



St. John's Lutheran Church

# The EAGLE CALL

Volume 41, Number 12  
December, 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

## Pastors

**Rachel Thorson Mithelman**  
Senior Pastor  
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**Ramon Runkel**  
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## Website

www.stjohnsdsm.org

## Christmas at St. John's

### **Christmas Eve Services**

On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of the light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and Paul reminds us that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world, we at St. John's proclaim with the angels and all of creation that the prince of peace is born among us.

### **5:00 p.m. Children's Service**

This service is planned specifically for the little ones' bed times and attention spans. Only about 45 minutes in length, this service features very familiar carols and a dramatic re-enactment of the nativity story – complete with a live baby Jesus! Our Kisasa Choristers provide the choral music. "O Come, Little Children."

### **8:30 p.m. Candlelight Communion Service**

This service, perhaps, most clearly embodies the "incarnation." God come to us in human flesh – in Christ's body and blood – so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world. We receive that sacrament at this service within a cradle of Biblical narrative, Christmas hymns and carols, rich music by brass and organ, and the soft glow of candlelight. Pre-service music – brass, organ, and solo voice – begins at 8:00 p.m.. "O Taste and See How Gracious the Lord Is"

### **11:00 p.m. Candlelight Carol Service**

Music and the Word – in scripture and preaching – are the means of grace at this service. The St. John's Cathedral Choir, accompanied by strings, winds, and organ, wrap this service in a lyric quilt much as the lights on the trees surround us as if by stars. Pre-service music – strings, winds, organ and solo voices – begins at 10:30 p.m. "O Come, Let Us Adore Him, Christ the Lord."

### **10:00 a.m. Christmas Day**

Even Mary and Joseph had a "morning after" - the angels had returned to heaven and shepherds went back to their flocks. But the baby Jesus was still with them as he remains always with us. This Christmas morning communion service is as simple as it is profound. We gather for word and sacrament, and the tunes of the liturgy are all familiar hymns and carols. "God with us, Emmanuel."

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

Monday – Friday

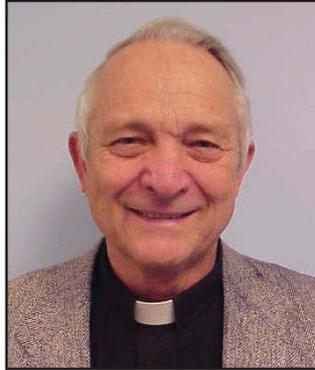
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

**Next Eagle Call Deadline**

**December 16 at 12 pm**



**A Word from Our Pastors**

**Pastor Ray Runkel**

**Lay Communion Visitors, Beautiful Feet and Good News**

How does the message and mission of the church go on? It is through people as they live and share the faith and life, so each generation **MUST** pass it on to the next.

The apostle Paul in Romans 10:9-17 says:

“Because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. The scripture says, ‘No one who believes in Him will be put to shame.’ For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on Him. For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim Him? And how are they to proclaim Him unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’ But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our message?’ So, faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the **WORD OF CHRIST.**”

The word of Christ is expressed and shared in so many ways: through acts of care and love as we gather in worship, as we study and learn and share with a world and people around us. Jesus did offer many ways to do this: love your neighbor as yourself; go, make disciples, teach, baptize; “take and eat, take and drink; this is my body, this is my blood.” The examples go on and on.

Our lay communion visitors are lay people who take Holy Communion out to our homebound and I would say they are the people who share the “good news” or as St. Paul put it, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news.” They are folks who like Isaiah, when he heard the need, responded, “Here am I, send me!” (Isaiah 6:8)

Yes, we still need lay communion visitors to add to the shut-ins program that Pastor Lyle Peters began several years ago and one in which both the visitor and the shut-in have been blessed.

God's blessing and peace to you during the Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas seasons.

Pastor Ramon Runkel

P.S. If you are interested in being a lay communion visitor or have questions, contact one of the pastors or Jean McKinney.



