



St. John's Lutheran Church

# The EAGLE CALL

Volume 41, Number 10  
October, 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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## October is Stewardship Emphasis Month!

Our 2010 stewardship theme expresses our thanks to God for the privilege of ministry in this time and this place! Yes, even in the midst of current economic challenges, we invite you to rejoice in God's abundant mercy, to fearlessly grow in your financial commitment to God's mission, to reach out faithfully to our neighbors, and to be glad for the amazing grace that has sustained this community of faith for 145 years!



Your household's stewardship packet - seeking your financial commitment to St. John's, as well as the commitment of your unique gifts & passions for ministry - will be available the first weekend in October. Please help us reach the 2010 goal of 500 financial commitments and 50 new subscribers to Simply Giving, all for the sake of making God's abundant love known to the world!

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**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**In the City for Good!**  
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Summer Office Hours are:

Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Saturday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Next Eagle Call Deadline

October 19 at 12 pm



**A Word from Our Pastors**

Pastor Bob Speirs

*“Are any of you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up.” (James 5:13-15a)*

I am so happy to be back with you after several weeks of being away due to my right hip surgery and recuperation at home. I am feeling much better and already notice the great benefit of having my hip replaced (you can take whatever liberties with that statement you wish). I'm now pain free and beginning to feel the strength in my right leg come around once again...but no training for the Des Moines Marathon just yet. I also want to take this opportunity to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to all my friends and colleagues here at St. John's for all the support, visits, prayers and "care" packages that my family and I received during my recovery. It's wonderful and reassuring to be part of a faith community that cares for and upholds one another during events and times such as these. Again thank you.

My return to work could not come at a better moment either, as we move quickly and fully into our very busy Fall programming. Beloved Community has resumed on Wednesday evenings and so has the full slate of activities that follows our community meal, including: the St. John's choirs: Kisasa choristers, Cantorei and the Cathedral Choir, Adult Bible study (based on the lectionary and led by Pastor Rachel), Confirmation and our High School youth programming. Please check our web-site, [www.stjohnsdsdm.org](http://www.stjohnsdsdm.org) for times and locations of these activities.

St. John's Sunday morning education program has begun once again with many children, youth and adults who will be participating and learning. We have a very dedicated, creative and interesting group of leaders, teachers, helpers and mentors who have volunteered their time and unique abilities to work with Sheryl Reed, Megan Clausen, and Pastor Bob in planning and implementing a wonderful and fun experience for those involved...events for the whole family. The Adult Forum schedule for the coming fall will be listed below. For more information and a description of the classes please pick up an Adult Forum brochure in the Narthex at church. It's a great time of the year to participate and become involved.

Stephen Ministry: We are beginning to plan for another Stephen Ministry training class for the late fall/winter time period. So far I have four solid commitments from our church members who would like to give their time and ability to this ministry. We need at least six people to begin. Stephen Ministry is a lay ministry program that trains our members to provide compassionate, Christian care to those people who are experiencing difficult and challenging times in their lives. These times can include: illness, unemployment, death of a loved one, loneliness, etc. If you have a listening ear, caring heart, and open mind, along with the time, please call or see Pastor Bob, Karen Zaabel or Linda Rieck here at church. The church's phone number is 243-7691.



**AMOS:** The St. John's AMOS committee will be holding Sunday morning house meetings here at church September October 4th and 18th during the 10:00 a.m. hour in the West Lounge. AMOS is A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy that is a broad-based, non-partisan, interfaith community organization that looks to bring the concerns and issues of our local communities into the public attention and sphere. AMOS believes that people working together can accomplish great things in a democracy and have a say in the destiny of our communities. Please make an effort to attend one of these meetings and express your concerns.

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study:** Our Tuesday morning Bible study attendance continues to grow. We are having an interesting and fun time studying and moving through the book of Exodus. Please join us for this hour of study, reflection and discussion. The only requirement for this Bible study is an interest to learn and have fun. Coffee, Tea and snacks are served.

