



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

Volume 45, Number 05
May, 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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Celebrate St. John's Music Sunday on May 5!

Perhaps the name of this annual observance should be Music and the Arts in Worship Sunday, because music is truly integrated with visual, written and performing arts, which weave together a complete experience of God's love and compassion, presence and care, power and gentleness. This Sunday we express gratitude to God for the gift of the arts, and to those musicians and artists who break open God's nature and communicate it with us, God's beloved.

Our vocal choirs (Joyful Noise, Kisasa Choristers and Cathedral Choir), our handbell choirs (Kisasa Bells, High School and Adult Handbells) and the Chamber Orchestra will all take part in the 10 a.m. service, and the music will be exciting, varied and inspiring.

Our year has seen the addition of Organist Nancy Stafford and Director of Arts, Handbells and Youth Choirs, Beth Ann Edwards, as well as the rebirth of our handbell choir program and the integration of Cantorei and Cathedral Choir into one dynamic choral ensemble. We gratefully recall our rich festival worship, including Transfiguration Sunday, and deep Lenten and Holy Week liturgies leading to an exuberant Easter rite.

We have much to celebrate!

Larry Christensen, Director of Worship and Music

Continue Celebrating the Afternoon of May 5

- Spring Showcase Concert, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary
- Reception and Art Auction, 5 p.m. in Weertz Fellowship Hall

Continue the celebration of the arts with a 4 p.m. concert, followed by fellowship, refreshments and final bidding on our arts silent auction. For more information about these events, read the Arts Ministries article elsewhere in this issue of the *Eagle Call*.

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In the City for Good!
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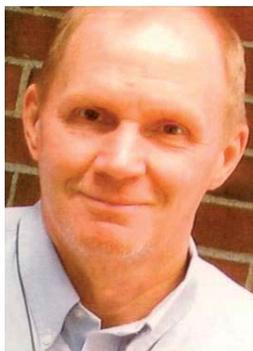
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Office Hours:
 Monday – Thursday
 9:00 am – 5:00 p.m.,
 4:00 p.m. Friday

Next Eagle Call Deadline
May 20 at 12 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Bob Speirs

"For as the rain and snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10-11

As happens every spring, the month of May is a time of great transition for us here at St John's, moving from our fall/winter schedule to our spring/ summer calendar. After May 8th, our Wednesday evening Beloved Community meals and programs will take a break for the summer, and with it our Wednesday evening Confirmation classes and Journey's In Faith High School program will also draw to a close, until we start up again in September. Although we stop meeting on Wednesday evenings, our youth programming for the summer months is only just beginning, with Confirmation Camp and Mission trips and other planned activities still approaching. Another significant transition in the life of our community of faith is that several of our High School youth will be graduating and making the transition to college, and leaving us physically, if not in spirit. We will have a time at the end of May to get together and celebrate with these young people and their families and offer our thanks and prayers for their contributions and ministry with us. Our Sunday morning Adult Forum classes will also take a break for the summer with May 12th, being our last forum for the summer. We will once again meet in Room 8 and ask and encourage all of you to help with our annual letter writing campaign for the remarkable work and advocacy that "Bread for the World" organization accomplishes both nationally and internationally. This year's theme and issues focuses on asking our congressional representatives to replace the "Sequester", with a comprehensive, balanced and bi-partisan approach to deficit reduction, so to protect the programs that help support our hungry and poorer neighbors. Please join us.

Yet, transition does not mean that we shutting down operations and leaving for the summer, quite the contrary. If the old adage holds true that April showers bring May flowers, then I think we're in for a bumper crop of flowers, plants and all the other good stuff that fills our gardens each spring. After going through pretty tough time of drought and high temperatures last year, all the rain we have been experiencing so far is a welcome sight, and greatly needed to replenish our watersheds both locally and regionally as well. With that in mind, we recently had our first meeting of the St. John's Faith Garden for 2013, and we are anxious and excited to begin planting and caring for the produce we will grow this season. As we have done the past two years, all the produce we grow will be donated to the Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry system. If you have gardening skills (or even if you don't), and would like to participate with this ministry please contact me, Pastor Bob, at Church, or Diana Sickles, also through St. John's, to get more information about our garden project.

A couple of other activities you might consider joining during our summer schedule is our St John's Bicycling group that will be meeting on the second Sunday of the month, for "Bike to Church Sunday", after which a trip to a local eatery for lunch and perhaps a longer excursion afterward on one of Des Moines many bike trails, for those interested. Our Biking group will be getting together through November (weather permitting) and have many other activities planned. There is further information on the St John's website and/or Facebook at Bicycle St. John's. You do not have to be an avid cyclist to participate, all are welcome.

