



St. John's Lutheran Church

# The EAGLE CALL

Volume 41, Number 9  
September, 2009

## 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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## *Local to Global*



St. John's members really made their mark this summer! They were involved with ASAP Summer Camp at Evelyn K. Davis Park, attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, traveled to Tanzania, volunteered at our Vacation Bible School, participated in the Gay Pride Parade and served in homeless shelters.

How is God calling you to serve? Throughout this issue of the Eagle Call you will find many examples of the wonderful ministries offered here at St. John's. Small Groups to Sunday School, Global Missions to Social Ministry, Health to Youth, Beloved Community

to Worship, Hospice Kits to the Arts. The list goes on and on. ***We want you to make a connection, find your passion and get involved!***



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**In the City for Good!**  
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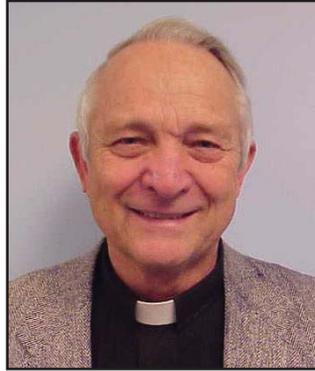
Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Next Eagle Call Deadline  
September 21 at 12 pm



**A Word from Our Pastors**

**Pastor Ray Runkel**

I was surprised!! I know “being surprised” can be joyful or alarming. It was alarming!! I had forgotten it was my turn to write the Pastor’s column for the St. John’s Lutheran Eagle Call. Big deal you say, but if one person forgets or neglects their article it has a chain reaction. So today you get my reflections

on “being surprised”. As far as I can discover the word “surprised” is not in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. The closest word I could find was amazement that had a very positive use in Mark 5:42, “*They were overcome with amazement*”. This happened when Jesus raised and brought back to life the little twelve year old girl who was dead. A wonderful “surprise” that was! People went from deep sadness to joy. Many times in the New Testament Jesus healed and brought life and hope into people’s lives. Perhaps the best known example was raising Lazarus from his tomb to be alive again as we read in John 11:38 and the verses following it.

I am sure we each can recall “surprises” that were joyful events and I hope you have had many of them. It happens when we are at our “wits-end” with worry or disaster that seems to be unfolding and suddenly everything changes and positive good news came about.

But, what about those “surprises” that turn out to be the “bad ending” or worst news possible. Sometimes, I wonder about the often quoted Romans 8:28 “*We know that all things work together for good for those who love God...*” This phrase is hard to believe for some of the negative news we get and “bad things” that seem to happen to very wonderful people. Maybe we look for a quick and good answer. As we read on in Romans 8:31 and the verses following “... *If God is for us, who is against us?... (8:37) No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

So, in our good and bad/evil surprises I hope you remember you are one in God's Love!!

Have a good rest of our summer.

In Christ,  
Pastor Runkel



## New Member Class

St. John's is a dynamic congregation, rooted in the Good News of God's grace in Jesus Christ, and eager to share God's good news in word and service. The congregation draws people from Des Moines and many of the surrounding communities with its rich worship and music tradition, and its vast variety of education, fellowship and caring ministries created to touch the lives and meet the needs of persons of all ages.

For those of you who have been visiting and now consider St. John's "home" we invite you to become official! Joining us formally is a simple process. We hold informal New Member gatherings on Sunday mornings for three consecutive weeks. Classes involve meeting other new members, becoming acquainted with the various ministry opportunities and outreach to the community, plus simply getting to know a lot of good people. Invited are people interested in joining our congregation and current members interested in learning more about the Lutheran faith and St. John's. The Sunday following the last class, new members are formally received into the congregation at the 11:00 a.m. service.

Those interested please contact Katie via phone or email at 243-7691 ext. 115 or [kati Tippins@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:kati Tippins@stjohnsdsm.org)

## 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. 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.

## Writing as Ministry

Strengthen your writing skills while exploring Scripture in this unique new workshop—Writing as Ministry—offered by the Bridge on Thursday, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral at 815 High Street in Des Moines.