**Fall 2009 Adult Forum Schedule:**  
(See Adult Forum brochure for details)



**September 20th:** Global Mission Task Force-“Tanzania 2009 Trip Presentation”  
**September 27th:** 2009 ELCA National Youth Gathering “New Orleans Trip Presentation”  
**October 4th:** Women of the ELCA/Luther World Relief “Study Visit to El Salvador”

**October 11th:** Worship and Oktoberfest at Jester Park (No Forum)  
**October 18th:** Pastor Mshana from Tanzania will be our presenter this hour.  
**October 25th:** S.H.I.P. Health Insurance Program  
**November 1st:** No Forum scheduled  
**November 8th:** Worship: God's UPS delivers the Goods  
**November 15th:** Worship: God's UPS delivers the Goods  
**November 22nd:** Worship: God's UPS delivers the Goods  
**November 29th:** No Forum scheduled  
**December 6th:** Worship: God's UPS delivers the Goods  
**December 13th:** Sunday school Advent program  
**December 20th:** American Cancer Society Presentation  
**December 27th:** No Forum scheduled

## Crossing Borders

As part of the “Crossing Borders” project in the SE Iowa Synod, three pastors from the Pare Diocese arrived in our synod on September 17th for a two month stay. St. John's will host one of the pastors, the Rev. Enea Mshana, for the second month of his stay – October 14 through November 15. While in Des Moines, Pastor Mshana will be preaching and teaching in area congregations and institutions, beginning as guest preacher at St. John's on October 18th & 19th!

## 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 it's 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.

## WELCA Cookie Walk

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! As we approach these final days of our beautiful Iowa Fall, heading soon into winters' busy activities and celebrations.... well, guess what? Once again WELCA is planning a bigger than ever Cookie Walk and Silent Auction on December 13th, when we'll be offering real and surprising treasures. We need lots of help, so get out your recipes and aprons and watch for updates! Last years' event allowed WELCA to donate half of the cost of the new carpet in Weertz.



## Prepare for Worship

### Sunday, October 4, Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 27

Today's gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law. Jesus' rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?

The readings are Genesis 2:18-24; Psalm 8; Hebrews 1:1-4, 2-12; and Mark 10:2-16. The hymns are ELW 526, "God Is Here!" ELW 640, "Our Father, by Whose Name," and ELW 839, "Now Thank We All Our God." The music is the same at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., but the performers are different: at 8:45 a.m., Cantorei and Chamber Orchestra; at 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra. The music will be; Offering, "How Excellent is Your Name," by Eugene Butler based on Psalm 8; and "For the Beauty of the Earth," by John Rutter.

### Saturday, October 10th, 5:00 p.m. Frank Runyan presenting "The Letter of James"

For regular Saturday evening worshippers, those who cannot make the trip to Jester Park on Sunday, and those simply wanting an additional and totally unique worship experience, television actor and life-long Lutheran, Frank Runyan, will be bringing his live performance of "The Letter of St. James" to St. John's. This epistle, that we have been hearing as our second reading this fall, is full of advice to a young church trying to figure out what being followers of Christ in a hostile world would look like. Frank brought his spellbinding, one-man presentation of the gospel of Mark, "Afraid," to St. John's over a decade ago, and it was a revelation! This is presentation is sure to inspire as well.

### Sunday, October 11, 10:30 a.m. Service off-site at Jester Park Lodge

This Sunday will be our fourth annual Jester Park "Oktoberfest" and Creation Worship service. The beautiful lodge with its imposing, stone fireplace, open-beam ceiling, and panoramic windows facing the lake is

an appropriate setting to be reminded of God's priceless gifts to us, no less in creation than in the fellowship we share in this body called Christ's Church. The liturgy will be Marty Haugen's "Now the Feast," and the accompaniment will be by St. John's Chamber orchestra. Bible readings and songs will relate to creation themes. Check elsewhere in this Eagle Call or the St. John's website for more details of the morning including children's activities, adult Christian education, the meal, and entertainment plus directions and where to find a map.

