



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

Volume 42, Number 12
December, 2010

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

Advent at St. John's...

Advent is not an irrelevant, cultural dinosaur but is vital for our well-being. If we are able, during Advent, to relearn the skill of waiting, then it will have value not only for Advent and Christmas, but for the whole of our lives. Advent offers us a gift of such importance that it is life-transforming...In Advent we are invited into a deeper, truer encounter with ourselves, with the world, and, most of all, with God...Without it our Christian journey is impoverished. From The Meaning is in the Waiting by Paula Gooder.

This Advent, as the light is carried into the sanctuary each week by one of our children, we give our full attention to the Word that calls us to be awake, to repent, and to rejoice in the gift of our Lord Jesus, the Light of the World. A beautiful setting of *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* for choir & congregation will lead us into our Advent waiting each week. The children's Advent Program will be presented on Sunday, December 12, at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Christmas at St. John's...

Isaiah proclaims, "A child has been born for us, a son given to us" (Is. 9:6). Isaiah proclaims this son as light, savior, Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace. And the New Testament proclaims that this son, this child, is God's Word made flesh. The heavenly host sings, "Glory to God in the highest!" And we, in voices weary yet hope-full, join the chorus of praise.

Christmas Eve Worship Services include:

- **5:00 p.m. Children's Service.** Planned specifically for the little ones' attention spans & bedtimes, this service includes a dramatic re-enactment of the nativity story, a procession to the manger, and the music of our own Kisasa Choisters.
- **8:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service.** This service perhaps most clearly embodies the "incarnation" as we hear the Word and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Christmas hymns in new arrangements by Craig Phillips for brass and organ, along with Cantorei, lead our song at this service. Pre-service music begins at 8:00 p.m..
- **11:00 p.m. Candlelight Carol Service.** Music and the Word are the means of grace at this service. The Cathedral Choir, with strings, winds, and organ wrap this service in a mantle of lyric praise.

Christmas Day - 10:00 a.m. Our Christmas Morning service is simple, yet profound. We gather for Word and Sacrament with beloved carols shaping the liturgy.

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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
 katieltippins@stjohnsdsm.org

Teresa McKeever
 Financial Assistant
 financeoffice@stjohnsdsm.org

Jean McKinney
 Parish Nurse
 jeanmckinney@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
December 13 at 12 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors
 Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

**Congratulations & Farewell
 to a Dear and Faithful Friend...**

By the time you read this newsletter, Jean McKinney, St. John's beloved Parish Nurse of 25 years, will be an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church. After serving the Episcopal Church as a deacon for 17 years (along with serving as our Parish Nurse), Jean completed her requirements for ordination this past summer, and we celebrated her ordination at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on Saturday, November 20th.

Jean's employment with St. John's will come to an end on December 31, 2010, and she will join the Cathedral staff team as an associate priest with a focus on pastoral visitation and wellness. She will preach at the Cathedral regularly from October through May, and continue to serve a small Episcopal/Presbyterian parish in Park Rapids, MN, during the summer.

Jean has shared her medical knowledge and experience, as well as her compassionate heart, with countless individuals and families at St. John's. She has wept with us, laughed with us, helped us understand diagnoses and treatments, grieved with us, organized support groups to get us back on our feet, and laid her hands on countless heads as she prayed for healing. She has driven people to appointments, assisted families making health care decisions, waited with us for death to claim a loved one, all the while reassuring the members and friends of St. John's of God's abundant love and God's desire that we be healed and whole.

We are more grateful than we can say for Jean's ministry among us. We are proud of her as she is ordained a priest, and we are in awe of her faithfulness to God's call to serve God's people.

Details of a celebration of Jean's ministry will be available soon.

May God richly bless Jean's ministry in the years ahead.

With our deepest thanks,

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.