Each week participants will learn a new literary skill to help them craft powerful meditations. Time will also be spent workshopping the writing of class members.

Instructor Mary Ylvisaker Nilsen will teach the workshop. Nilsen has taught prose style for two decades at the University of Iowa Summer Writing Festival and now teaches young pastors through a Lilly Endowment program at the Collegeville Institute. She has a graduate degree from Harvard Divinity School and from the University of Iowa.

After completion of the course, participants will be invited to join the Bridge Meditations Writing Team. The Bridge board, made up of representatives from St. John's Lutheran, St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Ambrose Cathedral, and First United Methodist, has approved expansion of the St. John's Web Writing Ministry to encourage participation from all member churches

Suggested contribution for the course is \$100. Register by sending a check payable to St. John's Lutheran Church and your name, address, congregational affiliation, phone number and e-mail address to St. John's Lutheran Church, Attn: Web Writing Registration, 600 6th Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50309-1606.

Brochures regarding the course are available at each Bridge member church. For additional information about the class, contact Mary Nilsen at 282-5940 or e-mail her at [maryenilsen@aol.com](mailto:maryenilsen@aol.com). For questions about the Bridge Meditation Ministry call Diane Glass at 989-4532 or e-mail her at [diane.glass@mchsi.com](mailto:diane.glass@mchsi.com).



## Prepare for Worship

### Sunday, September 6th,

#### Time after Pentecost, Lectionary 23

This is "Labor Day" weekend, and this Sunday marks the end of summer for many Americans, and we too in the church prepare to begin our fall programs. The readings are Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-17; and Mark 7:24-37. The hymns will be ELW 710, "Let Streams of Living Justice," ELW 712, "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service," and ELW 551, "The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve." We will continue to use ELW setting 10 throughout September as we seem to be enjoying the familiar hymn tunes and are singing them vigorously!

### Sunday, September 13th,

#### Time after Pentecost, Lectionary 24

This is "Rally Sunday" at St. John's, the Sunday we lift up the many program ministries that are beginning for the fall, especially Sunday School, Confirmation, the Youth Programs, and Beloved Community. The readings are Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; and Mark 8:27-38. The Hymns will be ELW 660, "Lift High the Cross," ELW 667, "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said," and ELW 400, "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind." Our Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders will be commissioned and lifted up at 8:45 a.m. At 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing a version of the gospel that was commissioned for them from David Herman in 1985 in memory of Don Munzenmaier. "You Are the Messiah," was premiered September 22nd that year and is based on the Mark 8 gospel text. During offering Cathedral Choir will sing, "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross," arranged by Thomas Keesecher. This is also a healing Sunday.

### Sunday, September 20th,

#### Time after Pentecost, Lectionary 25

In our readings today we heard our epistle writer, James, warn us against selfish ambition, while the disciples quarrel over which of them is the greatest. Jesus tells them the way to be is to serve. The readings are Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; and Mark 9:30-37. The hymns will be ELW 641, "All are Welcome," ELW 397, "Loving Spirit," and 843, "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness." At 8:45 Cantorei will sing "Come As

a Child," by Avery and Marsh for offering and "Be Thou My Vision," arranged by Alice Parker during communion. At 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing "Lord, Be Thou within Us," by Dale Grotenhuis during communion and repeat the Alice Parker piece. At 8:45 Bibles will be distributed to parents of our three-year old children and to our third graders.

### Sunday, September 27th,

#### Time after Pentecost, Lectionary 26

Our readings are Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14; James 5:13-20; and Mark 9:38-50. The hymns are ELW 867, "In Thee is Gladness," ELW 806, "O God, My Faithful God," and ELW 720, "We Are Called." The newly-named 3rd-6th grade choir with boys and girls combined will make their debut appearance at 8:45. At 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Choir will premier a new arrangement of the spiritual "Changed Mah Name" by Larry Christensen. This will be "Foundation Sunday," and there will be a brief Temple Talk to familiarize people with the important work of this financial ministry.