### Sunday, October 18 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 29

Our guest preacher for the weekend will be Pastor Mshana from the Pare Diocese of Tanzania. Our hymns and choral music will reflect the international, especially African, theme. The assembly songs will be ELW 819, "Come, All You People," ELW 708, "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love," and ELW 538, "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth." The choral selections will be presented by Cantorei at 8:45 a.m. and Cathedral Choir at 11:00 a.m. Offering, "Nimemwona Bwana," Tanzanian, arr. Mark Sedio, and for communion, "Tulinavu," Trad. Kihehe, arr. Mark Sedio, and "Heri Ni Jina," Deogratias Mahamba, ed. Mark Sedio

### Sunday, October 25 Reformation Sunday

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ-the good news-that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians will also be one at the Lord's table.

The readings are 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; and John 8:31-36. The assembly song will be ELW 504, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," ELW 654, "The Church's One Foundation," and ELW 729, "The Church of Christ, in Every Age." At 8:45 a.m. the offering music will be by the Kisasa Choristers, and Cantorei will sing the South African freedom song "O Freedom." Cathedral Choir will sing at 11:00 a.m.



## 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 & brothers in need with "faith active in love."**

**THANK YOU for continuing to make hospice kits for shipment to dispensaries & hospitals in our companion synod, the Pare Diocese, in northern Tanzania. Our goal is 300 hospice kits by the end of 2009 – and we are over half-way to that goal! Please remain faithful in this effort. The kits are distributed to trained home health-care workers in their ministry to those who are terminally ill.**

**THANK YOU for providing lunch at the Connection Café with 24 hours notice on Monday, September 21.** When a group that is signed up to serve suddenly cancels, Café Coordinator Rob Hoover knows that he can count on St. John's to step into the gap! Please also remember that our financial goal of support for the Café is \$10,000 for 2009. Your gifts are needed & appreciated.

**THANK YOU for continued contributions to the Good Samaritan Fund.** Our ministry to those who find themselves in need of the basic necessities of life – food, housing, electricity, transportation – continues on a daily basis. Our pastors always meet with those seeking assistance to determine if our resources can be used to help meet the need.

**THANK YOU for your dedication to serving evening meals at Central Iowa Shelter & Services every month.** Contributions of food and time can be noted on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Joining the "shelter crew" is a great way to meet new friends from St. John's!

**THANK YOU for supporting our friends who grow fairly-traded coffee, tea, and other products always available in the narthex.** Every time you purchase one of these products you make a positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities around the globe!

### Menu's for Beloved Community for October.

Join us for a fun filled evening on Wednesdays starting at 5:30 p.m.

- Oct. 7 Potluck Wednesday, Ham Slices
- Oct. 14 The famous Mac & Cheese
- Oct. 21 Firehouse Meatloaf
- Oct. 28 Sub Sandwiches

## What's Next?

### A conversation about the ELCA 2009 Church-wide Assembly

At the ELCA Church-wide Assembly in July, voting members acted on a number of issues and initiatives. Those receiving the most "press" are the Social Statement on Human Sexuality, adopted by a two-thirds majority of the assembly, and the Recommendations on Ministry Policies that will allow congregations, who wish to do so, the freedom to support same-sex couples in lifelong, monogamous relationships and the freedom to call homosexual people who are in such relationships, or hope to be, as pastors. The Assembly's action has proved controversial, to say the least. Come to a conversation about the Assembly and the next steps for the ELCA on Tuesday evening, October 13, 7:00 p.m. in Neumann Hall. Pastor Mithelman will be joined by St. John's members Jennifer Early and Larry Christensen, both of whom served as voting members of the assembly, as well as a representative from the SE Iowa Synod office (yet to be confirmed.)

