



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**In the City for Good!**  
**Phone 515.243.7691**

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Office Hours:  
 Monday – Thursday  
 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.,  
 4:00 p.m. Friday

**Next Eagle Call Deadline**  
**November 16 at noon**



## A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

My dear friends,

Even though November can be a cloudy, cold, damp introduction to a Midwestern winter, it is a month in our life together as a faith community that I greatly appreciate. From the heartbreaking beauty of All Saints (Nov. 3) to the paradoxical festival of Christ the King (Nov. 24) to Thanksgiving (Nov. 28), this month provides opportunities for praise that is tearful, thoughtful and, at the same time, hopeful.

How can we “keep” this month faithfully?

- As night falls earlier each day during November, make a habit of lighting a candle for the dinner table or in the place that your household gathers to talk before going to bed. Jesus is the light of the world, the light no darkness – not even death – could overcome (John 1) At day's end, remember to not only lament what went wrong that day, but let the candle's light remind you of God's promises. Ask yourself – and others – “What were this day's joys?”
- Use this month to tell stories of the saints in your life who have died and rest in God's love. Because both of my parents died before our children were born, I have tried to give my son and daughter a sense of who their Grandma and Grandpa Thorson were by telling stories about them, sharing my memories of who they were as ordinary, funny, unique people of faith. I encourage you to do the same this month, sharing the everyday and the extraordinary stories of those who shaped your life of faith. Gather with friends or family and “toast” these special saints, thanking God for their love and witness.
- When you receive your stewardship packet on All Saints weekend, don't toss it on a pile for later as though it were a bill that you don't have to attend to for a couple of weeks. Open it. Put the Estimate of Giving card where you will see it every day – by your place at the table, perhaps – and give serious thought and daily prayer to this commitment to God's future mission for St. John's. If you do not usually return your Estimate of Giving card, consider again why you don't and try looking at this request from a different perspective. Get out your Bible and read the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> chapters of 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians where Paul makes an appeal for a special offering. Read it more than once as you deliberate your generous response.
- Come to worship. “A mark of the saints is that they gather,” I read recently. Our new worship schedule has reunited old friends and helped birth new friendships, because we no longer have as many options for worship! And, if by chance, someone is sitting in “your pew” by the time you get to worship – consider it a wonderful “intrusion” and take a seat closer to the front of the sanctuary!
- And, finally, celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with a “thanks-offering” to Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC), Central Iowa Shelter and Services, Connection Café, Lutheran World Relief or the World Hunger Appeal of the ELCA. There is no better way of thanking God for God's goodness than becoming a channel of that goodness for others. And make our 10 a.m. worship the first thing you do Thanksgiving morning. It is a joyful time as members of our own congregation, extended families and visitors from other congregations sing with gratitude and joy.

November is a month of memories as well as time to make plans for the future and give thanks for the gift of today. I am grateful to be your pastor, and I treasure this community of faith.

Dwell in God's peace,  
 Pastor Rachel

## Letter from Mramba



We greet you all in Jesus name.

It's our hope that things are still going well in your Parish. Back to our Parish, things are going well too.

In relation to greetings, we would like to inform you upon the following things:

First of all, we continued seeing the miracles of our lord towards our Mgambo sub-Parish as we are no on vanishing stage.

Also we would like to inform you officially that the year 2014 will be a silver Jubilee to our Mramba Parish as it will be 25 years since our Parish was founded.

In connection to this commemoration, there will be an official opening of our Mramba church, he we real expect you to join us during these remarkable events. You will be informed soon the special date for these events.

We would like to thank you for heartedly assistance towards our (M.V.C.) club and all the kids are doing wonderfully towards improving their learning's.

Not only that but also, we agreed and accepted Mr. Chediel to be our M.V.C.'s spokes man and our Parish has appointed him to be one among the members of the cabinet for communication and good relations.

May you send our regards to your families, as well as all your Parish members.

May God bless you!

Goodluck Sechuma  
 Chair person  
 Paul Kaguo  
 Pastor (pictured above)  
 Chediel Daniel  
 Communication and Good Relations Cabinet

## From Our Council President



*Our annual fall emphasis on stewardship is here. I like that St. John's talks about being good stewards of all that God has given us. We encourage year-round understanding of stewardship and that all we have is God's (on loan); it is our choice what we will do with it, and how we will share. I also appreciate that the St. John's Council is trusted by the congregation to budget, plan and discern.*

Here is our family's stewardship story:

When Kathy and I got married 31 years ago, I had just obtained a job in Des Moines as a meeting planner. She found work at St. Stephen Lutheran Church as the choir director and Christian education and youth director. We were new to town, so I came to almost every church event to help or be involved. We learned that giving of our time was easy (we had no other commitments) and fun (we made friends). We also remembered our parents always putting an offering envelope in the plate, so we started sharing some of what we earned.

