



The EAGLE CALL

Volume 45, Number 04
April, 2013

Worship

Saturday
5:00 pm

Sunday
8:00 am
10:00 am

Radio Broadcast
KRNT 1350 AM
Sunday Mornings
8:30 am

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The Eagle Call is published monthly by St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA 600 6th Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1606.

Wellness Program to be Held April 20 at St. John's

Wellness is a positive approach to living – an approach that emphasizes the whole person. It is the integration of body, mind and spirit and the appreciation that everything you do, think, feel, and believe has an impact on your state of health.

The Health Ministry Team invites you to attend “Cultivating Health and Wellness” on Saturday, April 20, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Topics include:

Keynote Address:

- Making Sense of Life's Changes

Breakout sessions:

- Proactive parenting
- Cancer prevention
- Affects of addictions on families
- Causes of falls and imbalance

Child care will be available. The cost is \$10 per person payable to St. John's Lutheran Church (write Health Ministry on the notation line). You can register after church services in the Narthex or by calling the church or by going to the church website at www.stjohnsdsm.org. Registration deadline is April 18.



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In the City for Good!
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Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday
9:00 am – 5:00 p.m.,
4:00 p.m. Friday

Next Eagle Call Deadline
April 15 at 12 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

My dear friends,

My favorite Professor of Homiletics at Luther Seminary encouraged first-year preaching students to organize their sermons around three main points. “Three for the Trinity,” he would say. And although this is certainly not the only way to build a sermon, I find that it is still my standard, “go-to” form - but not for sermons only, but other documents

I am called upon to write, like this letter to you! So, friends, I have three things to touch on here, “three for the Trinity”...

- Judi Langholz and I recently returned from visiting St. John's companion parish, Mramba Lutheran Parish, in the Pare Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). I bring you hearty and loving greetings from Pastor Paul Kagu, the pastor-in-charge in Mramba, as well as the entire congregation and surrounding communities. We worshiped, prayed, ate, and laughed together for four wonderful days, and visited various projects that we have taken on as partners in ministry...The 50 members of the Most Vulnerable Children's Club are growing like weeds, and we were thrilled to learn that 4 of the students recently passed the exam for entrance into Secondary School! These four are still participating in the club on Saturdays, but will now need additional scholarship assistance for Secondary School fees, lunches, etc. I also had the privilege of cutting the ribbons on a new school room as well as a new set of latrines (!) at two local primary schools – projects to which St. John's contributed some start-up funds that the communities then “grew” through their own fundraising and volunteer labor!

After leaving Mramba, I was honored to meet our four Johanna Scholarship students at Usangi Leadership & Training College. What delightful, beautiful women! Two of them will graduate this summer, so we told the principal that we would gladly support two new incoming women students. (Thank you, women of St. John's and friends!) All in all, it was a wonderful trip, and our partners always invite more of you to come and visit. We're planning our next journey to TZ for the summer of 2014...

- As you may have noted in more recent issues of this newsletter, I will be taking a 2-month sabbatical this summer, May 6th through July 7th. **Thank you** for this opportunity to rest, study, pray and be renewed after 30 years of parish ministry! During my time away from St. John's, I will be participating in two continuing education events, taking some retreat time to read and pray, and spending time with my family – Christian in Sioux Falls, SD, and Connie in Atlanta, GA (and Jack, of course!) You will have some guest preachers during the two months I'm gone in order to ease the burden on Pastor Speirs, and Pastor Anderson will also be working an extra day per week during the month of May to help with hospital visits, etc.
- And, finally, because it will be the Easter season by the time you read this, I want to share two Easter season prayers with you from a new worship book I've been using, *Feasting on the Word – Worship Companion*, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long. I think that they are beautiful in their simplicity, and it is my hope that they will be helpful to you and your household in the season ahead...

Morning Prayer: *Lord Jesus Christ, as you met your disciples just after daybreak on the beach, meet us at the dawning of this new day. As you filled their nets with fish, fill our lives with love and grace, more than we can ask or imagine. In your holy name we pray. Amen.*

Evening Prayer: *Gracious God, we praise you for the blessing of this day and the promise of tomorrow. Be our helper as the night falls and our joy when the morning comes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Peace be with you, my friends!

In the City (and World) for Good!

Compassionate generosity is the foundation of true spiritual life... An act of generosity opens our body, heart and spirit and brings us closer to freedom. Each act of generosity is a recognition of our interdependence. ...Jack Kornfield

There are so many opportunities – here in the city, as well as around the world – for members and friends of St. John's to be compassionately generous with their time, unique talents, and financial support. Please note some of them below...

