Lastly, another thanks...for your generous donations to the Good Samaritan Fund. Because you gave over \$8,000 in 2010 in addition to an amount from the general ministry fund, we had over \$10,000 to use for those who sought emergency assistance at St. John's in 2010. Funds were used for food, housing, bus tickets, bus passes, clothing, utilities, as well as many other unique emergency needs. Your gifts brought hope, encouragement, and peace-of-mind to many, and your pastors thank you for making this ministry possible.



**COME AND JOIN US!
VOLUNTEER AND HELP SENIORS IN NEED**

**Polk County Crisis & Advocacy
Services
Sherry Knox Prevention Specialist
Ph. 515-286-2028**

You can make a difference in the life of a senior just by volunteering 1 hour a week. An hour may not seem like a lot, but to someone in need it can mean the world to them. The simple pleasure of a conversation can make a persons day.

- ◇ **Make phone calls to check in on seniors**
- ◇ **Visit Care Centers in the area**
- ◇ **Help Alzheimer patients with an art project**

Children's Ministries

February Sunday School Schedule

- February 6 - Jonah and the Big Fish (Jonah 1-4)
- February 13 - The Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14)
- February 20 - Jesus Feeds 5,000 (John 6:1-14)
- February 27 - The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13)

Growing in Faith at Home

Most of us would have a hard time forgiving people for cheating, teasing, and lying. None of us like these things. Neither does God!

But even if we have a hard time forgiving people, God always forgives! This month the children will meet a prophet named Jonah who doesn't quite understand God's forgiveness. God is willing to forgive a whole city of people who did bad things, because they're sorry. Jonah doesn't understand this. He doesn't think the people deserve forgiveness.

Sometimes it's hard to understand how God can really love everybody! Like Jonah, most of us look at the bad things people do. We forget that God wants people to repent, to say they're sorry, and to find God again. God will hear their repentance, even if other people don't want to.

Talk about these questions with your child:

- When has God shown you forgiveness when you've asked for it?
- What can we do to show that we forgive someone when they've done something wrong?
- How would you respond to someone who asked you for forgiveness for cheating, teasing, and lying?

Pipes, Pedals, and Pizza



Put Sunday, March 20 (last weekend of spring break) at 10:00 on your calendar! You won't want to miss Pipes, Pedals, and Pizza. Sarah Garner will offer a KID FRIENDLY program about the organ in the choir loft. It will include a FUN and funny short piece for organ and narrator that introduces some of the sounds of the organ. And the kids will get a chance to play the organ!!!! Then we'll all meet for pizza at 11:00 in Weertz.

Youth Ministries

Bring your family! Bring your friends! Bring your neighbors you've never met! Bring whoever you can... and join us for:

AN EVENING IN WONDERLAND

(a FUNDRAISER FOR THE YOUTH OF ST. JOHN'S)

Friday, March 4th, 2011

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church

The evening will include:

- appetizers
- dinner
- dessert
- entertainment
- a silent auction
- a live auction
- & TONS OF FUN!!!

Tickets are \$5 (children 4 and under are free)
This is a FAMILY FRIENDLY event, but nursery care will be available for the tiny ones!

You may purchase tickets from the front desk at St. John's or between services in the Fireside Lounge.

Please contact Megan Clausen with any questions or if you have something you would like to donate!
(meganc@stjohnsdsm.org or 243.7691)

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

Lutheran Services in Iowa



Parents: Life's Leaders

Parents: role models, healers, supporters, volunteers and leaders. February has been named National Parent Leadership Month. It is an opportunity to publicly recognize and honor parents for their leadership roles in their homes and communities. By recognizing parent leadership we have the power to strengthen families, prevent child abuse and neglect, and build strong communities.

LSI recognizes the importance of programs that work to assist parents by fostering great parenting skills in order for families to be successful. LSI's early childhood programs and family-centered services help build the skills that make parents great examples and leaders for their children through education and the promotion of positive parenting. Your support of LSI allows us to continue to strive to build and support safe families across Iowa. Your partnership in our ministry of providing service to all through the love of Jesus Christ is a key to bringing a source of hope and creating faces of joy to families in your community.

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

HOPES program helps mother gain invaluable skills

Rosa joined HOPES, a free and voluntary early childhood program, in 2007 when her son Elias was born. LSI visits the family regularly in their home to bring information on child development, parenting, community resources and more.

When Rosa joined the HOPES program, she already had many positive parenting skills. However, like many LSI clients, she struggled with larger barriers that seemed out of her control.

Transportation was one of Rosa's biggest nightmares. Because Rosa did not have a driver's license, she would have to walk her other son, Miguel, an hour each way from her house to his local school, no matter the weather. She also had to bring Elias and Maribel with her.

Rosa's LSI worker helped take her to driving lessons, and Rosa eventually earned her license. This opened doors for Rosa to use other community resources, which is an important part of HOPES.

LSI also helped Rosa access child care and referred her for help when Rosa was struggling with depression.

"LSI helps me make connections," Rosa said. "My support worker sees a situation and gives me options I can choose. She was my transportation to these things. We spent a lot of time together."

Rosa enrolled Elias in Head Start this fall to continue moving toward a bright future. Because HOPES ends at age four, LSI encourages families to involve their children in early childhood education. Elias will have a great start leading up to kindergarten.

"It's a great time to say thank you to everyone," Rosa said. "It has been so helpful to me and my kids. I talk to many other parents who are in the program, and they say the same thing. They are all really grateful."