Soon we started having children, and Kathy left her position at church to be a piano instructor (and be home with our kids). Eventually, I was asked to run for the St. Stephen Congregational Council. I soon learned about the financial side of church. I knew it took money to run all the programs like worship, music, youth and education. I also talked with many of the volunteers who shared their talent and time to make meals, mow, clean and be worship assistants. One year, Pastor Ron Mohr encouraged everyone to grow their giving by one percent annually. So every time we got a raise, we increased our giving.

We are charged to spread the Gospel, educate our kids, serve the poor and praise God. Kathy and I are blessed with a great marriage, family, jobs and health and to now be members of St. John's. We know it takes money to pay the staff, heat the building, purchase Sunday School materials, hold worship services and reach out to the congregation and community. We are happy to share.

What is your story? Why do you give?

Kris Gregersen  
 2013 President  
 Congregational Council



WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE EAGLE CALL?  
 E-mail [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**.

## Prepare for Worship

### Sunday, Nov. 3 All Saints Sunday

*In holy baptism, God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion, God forgives the sins of all the saints. In the assembly gathered this All Saints Sunday, we give thanks for all the saints "who from their labors rest," who fought the good fight, who have gained the crown. In the same breath, we petition our God for the strength to hear and heed the admonitions of the Lord Jesus in the gospel. Recalling that we have been sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior's body and blood, we keep on keeping on as God gives us breath to praise God's glory.*

The readings are Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18, Psalm 149, Ephesians 1:11-23 and Luke 6:20-31. The hymns will be ELW 422, "For All the Saints," ELW 424, "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones," ELW 426, "Sing with All the Saints in Glory" and ELW 632, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past." At Remembrance of Baptism near the beginning of the service, we will read the names of all the newly baptized from the past 12 months. During the Prayers of the People, we will remember by name those who have passed from this assembly to the Church triumphant. The assembly's song and liturgy will be led by a full orchestra at 10 a.m. During the offering, Kisasa Choristers, Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra will perform "Shall We Gather at the River," arranged by Robert McIver (Matt McIver's uncle!) The communion music will be Cathedral Choir, Adult Handbells and orchestra doing "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence," arranged by Robert Hobby.

### Sunday, Nov. 10 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 32

*We worship on the first of the week, because our Savior was raised on that day. Every Sunday is a little Easter. This Sunday feels more like Easter than many as the appointed texts celebrate the reality of the resurrection. Live it up this Lord's day! Our God is the God of the living.*

The readings are Job 19:23-27a, Psalm 17:1-9, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 and Luke 20:27-38. The hymns will be ELW 625, "Come, We That Love the Lord," ELW 619, "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" and ELW 867, "In Thee is Gladness." During the offering at 10 a.m., Cathedral Choir will sing "How Firm a Foundation," arranged by Leonard Van Camp, and the communion music will be "Come, Soothing Death," J.S. Bach, arr. F.M. and Paul Christiansen, sung by Joel Gettys, Chris Frantsvog, Paul Stageberg and Erik Horak Hult.

### Sunday, Nov. 17 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 33

*The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know*

*how to live "in the meantime." The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Brothers and sisters, do not be weary of doing what is right."*

The readings are Malachi 4:1-2a, Psalm 98, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 and Luke 21:5-19. The hymns will be ELW 723, "Canticle of the Turning," ELW 327, "Through the Night of Dark and Sorrow" and ELW 439, "Soon and Very Soon." During offering the Cathedral Choir sings "Lost in the Night," F. M. Christiansen, with Vanessa Leonard singing the soprano solo. For communion Asphalt & Stained Glass will be joined by Cathedral Choir to present "When We Are Living," a Spanish traditional song (*Pues si vivimos*) arranged by Marty Haugen. This Sunday we also lift up the St. John's Foundation and the work they do to undergird the ministries of St. John's.

### Sunday, Nov. 24 "Christ the King" Last Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary 34

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears so utterly contradictory that the king should be crucified with the criminal. This victory appears to the world as ignominious defeat. Yet through the gate of death our Lord opens the door to paradise.

