



The EAGLE CALL

Volume 46, Number 02
February, 2014

Worship

Saturday
5:00 pm

Sunday
8:00 am
10:00 am

Radio Broadcast
KRNT 1350 AM
Sunday Mornings
8:30 am

Pastors

Rachel Thorson Mithelman
Senior Pastor
pastorrachel@stjohnsdsdm.org

Robert Speirs
Associate Pastor
pastorbob@stjohnsdsdm.org

Gene Anderson
Visitation Pastor
pastorgene@stjohnsdsdm.org

Website

www.stjohnsdsdm.org

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

St. John's and the Chocolate Factory! Youth Fundraising Auction and Dinner Friday, Feb. 28, at Forté restaurant 6:30-9:30 p.m.

This winter, you're invited to celebrate with the whole St. John's community as we join together to raise money for our young people and have a lot of fun while we're at it! This yearly auction and dinner is organized to support the 40-plus young people in our church who are actively involved in important youth programs. The money raised directly supports life-changing camp experiences and mission trips during which our kids learn what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Your donations also support our service activities here in Des Moines! Our hope is that money will never be a deterrent when it comes to participation in church-sponsored events. All are welcome!

The theme for this year's auction is St. John's and the Chocolate Factory. We figure, who doesn't like chocolate? Please consider items or services you might be able to donate this year. Here is a short list of ideas and items we are looking for:

- A week-long getaway at a family cabin
- A set of season tickets for a sports team in Iowa or elsewhere
- One week at a timeshare property
- Concert, theater or symphony tickets
- Handmade creations
- Artwork
- Lessons in your specialty – be it underwater basket weaving, fly fishing, baking, etc.
- Chocolate (This one is a gimmie.)

We hope to see you all at Forté on Friday, Feb. 28! Dinner, auction, childcare and world-class entertainment will make for a wonderful evening. Please talk to Noah Niermann, Tammi Reyes, Lora Simpson or Heidi Slinker if you have any questions about the night. Thank you!



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A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

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

Staff

Larry Christensen
Director of Music and Worship
larryc@stjohnsdsm.org

Beth Ann Edwards
Director of Arts, Handbells,
& Youth Choirs
bethann@stjohnsdsm.org

Lisa DeGroot
Nursery Coordinator
lisadegroot5203@yahoo.com

Alicia Karwal
Director of Children's Ministries
akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org

John Kelly
Security / Maintenance

Amanda Kuhlman
Nursery

Scott LaBlanc
Director of Parish Operations
scottl@stjohnsdsm.org

Kim Lamb
Front Office Manager
receptionist@stjohnsdsm.org

Jeff McNeeley
Security / Maintenance

Noah Niermann
Director of Youth Ministry
noah@stjohnsdsm.org

Katie Tippins
Hospitality & Outreach
katiertippins@stjohnsdsm.org

Leslie Moeller
Maintenance Supervisor
lesmoeller@stjohnsdsm.org

Darla Stiles
Christian Involvement
darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org

Patricia Stofferahn
Lead Financial Assistant
pstofferahn@stjohnsdsm.org

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

**Next Eagle Call Deadline
February 17 at noon**



Every once in a while my husband, the cook, will declare “leftover night” – lining up various small dishes on the kitchen counter, inviting me to fill my plate from remnants of the past few meals we’ve shared. He takes what I don’t, and we sit down at the table to discuss the day over rather odd food combinations and a glass of wine...

That’s what this column has turned out to be this month – an interesting combination of things that it may be helpful for you to know, but without an over-arching theme. None, however, should be considered “leftovers.” Each is important!

If you were at the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, Jan. 19, you were introduced to the 2014 Congregational Council, a wonderful group of folks willing to be “servants of the servants of God” at St. John’s. The council includes Kris Gregersen, Lindsey Ludwig, Megan Hartwig and Jim Blume, as officers, as well as Neil Olson, Mary Ann Larsen, Deb Donald, Andy Anderson, Mike Hanna, Julia Morrissey, Deanna Axness, Kathy Kahler, Jennifer Early, Judy Latessa and LaDonna Russell. This group includes seniors as well as parents of young children, single people and married people, folks who have been members of St. John’s for 30-plus years, as well as those who have been here for just over two years. Please thank them for serving St. John’s in this way and engage them in conversation about our life together! (They wear name tags on the weekend that identify them as council members!)