April brings another opportunity for us to assist families in transition through the Interfaith Hospitality Network – now also known as *Family Promise*. We are a support congregation to Windsor Heights Lutheran as they house up to 3 homeless families the week of April 7th. *St. John's commitment is to provide the evening meal, evening hosts, and overnight hosts on Tuesday, April 9th and Thursday, April 11th at the former Windsor Heights Lutheran parsonage.* Please sign up on the clip-board in the narthex. Questions about this opportunity may be directed to Jennifer Early at 274-6872 or earlyjr@mchsi.com

St. John's continues to provide the evening meal at Central Iowa Shelter & Services on the 18th & 19th of every month! Because the new shelter houses more people, we serve over 200 guests on each of those evenings. Please consider inviting friends, family members, and colleagues to join with us in this ministry! Sign-up sheets are always available in the narthex at church or at www.volunteerspot.com

The After School Arts Program (ASAP) is going strong with a new unit beginning March 26th at St. John's. If you could serve as a studio helper for the spring session – on either Tuesday or Thursday afternoons through May 16th - we guarantee a fun and fulfilling experience! Contact Michelle Bolton King, for details: michelle@asap-dsm.org or 515-225-4790 or 515-770-3380.

The Easter Morning Breakfast at St. John's raises funds to support projects in partnership with the Mramba Lutheran Parish, our Companion Parish in the Pare Diocese in Tanzania – including the Saturday Children's Club for vulnerable children. It is not too late to contribute to the Companion Parish Fund! Just make your check to St. John's and note that it is for this fund.

Finally, perhaps you have heard the statistic that every 60 seconds a child in this world dies of malaria – EVERY 60 SECONDS!! Please pick up an ELCA Malaria Campaign donation pamphlet/envelope in the narthex and make a gift to this campaign. Your gift will provide nets, education, and treatment for those in countries plagued by this disease. Malaria is preventable. We just have to want to prevent it...

Thank you for showing such compassionate generosity to so many!!

Quilting Bee

Can you SEW? If SO, Global Mission Needs You

If you would like to help Global Mission by sewing together quilt tops, you can pick up packets of cotton quilt blocks before, between and after services on **Saturday, April 13, and Sunday, April 14.** The blocks are large and of cotton, so they can be sewn quickly and easily. Directions are included in each packet. The rest of the quilt will be constructed at one of our old-fashioned quilting bees.

For the last few years, the Global Mission Ministry Team has coordinated quilting bees to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR's 2013 goal is to receive 500,000 quilts. Our goal is to make 50 quilts for them; this is an increase from our usual creation of 25 to 30.

The quilting bees will be held Saturdays, **April 13, May 11, June 1 and July 20**, from 9 a.m. to noon in Weertz Hall. We sandwich the quilts together, tie and have lots of fun. You do not need to be a quilter to join us. If you can tie a knot, you have all the qualifications necessary. We would love to have you join us. Pastor Bob often lends a hand.

Also, we need more cotton material for quilt blocks and, if you have large enough material, cloths for quilt backs. Donations of batting or money to buy batting also are welcome.

We need your help this year to meet our goal. Help us by sewing some blocks together and/or joining us at a quilting bee.



Prepare for Worship

Sunday, April 7 Second Sunday of Easter

In spite of all we have heard and all that we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for 50 days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will, in our gospel readings, provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the Lord Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of the Holy Communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence and offering us his peace.

The readings for April 7, the Second Sunday of Easter, are Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 150, Revelation 1:4-8 and John 20:19-31. The hymns will be ELW 363, "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain," ELW 635, "We Walk by Faith," and ELW 369, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today: Alleluia!" At 10 a.m. the offering music will be provided by Kisasa Choristers, and the music during communion will be Cathedral Choir singing "Thine is the Glory," arranged by S. D. Wolff.

Sunday, April 14 Third Sunday of Easter

The disciples make a big splash and breakfast with the risen Jesus in the gospel. Wading in the water (remembering our baptism) and eating with Jesus (holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us, with Peter, again and again: "Do you love me?" And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him bringing the Easter life to others.