## You're Invited



**You're Invited to The Children's Advent Program on Sunday, December 13.** Do you know the song, "I Love to Tell the Story...of Jesus and His Love?" In Advent we hear the wonderful stories that happened just before Jesus was born. Please join the Sunday School Classes for a Children's Advent Program on Sunday, December 13

at 10:00 in the sanctuary as they share Advent songs, Bible readings, reflections, and prayers.

## Notes from Health Ministry

According to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons over 47,000 accidents happen yearly due to improper use of canes and walkers – the very things that should be there to help to compensate for some weakness in legs. So, if you are borrowing a cane or walker from our loan closet – be sure that you pick up a copy of the correct use of a cane or walker from whoever is helping you when you fill out the sign-out sheet or have had proper instruction from a physician or therapist. If you have any questions, please contact Jean McKinney (Parish Nurse) at 243-7691. Keep safe.

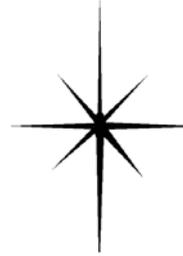
## Stephen Ministry



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. 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.

## Holy Waiting



An evening of ritual and renewal around a lighted labyrinth, for women of all ages Thursday, December 3, 2009 7:00 – 8:30. St. John's Fireside Lounge Balance busy holiday preparations with a deep breath and gentle step into the blessings of waiting this Advent Season

There will be time and space for prayer, meditation and quiet reflection, as well as the opportunity to walk the St. John's labyrinth. Nursery Care will be provided. For more information contact: Linda Christensen, kinderlinder@msn.com.

## 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.

### 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.



## Prepare for Worship

### Sunday, December 6 Second Sunday of Advent

*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the Baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of this day, Malachi's prophesy could as easily herald the coming Lord Jesus as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of the Lord and assist all flesh in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God." On December 6 we commemorate Nicholas, Bishop of Myra.*

The readings are Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79, "Zechariah's Song," Philippians 1:3-11, and Luke 3:1-6. The gathering song for the Advent Candle lighting ritual for the whole season will be "A Flickering Candle," by Stephen P. Folkemer with text by Mark W. Oldenburg. The other hymns will be ELW 254, "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" and ELW 239, "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

At 8:45, the offering music will be Eric Horak-Hult, singing "But Who May Abide?" from Handel's Messiah. For communion the Kisasa Choristers and Cantorei will sing "Come Now, Savior of the Nations" by Michael Burkhardt. Offering music for 11:00 will be Paul Stageberg singing "Every Valley," also from Messiah. During communion Cathedral Choir will sing "Gift of God," by Marty Haugen. This piece, like "A Flickering Candle," is intended to be sung throughout Advent with different verses for each week

### Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

*The presence of the Lord "in your midst" in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of the one "more powerful" than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news – and cause for exultation – for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday the church commemorates Lucy, martyr, whose celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway.*

The readings for Advent III are Zephaniah 3:14-20, Isaiah 12:2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, and Luke 3:7-18. The gathering song will again be "A Flickering Candle," and the other hymns are ELW 241, "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You," and ELW 242, "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn." At the 11:00 a.m. service our St. John's Chamber Orchestra and Cathedral Choir will weave the cantata "Good Christian Friends, with Joy Draw Near," by Dietrich Buxtehude throughout the liturgy. There will be laying on of hands and anointing with oil for healing at all services this weekend.

### Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion – with high delight – "we proclaim the Lord's death." This day the church commemorates Katharina von Bora Luther, wife of Martin Luther and renewer of the church.*

The readings are Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55, Mary's "Magnificat," Hebrews 10:5-10, and Luke 1:39-55.

In addition to "A Flickering Candle," the hymns will be ELW 258, "Unexpected and Mysterious" and ELW 257, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." At 8:45 Cantorei will sing "Mary Said Yes," by Russell Schulz-Widmar for offering. At 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing "Ave Maria" by Javier Busto for offering. "Gift of God," by Marty Haugen, will be the music under communion at both 8:45 and 11:00.