## Stephen Ministry



### **Learn, Grow, and Serve by Becoming a Stephen Minister.**

Do you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening? If so, please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. St. John's

will be training another class of Stephen Ministers early this fall. Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual support and care to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister, or how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Pastor Bob Speirs, Linda Reick or Karen Zaabel.



## In the City (and the World) for Good!

*St. John's is a center for mission in the heart of Des Moines. Called to serve Christ in our neighbor, we seek to encourage and accompany sisters and brothers in need with "faith active in love." Below are updates and opportunities regarding our ministry in the city (and the world) for good!*

**Thanks to all who assisted in serving homeless families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network at West Des Moines Christian Church, August 11th & 13th!** Thanks for the meals, the overnight duties, and simply being a host and friend. There are very few places in Des Moines where families who are homeless can be sheltered together, but IHN meets this need in churches around Des Moines. The Good News of God's love is our shelter, and it calls us to be shelter for one another.

**Keep those Hospice Kits coming!** Close to a hundred of our kits have been transported to Minneapolis for shipment to our friends in Tanzania. Our goal is 300 kits by the end of 2009. These kits have proven to be very valuable to health workers in TZ who make home visits to the terminally ill. Fill a 2-gallon bag with the items needed OR donate \$15 for the purchase of items in Tanzania. Please mark checks "hospice kit project."

**The Connection Café, our downtown noon meal ministry with First United Methodist, St. Ambrose, and St. Paul congregations continues to serve large numbers of people.** One day in early August, 194 people were served. Please remember that virtually the only expense of this ministry is funding for the full-time Coordinator, Rob Hoover. Our financial commitment to the café for 2009 is \$10,000 – over and above our operating budget. If at all possible, please make a monthly gift to St. John's marked "Connection Café."

**AMOS stands for "A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy," and is a broad-based, non-partisan, interfaith community organization of more than 26 diverse religious congregations.** There is a dedicated group of AMOS members at St. John's, and they invite your participation in the fall house meetings that will help clarify the issues for advocacy in the coming year. For more information, visit [www.amosiowa.org](http://www.amosiowa.org).

**It's time to think about becoming a tutor for a child from The Homes of Oakridge!** This is a long-standing partnership between St. John's and Oakridge that brings children to St. John's on Wednesday evenings to share in our Beloved Community Meal, worship, and then receive an hour of one-on-one tutoring. If you would like to be involved in this aspect of our ministry, please contact Sheryl Reed at [sherylreed@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:sherylreed@stjohnsdsm.org) or at 243-7691.

**And thanks to all who worked in early August to ready Eunice Bates' home for sale!** Thanks for all of the sorting, hauling, yard work, etc. You were certainly fulfilling the ELCA theme, "God's work. Our hands."

## Beloved Community

Beloved Community starts its new season Wednesday, September 9 in the newly refurbished Weertz Fellowship Hall. It begins at 5:30 p.m. with the evening meal and concludes with a brief worship service. Following the meal and worship, Bible study, choirs and classes are available. This season will have a new feature, Potluck Wednesday. These will take place in October and November. The main entrée will be provided, with the congregation invited to provide the sides.

Menus for September include Sloppy Joes (Sept. 9), Chicken Parmesan (Sept. 16) Baked Pasta (Sept. 23), and Build Your Own Taco (Sept. 30).

As always, your help is needed and appreciated. Menus are not complicated, and shopping advice is available. Your small group or your group of friends is encouraged to take ownership for a meal (or two) during the season. A sign up board, with menus, will be available in Weertz.



## Small Groups

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

### CALENDAR

#### **In the Word—Marker Group**

Tuesdays, September 15 and 22

#### **In the Word—3100 Grand Group**

Monday, September 21, 1:00 p.m.

#### **Saturday AM Bible Study**

Saturdays, September 12, 19, 26 at 8:30 a.m. at Caribou Coffee on Ingersoll.

#### **Gardening**

Watch the bulletin for details for the September meeting

#### **Lunch Bunch II**

will meet Wednesday, September 16, 11:30 a.m.