If biking isn't your thing, our Global Mission team has come up with an idea that we'd like to make 50 quilts ("The 50 Quilt Challenge") this summer to be donated to Lutheran World Relief in the fall. In order to accomplish this goal we are holding three more quilting sessions this spring/

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summer (for the less athletically inclined perhaps, but not necessarily), who still have excellent hand-eye coordination and can handle a needle and thread, or better yet a sewing machine. The dates for these quilting sessions are... May 11th, June 1st and July 20th. Please join us for coffee, conversation, and fun.

As usual, we continue to meet throughout the summer for Tuesday morning Bible study beginning at 9:30. It is a great group, who comes together to read, study, ask questions and generally have a good time learning and sharing our unique stories and experiences. This Bible study is open to all who are interested and you do not have to have an advanced degree in Old and New Testament scholarship to join us.

Congratulations and blessings to Harold Holmes, a long time member of St John's who recently turned 100 years old. I was visiting with Harold recently and during our visit he was watching his favorite team the Chicago Cubs win one of their first games of the new season. I asked him if he thought that he would ever experience the Cubs win a World Series in his lifetime. Harold replied that he was wasn't so sure, but that they had better hurry because he didn't think that he could hold out for another 100 years. There's a fan!

I look forward to seeing you all in worship and at many of our events and programs throughout the coming summer.

Blessings and peace, Pastor Bob

Letter to the Congregation



Hello everyone!

I hope this message finds you all well and ready (or overly ready) for spring! I know I am!

I am writing this letter to give you all an update and deliver some news.

Over the past months, I have been discerning where and what God is calling me to in my life. These months have been filled with prayer and lots of discussions with dear friends and family about what should be next for me.

I feel that God is calling me to go to seminary to get my Master of Divinity degree. I have been accepted to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) for the fall semester of 2013.

What does this mean, you ask? It means that I will move to Chicago in August and begin the journey to becoming an ordained minister in the ELCA. I will go on all the summer trips that are planned for the youth and finish out the summer at St. John's.

Please know that this has been a hard decision for me. I have fallen in love with the people of this congregation over the past years, especially the youth of St. John's! It will be very difficult for me to leave. It is also exciting to see

where God is leading me over the next few years. I ask for your support and prayers during this time.

Pastor Rachel, Pastor Bob, and the Youth Ministry Advisory Council (YMAC) are wholly committed to finding a qualified person to join the staff upon my departure. A search team is being formed that will include students, parents, YMAC members and staff.

If you have any questions please feel free to ask me.

Peace to you,
Megan Clausen, Director of Youth Ministries

From Pastor Mithelman:

I received the news of Megan's decision to enter seminary with mixed emotions ... I am very proud of her, thrilled that God's Spirit has led her to this decision and, as always, heartened when a young woman answers the call to ordained ministry. As you can imagine, Megan was a sought-after seminary student, is the recipient of a generous LSTC scholarship, and has received the full endorsement of the Candidacy Committee of the Southeast Iowa Synod of the ELCA. I am certain she will thrive at LSTC and bring that community as much joy as she has brought to St. John's.

On the other hand, I am saddened to lose such a capable and delightful member of our staff who has brought beautiful gifts to our congregation. Megan has worked hard to establish trusting, loving relationships with all of our middle school and high school youth. She has continued to stay in communication as our youth have graduated and gone on to college. And she is currently helping to establish a small group for young adults. Of course, those things are all part of her job... But Megan has not just done her "job"; she has been a sister in Christ and a devoted friend to everyone at St. John's from toddlers to the elderly – and we shall miss her very much!

As Megan mentioned above, a search team is being assembled to seek out the next Director of Youth Ministries for St. John's, and I trust the Holy Spirit will be at work in our process. Please pray for those who take on that task. And also pray for Megan and our youth that these next few months will be filled with laughter, love and ever-deepening faith.

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, May 5

Sixth Sunday of Easter & Music Sunday

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. The risen Lord Jesus provides visions of peace that passes all understanding and power beyond human imagination.