- I know that there is information in this Eagle Call about this event, but I want to emphasize the invitation to the fundraising event that our Youth Ministry Advisory Committee is sponsoring just down the street at **Forté on Friday, Feb. 28. St. John’s and the Chocolate Factory!** This nearly annual event is more fun than the proverbial barrel of monkeys, appeals to all ages, and the funds raised support our teen-agers in their faith journeys. Get your “Golden Ticket” as soon as they are available. And, if you have an item or service that might be auction-able, contact Youth Director Noah Niermann at 243-7691 as soon as possible!
- We are working very intentionally on making St. John’s a safe place for all, including the youngest members of the congregation. We want to think that our big stone building is a fortress that nothing harmful would ever enter, but when the building is busy – especially on Wednesdays and Sundays – more doors than we can watch are unlocked. I strongly encourage parents of young children to comply with the new Sunday School sign-in/sign-out procedure that Director of Children’s Ministries Alicia Karwal has developed and, also, to use Room 7 (off of Weertz Hall) as the designated playroom during Beloved Community.
- And, speaking of children, our son Christian – known to most as “Chris” – recently asked his girlfriend of three years – Amy White – to marry him, and she said yes! We are anticipating a wedding on Friday, July 25, 2014, in Sioux Falls, SD. See the happy couple, to the right, along with our daughter, Connie...

I am grateful for so many things as the new year begins, not least of which is your commitment to making the love of Christ known to one another, to this city and to this world. Jesus said, Let your light shine, so that others may see your beautiful works and give glory to your Father in heaven... And I say, “Amen” to that. May it be so!



Prepare for Worship

Sunday, Feb. 2 Presentation of Our Lord

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas, because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

The readings are Malachi 3:1-4, Psalm 84, Hebrews 2:14-18 and Luke 2:22-40. The hymns will be ELW 417, "In His Temple Now Behold Him," ELW 815, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" and ELW 313, "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant." We will continue to use setting nine throughout the remainder of the Epiphany season. For offering at the 10 a.m. service, the Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra will do Robert Scholz beautiful setting of the "Nunc Dimittis," Simeon's prayer "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." Some will remember that our 11 p.m. Christmas Eve service closed with this anthem for about six years. For communion, Cathedral Choir will sing "When to the Temple Mary went," by the early 17th century composer Johannes Eccard.

Sunday, Feb. 9 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (Lectionary 5)

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

The readings are Isaiah 58:1-9a, Psalm 112:1-9, 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 and Matthew 13-20. The hymns will be ELW 532, "Gather Us In," ELW 720, "We Are Called" and ELW 677, "This Little Light of Mine." The call for justice in the first reading is reflected in the Cathedral Choir's offering selection at 10 a.m., "The Last Words of David," by Randall Thompson. The Adult Handbell Choir will ring during communion.

Sunday, Feb. 16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (Lectionary 6)

In this Sunday's reading from Deuteronomy, we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We, too, are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

The readings are Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8, 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 and Matthew 5:21-37. The hymns will be ELW 804, "Come Down, O Love Divine," ELW 802, "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" and ELW 544, "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing." For offering at 10 a.m., Cathedral Choir will sing "If You Love Me," by John Ness Beck, and Kisasa Handbells will ring during communion.

We will offer something exceptional and very exciting following the 10 a.m. service. Shana Liu, younger sister of our veteran String Scholar Nina Liu, will play the first movement of the Grieg *Piano Concerto in A Minor*, Op. 16. She will be accompanied by the St. John's Chamber Orchestra. This will obviously be a scaled down performance since this is a major, symphony-sized work, but still an exciting undertaking for a young person and a church orchestra! We hope many will stay to hear this unique offering!

Sunday, Feb. 23 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany (Lectionary 7)

In today's first reading we hear, "You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." Yet we know we cannot achieve perfection. Our attempts to love neighbors and even our enemies fall short of what God desires for us. Yet in Jesus we see one who loved even those who persecuted and killed him. We are made holy in baptism and forgiven at the table of God's mercy. As a people made holy by God, we go in peace to love as we have been loved.

The readings for this Sunday are Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18, Psalm 119:33-40, 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 and Matthew 5:38-48. The hymns will be ELW 651, "Oh, Praise the Gracious Power," ELW 358, "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us," and ELW 525, "You Are Holy." At the 10 a.m. service, we have the privilege of hosting the Augustana College Choir from Rock Island, IL, in worship, and they will provide choral selections preceding and throughout the liturgy. We welcome the Auggie singers and their conductor, Jon Hurty, to our assembly.