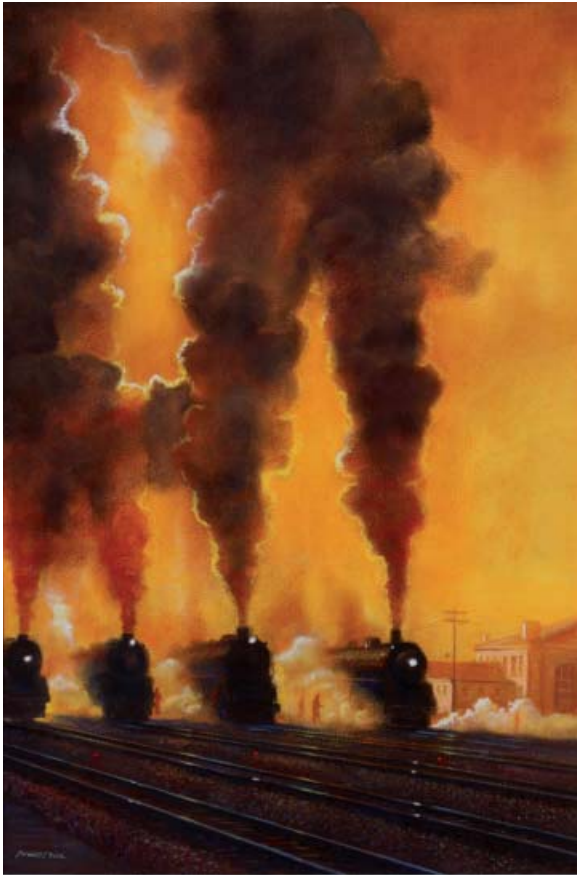
The readings are Jeremiah 23:1-6, Psalm 46, Colossians 1:11-20 and Luke 23:33-43. The hymns will be ELW 490, "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence," ELW 883, "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" and ELW 855, "Crown Him with Many Crowns." During the offering, Cathedral Choir, Adult Handbells, brass, timpani and organ will present "O God Beyond All Praising," tune by Gustav Holst and arranged by Hal H. Hopson. For communion Cathedral Choir will sing "At the Name of Jesus," by Rene Clausen.

### Thursday, Nov. 28 Day of Thanksgiving 10 a.m. Service

*Every gathering for worship has elements of thanksgiving. When we are nourished with God's bounty in holy communion, when we partake of Jesus' word that gives life to the world, and even when two or three of us simply join our hearts in prayer to make our requests known to God, we do so "with thanksgiving." During this national day of Thanksgiving for the U.S.A., let us give thanks to the Lord, who is good and whose mercy endures forever.*

The readings are Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 100, Philippians 4:4-9 and John 6:25-35. The St. John's Altar Guild will create an iconic cornucopia of harvest produce, we will sing Marty Haugen's "Now the Feast" liturgy and hymns of thanksgiving, hear God's word of grace and salvation, and be nourished at God's banquet table of abundant love and grace.

## The Arts at St. Johns



### Artist of the Month: Stewart Buck

Stewart Buck (b. 1951) grew up in Ames. He graduated from Iowa State University (1975) with a master's degree in design. Buck recently retired from 36 years of teaching high school art. He now is devoted fulltime to Streamliner Studio ([stewartbuck.com](http://stewartbuck.com)), a freelance railroad art business, started in 1975. His artwork is in private and corporate collections around the world, and his images have been selected for book covers, calendars, brochures, greeting cards and magazines.

### Adult Handbell Choir Rings at Interfaith Prayer Service

As part of the World Food Prize Borlaug Dialog, an interfaith prayer service was held on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at St. Ambrose Cathedral. The St. John's Adult Handbell Choir was invited to take part in this important service bringing together Christian, Islamic, Jewish

and Buddhist faiths to help stop world hunger. More than \$2,200 was collected for DMARC's Move the Food program.

### Handbell Workshop at St. John's

*In just one year, the St. John's community has raised over \$11,000 to refurbish the church's five octaves of handbells (and replace one cracked bell). More than 50 ringers have membership in one of our three handbell choirs: Kisasa elementary, junior-senior high school, and adult. Handbells are heard in worship almost every Sunday, and our adult handbell choir had its first outside ringing invitation in October.*

The ARTS at  
ST. JOHN'S

The Arts at St. John's will sponsor a handbell workshop at St. John's Friday and Saturday, Nov. 15-16, in honor of the music our handbell program provides during worship and to celebrate our newly refurbished bells and revitalized handbell program.