Fields of Hope



The Fields of Hope harvest went well. About 60 persons went to the field on Saturday, October 16 for the harvest. Combine rides seem to have been the hit with a close second being the goat that kept escaping. This was the fifth year for the donation of labor, equipment and most of the inputs. The sale of the crop netted \$6,400 for the Guatemalan food security project. Some additional cash will be added as there were rows of corn purchased to supplement the amount being sent. The Toconicapan project is helping the indigenous people of the area to farm more effectively on their hilly terrain. Very simple green houses have allowed them to have peppers and tomatoes for their families and to sell. This effort has been so successful that the farmers who have been helped are teaching neighboring villagers the same techniques. This is "foreign aid" that is very effective in helping to reduce hunger.

WELCA Updates



The women of the ELCA have NEW DIRECTIONS (shelter for women and children) as their outreach project. The congregation is invited to participate in buying Christmas gifts for mothers and children that they can give to each other.

The children are largely elementary age, and some early teens. Suggestions might be hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. They will have the opportunity to chose a gift and wrap it. Look for the boxes that will be marked in the narthex and near the office.

We're counting the days now as they fly by faster than ever! Once again, let us remind you to get out those cookie recipes, cookie sheets, warm up those ovens and start baking! AND, while you're at it, you might look around and find a treasure or two in order to make our Annual Cookie Walk, Treasure Sale and Auction a huge success! Surprises are in store, so be sure we see you on Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12. Bring your cookies Saturday AM please. Questions?, Need a Pick-up? Call Janie Clemenson 274-0924...Lou Johnston 287-2424

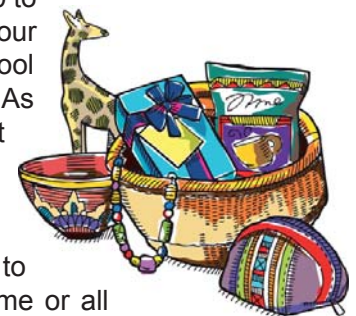
Lois Group will meet December 2nd in Neumann at 12:30 p.m. A Christmas program is planned and everyone is to bring unwrapped children and mothers gifts.

Sarah Group will meet December 2nd at Martha Nyemaster's home at 9:30 a.m. and gather the goodies for their shut-ins and gifts for New Directions.

Fair Trade Christmas Gifts

Back by Popular Demand

The Fair Trade Christmas Market will be back at St. John's on Sunday, December 5 from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the Lounge. This is our chance to shop the world for cool yule gifts without leaving home. As in years past there will be a great variety of well-crafted handmade items such as toys, trinkets, jewelry, hats, bags, nativity sets, clothing, and more. Please plan to attend...support fair trade for some or all of your holiday shopping. See you there!



Prepare for Worship

Sunday, December 5, Second Sunday of Advent

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases, we turn toward the light of Christ's coming. For Christians, he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's Table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

The readings are Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; and Matthew 3:1-12. Throughout Advent at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. our gathering song will be "An Advent Processional" by Donald Pearson with a great, thumping, Medieval dance feeling to it. The congregational refrain will remain the same, but the choir verses will change from week to week. The first hymn at 5:00 p.m. Saturday and 7:45 Sunday will be "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," ELW 257. The other hymns will be ELW 249, "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" and ELW 711, "O Day of Peace."

During communion the assembly will sing ELW 247, "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" and "ELW 254, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus." At 8:45 a.m. Kisa Choristers will sing "A Little Child Shall Lead Them," by Marilyn Biery for offering, and at 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" in the famous setting by 20th century German composer Hugo Distler.

Sunday, December 12, Third Sunday of Advent

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom. Jesus points to signs of God's reign: the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us at this time: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God will open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's Advent among us.

The readings are Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10; James 5:7-10; and Matthew 11:2-11.

The hymns will be ELW 264, "Prepare the Royal Highway," and ELW 241, "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You." At 8:45 Cantorei and Cathedral Choir will sing "Go and Tell John" by Lloyd Pfautsch during the gospel and "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" from Messiah by G.F. Handel during communion with Erik Horak-Hult singing the counter tenor solo and the St. John's Chamber Orchestra accompanying. The offering and communion music at 11:00 a.m. will be by the Chamber Orchestra. The laying on of hands and anointing with oil for healing at all services is a perfect rite to respond to the vision from Isaiah and Jesus' response to John's disciples.