## Communion Service



Special Communion Service: October 4, 2009, 3:00 p.m. to be held in the sanctuary with reception following in Neuman. This service and the reception are open to the entire congregation. Members who are not able to attend regularly

are especially encouraged to come. Please join your friends for a special time of worship and fellowship. Call the church office at 243-7691 if you require transportation to this event. Extra hands are needed to provide assistance for our members with mobility issues. We like to send homemade cookies with them as a treat so donations are appreciated.



## Small Groups

Questions? Contact Darla Stiles, Small Groups Coordinator  
243.7691 or [darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org)

### CALENDAR

#### **NEW Reading Group,**

organizing on Sunday, October 4, 10:00 a.m. in Neumann

#### **In the Word—Marker Group**

Tuesdays, October 13 and 27 at 7:00 p.m.

#### **In the Word—3100 Grand Group**

Mondays, October 5 and 19 at 1:00 p.m.

#### **In the Word—Saturday AM Bible Study**

Saturdays, October 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 at 8:30 a.m. at Caribou Coffee on Ingersoll.

**3D**, Wednesdays, October 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Gardening**

Watch the bulletin for details for the September meeting.

#### **Lunch Bunch II**

Will meet Wednesday, October 21 11:30 a.m.

#### **Lunch Bunch I**

Will meet Thursday, October 15, 11:30 a.m.

#### **Couples Club**

Will meet Sunday October 25th at 4:00 p.m. to Ed and Mary Slattery's house

#### **Prayer Shawl**

Monday, October 19, 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge.

#### **Prayer Shawl**

Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge.

#### **Recreational Book Club**

Wednesday, October 28, 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm

#### **Digital Photography**

Sunday, October 25, 10:00 a.m. in Rose Holm

#### **EAGLES**

Thursday, October 15, meet at church at 8:00 a.m. to leave for an overnight trip to Galena

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

### More information on upcoming events

**NEW READING GROUP starting Sunday, October 4!** A new reading group is starting! Thomas L. Friedman's 2005 book, "The World is Flat", was a best seller. He has published (2008) a new book "Hot, Flat, and Crowded," with a subtitle "Why we Need a Green Revolution and How It Can Renew America." How about getting together to read and discuss this book, and then moving on in the future to read and discuss other books on the environment, or politics, or history, or religion, or whatever we choose? Come to an organizational meeting on Sunday, October 4, at 10:00 a.m. in Neumann to decide what day and time is best for the group to meet.

**Octoberfest Worship and Dinner:** Plan on joining the St. John's congregation in the beautiful park setting of Jester Park Lodge on **Sunday, October 11.** The Saturday evening service and the Sunday 7:45 a.m. service will be held at St. John's as usual. However, the 8:45 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. services will be combined into one inspirational service at Jester Park Lodge. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m. on the back deck of the lodge. Worship will be held at 10:30 a.m. inside the lodge. After worship, dinner will be provided (with free-will offering) and you will enjoy jazz pianist, Sam Soloman, while you eat. This is our 4th year at Jester Park Lodge and it's wonderfully inspirational setting and service. Make plans to enjoy it with us.

**EAGLES** will leave Thursday, October 15 at 8:00 am from church to travel to Galena, IL for an overnight stay. The group will enjoy lunch at the Courtyard, DeSoto House, and visit The Belvedere, Dowling House, President Ulysses S. Grant's Home, shop the quaint shops or tour the Old Blacksmith Shop and Galena Museum, and will tour Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture. Call or e-mail David Stewart, 265-6897, [stewjd428@yahoo.com](mailto:stewjd428@yahoo.com) with questions.

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**Digital Photography** will meet the 4th Sunday, October 25, in Rose Holm (Neumann is taken.) Bring a couple of pictures to share with the group. Anyone interested in digital photography is welcome to join the group.