The readings are Acts 9:1-20, Psalm 30, Revelation 5:11-14 and John 21:1-19. The hymns will be ELW 847, "Come, Let Us Join in Cheerful Songs," ELW 384, "That Easter Day with Joy was Bright," and ELW 389, "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing." Cathedral Choir will provide offering music, "You Will I Love," by K. Lee Scott, and communion music, "Feed My Lambs," by Natalie Sleeth. The Adult Handbell Choir will ring during communion, "Let us Break Bread Together," arranged by Michael Helman.



Sunday, April 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and all the baptized: "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

The readings are Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17 and John 10:22-30. The hymns are ELW 825, "You Servants of God," ELW 502, "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," and ELW 544, "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing." At 10 a.m. the offering music will be Cathedral Choir singing "True Light," by Keith Hampton. Communion music will be the Adult Handbell Choir ringing "Meditation on 'Beautiful Savior,'" by Cathy Moglebust.

Sunday, April 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Lord is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today the Lord Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light – through the lens of love.

The readings are Acts 11:1-18, Psalm 148, Revelation 21:1-6 and John 13:31-35. The hymns will be ELW 391, "Beloved, God's Chosen," ELW 482, "I Come with Joy," and ELW 377, "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen." The offering music for 10 a.m. will be "Kyrie" from *Missa Luba*, arranged by Haazen and sung by Cathedral Choir. During communion the High School Handbell Choir will ring.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

To learn more about the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a ministry that provides temporary housing and support for up to three homeless families, go to its new website at familypromise.org.

St. John's will be hosting on Tuesday, April 9, and Thursday, April 11, at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church. Please sign up in the Narthex to help provide food or serve supper or to be an evening and overnight host.

Contact Jennifer Early with any questions (earlyrj@mchsi.com or 274-6872).



Hospitality & Outreach



Are you a Good Representative?

Recently, I was lamenting with friends, yet again, about the service (maybe “disservice”) of our governmental representatives – be they local, state or federal. These friends were all in the same age bracket, and we’d been taught civics and government throughout our school years. We remarked how we had looked up to people in the public service arena in our younger days. Now, how the mighty seem to have fallen. It’s hard to find someone we truly respect and trust. I’ve been reading about that issue and the factors at play, but that’s another story for another time.

To my way of thinking, representatives go to bat for people and who work *for* them. They are authorized delegates for individuals who are not able to stand up for themselves. They assist persons in need and give voice to the greater good. So, while disparaging our legislative representatives, I started thinking about my own areas of representation, how I may, or may not, measure up. This led me to ask myself: What kind of representative am I for Jesus? What kind of representative are you?

As a Christian, I am a representative of Jesus on this earth. As I was pursuing this line of thought, I found myself feeling pretty uncomfortable. To be a representative or ambassador for Jesus is incredibly daunting. Who am I, this immensely flawed human being, to be an instrument of Jesus? It’s so easy to be overwhelmed and feel totally inadequate and, on our own, we are. But then I realized that is where the Holy Spirit comes in ... with God’s grace we are given the means and the strength to represent Jesus!

Having been raised a Catholic, about 9 years of it before Vatican II, I know a lot about guilt. So, in addition to feeling unworthy to represent Jesus, I also felt guilty about not doing a very good job when I did step up. I agonized over most decisions and choices. What if I was *supposed* to do something, and didn’t? Conversely, what if I wasn’t supposed to do something and I *did*! I was a victim of the Baltimore Catechism mentality.

Then a very good friend made this point: Who was I to think that God only had me to help bring

about his plan in any situation? Didn’t God, being God, have immeasurable resources at his disposal? It was, in fact, an extremely arrogant way for me to look at my involvement. It was one of those light-bulb moments, when I understood my thinking was way, way off. That realization was exceedingly humbling and also incredibly freeing.

God knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows our personal limitations and strengths, the gifts he specifically selected for each of us. He gives us the opportunity to serve him by serving each other. Moreover, God doesn’t manipulate us; we’re not forced into a mold. He lets his grace be sufficient to guide our intentions and actions. Before we were even born, God knew who we were, what we would become, and yet he claimed us anyway! By his love, we have been chosen, and by his Spirit, we are called and commissioned to bring his love, forgiveness, hope and solace to others who, as of yet, haven’t gotten the memo!

So, being a representative isn’t as intimidating as it seems, not once you know the strength of the one you’re representing. I encourage you to join the “Church of Representatives” and enjoy the freedom and fulfillment of representing those to whom we’ve been elected to serve. If you need some ideas or suggestions, we have plenty of opportunities available through St. John’s. Just let me know what you would like to do, and I’ll find you a constituency!