#### **Lunch Bunch I**

will meet Thursday, September 17, 11:30 a.m.

#### **NEW Reading Group**

organizing on Sunday, September 20, 10:00 a.m. in Neumann

#### **Prayer Shawl**

Monday, September 21, 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge

#### **Prayer Shawl**

Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge

#### **Recreational Book Club**

Wednesday, September 23, 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm

#### **Digital Photography**

Sunday, September 27, 10:00 a.m. in Rose Holm

#### **Coming Up:**

In the Word groups are starting up this fall. The usual dates and times are:

**3100 Grand Group:** 1st and 3rd Mondays at 1:00 pm

**Marker Group:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

**Saturday A.M. Group:** Will meet weekly on Saturdays, 8:30 am

However, due to Labor Day, the 3100 group will just meet on September 21st. Due to other activities, the Marker group will meet on September 15th instead of their usual 2nd Tuesday.

*Be sure to check [www.stjohnsdsm.org](http://www.stjohnsdsm.org) for small group dates and events.*

### MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING EVENTS

**Prayer Shawl** groups will be starting in September again. These shawls are knit or crocheted and then blessed and given to people going through a difficult time. The Monday afternoon group meets the third Monday of the month at 1:00. The Tuesday evening group meets the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00. Both groups meet in the Fireside Lounge. All are welcome to come to one or both. Bring crochet hook or knitting needles and Homespun Yarn of your color choice (need 3 skeins per shawl.) Anyone interested in donating money toward yarn may contact Jean McKinney or Darla Stiles at church, 243-7691.

**Recreational Book Club** is meeting Wednesday, September 23 at 4:30 pm in Rose Holm at church. Watch the bulletin for the book to read.

**NEW READING GROUP starting!** If you are interested in joining others from St. John's to read and discuss books, come to an organizational meeting on Sunday, September 20, at 10:00 a.m. in Neumann to decide what day and time is best for the group to meet as well as what kind of books you are interested in reading and discussing.

**Digital Photography** will meet the 4th Sunday of September in Rose Holm (Neumann is taken.) Bring a couple of "My Summer" pictures to share with the group. Anyone interested in digital photography is welcome to join the group.

**Pictorial Directory –2010 Anniversary Edition, coming up.** We hope you will each plan to get your picture taken for the pictorial directory this fall so it can be as complete as possible. Even if you had your picture taken for the last directory, we would

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like you to have an updated picture to be included in the whole St. John's family. There is no cost and no obligation to buy, but you will have the opportunity to buy pictures if you so desire. The dates of photography are: November 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27, 28 and December 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Notice some dates are around Thanksgiving for families who have college students home to have a chance to get the whole family together for a picture.

## Worship & the Arts

### **Choirs and Other Musical Ensembles Begin Rehearsals.**

If the Iowa State Fair is over and schools open, can church choir practices be far from beginning? Choirs and ensembles kick off another memorable year in the coming weeks beginning with the St. John's Cathedral Choir's first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 2. This flag-ship ensemble of our music ministry will hold a mixer with snacks in Neumann Hall beginning at 7:30 including video of the choirs in our sister Parish in Mramba, Tanzania. This will be a chance to meet and greet new choir members and catch up with what choristers have done over the summer.

September 9 is the first "Beloved Community," and our other vocal choirs – Joyful Noise (K, 1st & 2nd graders), Cantorei (adult – 8:45 service choir), and a yet-to-be-named boys and girls combined choir for 3rd through 6th graders all kick off that night.

Bell Canto, our handbell choir, holds its rehearsals on Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., and our Chamber Orchestra meets for the first time on Sunday, September 20th.

All of these ensembles welcome new members and are enriched and empowered for ministry through additional numbers. For more information on any of these ensembles check out our website, [www.stjohnsdsm.org](http://www.stjohnsdsm.org), or contact Larry Christensen, Director of Music, Worship, and the Arts.