Sunday, December 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent

In the first reading the prophet Isaiah promises that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. One this final Sunday in Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

The readings are Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; and Matthew 1:18-25. The hymns will be ELW 258, "Unexpected and Mysterious," and ELW 259, "Fling Wide the Door." At 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing Healey Willan's setting of "Hosanna to the Son of David," and "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," by Matthew Armstrong.

The Christmas Eve Services are listed and detailed on the cover of this *Eagle Call*.

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th, there will be one service at 10:00 a.m. It will be a simple communion liturgy with Christmas hymns for the service music. There will be no 5:00 p.m. Saturday service Christmas Day evening.

Sunday, December 26, First Sunday of Christmas – one service at 10:00 a.m.

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as

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we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

The readings for this Sunday are Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; and Matthew 2:13-23. The hymns will be ELW 273, "All My Heart Again Rejoices," ELW 278, "Away in the Manger," and ELW 299, "Cold December Flies Away." The music for offering and communion will be some of the new or less familiar Christmas songs in ELW sung by a soloist but with the invitation for the congregation to join in as they feel comfortable doing so.

Interfaith Hospitality Network



St. John's is assisting at IHN on Dec. 14 and 16. From 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. we serve supper and clean up; we serve as evening hosts from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.; and from 8:00 p.m. - 6:00 am, we need overnight hosts (at least one male needed). Food should be delivered by 5:30 p.m. or we can pick up at St. John's. Items needed are:

servings for 25 people of a main dish, salad, vegetable/starch; two loaves of bread; two gallons of milk; and dessert. When we assisted this past September we had difficulty obtaining the necessary food items. Please give generously to help serve those in need.

Midweek Music



Our extraordinary Midweek Music Series for 2010 - 2011 continues in December with pianist Ray Songayllo on December 1, and December 8 the "Wild Rose Trio", Wednesday, December 15, the Principal Chorus return to sing Christmas music, and December 22 we present our

most popular Midweek Music program of the year, "A St. John's Christmas" with performers from St. John's including Pastor Rachel leading carols from the piano. As always the musical fun begins at 12:05 pm, is free, and is followed by a warm lunch for only \$6 in Weertz Hall. We don't start the Christmas celebration as early as the stores, but we do it better!

Artist of the Month



Going Up by Scott LaBlanc

Members of St. John's Photography Small Group are sharing their talents in Weertz Fellowship Hall during September. This group meets monthly to share photos, learn techniques and encourage each other. Members' interests in photography range from snapshots of family to attempts at producing items of "art." This show demonstrates the variety of interests and techniques members use. If you have an interest in participating in the Photography Small Group, please contact Rod Snavely at rsnavely@aol.com.

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.

Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

3D - Wednesday, December 1, 10:00 a.m.

Photography - Friday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. in Weertz to hang pictures.

Scrapbooking - Saturday, December 4, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Room 8.

Saturday am Bible Study - Saturdays in December (except December 25th), 8:30 a.m., Check with Ellen Fisher, 250-9916, ellenfisher123@yahoo.com or Rod Snavely, rsnavely@aol.com for location.

Couples/Singles Group - Sunday, December 5th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Windsor Heights Shelter in a park at 69th and School Streets, for a hearty soup supper (see details below).

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

EAGLES - Thursday, December 9, approximately 7:00 p.m., Movie and Coffee / Pie following.

St. John's Moms - Saturday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. in the Nursery at church.

Hardanger - Monday, December 13, 9:00 a.m. in Neumann.

St. John's Networking Group - Monday, December 13, 5:30 p.m., Gateway Market on MLKing, Contact Ellen Fisher if questions, 274-5236 or Ellenfisher123@yahoo.com.

Night Out, Watch for details on the next gathering. Contact Amy Wallman Madden, hope2_amy@yahoo.com (255-3109) or Rachel Corron, rpcorron@gmail.com (313-6645) if you have suggestions or questions.

Lunch Bunch II, Wednesday, December 15, 12:30 p.m.

Recreational Reading, Wednesday, December 15, 4:30 pm in Rose Holm.