On Friday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., we will host a round-table and clinic for handbell directors. Then on Saturday a ringing workshop will take place in the Sanctuary. Registration for the Saturday event will begin at 9:45 a.m. and culminate with our 5 p.m. Saturday worship service, **which will be held in the Sanctuary.**

Our clinician, Ed Rollins, will be associate pastor for music and administration at First Baptist Church, Columbia, MO, where he has served for 22 years. He oversees seven choirs and ensembles and is executive director of the church's Odyssey Chamber Music Series. Ed is co-founder, bass bell ringer and current conductor of the highly acclaimed Columbia Handbell Ensemble. He also currently serves as president-elect of Handbell Musicians of America.

If you know of handbell directors or ringers in the Des Moines area who would like to attend, share this information directly or contact Beth Ann Edwards at [bethann@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:bethann@stjohnsdsm.org) or 243-7691. An information sheet and registration form can be found on the St. John's website at <http://stjohnsdsm.org/finearts/>.

### November Midweek Music Series

This month's Midweek Music Series brings a variety of world-class music to our Sanctuary. Each Wednesday at 12:05 p.m., join us for a free concert and then head downstairs for a light lunch for \$6 per person. Check out the schedule, and mark your calendars. Relax and center yourself in the midst of a busy week by listening to music performed by the best of the best in our beautiful Sanctuary.

- **Nov. 6:** Bob Lien, piano, new and old piano bench favorites.
- **Nov. 13:** Amadeus Trio (Sue Odem, oboe; Joyce Wheeler, clarinet; Janean Schaefer Denhart, bassoon).
- **Nov. 20:** Scott Stilwell, singer/songwriter, performing music from his new CD.
- **Nov. 27:** Bruch Trio (Bruce Martin, piano; Dan Stevenson, clarinet; Sue Odem, oboe and English horn).

# Small Groups

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

## CALENDAR

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

**Saturday AM Bible Study:** Saturdays, Nov. 2, 9, 16 and 23 (not Nov. 30, the weekend of Thanksgiving) at 8:30 a.m., location to be determined. Contact Ellen Fisher at 515-274-5236 or [ellenfisher123@gmail.com](mailto:ellenfisher123@gmail.com).

**Zumba:** Mondays, Nov. 4, 11, 18 at 5 p.m., third-floor Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) at church.

**Mah Jongg:** Mondays, Nov. 4, 11, 18, Neumann Hall at church; Monday, Nov. 25, reserved room at Smokey Row, Des Moines.

**Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement:** Tuesday, Nov. 5, 6 p.m., Cool Basil's on University Avenue.

**WIRED Book Discussion:** Thursday, Nov. 7, 6 p.m., Diane Wheeler's house.

**EAGLES:** Friday, Nov. 8, 9:45 a.m. Meet at the Des Moines Art Center parking lot; guided tour of the art center with lunch following.

**St. John's Social Club:** Saturday, Nov. 9, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Des Moines Beer, Wine and Food Expo at Hy-Vee Hall, Des Moines; meet at 7:30 p.m. for dessert and conversation at a location to be decided.

**Hardanger:** Wednesdays, Nov. 13 and 27, 9 a.m., Neumann Hall at church. Facilitator: Arlene Field, 515-964-3363.

**WIRED Service Project:** Thursday, Nov. 14, 6:30 p.m., Weertz Fellowship Hall (see more information elsewhere).

**Photography:** Sunday, Nov. 17, 11 a.m., Neumann Hall at church. Bring a couple of photos to share of the theme for November, "Sunrise, Sunset."

**Lunch Bunch II:** Wednesday, Nov. 20, 12:30 a.m.

**Recreational Reading:** Wednesday, Nov. 20, 4:30 p.m., Rose Holm Room at church.

**Lunch Bunch I:** Thursday, Nov. 21, 11:30 a.m.

**Scrapbooking:** Saturday, Nov. 23, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Room 8 at church.

*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/news](http://www.stjohnsdsm.org/news)*

**Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement** will meet Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 6 p.m. at Cool Basil Restaurant on University Avenue.

**Zumba** will meet on Mondays, Nov. 4, 11 and 18 at 5 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at church. Kelli is a certified Zumba teacher and is looking forward to continuing to hold classes at St. John's. This class is open to all. Please plan to join us for any or all of the classes.

**Mah Jongg** will meet on Mondays, Nov. 4, 11 and 18 at 6 p.m. in Neumann Hall at church and on Monday, Nov. 25, at 6 p.m. in the reserved back room at Smokey Row in Des Moines.

**The EAGLES** will tour the Des Moines Art Center on Friday, Nov. 8, with lunch following. Meet in the parking lot of the art center at 9:45 a.m. Contact is Roma Youngquist, 515-285-3810 or [plaallda@aol.com](mailto:plaallda@aol.com).