### Sunday, December 27 First Sunday of Christmas

*On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God "to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God," who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts." It is Christmas, still.*



The readings are 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26, Psalm 148, Colossians 3:12-17, and Luke 2:41-52. The hymns will be ELW 269, "Once in Royal David's City," ELW 299, and ELW 288, "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice."

During offering and communion at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. pick-up choirs of willing volunteers and people home for the Christmas holiday will sing ELW 293, "The Boy-Child of Mary" and ELW 297, "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child."

Colossians 3:12-17, and Luke 2:41-52. The hymns will be ELW 269, "Once in Royal David's City," ELW 299, and ELW 288, "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice."

During offering and communion at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. pick up choirs of willing volunteers and people home for the Christmas holiday will sing ELW 293, "The Boy-Child of Mary" and ELW 297, "Jesus, What a Wonderful Child."

## New Christmas Trees for the Sanctuary



This year St. John's will have two new Christmas trees on display in the sanctuary. A decision was made to replace the old trees because, due to their age, they posed a safety hazard to install and decorate. A committee of church members was involved in the selection of the trees which were purchased locally. Donations for the cost of the trees were made by the Michelson family and St. John's Altar Guild. Fabric for the tree skirts was purchased by Jean LemMon in honor of her family. The tree skirts were constructed by Janet Witte.

A special thank you to those who helped with the delivery of the trees to the church, Lu Saf, Gary Marker, Les Moeller, Kermit Hyler.

As members of St John's, please offer your help with set-up and decorating of the trees on Wednesday's after the Beloved Community meals. The trees will be set up on December 2nd and decorated with crismons on December 16th. Enjoy this special season of hope.

## WELCA Updates



### Cookie Walk and Silent Auction December 12 and 13

A bucket of cookies is \$12.00. The second Sunday in December is WELCA's Annual Cookie Walk and Silent Auction. A good old fashioned bake sale with Christmas cookies the center of attraction will be available. Remember to bring your red buckets (we will also have some for sale for \$1.50). Bring any kind of cookies (decorated Christmas cookies are best), candy, cake, breads, etc, to the Church on Saturday, December 12, between 9:00 and noon for the Cookie Walk.

If you have an item for the Silent Auction, call Lou Johnston at 287-2424 and she will advise you as to the items we want to auction.

### Group Meetings for Women of the ELCA

**Lois Group** will meet in Neuman on December 3, at 12:30 p.m. Virginia Deuben will be reading the Christmas Story and we will have Bible study. Please bring toys and small mothers gifts.

**Sarah Group** will meet at Marlene Fardal's home at 9:30 a.m. December 3. Please bring toys and small mothers' gifts, also cookies for shut-ins.

### St. John's Coasters On Sale

Perfect for Christmas stocking stuffers or hostess gifts---WELCA's coasters are on sale each Sunday in the lounge area and/or in Weertz. Each coaster features a beautiful color image of a favorite area of our church as captured by our own talented photographers: Les Moeller, Margaret Townsend and Jacque Warming.

Price is \$10 for the set of four boxed coasters created in celebration of our upcoming 145th Anniversary. For information or phone orders call Janie Clemenson, 274-0942.



## Small Groups

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

### CALENDAR

#### Restaurant Visitation (Christian Involvement Team)

Tuesday, December 1, Bonefish, 6:00 p.m.

#### The Readers Club, a NEW Reading Group

Wednesday, December 2, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. in Neumann

#### In the Word—Saturday am Bible Study

Saturdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 8:30 a.m.  
at Caribou Coffee on Ingersoll

#### 3D (Diet, Discipline, and Discipleship)

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16 at 10:00 a.m.

#### Scrapbooking

Saturday, December 5, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Room 8

#### Couples Club

Sunday, December 13, at Jacque and Richard Warmings

#### Lunch Bunch II

Wednesday, December 16, 11:30 a.m.

#### Recreational Book Club

Wednesday, December 16, 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm

#### Lunch Bunch I

Thursday, December 17, 11:30 a.m.