Now, if we could only get that message across to the legislature ...

Katie Tippins, Hospitality & Outreach Coordinator
ext. 115
katie@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 Ameritrade to Morgan Stanley Smith Barney (MSSB). When gifting please use the following information to make transfers to MSSB: **MSSB’s DTC number is: 0418. MSSB’s account number is: 461-00524-1-9-013. The name on the MSSB account is: St. John’s Lutheran Church.** Those making a contribution of stocks or other equities, please notify the finance office at financeoffice@stjohnsdsm.org or call 515-243-7691. New rules 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.



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

Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

Zumba: Mondays, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 5 to 5:45 p.m., third-floor multi-purpose room at church, with licensed Zumba teacher.

Mah Jongg: Classes continue Monday, April 1 and 8; 7 to 9 p.m., Neumann Hall at church.

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement: Tuesday, April 2, 6 p.m. at G Miggs, Valley Junction, West Des Moines.

Yoga: Thursdays, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge at church. Next 7-week session begins April 4 (no Yoga on April 18). Cost: \$10 per class or \$60 for 7-week session. Contact: Corinne Lambert, callingwisdom1@hotmail.com

Saturday Morning Bible Study: Saturdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27, 8:30 a.m., location to be announced. Contact: Ellen Fisher at ellenfisher123@gmail.com.

St. John's Social Club: Sunday, April 7, 2 p.m., Des Moines Playhouse, 831 42nd St.

Quilting: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., Room 308 at church.

Hardanger: Wednesdays, April 10 and 24, 9 a.m., Room 8 at church.

EAGLES: Thursday, April 11, meet at church at 9:30 a.m. for a day-trip to southwest Iowa.

WIRED Book Discussion: Thursday, April 11, 6 p.m., Karen Zaabel's house.

Bicycle St. John's: Bike to church Sunday, April 14. Meet after 10 a.m. service to decide where to bike for lunch. Then ride with us to Principal Park for the 1:05 p.m. I-Cubs game. Ride leader for April: Jim Bernau, jabernau@gmail.com or 967-1515.

WIRED Night Out: Sunday, April 14, Fleur Theatres matinee followed by dinner. Watch for more details as date gets closer. Contacts: Jacque Warming, jrwarming@msn.com, and Darla Stiles, darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, April 17, 12:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, April 18, 11:30 a.m.

Recreational Reading: Wednesday, April 24, 4:30 p.m., Rose Holm Room at church.

Scrapbooking: Saturday, April 27, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Room 8 at church.

Photography: Sunday, April 28, 9:30 a.m., Neumann Hall at church. Theme: Bridges.

Keep up to date with all events by subscribing to our weekly email newsletter (sign up on the homepage of our website) or keep an eye on www.stjohnsdsm.org

MORE INFORMATION

Zumba is held every Monday throughout April from 5 to 5:45 p.m. in the third-floor Multi-Purpose Room at church. The class is taught by a licensed Zumba teacher. Zumba is free, and all are welcome! Contact Darla at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

Mah Jongg, a game that some have described as a Chinese version of Gin Rummy with tiles, will continue its 4-week session on Mondays, April 1 and 8, 7 to 9 p.m. in Neumann Hall at church. For more information, contact Vicki Hedlin at VLHed@aol.com.

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement will meet Tuesday, April 2, at 6 p.m. at G Miggs in Valley Junction, West Des Moines.

Yoga classes are Thursdays from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at church. The next 7-week session starts April 4. (Yoga will not meet on April 18.) Cost is \$10 per class or \$60 for an entire 7-week session. To sign up or ask questions, contact Corinne Lambert at callingwisdom1@hotmail.com.

Saturday Morning Bible Study meets Saturdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 8:30 a.m. at a location to be announced. For more information, contact Ellen Fisher at ellenfisher123@gmail.com.

St. John's Social Club will meet Sunday, April 7, at 2 p.m. at the Des Moines Playhouse, 831 42nd St., for the play "Nine to Five" and will go out to dinner afterward. Tickets cost \$31 each. The tickets need to be purchased in a block, so RSVP by Wednesday, March 27, to Delaine Marker at gramsmkr@hotmail.com.

Quilting continues to meet on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 308 at church. If interested, contact Dorothy Parry at 255-6049.

Hardanger will meet on Wednesdays, April 10 and 24, at 9 a.m. in Room 8 at church. For more information, contact Arlene Field at fjeldt@q.com.