**St. John's Social Club** will meet Saturday, Nov. 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Hy-Vee Hall for the Des Moines' Beer, Wine and Food Expo. Cost of the exposition is \$30 per person or, with a Groupon, \$37 for two. The group will meet afterwards for conversation and dessert at a location to be decided. Contacts are Mary Miller, 515-984-6207 or [mmiller588@aol.com](mailto:mmiller588@aol.com); Darla Stiles, [darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org); or Mary Slattery, [marywslatt@gmail.com](mailto:marywslatt@gmail.com).

**Hardanger** will meet Wednesdays, Nov. 13 and 27 (second and fourth Wednesdays of each month), at 9 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church. Arlene Field is the facilitator and is willing to teach anyone who is interested in learning. If you have questions, Arlene may be contacted at 515-964-3363.

**Lunch Bunch I** will meet Thursday, Nov. 21, at 11:30 a.m. Anyone interested in joining the group should call Barb Hyler, 515-401-5721, to reserve a space. New members are most welcome!

**Lunch Bunch II** will meet Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 12:30 p.m. If interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg at 515-279-6326.

**Recreational Reading** will meet Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 4:30 p.m. in the Rose Holm Room at church. The selected book to read for November is *The*

*Continued on Page 7*

## MORE INFORMATION

**Quilting** continues to meet Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 308 at church. If interested, call Dorothy Parry at 515-255-6049.

**Saturday AM Bible Study** will meet Saturdays, November 2, 9, 16 and 23 (not Nov. 30, Thanksgiving weekend) at 8:30 a.m. Location to be decided. For more information, contact Ellen Fisher at 515-274-5236 or [ellenfisher123@gmail.com](mailto:ellenfisher123@gmail.com).

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*Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson. Facilitator is Carol MacDonald, who can be contacted at macpac00@mchsi.com.

**Scrapbooking** will meet Saturday, Nov. 23, between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. in Room 8 at church. Bring materials to work on (whether scrapbooking or cards) and join the group for fellowship. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Darla at darlas-tiles@stjohnsdsd.org.


**Photography** will meet Sunday, Nov. 17, at 11 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church to share a couple of photos with the theme, "sunrise/sunset." Anyone who enjoys photography is invited to join them.



**WIRED (Women Interested in Renewal, Education and Discovery)** will start their 2014 service project early when they meet on Thursday, Nov. 14, at 6:30 p.m. in Weertz Fellowship Hall. Members will again make fleece blankets for local homeless youth, who are aging out of foster care. This group was our service project last year and, because their needs continue to be great, we have designated them to be the recipients of our 2014 service project. Please bring two coordinating colors of fleece, 2.5 yards of each color, and a pair of scissors.

**WIRED Book Discussion** will meet on Nov. 7, 6 p.m. at the home of Diane Wheeler. The book to read and discuss is *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom. Participants may bring an appetizer. If you will be able to attend, contact at 515-225-3499 or wheelers464@msn.com.

**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.



## News from the Garden

### For Everything There Is a Season

Garden volunteers met on the brisk morning of Oct. 19 to put the garden to bed for the season. St. John's youth already had raked the mulch into tidy rows. The Oct. 19 crew loaded up the mulch to spread around the Speirs' tree trunks, then roughed up the soil with rakes before seeding a winter cover crop of rye. After watering the garden from the rain barrels, they emptied the barrels for the winter and scrubbed them out. Gardeners held hands in a prayer circle and each shared something for which they were thankful to God.

The gardeners are very grateful for Diana Sickles, who devised the elegantly simple team method of maintaining St. John's Faith Garden. Her weekly emails remind the next team on deck that their week on duty is imminent. Diana is the garden's volunteer coordinator, executive troubleshooter and cheerleader-in-chief.



## Youth Ministry

### Confirmation for Adults?

Can you defend Trinitarian theology? How many ecumenical creeds does the ELCA affirm and profess? Is God male or female? Or, is God a mother hen, a whirlwind, a mother bear, a fortress, or perhaps a young man of about 30? If there is one God, then why are there so many different religions?

These questions highlight just a few of the topics our confirmation students are discussing and wrestling with on Wednesday nights. Come join us! Confirmation isn't just for 7<sup>th</sup>-, 8<sup>th</sup>- and 9<sup>th</sup>-graders. You may not find a lot of answers, but we will certainly ask a lot of questions, and we'll have a pretty fun time while we're at it! We're in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) on the third floor every Wednesday night from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

### You Belong to Christ, in Whom You Have Been Baptized. Alleluia!

Please say hi to and congratulate our six confirmands, Daniel Lunde, Alex Runkel, Kassidy and Kennedy Berkenpas, and Lauren and Sara Slinker, who on Reformation Sunday affirmed the gift and promise they received in baptism!