**Recreational Reading** will meet Wednesday, October 28, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm. The book to discuss is Reading Lolita in Tehran by Azar Nafisi.

**Scrapbooking** will meet on Saturday, October 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Room 8. Anyone is welcome to join the group. Bring your pictures and materials and enjoy the fellowship of other scrapbookers as you set aside this time to get some things organized and accomplished.

**Prayer Shawl Gatherings:** These two groups continue to knit and crochet shawls to give to those going through difficult times. Join them on Monday, October 19, at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge and/or Tuesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. Bring your knitting needle/crochet hook and yarn, 3 skeins (preferably Homespun, any color). Questions, contact Darla Stiles, 243-7691 or darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org

**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 for our 145th Anniversary edition. Even if you had your picture taken for the last directory, we would 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 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Notice some dates are around the Thanksgiving holiday for families who have college students home. Sign-ups will begin online around October 6 and in the lounge around services beginning October 18.

### 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.

## Midweek Music

### Dynamic Lineup for October Midweek Music

Are you looking for something "a little different" in the middle of your work week? Do you relish a delightful surprise or a change of pace from time to time? Well, take a look that the lineup for Midweek Music at St. John's this October!

**October 7** - Aaron Powell, classical guitarist

**October 14** - Mary McAdams, folk singer/  
songwriter

**October 21** - Roxi Copland, jazz singer/  
pianist

**October 28** - Ray Songayllo, pianist

Aaron Powell teaches classical guitar at area colleges and is also the music director at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church; Mary McAdams just had a rockin' CD release party at the Temple for the Performing Arts on September 18; Roxi Copland is playing and singing jazz in all the best clubs in town when she isn't touring the Midwest; and Ray Songayllo may be familiar to our audience but deserves the fame he has garnered. Performances begin at 12:05 and last until 12:30 p.m, are free and open to the public. A lunch catered by "Tastebuds" of Urbandale will be available for only \$6 in Weertz Hall following the music.

## Help Wanted

**Tutors are needed for the assistance we offer on Wednesday evenings (6:30-7:30) for the kids from Oakridge Neighborhood Services.** The kids bring work to do, so there is no preparation involved. All you need is a desire to make a connection with an elementary aged child once a week!!! If interested, please contact Sheryl Reed 243-7691 ext. 193 or [sherylreed@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:sherylreed@stjohnsdsm.org).

**ASAP, the After School Arts Program, kicks off the fall session on October 22 and runs through December 3.** Volunteers are needed to assist the lead artists in the studios, to prepare snacks, to ride the bus, to lead opening activities, and to host a quiet corner. Please contact Michelle Bolton-King to volunteer: [mboltonking@mchsi.com](mailto:mboltonking@mchsi.com) or 770-3380. Thank you!



## Children's Ministries

October 4 -- **Kids and families** are invited to a Global Mission Program in room 208 at 10:00 a.m. You'll get a chance to see some African attire, bags, and baskets. We'll talk about Sunday School in Africa and hear about the reaction of our sister parish when they received money from the children of St. John's for a CD player and a sewing machine. All are welcomed!!!!

October 11— A multi-age Sunday School session will be offered at 9:30 a.m. Meet on the **balcony** of the **JESTER PARK LODGE**.

October 18 — Joseph's dreams (Genesis 37:1-11)  
Big Idea-- God knows we can do great things.  
Faith Trait—Wisdom

October 25 — Pharaoh's dreams (Genesis 41: 1-36)  
Big Idea-- God created enough for everyone.  
Faith Trait— Stewardship

**Please pick up a Sunday School informational packet located on the table by the chapel.**

### **St. John's Sunday School Goes Fishing for the Hungry**

Jesus has commanded us to feed the hungry. In the spirit of the Bible story of Jesus' miracle of feeding the crowd of 5000 with five loaves and two fish, the Sunday School classes will be challenged to perform our own miracle by bringing fish (cans of tuna or salmon) to give to the Food Pantry. From now until Thanksgiving, let's all bring as many cans of fish as we can. Let's try to collect 100 cans of fish to feed the hungry!!! Bring your cans to your Sunday School room and we'll see if we can fill up our fish aquarium on the table by the chapel. Invite everyone you know to be part of our miracle!!!