EAGLES will travel to southwest Iowa on Thursday, April 11. Meet at church at 9:30 a.m. for the day-trip. The group will enjoy lunch at the Garrison House in Clarinda and then at 1 p.m. will tour the Glenn Miller Birthplace Home and Museum, also in

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Clarinda. Then we will drive to Stanton for a 3:30 p.m. tour of the Swedish Heritage and Cultural Center. If you plan to join the group, contact David Stewart at stewjd428@gmail.com or 265-6897.



WIRED Night Out will feature a movie and dinner out with St. John's friends on Sunday, April 14. Meet at the Fleur Theatres for the matinee and then join us for dinner. Watch for more details as the date gets closer. Contacts are Jacque Warming, jrwarming@msn.com, and Darla Stiles, darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

WIRED Book Discussion will meet at Karen Zaabel's house Thursday, April 11, at 6 p.m. to discuss Anne Lamott's book, *Help, Thanks, Wow*. A light meal will be served; attendees are asked to bring an appetizer. If you can attend, contact Karen at kzaabel@msn.com.

Lunch Bunch II will meet Wednesday, April 17, at 12:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch I will meet Thursday, April 18, at 11:30 a.m.

Recreational Reading will meet Wednesday, April 24, at 4:30 p.m. in the Rose Holm Room at church to discuss *The Art of Fielding*, by Chad Harbach.

Scrapbooking will meet Saturday, April 27, between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. in Room 8 on the lower level (adjacent Weertz Fellowship Hall) at church. Bring your pictures and materials to scrap while enjoying the friendship, conversation and creative inspiration of others. All are welcome. For more information, contact Darla Stiles at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

Photography will meet for about a half-hour on Sunday, April 28, at 9:30 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church. Bring a couple of photos of bridges or stop in to see other's photos.

Bicycle St. John's will bike to church the second Sunday of each month, which is April 14 this month. The group will meet after the 10 a.m. service to decide where to bike to for lunch. Anyone who is interested can ride with us to the 1:05 p.m.

I-Cubs game against Albuquerque. Riders will buy their tickets at the game.

Then on Saturday, April 20, at 10 a.m. the Bicycle St. John's group is encouraged to participate in the Mayor's Trail Ride around downtown Des Moines. The ride begins at city hall. Everyone in our group is asked to wear a St. John's t-shirt (maybe one purchased at the youth auction) to promote our church. Join Mayor Cownie and the Dream Team on this fun bike ride and experience Des Moines as you ride through area neighborhoods. This event is a fundraiser for recreational trails. The bike ride's link, which includes registration instructions, is <http://www.dmgov.org/Departments/Parks/Pages/MAR2013.aspx>.

If you are interested in being added to this bicycling group's email list, please "like" Bicycle St. John's on Facebook or email Rod Snavelly at rsnavely@aol.com.



Women of the ELCA

Circle meetings this month: Thursday, April 4

- **Sarah Group**, 10 a.m., Neumann Hall.
- **Lois Group**, 12:30 p.m., Neumann Hall.

Thank You!

The Women of the ELCA wish to thank the people who attended our Lenten luncheons following the Wednesday noon services as well as those who provided and served the food. A special thanks to Nancy Budrevich for heading this project.

Women of the ELCA Donate New Vanity

Check out the new vanity in the first-floor women's restroom; it was donated by the Women of the ELCA. Thanks to Maintenance Supervisor Les Moeller for installing it.

St. John's Women host Church Women United

St. John's Women will host and prepare lunch for Church Women United on Monday, April 8, at noon. This May Friendship Day program is a Bible study, "Swinging Wide the Doors of Hospitality." The speaker is the Rev. Sara Schnucker Rice, executive director of the Des Moines Religious Council. All women are invited. Cost is \$5. Make a reservation by Wednesday, April 3; call Lennie Boles at 255-1544.

April Outreach Project Announced

The Women of the ELCA outreach project for April is the Domestic Violence Services Program of Children and Families of Iowa. The congregation is invited to participate as well. Their needs include: household items (to start a new home), pajamas, pillows, towels, underwear for women and children, disposable diapers (size 5), baby wipes, full-size toiletries, games and books for all ages. Items can be placed in the drop boxes, one near the church office and the other upstairs near the coffee.