### **Midweek Music for 2009-2010 Begins September 30.**

Pianist Bob Lien teams up with keyboard colleague Lee Ann Bakros to offer the 2009-2010 Midweek Music keynote concert on Wednesday, September 30. This long-running and highly-regarded Wednesday noontime concert series is a mainstay in the cultural and entertainment life of downtown Des Moines. Some longtime fans build their Wednesday schedules around it and bike downtown from out-lying

areas. The free concerts are 25 minutes long, from 12:05 to 12:30, and are varied with artists performing in jazz, folk, classical, bluegrass, and Klezmer idioms to name a few! The musical feast is followed by a lunch in Weertz Fellowship Hall for only \$6. Check out our website for the full lineup, and make plans to join a friend or coworker for the perfect midweek respite.

### **"Roaring Twenties" Theme Party Arts Ministry Kickoff September 19.**

For one night we might all talk like Pastor Bob ("How yuh doin'?") as St. John's Arts Ministry recreates "The Roaring Twenties." Central Iowa's own early-jazz phenomenon, "The Ballyhoo Foxtrot Orchestra" led by band leader / arranger John Benoit and featured vocalist, Kim Finch, will immerse us in the sounds and feel of the jazz clubs from the first quarter of the 20th Century. Any flapper-wannabes and pinstripe-suit, black-shirt, white-tie wearing tough guys are invited to come in period dress. The venue for the party is to be announced, please stay tuned for more information.

This event is a fund raiser for Arts Ministry, and there will be an invitation to become a Friend of the Arts at St. John's, as well as an opportunity to meet some of our Midweek Music Artists. Tickets will be \$10 per person and will be sold Sunday mornings in the lounge and fellowship hall and during the week in the reception area. Snacks will be included and there will be a cash wine and soft drink bar. For more information and visit the St. John's website.

### **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](mailto: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.



## Children's Ministries

### Rally Sunday Symbol Safari is September 13

Come join us in the Fireside Lounge at 9:55 on Sunday September 13 to pick up your Symbol Safari map!!!! Families will get an opportunity to go on a symbol safari and discover some of the meanings behind the symbols and art in our sanctuary and chapel. Come hear about the trip that some of our members took to Tanzania to visit our sister parish!!! Families will get a chance to register for Sunday School, hear about the Bible stories they'll be learning in Sunday School and munch on a special treat!

**Sunday school starts Sept. 20.** All children age three through sixth grade are invited to register for Sunday School. Registrations will be available Sunday, August 30. Our Sunday School program is based on a strong biblical foundation, dedicated to the mission to learn from the Bible, to **live** the Good News, and focused on presenting the Bible stories in a way that engages learners appropriately for their age level. Children will be experiencing God's word through interesting and engaging discussions, games, art, music, and other activities. Look for registrations on the table next to the chapel beginning August 30.

### Children's Ministries Dates to Remember:

- August 30—Sunday School Registration Begins
- September 13—Rally Sunday (Symbol Safari)
- September 20 (First day of Sunday School!)—***Bibles will be given to three year olds and third graders at the 8:45 service!!!***
- September 27 (10:15-10:45) in Neumann Hospitality Center – Sunday School informational meeting for parents and guardians

### September Sunday School Schedule

September 20—God Creates People (Genesis 2:4b-25)  
Faith Trait—Generosity  
Big Idea—God trusts us with all creation

September 27—Jacob and Esau (Genesis 27: 1-40)  
Faith Trait—Loyalty  
Big Idea—God claims each of us

**KDZ@SJLC** for three through five year olds meets during Beloved Community on Wednesday evenings. Connections of worship, education, and our church year

help learners link faith to their daily lives through music, movement, puppets, field trips throughout the church, crafts, stories, and games. Our first class will be Wednesday, September 9 from 6:30-7:30 in room 5. If you are interested in being a helper in this class, please contact Sheryl Reed (243-7691 ext.193)

### Growing in Faith at Home

Read the creation story with your child (Genesis 2:4b-25). Talk about how God created the world and everything in it. Discuss how God created variety for people to enjoy. People live in many different parts of the world. God created some parts of the world to have forests, others to have oceans or seas, and still others to have deserts. What is the geography like where you live? How do you and your family take care of it?