#### In the Word—Marker Group

Call Delaine Marker for more information, 285-2605.

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

### More information on upcoming events

**In the Word—Marker Group:** This group is re-organizing and plans to meet informally in coffee shops to discuss scripture/devotions and enjoy fellowship. Call Delaine Marker, 285-2605, for more information. The group would like more to join them!

**Recreational Reading** will meet Wednesday, December 16, at 4:30 pm in Rose Holm. The book to discuss is Housekeeping by Marilynne Robinson.



#### Pictorial Directory

There is one week left for photos for the Pictorial Directory (December 2 through 6). If you have not already scheduled an appointment or had to cancel an appointment, call Darla at church, 243-7691, to find a date and time to be photographed.

For questions concerning portrait orders, call Olan Mills Customer Service at 1-800-866-2263. Our church contract number is 45166.

**The Readers Club**, will meet on Wednesday, December 2, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. in Neumann to discuss the book *Hot, Flat, and Crowded*. Parts IV & V, (pp. 341 – 421). The group is open to anyone interested and hopes more will join them. You may email David Stewart at [stewjd428@yahoo.com](mailto:stewjd428@yahoo.com) if you have questions.

**Couples Club** will meet on Sunday, December 13, at Jacque and Richard Warming's house for dinner and service projects. Space is limited so reserve early. 225-7534 or [jrwarming@msn.com](mailto:jrwarming@msn.com)

**St. John's Job Networking Group:** Job hunting? Looking for a way to connect with others doing likewise? Join in some great fellowship and share ideas at the St. John's Job Networking Group. Next gathering: Monday, December 14, 5:30 p.m, Location: Home of Kathy Kahler, 4512 78th St, Urbandale, Contact/RSVP: Kathy (727-6182) or Ellen Fisher (Home 274-5236, email [ellenfisher123@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenfisher123@yahoo.com))



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

One of the ways that we “keep Christmas” at St. John’s is through the giving of gifts to people whom we may never meet but who are certainly our sisters and brothers in the household of God. Below are some opportunities to give a gift in Jesus’ name, not because we “have to,” but purely out of gratitude for the gift of Christ.

✦ **If you would like to donate the cost of a Christmas poinsettia to the Connection Café**, the free lunch program that we sponsor with the other downtown congregations, we will provide that option on the poinsettia order form (just as we did with Easter lilies last spring.) You may designate your gift to the Café in honor or memory of someone, and you will be acknowledged in the Christmas bulletins along with those who give poinsettias.

✦ **There will be a Christmas tree in the narthex on the first Sunday of December** trimmed with gift tags for people whom we serve throughout the year and want to remember at Christmas. There will be tags for:

1. homeless families who are sheltered through the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and
2. those who eat regularly at the Connection Café.

You may take as many tags as you like, purchase & wrap the gift, attach the tag to the outside of the gift, and return by December 20th.

✦ **And the two downtown elementary schools have asked for our help** in collecting children’s winter jackets, boots, hats, and mittens - in good condition - for students who are not properly clothed for the winter months. These items should be brought as soon as possible and placed in the big, red box in the narthex.

Thank you so very much!

*“And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans – and all that lives and moves upon them...and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused – and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself.”*  
Sigrid Undset

## A Beloved (Costumed) Community



Would you like to receive an electronic version of the Eagle Call? Email [businessoffice@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto: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**.



## Children's Ministries

**Sunday School in December!** Rehearsals for the Children's Advent Program will be used as a tool to help children learn about the Advent Season. They will learn that during Advent we light candles on an Advent wreath because candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. God came to us in Jesus like a beautiful light, filling our world with forgiveness and peace. As the light from our Advent wreath grows brighter week by week, we are reminded of God's gift of light, and we hear God asking us to reflect that light in our lives.

The Sunday School classes will learn the meaning behind some Advent hymns and songs. These hymns and songs along with Bible readings, reflections, and prayers will be shared at the Children's Advent Program on Sunday, December 13 at 10:00 in the sanctuary.