Children's Ministries

April Sunday School Schedule

April 7: The Storm (Matthew 8:23-27)

Discuss these questions with your child:

- How could the disciples hear each other above the storm?
- Has a storm ever made you wake up? What happened?
- Would you be more afraid if you were alone? Why?

April 14: The Centurion's Servant (Matthew 8:5-13)

Ask your child these questions:

- What can we do to find Jesus when we need his help?
- How does Jesus show his love for all people – powerful and weak?
- How do you think people felt when they saw Jesus helping the rich, powerful man?

April 21: Jesus Blesses the Children (Mark 10:13-16)

Talk about these questions with your child:

- What do you think kids can do better than anyone else?
- What would you say to Jesus if he blessed you?
- What could our church do to help show the community that kids are important?

April 28: The Sower (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

Discuss these questions with your child:

- Do you have or does someone you know have a garden? What is it like waiting for plants to grow?
- What do you think it means to “plant a seed of faith” in someone?
- How do you feel when someone believes God's good news?



Youth Ministries

Thank you so much!!!

On behalf of the St. John's youth, I would like to thank everyone who made this year's auction, “A Red Carpet Affair,” a smashing success. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard getting it ready – all the people who donated items, all the youth who put so much work and thought into the planning, all the people who worked hard the night of the auction, and all of the people who attended and purchased items or made donations. This event would not have been so successful without ALL of you!

A special “thank you” to Baratta's for almost \$3,000 of in-kind donations. They donated the event space at Forte Banquet and Conference Center and gave us a very good deal on the food. For the past three years, Baratta's has supported us and been so kind to us, and we cannot thank them enough!

With everyone's help we raised close to \$12,000! We are well on our way to funding our service trips to Duluth, MN, and San Francisco, CA.

Plant Sale Orders

Remember that **Saturday, May 4**, from 9 to 11 a.m. is when you must pick up the plants you ordered from the St. John's Youth Plant Sale, and the place is the north parking lot at St. John's. Contact Megan Clausen with any questions (meganc@stjohnsdsm.org or 243-7691).

Courtyard Hosta Sale

St. John's will divide the hostas in the church courtyard this spring! Come to church **Saturday, May 4**, between 8:30 and 11 a.m. to select the hosta from which you would like a cutting.

We have people who will dig and divide the plants, but you will need to bring a grocery bag or bucket for carrying the cutting home. Arrive early if you would like a cutting from a specific plant, because they are first come, first served.

All cuttings will cost \$5.



2013 Youth Auction



Arts Ministries

Midweek Music Series

The St. John's Midweek Music Series returns Wednesday, April 3, at 12:05 p.m. with Lyric Winds. Our season has only five weeks left, so mark your calendars now and plan to attend! These lunch-time concerts are free and open to the public. Afterward a light lunch is served in Weertz Fellowship Hall downstairs (\$6 per person).

The **ARTS** at
ST. JOHN'S

We are currently scheduling musicians for the 2013-14 Midweek Music Series. If you know of a musician or ensemble you think we should include, feel free to contact Beth Ann Edwards at bethann@stjohnsdsm.org.

Midweek Music spring schedule:

- April 3 - Lyric Winds (Kim Helton, Kariann Voigts, Sue Odem)
- April 10 - Sarah Plum and Drake violin studio
- April 17 - Odyssey Trio (Sandy Wacha, flute; Kristen Maahs, harp; Mary Pshonik, cello)
- April 24 - Audrey Hustad (trumpet soloist)
- May 1 - Asphalt & Stained Glass

St. John's Handbells

Handbell Repair Campaign Nears its Goal

Because you are so generous and understand the value of music in worship, for both the congregation and the musician, the Handbell Repair Campaign is nearing its goal of raising \$10,000. New cases have arrived, and the bells are scheduled to be refurbished in May. With this complete overhaul, the St. John's handbells should last another 30 to 40 years before major refurbishing is again required.

Our three handbell choirs are going strong, and I look forward to building on the progress we have made in our first year of revitalization. Membership in a handbell choir brings community, teaches worship leadership, and prepares our children and youth for a lifetime of faithful devotion through liturgical music and study.



Artist of the Month

Is Our St. John's Community!

The art displayed in Weertz Fellowship Hall during April was donated by members of our own church! Many of you stepped up and donated art from your private collections; others contributed original art that you created yourself. Thank you!