## Youth Ministries

It's the school year again? I can't believe it! Where did the summer go? Well, I will tell you. These youth are busy people. Many played baseball or softball, swam, attended sports, music, and arts camps, volunteered their time, babysat, danced in national dance competitions, read many books, performed with their band, completed works of art, had projects compete in the State Fair, and the list goes on and on. The youth at St. John's are amazing! They also spent time at church. The middle school students of St. John's spent a week in DSM doing Bible study, watching movies, serving others, and growing in relationship with each other and Christ. Twenty high school students, Pastor Bob, Deb Anderson, Greg Anderson, Linda Propstein, Rod Snavelly, and Megan Clausen spent 8 days in New Orleans with 37,000 youth from around the world at the 2009 ELCA Youth Gathering: "Jesus, Justice, Jazz." We spent those days serving the people of New Orleans, meeting new Lutheran friends, learning about our faith, and growing in relationship with one another. It was an amazing eight days! Be sure to ask a youth about his or her summer experiences!

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Here's what's coming up...

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

**6th grade-** Watch the mail for info on your very first fun fellowship activity! Sunday school begins on Sunday, September 20!

**7th & 8th grade-** Dates to Remember  
**September 2:** Destination Confirmation! (AKA: informational meeting/pool party/potluck)  
Pastor Bob's house | 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**September 9:** Confirmation classes begin. They will be from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. every Wednesday.

**September 20:** Breakfast Club begins. Every Sunday that Sunday School is in session from 9:55 - 10:55 a.m. in room 307.

**October 16-18:** Fall Confirmation Retreat @ Y-Camp in Boone.

\*\*\*Dates for group service projects will be mailed out soon!

### HIGH SCHOOL

Every Wednesday we will meet in DDI from 7:45 - 9:00 p.m. for J.I.F: Journeys in Faith or Jesus is Fun (same thing as "youth group" last year, but better name). Come from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. to work on homework or hang out!

The last Sunday of every month will be "family" dinner night. We will meet at someone's home for dinner and fellowship from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

\*\*\*If you are interested in hosting the high school students for dinner one month please contact Megan. You don't have to have a student in high school to host them for dinner!!!

More information will be available soon about the service opportunities for high school students during the 2009-2010 school year!

September 27th: Mark your calendars! The high school

students will be doing an adult forum about their experiences in New Orleans this summer. Come and hear what a great time they had!

I can't wait for another fantastic year!

Megan Clausen

## ASAP Summer Arts Camp



For more photos please visit [www.stjohnsdsm.org](http://www.stjohnsdsm.org)

### We Walked on Sunshine

By Terri Mork Speirs

And we danced, drummed, painted, printed, sculpted and crocheted in the open air glory of ASAP Summer Arts Camp. We joined together six studio artists, about 15 volunteers, and some 40 children for a week of fine art in the park, August 3-6. The camp came alive at Evelyn K. Davis Park, which is located in the heart of Des Moines West, a neighborhood that is fine arts under-resourced and thus targeted by the Afterschool Arts Program (ASAP). This community may be arts under-resourced, yet it is finely sourced with children who eagerly give their whole heart when given the opportunity to creatively express themselves. We thank all the volunteers, mostly St. John's members, including the Faithful Artist Youth, who offered their time and talents to support the children and their art studio sessions. We thank the artists who are truly experts in their respective mediums. We thank our partners -- the Des Moines Park and Rec, Des Moines Neighborhood Police, Des Moines Neighborhood Resource Center, and Des Moines Public Schools. The camp was funded by the a grant from Thrivent Builds Neighborhoods in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. We invite all of you to take look at the ASAP Summer Arts Camp photo gallery on the first floor hallway adjacent to Weertz Hall. For more information on the mission of ASAP and how you can be involved, please be in contact with Executive Director, Michelle Bolton King.



## TZ '09 - Recap

### A Journey to our Companion Congregation, Mramba Lutheran Parish, Pare Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania

On July 15, six members of St. John's joined me for St. John's second official visit to our companion congregation in the Pare Diocese of the ELCT – Mramba Lutheran Parish. St. John's and Mramba parish have been partners since 2007, and our first visit was in February, 2008.