Lunch Bunch I, Thursday, December 16, 11:30 a.m.

WIRED: Women Interested in Renewal, Education and Discovery, Watch for details on each of the new WIRED small groups that are beginning (see below).

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

More information on upcoming events

Scrapbooking will meet on Saturday, December 4, combining both November and December dates into one Saturday between the holidays. Come anytime between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to work on your scrapbooks.

Couples/Singles Group is planning a Christmas 2010 Hearty Soup Supper for Sunday, December 5th, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the shelter house in the park in Windsor Heights located at 69th and School Streets. Bring your own soup bowl and spoon. Cost is

\$12.50 per person. (\$5 will go to the St. John's Good Samaritan Fund.) RSVP to Kris & Kathy Gregersen, 255-3896 or kkgregersen@gmail.com by November 28th. Send a past or present Christmas photo and include a little known fun fact about you. Hosts: Ed & Mary Slattery, Kris & Kathy Gregersen, Martha Driessnack and George Noble (plus some helpful elves).

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

Saturday am Bible Study will meet Saturdays in December (with the exception of Christmas Day), 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.

The EAGLES are planning a movie night for Thursday, December 9th, at approximately 7:00 p.m., followed by coffee and pie. If the date works for you, contact Roma and Jim Youngquist at 285-3810, or plaallda@aol.com to let them know you will be attending. They will contact you as it gets closer as to which movie they have chosen and the location.

St. John's Moms will meet on Saturday, December 11, 10:00 a.m. in the nursery at church. This group is for mom's with a child who is 3 or younger to get to know other mom's in similar situations; they meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the nursery at church (you may bring your young one with you so they may also get to know each other). A room will be provided for nursing mothers.

Hardanger Group will meet Monday, December 13, at 9:00 a.m. in Neumann. If you are interested in joining the group or have questions about it, contact Arlene Field, 964-3363.

St. John's Networking Group will meet on Monday, December 13, 5:30 p.m., at Gateway

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Market on MLK. 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

Night Out Contact Amy Wallman Madden, hope2_amy@yahoo.com or 255-3109 or Rachel Corron, rpcorron@gmail.com (313-6645) if you are interested or have questions.

Lunch Bunch II: This group will meet on Wednesday, December 15, at 12:30 P.m. If interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg, 279-6326.

Recreational Reading will meet on Wednesday, December 15, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm. The book for discussion is *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese.

Lunch Bunch I: Lunch Bunch I will meet on Thursday, December 16, 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!

WIRED: Women Interested in Renewal, Education and Discovery: New WIRED small groups are beginning (based on the interest from the surveys.) If your favorite small group idea isn't among these five, don't despair—we can start it later if we have enough interest. All of these groups are open to all women whether you indicated an interest on the survey or not. If you missed the organizational meeting for the cooking classes and book discussion, you may e-mail the facilitators to find out more information and the days/times they decided upon. For the other three small groups, also please e-mail the facilitator to let her know of your interest and receive more information.

1. COOKING CLASSES: Carol Lunde (jclunde@dwx.com) will lead this group. They met last Sunday to discuss what day and time might work best for most of those interested. WIRED Cooking Class Group will meet Saturday, December 11, at 8:30 am to make cookies for the Cookie Walk. If interested, send your favorite cookie recipe to Carol Lunde, jclunde@dwx.com by December 1. She will put together a list of ingredients and let each one know what ingredients to

bring. There were lots of great ideas mentioned. Anyone interested in joining this group, please contact Carol at the above information.