The readings are Acts 16:9-15, Psalm 67, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5 and John 14:23-20. In observance of Music Sunday, the 10 a.m. service will feature Joyful Noise and Kisasa performing a musical call to worship, "How Majestic Is Your Name," written by Mark Patterson. The entrance song will be a festive setting of Psalm 150 by Anne Krentz Organ (yes, Organ is her last name) with flute, handbells, Cathedral Choir, Kisasa and brass. The Hymn of the Day will be ELW 851, "When in Our Music God is Glorified," and the Sending Song will be ELW 845, "Voices Raised to You." For offering music, our combined handbell choirs will ring "Procession and Hymn," arranged by Andrea Handley. Cathedral Choir will sing "At the Name of Jesus," by Rene Clausen, for Holy Communion. You will have the opportunity to thank our vocal, instrumental and handbell musicians in the Fireside Lounge after the 10 a.m. service.

Sunday, May 12

Seventh Sunday of Easter

It is possible to hear in Jesus' high priestly prayer, offered shortly before his death, the petitions the ascended Lord had for his own people then and to our day and beyond. In holy baptism, we become believers in God, have our robes washed in the flood of Christ's forgiveness and receive the gift of life forever with all the saints.

The readings are Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97, Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 and John 17:20-26. The hymns will be ELW 826, "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise," ELW 482, "I Come with Joy," and ELW 855, "Crown Him with Many Crowns." For offering music at 10 a.m., Cathedral Choir will sing "True Light," by Keith Hampton.

Sunday, May 19

Day of Pentecost & Senior Recognition at 10 a.m.

Pentecost is a day of promises fulfilled. The promised Spirit of God is poured out. The baptized have become "children of God" and "joint heirs with Christ." By the power of the Spirit, we have seen the face of the Father in his only begotten Son and have been saved by him. Bless the Lord, O my Soul.

The readings will be Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:14-17 and John 14:8-27. The hymns will be ELW 875, "Praise,

Praise, Praise the Lord!" (a traditional Cameroon processional), ELW 401, "Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading" (*Njoo Kwetu, Roho Mwema* from Tanzania), and the offertory will be ELW 682, "To God Our Thanks We Give" (*Reamo leboga*, Botswanan traditional), and ELW 797, "Blessed Be the Name" (*Heri ni jina*, from East Africa). For offering music, Cathedral Choir will sing "Kyrie" from Missa Luba, arranged by Haazen. The assembly will sing the Taize chant, "Veni Sancte Spiritus," ELW 406, for communion.

Sunday, May 26

The Holy Trinity

"O Lord our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Today we celebrate the name of God: holy blessed Trinity. There is no other day quite like this one in the church year. There is no other God like ours. Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

The readings for Holy Trinity Sunday are Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5 and John 16:12-15. The hymns will be ELW 819, "Come, All You People" (*Uyaimose*), ELW 684, "Creating God, Your Finger's Trace," and ELW 412, "Come, Join the Dance of Trinity." During the offering, the assembly will sing ELW 861, "When Long Before Time," and for communion ELW 735, "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth."

Arts Ministries

One Afternoon, Two Events!

Please join us Sunday, May 5, as we close out our Performing Arts Series with a Spring Showcase Concert at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by a reception and art auction in Weertz Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m.

The ARTS at
ST. JOHN'S

Programmed on the afternoon concert is a variety of wonderful music conducted by Larry Christensen. Choral selections include John Rutter's "Lord, Thou Hast Been Our Refuge," with Audrey Husted on the trumpet solo, and Joseph Haydn's "God of Life," the final chorus from the first part of his oratorio *The Seasons*, the "Spring" section, with orchestra. Rounding out the program are Jennifer Horak-Hult, soprano, and Erik Horak-Hult, piano, on "Piangerò la sorte mia" from *Giulio Cesare*, G.F. Handel; Mouret's *Suite de Symphonies*, Suite No. 1, Rondo, Audrey Husted, trumpet soloist; and Albinoni's, *Concerto a Cinque*, D Minor, op. 9, no. 2, Susan Odem, oboe soloist.

A reception and the culmination of our art auction begins at 5 p.m. in Weertz Hall. Artists and collectors within our St. John's community have donated a wonderful selection of art for silent auction. About half the collection is original art donated by the artists; the other half has been donated from private collections.

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Proceeds will support arts programs at St. John's. We have the perfect piece of art that will brighten up your décor – large, small, original, print, two-dimensional work and pottery.

Bidding for the art is currently in progress in Weertz Hall where bid sheets are next to each available work. To receive a PDF catalog of art to be auctioned, email Beth Ann Edwards at bethann@stjohnsdsm.org. I can also help you keep track of the bidding on any piece, if you are not able to bid in person. Bidding ends at 5:45 on Sunday, May 5. At that time, the highest bidders can take possession of their new art.