*"Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism ...*

- *to live among God's faithful people,*
- *to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,*
- *to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,*
- *to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,*
- *and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?"*

Together, we can join our confirmation students in responding to this exhortation with a humble and persistent, "I do, and I ask God to help and guide me," knowing that when we respond in the affirmative we choose to belong to a Christ that opened up God's arms to us (and everyone!) and went so far as to have those open welcoming arms nailed to a cross.

### Strive for Justice and Peace in All the Earth

In October, our 7<sup>th</sup>-, 8<sup>th</sup>- and 9<sup>th</sup>-graders did a wonderful job preparing and serving food for the Central Iowa Shelter. Currently, our high school youth are organizing a Reggie's Sleepout Team to help raise money for Iowa Homeless Youth Centers (IHYC). In 2012, IHYC was able to help close to 400 homeless youth in the Des Moines area metro alone. This year's sleepout will take place on Saturday, Nov. 16, at the Drake University stadium. Please think about joining our team for a night outside or sponsoring one of our youth. For more information, contact Director of Youth Ministry Noah Niermann at 243-7691 or [noah@stjohnsdsdm.org](mailto:noah@stjohnsdsdm.org).

### Photos

We're looking for past youth group photos to help share the story of St. John's Youth! We're especially looking for large group photos. If you have any digital copies or old film negatives, please send an email to [noah@stjohnsdsdm.org](mailto:noah@stjohnsdsdm.org).

Noah Niermann  
Director of Youth Ministries

*Photos from Ultimate Frisbe at Jester Park*





## Children's Ministry

### We Give Thanks

During the month of November, we will spend time discussing what it means to be grateful. We will reflect on the good in our lives and how we might share with others who are less fortunate. One way that we will demonstrate our gratitude



is by recording what we are most thankful for on a leaf that will then be hung on our "Tree of Gratitude". Each child will be asked to contribute a leaf to the tree. The tree will be displayed in Fireside Lounge during the latter half of November.

Another opportunity to share our gratitude and provide for others is through our ongoing service project "Pennies for the Pantry". The children of St. John's have been busy collecting coins to support the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC). In addition to other programs, DMARC helps to support **13 food pantries throughout the Des Moines area**. Children that have chosen to participate in this service project have been working together to "fill the container"... a large water jug that can be seen in Fireside Lounge on Sunday mornings. Our goal is to have the jug filled by Thanksgiving! This has been a wonderful opportunity to allow our children to practice stewardship by giving to those in need in our very own communities and to demonstrate caring for all people. It has been heartwarming to see the excitement and pride as the children contribute their coins. I am hopeful that we will reach our goal!

### Upcoming Events for Children's Ministries at SJLC

- Rehearsals for The Advent Program will begin on November 17<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades. We will meet in room 307. The three year old, preschool, and kindergarten classes will meet as usual in their assigned classrooms, rehearsing during their normally scheduled music time at the end of the Sunday School hour.

- Rehearsal for The Advent Program will be held on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00AM in the sanctuary for 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades.
- The Advent Program will be held on Sunday, December 15 at 9:00AM in the sanctuary with a reception in Fireside Lounge following the 10:00AM service. We hope you will be able to celebrate with us!

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

*I think Jesus is saying, if you aspire to love one another as I have loved you, then **see** one another as I have **seen** you. I see you as sacred. You are precious beyond any measure of preciousness. Accept that I see you this way. See every person you meet as I see you...*

N. Gordon Cosby

Thank you for **seeing** our neighbors in need – here at home and around the world. Information about some of our efforts to be at work *for good* in this world can be found below:

- Thank you for your generous support of the Saturday Children's Club in our companion parish in Tanzania! In just one weekend's appeal, you provided sponsorship for every child and teacher in the club as well as the necessary Secondary School tuition for each of the secondary students. Thanks so much!
- We received word this morning (10/22/13) that our sister in Christ, Judi Langholz, arrived safely in Tanzania to begin her two-year commitment as an ELCA Global Mission Volunteer, teaching English at Usangi Secondary School for Girls. Please keep Judi in your prayers as she begins her assignment with an intensive course in Swahili in the weeks ahead.
- The number of guests coming for supper at Central Iowa Shelter and Services is growing as the weather gets colder. Approximately 275 people were in attendance when we served on Oct. 18! Thanks for generously providing what is necessary for this crucial ministry. A number of our teenagers along with Director of Youth Ministry Noah Niermann helped provide and serve the meal on Oct. 19.
- Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) will be moving its offices and food pantry warehouse later this fall to the building previously occupied by Central Iowa Shelter and Services. We look forward to having DMARC as a downtown neighbor! Please continue to provide food and financial gifts for the food pantry and other ministries of DMARC, remembering that DMARC can make your grocery-buying dollar go six times as far as you can!
- In recent weeks, the Good Samaritan Fund has provided financial assistance to a variety of people in need. Help with rent and energy expenses has been requested most often, usually because unexpected medical bills or auto repairs required dollars originally earmarked for rent or food. The fund also has provided medical care, gas, bus tokens and even a tent. Thank you for your generous donations to this fund administered by the pastors of St. John's.

We give thanks that we are where we are – in this city for the sake of the Good News of God's love. It is a joy and privilege to be "in the city (and world) for good!"

## Hospitality & Outreach



### Welcome New Members!

*In mid-September we hosted our most recent new member class. We are pleased and proud that this fine group of individuals chose St. John's to be their home church. Take a moment to acquaint yourselves with the newest members of our family. Please make them welcome as they wade into the waters that we call "church."*



**Brian and Carolyn (Carrie) Becker** are joining their son, 6-month old Ray, who was baptized here in August and beat them to the membership punch. They make

their home in Des Moines. Brian is a superintendent for the City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department. Carrie is a sales manager for W.W. Grainger's central Iowa and Minneapolis territory. Brian's interests include sports, fishing and biking. Carrie is interested in sleeping (naps come at a premium when you have a baby) and watching sports, and they love to spend time with family. They were attracted to St. John's by the friendliness of the members, our diversity, our Children's Ministry, and the location.



**Bob and Jan Boudewyns** have been attending St. John's for several months, and some of you may have already had the opportunity to meet them. Bob is

a retired ELCA pastor and previously served at Unity, Highland Park and St. Stephen's Lutheran Churches in Des Moines, as well as Bethany in West Branch and Redeemer in Indianola. Jan is now retired from Principal Financial. They are parents of three grown children. Bob is interested in prayer, reading and short walks. Jan is interested in photography. She loves to spend time with her grandchildren. Bob and Jan reside at Ramsey Village, and St. John's location is the nearest ELCA congregation (location is everything!). They are pleased we are welcoming to all and sexuality is

not a divisive issue. Bob had an interesting journey to becoming a Lutheran pastor: he grew up Roman Catholic, graduated from Dowling High School, and was a Trappist monk at New Melleray Abbey in Peosta, IA, during the 1950s and 60s. After he left the monastery, he married Jan, and she suggested he become a Lutheran pastor. To quote him directly, "Thanks be to God!"



**Kristy Fayer** was baptized and confirmed at St. John's in the 1960s. **Ron Fayer** was a member originally of St. Stephen's in Urbandale. They married here in 1980, and now they're back! They currently live in Norwalk where Kristy is owner and operator of Fayer Hair; Ron is employed as a truck driver for Old Dominion. Kristy enjoys her work as well as her family, pets and reading. Ron also loves to

spend time with family and enjoys watching sports.



**Nichole Fayer** is engaged to **Lukas Onstot**, and they both joined St. John's this past month and will be married here in October 2014. They, too, reside in Norwalk where they recently purchased their first home. Nichole has an associate's degree from AIB and is putting her talents to good use at Bank of the West as an assistant customer service manager. Lukas is a

mechanic at Ted's used cars. They both decided to explore St. John's given Nichole's parents' history. Nichole's interests include animals, shopping, family and racing; Lukas is on board with racing and spending time with family.



**Susan Ging** has been attending SJLC for a few years. She is a Des Moines resident and employed as a contractor IT Program Manager at the state Capitol complex. She is a Polk County master gardener (boy, do we have a group for her!). She has served as a member of the Bridge Board for the last five years. With her Bridge

connection she is, of course, interested in the Connection Café. In her free time, she loves to travel. Her interest in St. John's increased with her acquaintance with the Bridge members, and also her desire to re-acquaint herself with the Lutheran church after attending a Methodist church for the past 16 years.