- 2. BOOK DISCUSSION:** Mary Ritchie (ritchiem82@gmail.com) will facilitate this group. They also met last Sunday to discuss what day and time might work best and also the type of books the group is interested in. The group decided to e-mail those who indicated an interest but could not attend the organizational meeting to get feedback. Days that seemed to work best were Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings or Saturday mornings. The group talked about reading books related to spirituality but would like more feedback. Anyone who might be interested in joining this group, please contact Mary at ritchiem82@gmail.com.
- 3. WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT:** Lois Murphy and Darla Stiles (frlomurp5@q.com or darlastiles@stjohndsm.org) will facilitate this group. Since it's getting close to Thanksgiving and the Christmas holidays are always so busy as well, we will wait until January to plan our first Night Out. Mark your calendars for Monday, January 10. For the first "Night Out," we thought it would be fun to get together for a glass of wine (or whatever) and talk about ideas for future "Nights Out," then attend a movie at the Fleur Theater. We will let you know the first part of January what time and place to meet for a glass of wine (we'll try to keep it early evening for working gals). By then we hope we can select a movie and will plan the time around the movie.
- 4. SERVICE/LEARNING PROJECTS:** Karen Andeweg (kandeweg@bankcsb.com) will be the contact person for this group.
- 5. Wii FITNESS:** Delaine Marker (gramsmkr@hotmail.com) is leading this group. This group will meet every Friday morning at 10:00 a.m. at church in the Fireside Lounge. Wii Fitness has several different areas: exercise, dance (Latin dance, rock, and others—they show you how), yoga, etc. You can go at your own pace. Anyone interested in joining in the fun may contact Delaine.

WIRED GATHERING: Mark your calendars for the WIRED gathering on Sunday, January 23, for a luncheon and speaker to be held at Grand View University's Rasmussen Art Gallery Building at 12:30 p.m.



Children's Ministries

December Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, December 5

- Three Year Olds - Kindergarten meet in room 7 for Children's Advent Program Rehearsal
- First-Sixth Grade meet in room 205 for Children's Advent Program Rehearsal

Saturday, December 11 (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.)

- Advent Program Dress Rehearsal in the sanctuary
(First-Sixth Graders Only)

Sunday, December 12 (10:00 a.m.)

Children's Advent Program in the sanctuary
(all Sunday School classes meet in chapel at 9:30 a.m. to warm up) Reception following program in Weertz Hall

Sunday, December 19 — NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, December 26 — NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Looking ahead:

Sunday, January 2 — Multi-age Sunday School (9:55 - 10:55) in room 205 for all Sunday School Classes

Sunday, January 9 — Epiphany Follow the Star Family Event at 10:00 a.m.

DMARC Thank You



A huge THANK YOU for all who donated food items last month to the Des Moines Area Religious Council . With the generosity of St. John's members we more than surpassed our goal!

Did you know?

St. John's now offers Wi-Fi internet access from Weertz to DDI. Just look for the STJOHNS wireless network and use 'inthecity' for the passcode.

Youth Ministries

GOING ONCE, GOING TWICE, SOLD!!! Save the date! **March 4th, 2011** will be the date for the Youth Fundraising Dinner and Auction! More details to come! If you have items you would like to donate please contact Megan Clausen!

College Care Packages: Once again the high school youth group assembled and sent out over 20 care packages to St. John's college students! Thank you for your donations to make this project possible!



2011 Summer Trips Announced:

The middle school students will be headed back to Duluth, Minnesota to participate in another YouthWorks! week . They be going there the week of July 10-15. There are 10 student spots available!

The high school students will be headed to Booneville, Arkansas to the YouthWorks! site there. After the week is over we will be headed to Mt. Magazine State Park for some good ol' fashioned camping and other outdoor activities! The dates for this trip are July 31-August 7! There are 10 student spots available!

To reserve a spot for your student please pay a non-refundable deposit of \$100 by December 8th. Checks can be made out to St. John's! Any questions? Contact Megan Clausen (243.7691 or meganc@stjohnsdsm.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**.

Your Help is Wanted

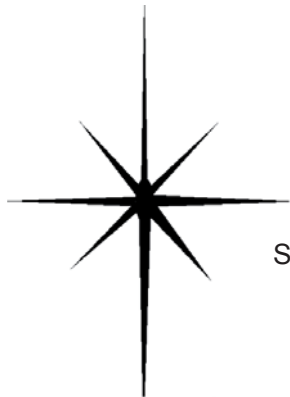
Looking For a Way to Help Out at St. John's and Have a Good Time Too?