Garden Tour and Sangria Summer Solstice Celebration

Mark your calendars! The Arts Visioning Team invites you to a summer event and fundraiser on Saturday, June 29. From 5:30 to 7:15 p.m., we are invited to tour gardens at the homes of a few of our St. John's community. At 7:30 p.m., we will gather at the home of Megan and Kent Hartwig to consume a Mexican buffet while listening to the music of Asphalt & Stained Glass. (More information will be available soon.) All are welcome, so save the date!

Artist of the Month



Director of Youth Ministry Megan Clausen is our May Artist of the Month. Her works will be exhibited beginning Monday, May 6, in Weertz Fellowship Hall. Megan has shared many of her artistic talents with us, and has been instrumental in giving the youth at St. John's a broad artistic perspective to understanding their faith. Megan's paintings and mixed-media works exhibit a strong focus on color and message. Megan studied art in high school and took several mixed-media classes throughout her time at the University of Iowa and Wartburg College. Megan has been creating and selling art for several years and has a successful photography

business that focuses on family and children's portraiture.

Midweek Music

Our Midweek Music Season is coming to a close, with just one concert remaining. Please join us Wednesday, May 1, at 12:05 p.m. to hear our very own Audrey Husted on trumpet (free and open to the public), followed by a light lunch in Weertz Fellowship Hall (\$6 per person). The 2013-14 season will start Wednesday, Sept. 25. The exciting line-up – perennial favorites sprinkled with a few musicians new to the series – will be announced soon!

Women of the ELCA

Outreach Project for May & June

The Women of the ELCA's outreach project for the months of May and June is Backpack Buddies, a program that provides child-friendly, easy-to-prepare foods to low-income children on weekends (when they do not have access to the federal free and reduced-price meal program). The congregation is invited to participate as well. Items needed for the next two months include: small boxes of raisins and single-serve fruit cups in light syrup or water. As usual, items can be placed in the drop boxes, one near the church office and the other upstairs near the coffee station.



We offer a big thank you to everyone who contributed to Children and Families of Iowa in April. They appreciate these donations so much!

Circle meetings this month

Sarah Group, 12:05 p.m., Wednesday, May 1, Church Sanctuary.

Lois Group, 12:30 p.m., Thursday, May 2, Neumann

The ARTS at
ST. JOHN'S

Spring Showcase Concert

This event is free and open to the public.

- Sunday, May 5, 2013
- 4:00 pm
- St. John's Sanctuary

Featuring

- St. John's Orchestra and Guests
- St. John's Cathedral Choir
- Sue Odem, oboe • Audrey Husted, trumpet
- Larry Christensen, Conductor

Reception and Art Auction

5 pm • Weertz Hall

Continue the celebration and bid on art donated by our St. John's community.

All proceeds support Arts programs at St. John's.

For more information or a catalog of art for auction, please email thearts@stjohnsdsm.org.



Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

3D: Wednesday, May 1, 10 a.m.

Gardening's Courtyard Hosta Sale: Saturday, May 4, 8:30 to 11 a.m., St. John's Church courtyard.

Zumba: Monday, May 6, 5 to 5:45 p.m., third-floor multi-purpose room at church, with licensed Zumba teacher.

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

Mah Jongg: Groups will continue to play on occasion (watch for details).

Yoga: Thursdays, May 2, 16 and 30, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge at church. Cost is \$10 per class or \$60 for seven-week session. Contact Corinne Lambert at callingwisdom1@hotmail.com.

Saturday Morning Bible Study: Saturdays, May 4, 11 and 18 (not May 25), 8:30 a.m., location to be announced. Contact: Ellen Fisher at ellenfisher123@gmail.com.

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement: Tuesday, May 7, 6 p.m., Isla Cosamel, 86th Street (behind Panera).

Gardening: Wednesday, May 8, 6 p.m., Kaldenberg's PBS Landscaping, 5555 NW Beaver Dr., Johnston.

EAGLES: Blank Park Zoo (watch for details).

Hardanger: Wednesdays, May 8 and 22, 9 a.m., Room 8 at church.

Bicycle St. John's: Sunday, May 12, Bike to Church Sunday (meet following the 10 a.m. service to decide where to bike to for lunch).

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, May 15, 12:30 a.m.