**Sharon Iverson** has been attending St. John's for nearly a year. A Beavertdale stay-at-home mom, she enjoys reading and is particularly interested in World War II history concerning the Holocaust. She also works at maintaining her French language comprehension. She volunteers by reading to third-, fourth- and fifth-

graders selections like *Pinocchio*, *The Lion*, *the Witch and the Wardrobe* and Roald Dahl's autobiography. She is interested in getting back to her Lutheran heritage, and we're glad she chose St. John's to do so.



**Amy Johnson** became acquainted with St. John's during the ELCA Hunger Leader's Gathering hosted here this past July. When she found herself accepted to Drake Law School, she chose semi-familiar ground and

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decided to join here. She will be a full-time student and promises to worry full-time as well. Understandable! Amy says this is her second career as she just left 20 years in government, public policy and politics. Her interests are church and state issues. She is a master at crafting letters relating to public policy. If she finds some free time, perhaps we can persuade her to conduct an Adult Forum. Amy resides in the Drake area.



**Megan Strait and Jacob Eeling** live in Ankeny, are engaged, and will be married here at St. John's next May. Megan is a research associate in tumor immunology at NewLink Genetics. Jacob is a research associate at Iowa State University, working on herbicide resistance in weeds and hybridization of traits. Given their intense work, Jacob likes to spend a lot of time outdoors (when given the chance) and also likes to read and watch movies. Megan enjoys hiking and snowboarding. Her quieter interests include writing, reading and music. They both enjoy worship at St. John's and the great community here. Jacob said they tried several churches after moving to the metro area, but none fit them as well as St. John's. During their first visit, several members of the congregation introduced themselves and made them feel welcome. That's what community is all about!

*We have a few more members who recently joined us but, unfortunately, we do not have their photographs.*

**Leslie Noble** joined us for class and was eagerly awaiting the arrival of her husband, **Jason**, who was covering a news story ... he never arrived. As a member of the Fourth Estate, his time isn't his own, so Jason is going to pursue some quality time with Pastor Bob to become acquainted with St. John's. Leslie is a librarian with the Des Moines Public Library. They live in Des Moines and welcomed their first child, Robert, just a couple of weeks ago (we offer heartfelt congratulations and best wishes).

Many of you will recognize the name of **Nancy Stafford**, who grace us with her talents as our principal organist. Nancy loves Sunday worship here and decided to make her membership official. She works for Wells Fargo as a loan document specialist. She loves music, travel and spending time with her family. Nancy and her husband, John, reside in Des Moines, and Nancy is sister to Julie Lowe!

**Marian Lavella** transferred to St. John's from Gloria Dei in Iowa City. She has been worshipping with us for several months.

We also welcome the **Huey Family: Maryann and Brian** and their children, **Elise and Bryce**. They came nearly a year ago from Columbus, MO. Maryann has a hectic travel schedule, but we hope to get them to a new member class soon, so they can become aware of all St. John's has to offer.

*Welcome and blessings to our new members! Honors and kudos to our St. John's family for making them feel so welcome as visitors that they wanted to call this home. Our family continues to grow. To quote Bob Boudewyns (and a few who came before him), "Thanks be to God!"*

Katie Tippins, Hospitality & Outreach

## Women of the ELCA

### Join us!

Group meetings on Thursday,  
Nov. 7



Sarah Group will meet at 10 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church with Hospitality and Outreach Coordinator Katie Tippins as their speaker.

Lois Group will meet at 12:30 p.m. in Neumann and will focus on Deborah from the October *Gather Magazine*.

### WELCA Board Meeting

The Women of the ELCA board meeting will be held Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 9:30 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church.

### Mission Project for November

The Mission in Action project for November is Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), and the congregation is invited to participate.

Some needs are: winter baby clothes (sizes 3 months to 12 months), receiving blankets, baby blankets, diapers (sizes 2-3), baby wipes and baby washcloths. Also in demand are plug-in covers, cabinet-door safety locks, child toothbrushes and toothpaste. Donations of money are gladly accepted as well.

We extend our thanks to all who so generously filled bags with casserole ingredients for the Des Moines Area Religious Council in October.

### St. John's Women to Help at Hope for the Hungry Conference

Women of St. John's will be helping with hospitality at the Hope for the Hungry conference at St. John's on Saturday, Nov. 16. If you can help with this important task, call Margaret Townsend at 274-0962.

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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 e-mail [scottl@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:scottl@stjohnsdsm.org).



### **NEXT EAGLE CALL DEADLINE**

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, November 18**. Please send information or articles in digital format to Scott LaBlanc, [scottl@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:scottl@stjohnsdsm.org). If you cannot send it by e-mail, drop it off at the church office.  
Thank you!