We have a suggestion . . . we TRULY need help answering the phones in the afternoons. We have several volunteers who have faithfully helped out for a number of months. We are in need of several more. Due to travel and/or scheduling conflicts we need a larger rotation of volunteers. Those who have helped will tell you - they actually have a good time and learn more than they anticipated about their church. We provide training for the phone system (it is actually very simple) and you are never left alone - a staff member is always nearby. We particularly need help in the weeks leading up to the holidays. If you have questions, or wish to volunteer, please contact Katie at 243-7691.

Looking for a Used Big Wheels Bike . . .

. . . or something very similar. A St. John's member working with autistic children is looking for this item. The child is 7 so it needs to be a little substantial and in good condition. If you would be willing to donate to a good cause, please call Katie at 243-7691.

Prepare the Way



An Advent evening of rest, renewal, and preparation for women and men of all ages

Thursday, December 2, 2010 7:00
– 8:30 p.m.
St. John's Chapel and Fireside Lounge

Welcome the Advent season with...

- simple and beautiful Taize melodies accompanied by instrumental ensemble
- an opportunity to walk a lighted labyrinth
- time and space for prayer, meditation and quiet reflection

Nursery Care will be provided.

For more information contact
Linda Christensen, kinderlinder@msn.com

In the City (and the World) for Good!

Faith is always active in love. As a center for mission in the heart of the city, St. John's seeks to share the Good News of God's love for the world in word and deed. Below you will find opportunities to serve our neighbor, not only at Christmas time, but throughout the year. Please

- **The Connection Café Christmas poinsettia alternative** is a way for you to support the noon meal ministry we share with our partners from St. Paul's, St. Ambrose, and First United Methodist. There is an option on the poinsettia order form to donate the cost of a poinsettia to the Café – in place of a plant or in addition to ordering a plant. Our goal of financial support for the Café is \$10,000/year. We are several thousand dollars short of that goal as of November 30.
- **Watch for the Angel Tree in the fireside area the first weekend of December** as a way to provide Christmas gifts for our friends at the Connection Café and the Interfaith Hospitality Network. The majority of those in need are homeless, and the gifts suggested are basic necessities such as gloves, boots, children's clothing, etc. Take as many tags as you like, shop & wrap the gift, and then attach the tag to the outside of the package!
- **Thanks for your great response in providing for our monthly meals at Central Iowa Shelter & Services!** We will serve on the 18th & 19th of December, as usual. Keep up the good work!
- **We still need a small group to provide, prepare & serve the noon meal at the Connection Café on the last day of the year.** Because some serving groups are on hiatus at this time, St. John's picked up two extra dates this fall. Members of our staff served on the first of those, Nov. 3, but a small group is needed to serve on December 31. The menu can be the usual sandwiches/chips/fruit or you may provide a warm meal - soup or casserole or another kind of "comfort food." ☺ Please notify Pastor Mithelman if you would be willing to meet this commitment.
- **Finally, thank you, thank you, thank you!**

Hospitality & Outreach



St. John's
Children's Ministry ~
One of the Best
in the City!

Let's continue our discussion about the mission and ministries of St. John's. One of our (many) shining stars is Children's Ministry, coordinated by Sheryl Reed.

The fall season kicks off each year with Rally Sunday – usually the Sunday after Labor Day. A family-friendly activity is always planned as students are welcomed back after the summer break. At this time, families are invited to sign up for the Sunday School program held during the school year between the 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services. Should you miss that particular event, students are welcome into the program at any time.

All children age three-sixth grade are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers use the SPARK curriculum published by Augsburg Fortress. Our teaching is based on a strong biblical foundation dedicated to the mission to learn from the Bible how to live the Good News. We focus on presenting the Bible stories in a way to engage children appropriate for their age level.

Each week a Sunday School offering is collected. Children are encouraged to give a portion of their own money, whether it is from an allowance or extra money for helping around the house. It is never too early to help children practice the routine of joyfully and faithfully giving of what they have. Just as for adults, God gives – we share.

Sunday School classes participate in various service ventures; for example, writing letters to St. John's homebound parishioners, sponsoring an ELCA Global Mission Project missionary family in Tanzania, providing and preparing snacks for Habitat for Humanity, and donating used books to the Connection Café, among others.