### **Growing in Faith at Home**

This month in Sunday School we will discuss the Bible story from Genesis 37:1-11 (Joseph's Dreams). Joseph was bold in telling his family about his two dreams. Joseph's dreams were from God. Just as in the story, we don't always know what effect it will have on others when we share about God or something God has revealed to us. What dreams have you had that your child would like to hear about? Discuss with your child how God wants us to be faithful. We leave the results in God's hands.

**Second and Fourth Grade Sunday School teachers and/or helpers are needed for second semester.** Could you commit one Sunday a month (January to April)? Contact Sheryl Reed 243-7691 ext. 193 for more information.

## Youth Ministries

### **Middle School:**

Confirmation is off and running! Thanks to all the kids for being so great and to the adults who volunteered to help out! I am really excited to see what this year holds!

Remember...

**Confirmation Class** is every Wednesday night from 6:30-7:45 p.m. in the Multi Purpose Room.

#### **Confirmation Schedule for October:**

- 10.7.09: The Wilderness Temptations
- 10.14.09: Jesus' Nazareth Sermon
- 10.21.09: Jesus Calls the First Disciples
- 10.28.09: Halloween Party (Come dressed in your favorite costume!)

**Breakfast Club** is for all 7th and 8th graders every Sunday morning from 9:55-10:55 a.m. in room 307. Come hungry because there will be breakfast-- of course!!!

#### **Breakfast Club Schedule for October:**

- 10.4.09: Participate in a discussion about Mramba Parish in Tanzania
- 10.11.09: Jester Park Service (no Breakfast Club)
- 10.18.09: Fall Confirmation Retreat @ Y-Camp in Boone
- 10.25.09: Serving Confirmation Reception in Neumann

### **ATTENTION 6th GRADERS THIS INVOLVES YOU TOO!!!!**

**Do you go to Des Moines Public Schools and get out early on certain Wednesdays?**

If so, come to church for pizza, candy, and fun activities! This is for **6th-8th grade students!** If you need a ride, please call or email Megan!!! Come after school gets out and hang out until Beloved Community begins!!

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**Schedule for Early Out Activities:**

- Wednesday, October 14, 2009
- Wednesday, November 11, 2009
- Wednesday, December 2, 2009

**Don't Forget!** A \$60 deposit is due to Megan by **Wednesday, October 7th** if you want to go on the summer service trip to Duluth, Minn!!! The dates for the trip are July 17-23, 2010!

**Reminder:** Turn in your registrations and \$60 for the Fall Retreat @ the Y-Camp in Boone on October 16-18, 2009! You won't want to miss out on this fun event! We will be learning all about different countries around the world!!!

**High School:**

**J.I.F. – Journeys in Faith** is held every Wednesday night from 7:45-9 p.m. in DDI (on the 3rd floor). J.I.F. is open to all high school students!

**J.I.F. Schedule for October:**

- 10. 7.09: "Saved by Grace...Isn't That Too Good to Be True?" Discuss Romans 5:1-11
- 10.14.09: Prayer Stations - Multi Purpose Room
- 10.21.09: Games/Service Project
- 10.28.09: Cook and Serve Beloved Community meal...be here around 4:30-5 p.m. Speaker (TBD)

**Family Dinners!!!** This is new this year. Once a month (usually the last Sunday of the month) we will meet at someone's house for dinner and fellowship from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The schedule for the rest of 2009 is:  
Sunday, October 25, 2009: Arian Vinca's House  
Sunday, November 30, 2009: Kyle Simpson's house  
Sunday, December 20, 2009: Megan Clausen's house (Christmas Party)

**Spring Break '10!!!** Please let Megan know ASAP if you are interested in the Spring Break Service Trip to Denver, Colorado!!!