Artist of the Month



Mary Muller, a highly-recognized Des Moines' artist and painting instructor, is exhibiting her work at St. John's during the month of February. For years Mary specialized in painting landscapes in watercolor. However, her current exhibit represents the largest portion of her painting in the last 10 years---oil portraiture. Mary says every face is different and presents an opportunity to express something she sees in the character and identity of the model. See Mary's work in Weertz Fellowship Hall.

Hospitality & Outreach



Oh, to be Young Again!

Rabindranath Tagore, Indian poet, playwright, essayist and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913, said, "Age considers; youth adventures."

Here at St. John's, our Youth Director, Megan Clausen, makes sure that our youth have more than their fair share of adventures ~ both within the church setting and out in the world for good.

Megan serves the needs of the middle school and high school youth, in tandem with our associate pastor, the Rev. Bob Speirs. Confirmation classes are held for middle schoolers on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Many of these students also spend early-out days at school in fellowship with one another and also help with children's ministry inter-generational events.

Away from church, these students spend time serving our Des Moines community. For entire week in the summer, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., they were participating in activities that included serving at Luther Park and Wesley Acres. They weeded gardens and also enjoyed time bowling, sunning and exploring the Science Center. Additionally, time was provided for the boys to "hang out" with Pastor Bob, while Megan and the girls discussed the intertwining of life and faith. Confirmation students also spend a weekend at the Y-Camp in Boone; this is another opportunity for bonding and learning how our faith impacts our lives.

The high school students meet on Sunday nights to participate in "Journeys in Faith." They discuss current news topics, study the Bible, talk about each others' lives, and get to know themselves, and God, better. The past few years a group has attended the national ELCA Youth Gathering and traveled to Chicago and Duluth on service trips.

On the local level, these students have participated in the Hunger Hike, Reggie's Sleepout, decorated for the Festival of Trees and Lights, and sent "We Care" packages to St. John's college students going through finals.

I outline these specifics to let you know the variety of activities and outreach to which our young people are invited. It is not all book study; it is study of human nature, God's nature our relationships with all creation.

Better to let Megan explain in her own words, "At St. John's we believe our youth are an integral part of our congregation. They are the church here and now. We strive to inspire spiritual growth and exploration as they mature. That being said, we believe that faith is caught from other

faithful people more than it can be taught. It is for this reason that we seek to surround our young people with many faithful, affirming, and supportive adults. It is important to us to equip parents to foster their child's spiritual growth and faith formation to the best of their ability.

We believe that building a community based on trust, love, and acceptance of one another, while being rooted in a faith in Jesus Christ is the most important thing we can do for the youth that call St. John's home.

Our Mission:

To provide fellowship, study, discussion, and spiritual growth activities for our youth as they mature in and explore their relationship with our Lord.

To guide and nurture our young people in a faithful relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our Vision:

To have our youth look to St. John's as a safe place where they feel welcomed and nurtured by opportunities to grow in their relationship with our Lord.

All these activities and goals need willing and able hands and hearts. If you are interested in serving in any way with any of the above, please contact Megan or Katie at 515-243-7691.

Outside In



The Des Moines Area Religious Council invites congregations to support a city-wide effort to transition

the homeless people living in camps from outdoor living into safe housing.

Our support will strengthen funding coming from a wide variety of community sources. The "Outside In" program is in progress and has already seen successes with permanent housing secured for 28 people.

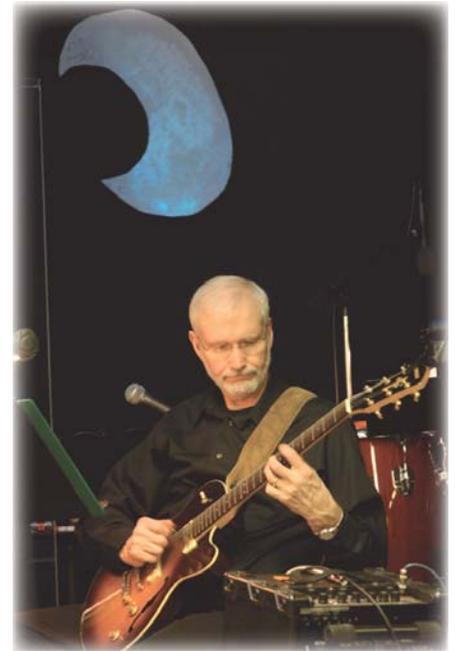
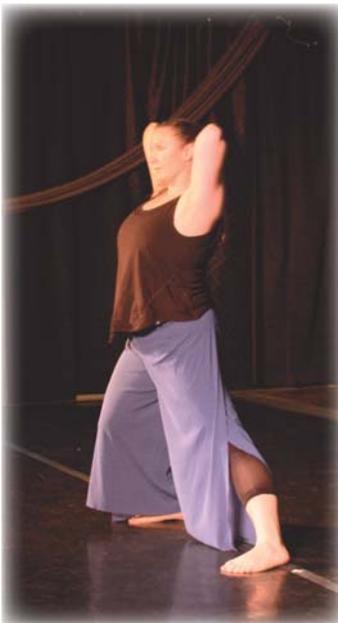
All funds received through this special campaign will go to the Polk County Housing Trust fund, which has agreed to serve as the fiscal agent.

Thank you for your consideration.

www.dmreligious.org/outsidein



Once in a Blues Moon



Photos by Jacque Warming

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Save the Date
2nd Bi-Annual
Wii Tournament
&
Soup Cook-Off
February 27, 2011
beginning at 3:00 p.m.

MARCH EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, February 14, 2011**. Please send information or articles in digital format if possible, to Scott LaBlanc, scottl@stjohnsdsm.org. If you cannot send it by e-mail, drop it off at the church office.
Thank you!