### **December Children's Ministries Schedule**

#### **Sunday, December 6**

##### *First-Sixth Grade*

Advent Program Rehearsal in ROOM 208

##### *Three year olds, Preschool, Kindergarten*

Classes will meet in their regular classrooms for the first part of the session. These classes will rehearse their songs for the Advent Program during the last part of the Sunday School session in the sanctuary. Parents will pick up their child in their Sunday School rooms at 10:55.

#### **SATURDAY, December 12 (9:00-11:00)**

Children's Advent Program Dress Rehearsal for 1st-6th Graders in Sanctuary.

#### **Sunday, December 13**

All Sunday School Classes meet at 9:30 in the chapel to warm up.

Children's Advent Program in Sanctuary at 10:00

A reception will follow the program in Weertz Fellowship Hall. Hot chocolate will be served.

#### **Sunday, December 20**

##### **in Neumann Hospitality Center**

Sharing God's Gifts...Come and make scripture based gifts for your family members. This event will be lead by the St. John's confirmation classes.

#### **Sunday, Decmeber 27— NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**

### **Donations needed for Children's Ministries**

Please drop off at front desk for Sheryl Reed  
hot chocolate mix (need lots-packets preferred)  
candy canes  
peppermint candies  
miniature chocolate chips  
WORKING FLASHLIGHTS



**An Epiphany "Follow the Star" Family Event will be held at 10:00 on Sunday, January 3.** Meet in the chapel to receive a *Magi Passport* and a *constellation map* that will lead you to the best gift of all!!! Your map will send you on a journey to

locations you might have never set foot -- like our church basement and a special Pastor's Office!!! On your journey, you'll participate in some activities that will help you learn more about the season of Epiphany.

**Epiphany is just around the corner.** We know the Wise Men knew that something amazing was happening. A king was being born. It was so important to them that they made a long journey to worship this new king of the Jews. To show reverence for Jesus, the Wise Men brought gifts to him. You are invited to share in showing this reverence by donating baby items to the Young Women's Resource Center (YWRC), an organization that supports, educates and is an advocate for young women as they experience life's challenges. Just drop baby items in the "**Treasures for Jesus**" box (with a big yellow star on it) located by the fireplace in the Fireside Lounge by Sunday, January 3. All items donated will be boxed and wrapped at the Epiphany "Follow the Star" Family Event on Sunday, January 3. So if you have leftover wrapping paper, you could drop that in the box as well!!!

### **These are the items most needed at the YWRC:**

- **Formula (anything with DHA or ARA on the label)**
- **Diapers: sizes newborn, 4, 5 and 6**
- **Pull-ups sizes 3, 4, 5 and 6**
- **Baby Powder**
- **Baby Lotion**
- **Baby Oil**
- **Baby Shampoo**
- **Nail Clippers**



## Youth Ministries

### Middle School Happenings for December

Wednesday, December 2nd: Early Out Activities @ St. John's for 6th – 8th grade students. Cost is \$5! Email Megan if you are interested!

Saturday, December 12th: Come help plan "Sharing God's Gift" (our event for the children of St. John's. This is a group service project for the Confirmation students. Be sure to reserve December 20th on your calendars so you can help with Sharing God's Gift! Email Megan with questions!

Confirmation Christmas Party - Wednesday, December 16th during Confirmation. Bring a snack to share! Bring **new** mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and blankets to donate to the Iowa Homeless Youth Shelter!

Summer Service Trip 2010 - Duluth, Minn  
Deposits (\$60) are DUE BY DECEMBER 13th if you want to be guaranteed a spot on the trip!

### High School Happenings

J.I.F. Christmas Celebration: Thursday, December 17th  
Come at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and fellowship. The party will be at Megan's house (662 86th Street, WDM). Bring **new** mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and blankets to donate to the Iowa Homeless Youth Shelter!