**Don't Forget!** A \$60 deposit is due to Megan by **Wednesday, October 7th** if you want to go on the summer service trip to **Chicago, Ill!!!** The dates for the trip are July 29-August 6, 2010!

## Music Opportunities



Our hand bell choir, "Bell Canto," is in need of a few more ringers. Previous ringing experience is optional, but some experience reading music and ability to keep a beat and feel a rhythm is pretty important. The group rehearses on Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

"Joyful Noise," our entry-level musical experience for kindergarten through 2nd grade children is on hold for now as we continue to search for a director/leader. This is a key, foundational piece of the graded choir program at St. John's, so it is vitally important that we fill this position soon. If you have a love for young children and find joy in music, this could be the place where "your passion meets the world's need."

Contact Larry Christensen, Director of Music, Worship, and the Arts, if either of these opportunities interests you.

## Fields of Hope



Fields of Hope the local growing project for the Foods Resource Bank, should produce a good crop of corn for this year's harvest. This

world hunger effort will be celebrated with a harvest gathering that is being planned for Saturday, October 17 at the field near Polk City. If the weather is good and the corn dry enough, combine rides will be part of the program. All the proceeds of the crop sale and cash gifts will be designated for a Guatemalan food security effort. Lutheran World Relief is a lead participant in this program to assist the indigenous population to grow and market fresh vegetables on the mountainous terrain.

If you want more information about the project or the festival or wish to send a contribution, please contact Bob /Jean Williams at 277-9120 or rwilli1195@aol.com.



## Hospitality & Outreach

What a beautiful time of year! We are invigorated by the crispness in the air and the captured by the splendor of nature as it prepares to sleep.

But, while nature winds down, we rev up as a new liturgical year approaches. I started my new position in mid-July. St. John's was relatively quiet. Staff members took vacation time and I started to learn the ropes. At the beginning of September, there was a palpable feeling in the church; an anticipation, a vibrancy, a hum of activity. Folks – members and staff – would be coming back!

Beloved Community has launched anew, as well as activities for youth, musicians, children and adults. Something for everyone.

And, with that being said, I want to emphasize that there is something for everyone in terms of volunteer opportunities. We need your involvement. From serving meals to homeless, ministering to those who are ill, helping with clerical duties at the church, answering phones...the list is endless. Your gift of time can be direct contact with people, it can also be in a quiet corner working on a mailing, or a myriad of activities in between.

We have all been blessed with God-given gifts; one gift is not more important than another. God gave them to us for a reason. We are the caretakers of those gifts and are obliged to use them. They are all a vital contribution to the health of a church community.

I have been, and will be, making contacts to ask people to help. Feel free to say "no" if the timing isn't good, but please consider "yes" when you can. I won't take offense if you can't help, if you won't take offense at my continued asking. Better yet, beat the rush and contact me first!

### **St. John's community needs you.**

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

## Artist of the Month



Chris Vance, a Des Moines native and graduate of ISU, is our October Artist of the Month. Chris' work covers a broad range of style, technique, shape, size, and price. He has been invited to show in the Des Moines Arts Festival in both the Painting and 2-D Mixed Media categories. His 2-D mixed media pieces consist of acrylics on found wood, incorporating characteristics of the found piece. And his paintings are just as diverse, in an array of colors, themes, and shapes.

## Couples Plus Event

Come on Sunday October 25th at 4:00 p.m. to Ed and Mary Slattery's house for a journey to the Antarctic with Wes and Karen Ritchie. This will be a potluck event so bring a salad, vegetable, or main dish and beverage of choice. The dessert for the evening will be provided by Mary. The Slattery's live at 3827 Amick Ave. in Beaverdale. Please RSVP by October 18th to 254-1750 or [marywslatt@gmail.com](mailto:marywslatt@gmail.com). All couples and singles are welcome here!!