In addition to the Sunday School program, other activities for children include:

- **KIDZ@SJLC** for three through five year olds meets during Beloved Community on Wednesday evenings. Connection of worship, education and our church year help children link faith to their daily lives through music, movement, crafts, stories and games.

- **Vacation Bible School** is led each summer by the Lutheran Lakeside staff. The week is spent examining ways we use our gifts, words and actions to serve both God and others. Children participate in songs, group games, devotions, crafts and skits. Parents, grandparents and friends are invited to the closing program to watch as the campers showcase songs and theme verses they learned during the week.

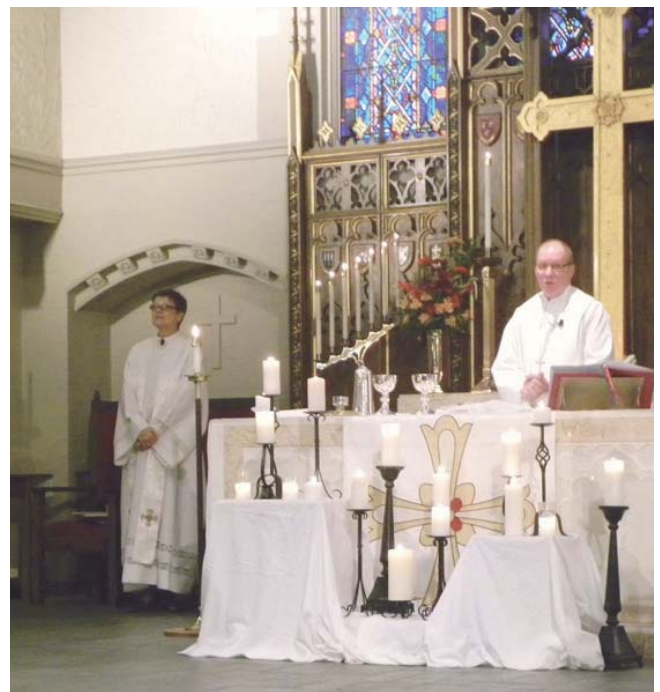
Growing Together is the ministry team that coordinates educational Christian family activities that encourage families to grow in their faith. These efforts involve:

- **Our Lutheran Heritage** event held in February giving children and their families an opportunity to take part in a hands-on educational activities in which the question is answered, "What does it mean to be a Lutheran?" This event offers a series of interactive stations with activities for families to do together, and we add some tasty treats just for fun.
- **Follow the Star Epiphany Family Event** is held on Epiphany Sunday. Families go on a treasure hunt and participate in entertaining educational stations along the way that help students learn the story and meaning of the Epiphany.
- **The Pentecost Family Event** provides families the opportunity to do Pentecost-themed crafts, enjoy a flavorful snack then gather in the fountain courtyard as we use the wind to send our prayers out into the world...with bubbles!
- And, very timely, the **Children's Advent Program** rehearsals are used as a tool to help children learn more about the meaning behind our Advent hymns and songs which are then presented, along with Bible reading and reflections, at the Children's Advent Program in mid-December. A cookie reception follows.

The above highlights some of the activities provided by Children's Ministry outreach. If you have children who do not participate in any or all of these opportunities, please consider this an invitation to partake of this educational and enjoyable jewel. Additionally, if you would like to enrich yourself by helping with these activities, volunteers are always needed and welcome. If you are interested in learning how your gifts and passions can assist the ministries here at St. John's, please contact Katie, Hospitality and Outreach Coordinator at 243-7691 x 115 or katiel@stjohnsdsm.org.

Photos of the Month

All Saints 2010 and 145th Anniversary



December 2010
Volume 42, No. 12 · Periodical



Many of us “stir up” special cookies during the Advent season each year. The Sunday School classes would like to “stir up” your heart to prepare for the coming of Christ! **Please join the Sunday School classes for the Children’s Advent Program on Sunday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary as they share Advent songs, prayers, and reflections.

JANUARY EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, December 13, 2010**. 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!