Where is Mramba Lutheran Parish? There is no "dot" on the map that has "Mramba" written beside it, but we can guide you to the area if you have a map of Tanzania in front of you:

1. In northeastern TZ – near the border with Kenya – find Mt. Kilimanjaro.
2. Now go south of Kilimanjaro to the town of Moshi. Follow highway B1 southeast of Moshi to the town of Same (pronounced sa-may). Incidentally, the Pare Diocese office is located in Same.
3. Mramba is straight east of Same, about a two-hour drive into the South Pare Mountains.

We spent four days with our friends, having our "second cup of tea" (if you are familiar with Greg Mortenson's book) and learning about life in Mramba, about the joys & challenges of that particular community of faith. We stayed with members of the parish, hiked quite a ways to the Mgambo sub-parish to understand their dream for a new building to accommodate 250+ worshipers, and spent most of a day at the Vuje Primary School just down the hill from the church.

Gifts were given and received during worship on Sunday morning, July 19. Each of us from St. John's was wrapped in a beautiful piece of African cloth. In turn, we presented the parish with a beautiful banner and two gifts from the St. John's Sunday School – (1) a compact disc player with a recording of our children's choirs, and (2) a gift of cash for the women's organization in the parish, to help supplement that

group's income.

After saying our farewells in Mramba, we went a little farther up the mountain to Gonja Lutheran Hospital, a hospital of the ELCT. Dr. Mary, a highly respected, gentle physician, along with the Nurse Administrator, Dora, explained the hospital's work. This includes: out-patient & in-patient care, an HIV/AIDS clinic, a special clinic for family planning/healthy moms & babies, and much more. We were able to present Dr. Mary with 25 baby quilts made by St. John's members – which she intended to put to good use during the chilly nights on the mountain!

Our time in the parish complete, we next participated in a two-day, fair-trade coffee educational experience in the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Our time was spent on cultural & historical hikes, as well as learning how a red "cherry" eventually becomes a cup of fairly-traded coffee. Sleeping in a beautiful campground from which we could see Kilimanjaro and fed by cooks from the village in an open-air dining hall, the experience was amazing!

And finally, you can't leave Africa without saying hello to the wildlife! A brief safari through Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park allowed us to marvel at the beauty of giraffes, zebras, hippopotamus, and so many others of God's creatures.

The approximately 15 members of St. John's who have now visited Mramba, Gonja Hospital, etc., are working on the "what next?" of this relationship. I know that there will be several ways you can participate in this partnership, including the next journey to Tanzania in February, 2010!

Pastor Mithelman





For more pictures and video of TZ '09 please go to [www.stjohnsdsm.org](http://www.stjohnsdsm.org).



## Hospitality & Outreach

*Hospitality: The quality of disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.*

*Outreach: The act of extending services.*

**“Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13**

Hospitality and Outreach are defined and we are invited and instructed by the highest authority to practice them.

St. John’s Lutheran Church, to put it simply, is blessed. We are in a perfect physical setting to reach out to all in the metro Des Moines area. We have a rich tradition of “serving” and “ministering” to all in our society. We have a large and varied range of groups to assist in that endeavor – everything from working with children to our elderly; opportunities to assist with those in need, a variety of music ministries, help with clerical projects and a myriad of other prospects.

An often-used word within church settings is “Stewardship.” I used to think of stewardship strictly in the financial sense. I was wrong. “Stewardship” pertains to ALL the ways we can serve our God and our neighbor.

Another time honored description of church involvement is “Time, Talent, and Treasure.” We think a better way of looking at it is a way of offering our differing gifts, and we have all been given unique abilities by our Lord.

Consider yourself a grateful caretaker of the many gifts with which you’ve been blessed. We offer an opportunity to share those gifts.

Many of you are already involved in ministries here at St. John’s. We gratefully acknowledge your contributions. Now I invite you all to engage more fully. Take a look at the opportunities provided. Or, maybe you have an idea for something not yet mentioned, give us a call.