L.Y.O. Winter Gathering: January 8-10th in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. If you plan to participate in this activity please see Megan for a registration form. The cost will be \$75 plus the cost for some meals. Deadline for registration is December 9th!

Spring Break Service/Ski Trip  
to Denver, Colo - March 14-17  
We will be doing service, seeing the sights, and skiing/snowboarding. If you choose not to ski/snowboard there will shopping/sightseeing opportunities for you. If you decide to ski/snowboard plan to bring an extra \$75-\$100 to cover the costs. (These costs are subject to change.) If you would like to go on this trip please pay a \$100 non-refundable deposit to Megan by January 6th, 2010.

Summer Service Trip 2010- Chicago, Ill  
Deposits (\$60) are DUE BY DECEMBER 13th if you want to be guaranteed a spot on the trip!

## Midweek Music

Not only is the music great, the food is even better than before! Some of our St. John's members have been contributing the best soup recipes, assembling fresh sandwiches, and making casseroles. Linda Bets is making yummy desserts. People are noticing, and the number staying for lunch is up. So, if wonderful music in the middle of your week wasn't enough of a draw, now you have "new and improved lunches."

The performers for December are:

**December 2**, pianist Nicholas Roth, Drake University faculty

**December 9**, Iowa Youth Chorus, Kristen Stanton, Director

**December 16**, Principal Singers

**December 23**, A St. John's Christmas

The free, Wednesday, noon-time concerts all begin at 12:05 and end about 12:30. Lunch in Weertz Hall is only \$6. December 30 there is no Midweek Music.

## Thank you for Octoberfest

Our Octoberfest worship experience in the beautiful setting at Jester Park Lodge was truly inspirational. We were able to continue one of our fall traditions thanks once again to Jim Swanstrom's gift that provided our ability to rent the Lodge. The outing at the Lodge provides for a great worship environment and a "natural" place to meet and greet our St. John's family and friends. Thanks to everyone who made it happen by providing outstanding worship, music, meal, and help for setting up and cleaning up.





## Hospitality & Outreach



Ready, Set...Go!

In the month of November thoughts naturally turn to Thanksgiving, and you can almost hear the starting gun go off for the race to Christmas.

During this time, communities – civic and religious – are inundated with requests for assistance. Holiday dinners are prepared and served, food baskets are delivered to homes, children's toys and clothes are requested for those in need. Nursing homes have school choirs visiting, sometimes several times a week. Many people look for a way to assist those less fortunate. It is the time of year that people's outreach buttons get switched on; simply turn around and the opportunities to serve present themselves. Without much effort you can donate money, gifts and even your time.

Then, the calendar turns and January first stares back at you. After the holidays, many people are tired. The rush of the past few weeks comes to a screeching halt. You're back to work. Weather is unpredictable. Driving (and walking!) can be hazardous. Long weeks of cold and snow loom ahead and more than a few people hit the "winter blahs."

I have a suggestion to help you through this inevitable period of time. Consider giving yourself the gift of giving! Huge efforts are put forth to help people during the holiday season, and that's as it should be. But, guess what? The need continues after the holidays, too! And, as quickly as there were concerted offers to help, the help goes away. But the need doesn't.

Now, what I'm proposing is that you use your St. John's connection to find and fulfill a need that "trips your trigger" and offer your services. Because of St. John's downtown location and the many talented members of the congregation, we have more options for service than most. With your St. John's connection, you can: minister to the homebound and elderly; teach children and youth; assist with a wide variety of arts programs; participate in an extensive music program; prepare and/or serve meals for shelters; assist in office needs within

the parish; provide assistance or food for someone discharged from the hospital or a family with a new baby; give your knowledge and expertise to keep the physical structure solid and safe.

It is a given that financial support is needed and vital to keep the congregation strong and healthy. And, your physical presence is equally required. Studies have shown that people who are fully engaged in their churches find themselves more fulfilled. They feel part of a family. And everyone who serves will tell you that the ones who give are the ones that truly benefit. As St. Francis said, "It is in giving that we receive." It fills a deep need in your own soul.