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

Photography: Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m., Neumann Hall at church (theme is nature).

Recreational Reading: Wednesday, May 22, at 4:30 p.m., Rose Holm at church.

St. John's Social Club: No gathering in May. (Pub Crawl, originally planned for May, will instead be Monday, July 27).

Scrapbooking: No meeting in May.

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

Gardening's Courtyard Hosta Sale is being held Saturday, May 4, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. The hostas in the church courtyard need to be divided, so this is everyone's opportunity to buy hostas at a very reasonable price (\$5 per clump). Bring a grocery bag or container to carry the hosta clumps home in. Some of our gardening members will be there to dig and divide as you select the hostas you would like. (Proceeds go back into beautifying the courtyard and planters around the church.)

Zumba will finish the current eight-week session Monday, May 6. As usual, we will meet from at 5 to 5:45 p.m. at church in the third-floor floor multi-purpose room. This group will decide if they want to do a summer session or put Zumba on hold until fall. (Watch announcements for update.) There is no charge for these classes, which are conducted by a licensed Zumba instructor. All are welcome! Contact Darla Stiles at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

Mah Jongg classes have finished; a huge thank-you to Vicki Hedlin for teaching for five weeks! Many have decided to continue to play and learn. Watch for details on days and times. Contact Darla Stiles at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement will meet Tuesday, May 7, at 6 p.m. at Isla Cosamel on 86th Street (behind Panera).

Saturday Morning Bible Study will meet Saturdays, May 4, 11 and 18 at 8:30 a.m. at a location to be announced. (Group will NOT meet May 25 due to Memorial Day weekend.) Contact Ellen Fisher at ellenfisher123@gmail.com.

Gardening Group will meet Wednesday, May 8, at 6 p.m. at Kaldenberg's PBS Landscaping, 5555 NW Beaver Dr. in Johnston just north of the interstate. Join them at the nursery for a tour of the facility, a brief talk to learn more about various types of garden plants, and enjoy a beverage on their patio. If you have not received the complete gardening schedule for spring and summer, pick one up in the Fireside Lounge hospitality center at church. Contact Darla Stiles at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

Quilting continues to meet Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 308 at church. If you are interesting in

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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.

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joining them, contact Dorothy Parry at 255-6049.

Hardanger will meet Wednesdays, May 8 and 22, at 9 a.m. in Room 8 at church. If you have questions, contact Arlene Field at fjeldt@q.com.

EAGLES will go to the Blank Park Zoo in May. Watch the announcements for details about date and time.

Bicycle St. John's will bike to church on the second Sunday of each month, which is May 12 this month. The group will meet after the 10 a.m. service to decide where to bike to for lunch. Anyone wishing to join the group should "like" Bicycle St. John's on Facebook or email Rod Snavely at rsnavely@aol.com to be added to the email list.

Lunch Bunch II will meet Wednesday, May 15, at 12:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg at 279-6326.

Lunch Bunch I will meet Thursday, May 16, at 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining the group, please reserve a space by calling Margaret Roby at 288-6304.

Photography will meet Sunday, May 19, at 11 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church. The theme this month is nature. Bring a couple of photographs to share or stop in to view others photos.

Recreational Reading will meet Wednesday, May 22, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm at church to discuss *Middlesex: A Novel* by Jeffrey Eugenides.

St. John's Social Club will not meet in May. The previously scheduled activity (Pub Crawl) will take place on Saturday, July 27.

Yoga classes will be held on Thursdays, May 2, 16 and 30, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at church. Cost is \$10 per class or \$60 for the session of seven classes. To sign up or ask questions, contact Corinne Lambert at callingwisdom1@hotmail.com.



Global Mission

Throughout the summer months, the Global Mission Ministry Team will be collecting Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) to distribute around the world. A Baby Care Kit from LWR is like a promise. It says to that baby, "Your needs will not be neglected by this world. You matter to us."

In addition to being distributed as part of emergency and relief efforts, Baby Care Kits also are given as part of LWR health initiatives to encourage women to seek prenatal care. You can help by donating one or all of the items listed below. Individual items received will be assembled into complete kits in September. Monetary donations will be used to cover shipping expenses (\$1.30 per kit) and to purchase items needed to complete a kit.