You will find that personal interaction and service to others will touch your heart, your soul and your mind. You will feel a sense of “home” and “community” that has the power to change your outlook on life. Join us and follow God into an adventure of ministry.

We **invite** your participation.

We will **equip** you with information and knowledge to serve in your selected area.

We will **connect** you with others sharing your same passion.

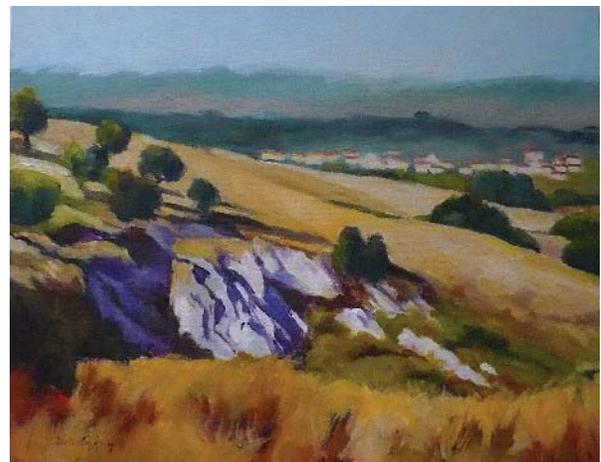
We will **sustain** your partnership and promise an enjoyable and heartening experience.

As Rally Sunday approaches, please prayerfully consider additional ways you may serve God, your church and your neighbor. We welcome your participation.

If you are interested in learning how your gifts and passions can assist the ministries here at St. Johns please contact Katie Tippins at 243-7691 x. 115 or [katietippins@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:katietippins@stjohnsdsm.org).

## Artist of the Month

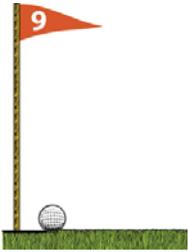
Vicki Ingham paints landscapes, still lifes and self-portraits in oils. Her landscapes reflect travel to the Crete region in Italy. She is also painting on collage and calling these works an “exploration in progress”. Her work is being shown for the first time at her September exhibit at St John’s.



The Beloved Hills by Vicki Ingham



## Couples Club



### ST JOHNS COUPLES CLUB SEPTEMBER EVENT

The event will be held on Sunday, September 13th at 3:30 p.m. with miniature golf play at Blank Golf Course. After the golf we will go to Barratt's Restaurant at 6:00 p.m.

for dinner where we will have prizes for some of the good golfers and some for the not so good golfers. Cost for golf is \$5.00 per person. Cost for dinner will be based on what you order from the menu.

We must have a reservation from all couples attending no later than Thursday September 10th so Barratts can prepare an area for us.

Please email or phone one of the listed couples, John & Deb Donald 515-226-0827 or DDonald126@aol.com

Gary & Delaine Marker 515-285-2605 or papagramsm@msn.com

Diane & Neil Wheeler 515-779-0321 or Wheelers464@msn.com

If you wish not to play golf please plan to join the group at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and fellowship. Remember to reserve a spot.

(In case of rain we will for-go the golf and meet for dinner)

Golf course is on the corner of SW 9th & County Line Rd (South of the Zoo)

Barratta's is located at South Union & Davis (North of Park Avenue)



## Photos of the Month



Members of St. John's at the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans.



One of the many great activities at ASAP Summer Arts Camp

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## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **“Roaring Twenties” Theme Party Arts Ministry Kickoff September 19**

Featuring The Ballyhoo Foxtrot Orchestra  
led by band leader / arranger John Benoit  
and featured vocalist, Kim Finch.

Stay tuned for more information!

## **OCTOBER EAGLE CALL DEADLINE**

The deadline for all  
October Eagle Call  
information is Monday,  
September 21, 2009.  
Please send information  
or articles, in digital  
format if possible,  
to Scott LaBlanc. At  
[scottl@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:scottl@stjohnsdsm.org).  
If you cannot send it by  
email, drop it off at the  
church office.  
Thank you!