Stewardship cards have been available a few weeks now. If you indicated interest in volunteer areas, you will be contacted soon. If you didn't really pay much attention to that part, it is never too late. You have gifts to offer. St. John's needs you. You know where to find me; I'll hook you up!

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  
243-7691 x.115 or [katietippins@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:katietippins@stjohnsdsm.org)



### Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree will be in the Lounge starting November 29 through January 3. Bring any size gloves, mittens, caps and scarves. They will be distributed to homeless shelters, schools and low income residents. Gloves in adult sizes are especially needed.



## Cover our Children



### 2nd Annual "Cover our Children" Holiday Giving Project

Have you ever bought new shoes for a child in August and by October they are too small? Have you saved a coat for a younger sibling, but when they grow into it, it's the wrong season? Have you ever found the cutest shoes/hat/gloves for your child, but when you get home your child hates it and only wears them a few times?

We would love to pass those new or slightly used items on to children in need. We are looking for coats, hats, mittens/gloves or shoes for school-aged students. There are many students right here in Des Moines in need. Let the Walnut Street PTA and School Nurse help you make a connection that will really matter this holiday season! Bring your donations to school November 18th through December 3rd and place them in the boxes provided. Thank you in advance for your generous donations for this program.

Anyone who would like to receive items to cover your children can come to the Walnut Street School on Monday December 7th. We will have a display set up and you may help yourself to outfit your child free of charge. If you can bring another parent that needs supplies or take items to them that would be greatly appreciated. Call Jean Smith at 242-8438 if you have questions.

### 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.

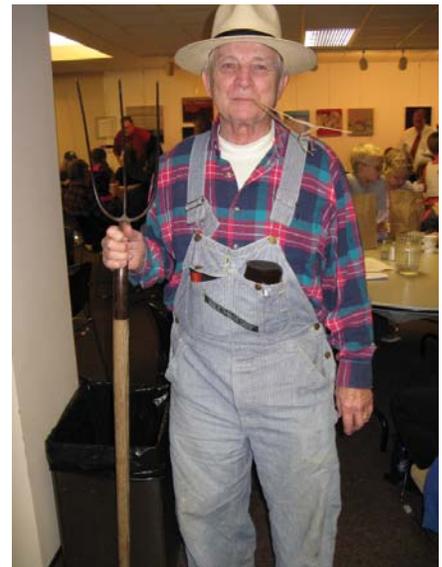
## Artist of the Month

The December Artist of the Month is Kevin House who currently works as a free-lance designer. Known for his digital collages, Kevin works toward a common goal of creating art that triggers memories and provokes contemplation. His works are rich with images of 19th Century woodcuts, photographs, Japanese paper and magazine cutouts.

## Photos of the Month



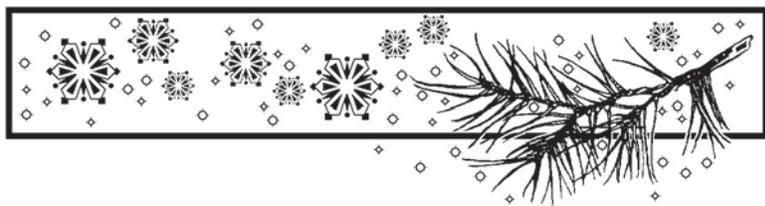
Pastor Bob and Pastor Ray both joined in on the fun at our Pre-Halloween Beloved Community. We'll let you decide which one didn't come in costume.



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ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS  
TO THE ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY. MAY  
YOU HAVE A BLESSED AND JOYFUL  
HOLIDAY SEASON.

PASTOR RACHEL, PASTOR BOB, PASTOR RAY,  
SCOTT, KATIE, LARRY, SHERYL, DARLA, SARAH,  
MEGAN, LES, CHIEU, TERESA, LAURA, KIM, JEAN B.,  
JOHN, ANDY, AMBER, AND JEAN M.



## DECEMBER EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all  
December Eagle  
Call information is  
**Wednesday, December  
16, 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!