Items Needed for Each Kit

- Two lightweight cotton t-shirts
- Two long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Two receiving blankets up to 52 square inches (medium-weight cotton or flannel or crocheted or knitted blankets made of lightweight yarn)
- Four flatly folded cloth diapers
- One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood (or include a baby cap)
- Two pairs of socks
- One hand towel (dark color recommended)
- Two 4- to 5-ounce bars of gentle soap (in original wrapping)
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins

Guidelines for Donations

- Include only new or clean gently used items with no stains or tears. Check out garage sales this summer for great deals.
- Do not include items with religious symbols, messages, U.S. flags, patriotic or military symbols or camouflage patterns.
- Do not leave out any kit items (better to add extra items).
- Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins (no plastic bags, please).

Other Tips

- Sizes 6- to 24-months may be used. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care Kit more useful as the baby grows.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn or made from heavy double-knits or fleece. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- Diapers can be made from flannel or even by recycling t-shirts (instructions on the LWR website).
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, include one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel blanket to provide maximum versatility.
- Onesies can be cut and hemmed or serged to make a simple t-shirt.
- Gowns, rompers or top-and-pant sets can be substituted for sleepers.

Children's Ministries

May Sunday School Schedule

May 5: The Sower (Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)

On this Sunday in the Chapel, Steve King will draw an illustration of this Bible story right before the eyes of our first through sixth graders as they hear the story.



Ask your child:

- Do you or does someone you know have a garden? What is it like to wait 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?

May 12: Paul and Silas (Acts 16:16-40)

Discuss these questions with your child:

- What is your favorite praise song or hymn?
- How do you think people worshipped God through song before the invention of iPods, CD players, and modern instruments?
- Where do you use music to worship God?

May 19: Paul and the Philippians (Philippians 1:1-14)

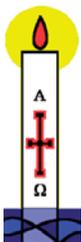
LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

Ask your child:

- How do you think people from an early church felt when they received a letter from Paul?
- In what ways has technology, like the telephone and the computer, changed how people share their faith with one another?
- How do we learn about the needs of people in our own church community?

Growing in Faith at Home

The darkness and sadness of Good Friday is a sharp contrast to the rejoicing words and happy music that greeted us Easter morning. Echoes of “He is risen!” and “He is risen indeed!” ring in our ears. During the remainder of this Easter season, remind your children through prayer and conversation that our sins have been forgiven and that we will be with God forever! Now *that’s* something to celebrate!!!



Growing in Faith in Worship

DID YOU KNOW? A special candle, called the Paschal candle, often is lit on Easter Sunday. It remains lit for the rest of the Easter season. The Paschal candle symbolizes Christ’s victory over the darkness of sin and death. Encourage your child to “eye spy” the Paschal candle this Sunday!

Youth Ministries

Our St. John’s Youth’s Travel Plans

May seems like the perfect time to give everyone an overview of what the youth will be up to this summer!

Some of the confirmation students will attend Lutheran Lakeside from Sunday, June 9, to Friday, June 14, for Confirmation Camp. During the week they will study the Bible, sail on the lake, swim, play games, make new friends, do arts and crafts, and grow in their faith! It should be a wonderful week in a fantastic setting.

Eleven middle school boys will be in Duluth, MN, for a service trip from Sunday, July 14, through Friday, July 19. Pastor Bob Speirs and I (Megan Clausen) will chaperone the trip; we are excited to see the boys learn about themselves and others while in Duluth. They will spend the time doing various relational projects. They could help entertain residents in a nursing home or help at a local food bank. They also could help young kids in the area or work at a local park. The week is sure to be exciting, and, whatever they end up doing, they will learn a great deal about their faith.

Then, from Thursday, July 25, through Friday, Aug. 2, 12 high school students will be in San Francisco, CA, with Pastor Bob, Greg Anderson, Heidi and Dave Slinker and me for service and sightseeing. We will spend the first four days exploring this beautiful city. Then we will serve the people of San Francisco somehow for the next five days. We might work with the local Salvation Army or at a food bank or soup kitchen. We also could work with a local children’s organization. No matter what we do, we will learn more about ourselves and will serve others in a completely different environment than that to which we are accustomed.

This summer will be busy, but wonderful! Thank you for your financial support, which helps to make these trips possible. Please keep us in your prayers as we travel throughout the state and country this summer.

In the City (and World) for Good!

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, the privilege is ours to share in the loving, healing, reconciling mission of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, in this age and wherever we are. Since without you we can do no good thing, may your Spirit make us wise; may your Spirit guide us; may your Spirit renew us; may your Spirit strengthen us so that we will be strong in faith, discerning in proclamation, courageous in witness, persistent in good deeds.