This art will be auctioned on May 5 after our Performing Arts Series Spring Concert (see preceding story) with proceeds going to The Arts at St. John's. Bidding sheets will be placed in Weertz Hall later this month, so even if you can't attend the event, please take the opportunity to bid on the art and support our programs. In addition to the art already displayed in Weertz, we will continue to accept donated works of art throughout April to include in the May 5 auction. For more information, contact Beth Ann Edwards at bethann@stjohnsdsm.org.

The schedule is filling up for our 2013-14 Weertz Hall gallery art shows, but a few months are still available. The next five months will feature a variety of media. Please take the time to view the exhibits listed below:

- May - Megan Clausen (painting and mixed media), beginning May 6
- June - Jacque Warming (photography)
- July - Diane Rosene (photography)
- August - Judy Sebern Beachy (peace art)
- September - Nicole Tolson (painting)

Changing Role of Music Leaders in Worship

At a time when so many Christian theologians and liturgists are exploring new questions, approaches and resources (or more traditional, older ones), public conversation often seems stuck in a 30-year-old circular rotation. Ecumenical gatherings at Plymouth Congregational Church on Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20, include workshops and worship opportunities for exploring questions surrounding liturgical music in the changing church.

Each congregation is filled with people who have their own ideas about what worship and worship music is and should be. Therefore, every Christian who

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is part of a worshipping assembly may be interested in this topic and could find it not only fascinating but spiritually enriching. All events, including lunch, are free of charge.

On Friday evening, keynote speaker and worship leader Dr. Michael Hawn, director of the Sacred Music Program at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology, will present "You Are What You Sing: Singing Fully and Faithfully in the 21st Century."

Saturday morning's events include workshops on songwriting, making community with paperless music and multigenerational "pick-up" choirs. After lunch Dr. Hawn will prepare a volunteer choir for worship. The event concludes with a worship service at 3 p.m.

The event was initiated and planned by Larry Christensen, St. John's Lutheran Church; Ben Allaway, First Christian Church; Sharon Parker-Lenihan, Plymouth UCC; Scott Stilwell, West Des Moines Christian Church, and Rebecca Gruber, St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral.

If you are interested in attending and would like times and other information, talk to Larry Christensen (243-7691) or email Sharon Parker Lenihan (splenihan@plymouthchurch.com) or register at www.PlymouthChurch.com.

Performing Arts Series



UNI Varsity Men's Glee Club

The Arts at St. John's is excited to announce an addition to the 2012-13 Performing Arts Series. We will host the UNI Varsity Men's Glee Club on Friday, April 12, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us as this 90-member chorus presents varied sacred and secular music, both accompanied and a cappella. This concert is free and open to the public.

Spring Concert, Reception & Art Auction

Plan to attend "Music in Celebration of Spring," featuring the St. John's String Scholars, on Sunday, May 5, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This final Performing

Arts Series event of the 2012-13 season will stir our senses with *Concerto a Cinque*, Op. 9 No. 2, by Tommaso Albinoni.

Then downstairs at 5 p.m. in Weertz Fellowship Hall, the celebration continues as art collecting goes green! A reception will be held in conjunction with an auction of donated art; all funds raised will benefit The Arts at St. John's programs. For more information or to donate art, contact Beth Ann Edwards at bethann@stjohnsdsm.org.

LSI Update

Preventing child abuse and neglect



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." – Matthew 19:13-15

Truly, the kingdom of heaven belongs to little children. Unfortunately, children across Iowa are suffering from abuse. In 2011, 11,747 children in Iowa were abused through physical abuse, sexual abuse or through the denial of critical care, such as providing adequate food, shelter or clothing. Over 50% of these victims were under the age of six.

The abuse of even one child is too many. Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) works to prevent child abuse and neglect through parent education, intervention and support and helps children of abuse heal and find hope. Through early childhood and family services LSI helps stop abuse before it starts, and our Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers empower children of abuse so that they may resolve their past and look forward to a bright future. The support of our partner congregations allows LSI to maintain these important programs for the children of Iowa. Thank you for being an important partner in our mission of service to all.

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

DID YOU KNOW?

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



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Serving at Central Iowa Shelter & Services

On the 18th and 19th of each month St. John's prepares and serves meals at the shelter.

If you would like to help prepare, serve or donate to this wonderful ministry located in the heart of downtown Des Moines please call, 243.7691 or email scottl@stjohnsdsm.org.



MAY EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, April 15.**

Please send information or articles in digital format, to Scott LaBlanc, scottl@stjohnsdsm.org.

If you cannot send it by e-mail, drop it off at the church office.

Thank you!