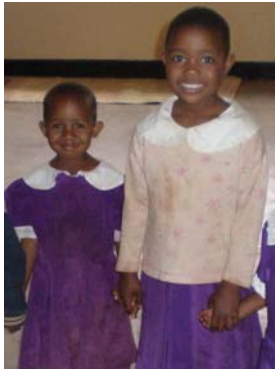
### **Did you know?**

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.



# Stray Thoughts of TZ '09

by Diann Mackey



Not being world travelers my husband and I had some reservations about traveling so far from home and here is what we learned.

- 1. Toilet paper – never leave home without it.
- 2. Awe inspiring – the first time you see the peak of Kilimanjaro at sunset. Magnificent.
- 3. WOW – an echo game played with children down the

hill, whom you can't see, while on the campgrounds of the Kahawa Shamba (Coffee Farm) at Kilimanjaro. Sometimes it became wow – wow, or wow-wow-wow. Then a lot of giggling.

- 4. Breathtaking – surrounded by huge herds of zebra, water buffalo or wildebeest.
- 5. Wild Kingdom moment – a male elephant take a dislike to your taking his picture and expressing his displeasure to you by ear flapping and a low growling.
- 6. Bumpy roads – takes on a whole new meaning on the mountain roads.
- 7. Life altering – coming up the road to Mramba to hear singing coming from the distance, in your honor. And not wanting to leave when it is time to go.
- 8. Love and acceptance – have strangers take you into their homes and give you more than what they would ever use for themselves and are happy to do it.
- 9. Generosity – Americans have no concept of this word compared to the people of Mramba. Total, complete and overwhelming.
- 10. The 3 F's – faith, family and friends. What I saw as the priorities of the people of Mramba.
- 11. Chicken – prefer not to eat it for a while.
- 12. Coffee – oh my goodness! Best coffee you will ever drink.
- 13. Stickers given out at a primary school can create a mob scene.
- 14. Banana soup – you will never taste anything as good as this.
- 15. Spending 3 hours in church on Sunday that went by in a flash and having 4 collections during that service.
- 16. Learning how to eat raw sugar cane.
- 17. How not very far can be misleading. From point A to point B not far, until you realize the up and down trail

between two points.

18. Finally, coming as strangers and leaving as family.

Pastor Rachel said this trip would be life altering and I could not imagine how. I understand it completely now. The people of Mramba were the happiest people I have ever met. They were happy to meet us, to have us stay in their homes, to go to the school to see the children, to meet all their extended family and to give their homes over to complete strangers, no questions asked. It was very interesting to see the world through their eyes. God is the most important thing in their lives and it shows. Amani na penda. (Peace and love).

## Photos of the Month



**Left:**  
An evening to remember at the "Roaring 20s" Arts at St. John's Kickoff Event.



**Bottom:**  
Playing through at the Couples Plus Event in September.

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## **DON'T MISS THE TZ09 AUCTION! October 19, 10:00 a.m., Weertz Hall**

In the Mramba Parish, our companion congregation in Tanzania, the last of 3 (or 4!) Sunday offerings is an auction! Those who have already given financial gifts in the first offerings, as well as those who have no financial resources, bring items to be sold at the end of the worship service. In Mramba, the auction may include sugar cane, eggs, ground nuts, fabric, bananas, papaya, and firewood! At St. John's, the auction may include art work, a week at the lake cabin, musical performances, quilts, baked goods, concert tickets, legal counsel...The sky is the limit!

On Sunday, October 19th, we will have a Mramba-style auction to raise funds for the Mramba Parish and neighboring Gonja Hospital!

Start preparing your "offering" for the auction now!

Questions? Contact Pastor Mithelman or any of our members who have traveled to Mramba!

## **NOVEMBER EAGLE CALL DEADLINE**

The deadline for all November Eagle Call information is Monday, October 19, 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!