- Prayer from the Church of the Province of the West Indies

It's time to get started building houses and revitalizing neighborhoods through Habitat for Humanity! There are many ways to get involved with Habitat this spring and summer – whether you have a day, a week, or all summer to donate to the cause. Please go to the Habitat website - www.gdmhabitat.org - to find out how you can volunteer to join in providing good quality shelter for our neighbors in need. Check out the opportunity to *Rock the Block*, participate in *Thrivent Builds*, or swing a hammer with a group of women in *Hammers & Heels!*

Thanks to all who continue to support the meals we serve at the Connection Café and Central Iowa Shelter & Services! Your dedication to provide everything from orange juice to sandwiches to casseroles to cookies is appreciated not only by those who eat the meals but our entire faith community. Part of being “in the city for good” is to be “in the city to provide good food!” Sign-up sheets for the shelter meals are in the narthex and online at www.volunteerspot.com, and if you have a group that would like to provide lunch at the Connection Café, you may contact Rob Hoover at 771-1481 or theconnectioncafe@hotmail.com

Help is needed after the storage unit of an area refugee resettlement program – United State Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) - recently caught fire. Everything in the unit that had been donated for newly arriving families was destroyed. Please help replenish their supplies with donations of couches, chairs, tables, lamps, bed frames, box springs and kitchen items. Contact [Laura Wonderlin](mailto:Laura.Wonderlin@uscra.org) at 515-528-7525 for more information.

The After School Arts Program (ASAP) summer camp at Evelyn K. Davis Park is scheduled for the week of June 24th. The theme is “Jazz!” and many volunteers are needed to make the camp a success. Please contact Michelle Bolton King at mboltenking@mchsi.com or 770-3380 if you can help with camp this year.

Please remember that hunger does not take a summer vacation! The DMARC Emergency Food Pantry continues to need our financial support, as well as food donations from stores or gardens. Statistics recently received reveal that St. John's provided \$5,000 in general program support and \$5,984 in designated program support (including Food Pantry) to DMARC in 2012. Thank you for your faithfulness to this interfaith, community-wide ministry!

The privilege is, indeed, ours “to share in the loving, healing, reconciling mission” of Christ. Thanks to all of you for your faithfulness to your neighbor in need.

LSI Update

This May, join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), a partner in Iowa KidsNet, in making a difference in the lives of children in foster care. May is National Foster Care Month, a chance to come together on behalf of the over 6,500 Iowa children in foster care. National Foster Care Month highlights the needs of youth in foster care and celebrates the families, social workers, advocates, mentors and volunteers who make a difference in their lives.



It only takes one person to make an extraordinary and lifelong impact in a child's life, whether it is a foster parent or a caring mentor in the community. Youth in foster care need safe and loving homes with adults who will support them until they can safely reunite with their birth families, live with relatives or find a permanent home through adoption.

LSI is a lead agency in Iowa KidsNet, a statewide collaboration of agencies that recruits, trains, licenses and supports families to foster and adopt Iowa children. With support, these children can reach their potential for greatness and make successful transitions to adulthood.

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

LSI is a partner agency in Iowa KidsNet. For more information, visit www.iowakidsnet.com.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE EAGLE CALL?



E-mail scottl@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**.



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Hospitality & Outreach



Welcome Our New Members!

On Sunday, April 14, we hosted our first new member class of 2013. What a great class it is! Below are their photos and a bit of personal information about them. Please make our new St. John's members welcome!



Eric and DeAnna Axness: Many of you may already know Eric and DeAnna. They have been attending St. John's for a couple of years, and their daughters, **Gretchen and Fina**, are enrolled in our Sunday School program. DeAnna is a part-time drama teacher with Drama Tykes and is a stay-at-home mom. Eric is employed by the Des Moines Public Library. Their daughters are the blessed recipients of parents well-versed in literature and the arts! DeAnna enjoys gardening, reading and herding cats (it is unknown at this time if this is literal or metaphorical!). The Axness family resides in Des Moines. They were attracted to St. John's by our strong mission, arts' focus, children's programs, After School Arts Program (DeAnna has served as an ASAP volunteer), our urban location, music and community service.



Candace and Joe Bell: Congratulations and best wishes are in order as the Bell family looks forward to their first child, a baby boy, expected in July! Candace and Joe make their home in Pleasant Hill and were attracted to our church by the friendly, inviting environment and the traditional style of worship. Candace says it reminds her of the church in Pennsylvania where

she grew up. Joe is a seventh-grade social studies teacher at Oskaloosa Middle School and doesn't mind the daily commute. Candace is in customer service at the Des Moines Performing Arts Center (formerly known as the Civic Center). She enjoys reading and the theatre. Joe also enjoys reading as well as soccer and volunteering. (We can single-handedly fulfill his every volunteer wish.)



Kelly Bumpus: Kelly also has been attending St. John's for a number of months. She enjoys reading, music and travel. She served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Malawi in Africa. She was attracted to St. John's by our music and social ministry. At this time, Kelly is living in Des Moines. She is, however, looking at new employment opportunities and some interviews are not local. We

assured her she is welcome at St. John's no matter how long and wish her the best of luck in her job search (preferring, of course, that she STAY in the area!).



Gregory and Rita Davis: Greg, a retired Lutheran pastor, and Rita, a consulting dietician, make their home in Johnston. Interests include (although not necessarily in this order) social ministry, global ministry, coffee, gardening, grandchildren, wine and the arts. Greg is interested in choral music, travel and politics, among other things. He is a long-time member of the European Society for the Study of Science and Theology. Rita and Greg were attracted to St. John's by our pastors, liturgical worship, music and the ELCA. Greg mentioned that he always wondered why so many retired pastors became members of St. John's. Now he knows!

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Jeff and Ginger Lakose: Our own Youth Ministry Director Megan Clausen invited Ginger and Jeff to St. John's. Ginger served as a second mother to Megan when she was growing up as her daughter is one of Megan's close friends. They have now relocated to Des Moines and are pleased to be joining St. John's. Jeff was working and unable to attend

our class, which is why you won't be able to identify him in the photos. He works at Color FX as a digital press operator. Ginger is a customer service manager at US Roasterie (a private coffee brewer). They enjoy spending time with family and friends, particularly their two grandsons, Brock and Beau.



David and Stephanie Lee: They are also Des Moines residents. Stephanie is a case manager at Visiting Nurse Services, and David is manager at NPI Security. While he enjoys hunting and fishing, Stephanie likes reading, scrapbooking, photography, theater and other fine arts (boy, do we have groups for her!). The both enjoy travel. David moved to Des Moines from California at the age of 15 and is a graduate of Lincoln High School. Stephanie spent 2003 in Argentina with Lutheran Global Missions as an English teacher; she is fluent in Spanish. They are interested in all the groups and activities available at St. John's. Also, of the various churches they visited, they appreciated the response when they expressed interest here. We're so glad!



Kayleigh Miller and Aaron Kirchenberg: This couple lives right across the street at Park Place and are planning a summer wedding in Wisconsin. Kayleigh is a human resource service specialist at Assurant and Aaron is a production

management engineer at Cargill. They both enjoy snowboarding. Kayleigh also enjoys running, skiing, board games and movies. Aaron tends toward adventure and athletics as well as writing, video/board games, building and designing. They were looking for a Christian community and found St. John's to be friendly and inviting. It also helps that we are conveniently located!



Sue and Art Wittmack: Residents of Des Moines, Art and Sue are very familiar with St. John's and decided to make membership official. Art's grandmother was an organist here. His grandparents were married here in 1912 and his parents in 1939, while Art was baptized here in 1947. Many of you may remember Betsy Peak; she was Art's Godmother. While living in Wisconsin, Art's father and mother took a sabbatical from the Lutheran Church. Art and Sue were both active in the Episcopal Church and now, as Art states, "[He] has returned to the St. John's flock." Sue is a case manager for the Senior Health Insurance Information Program of the Iowa Insurance Department. Art retired as President/CEO of Neumann Brothers, Inc., and is currently an active volunteer in the areas of K-12 education and public policy/finance. They have four grown children and enjoy visiting grandchildren in Boston and Charlotte. Recreational activities include travel and sailing. They add that if they are MIA during the summer months, it is likely they are enjoying time on their sailboat, which is home ported in Milwaukee. They were attracted to St. John's by the message they receive from the pulpit, music, young voices, urban location and all that it brings, plus our varied outreach programs.

Several of our new members said they had been "church-shopping" for a while and were impressed with the friendliness of our congregation and the welcoming environment. That's wonderful to hear and is as it should be. We are here to welcome all to a fuller and deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. We do that through worship, outreach, and smiles and hospitality to all who enter. We ask God's continued blessings on our St. John's family as we grow in numbers and in spirituality.

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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.



JUNE EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, May 20**. 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!