The Arts at St. Johns

February Artist of the Month

Central Iowa Textile Artists

The February Artist of the Month exhibit is a collaborative work from Central Iowa Textile Artists (CITA). Of the current 13 members, three are now published authors, four have pattern companies, six teach classes in various techniques, two have hand-dyed fabric and/or clothing companies. All are award-winning artists, and all 13 members participated in this color exhibit.

Each was challenged to use a pure color as the focus of their quilt. They could use the tints, tones and shades of this color as well as small amounts of other colors. The focus colors were based on the colors used in today's printing. Each quilt is 15" x 30" and designed without a visible binding, so that when hung side by side there is a continuous flow of color from one to the other.

The art work on display represents numerous techniques, which include piecing, painting, hand dyeing, machine quilting, hand embroidery, free-hand machine embroidery, appliqué, beading and couching. Textile fibers in these quilts include cotton, silk, wool and polyester.

Midweek Music Series

February's Midweek Music Series will warm your soul and put some sunshine in your life. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us! This month's music provides something for everyone. Please note: The Midweek Music Series will take a hiatus during Lent, which begins March 5.

- **Feb. 5** - Joel Kinser and Friends, singer/guitarist
- **Feb. 12** - North High School Gospel Choir
- **Feb. 19** - IMTA district piano competition winners
- **Feb. 26** - Sarah Plum and Drake String Studio



The ARTS at ST. JOHN'S

Arts Visioning Team

High School Honor Choir Rehearses at St. John's Over Spring Break

Des Moines is host to this year's biennial North Central American Choral Directors Association conference, and St. John's is the site selected for the high school honor choir rehearsals Thursday through Saturday, March 20-22.

The Arts Visioning Team, as a fund-raiser, will provide meals for the 140 singers. We are looking for volunteers to assist with cooking, serving and cleanup on Thursday and Friday evenings and Friday and Saturday at breakfast and lunch. If you are interested in helping with this fundraiser, please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org). Feel free to volunteer for one or more meals.

Performing Arts Series

The Performing Arts Series features some exciting events this spring. Our season is somewhat compacted. Think of it as a total arts-immersion; make plans to attend all three events.



Augustana College Choir, Director Jon Hurty Saturday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m. St. John's Sanctuary

This highly selective mixed ensemble from Rock Island, IL, performs a wide variety of music in major concerts, special events and on tour. The choir has released a number of recordings and has performed on commercial and public radio and network television. The choir rehearses daily and gives 20 performances each year.

In connection with this event, two volunteer opportunities are available to the St. John's community. If you can help with either or both

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opportunities (see below), please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

1. Choir members need housing the evening of Feb. 22. Your commitment would involve picking up two (or more) singers, providing housing and Sunday breakfast, and returning the singers to St. John's by 9 a.m.
2. Provide a potluck dish for the choir's 5:30 p.m. meal before the concert on Saturday.



Shrove Tuesday Celebration
Tuesday, March 4, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Weertz Hall
John Benoit & the Ballyhoo Foxtrot Orchestra

Join us for a traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner, a cake walk and New Orleans-style entertainment by Ballyhoo! Our St. John's senior-high students will sell coffee and desserts as well.

Dinner is served beginning at 5:30 p.m., and a free-will offering will be collected. Ballyhoo's music starts at 6 p.m., and the cake walks are scheduled for 6:15 and 7 p.m. Tickets for the cake walk will be available for a nominal fee.

We are looking for bakers (or cake purchasers) to donate for the cake walk. Please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org) if you can provide a cake or cupcakes or suggest names of bakers who might be interested in showcasing their baking expertise.

A little cake walk history: The cake walk began with slaves who used this dance as a subtle satire on white ballroom dancing. During the early 1900s, cake walk dances were quite popular in ballrooms. Couples were judged and eliminated until one pair remained. The prize was a highly

decorated cake. Cake walk dance music was an important contributor to the evolution of jazz and ragtime music, the music you might hear played by the Ballyhoo Foxtrot Orchestra. Our St. John's cake walk will more closely resemble a refined "musical chairs." Participants will walk in a circle and stand on a number when the music stops. The person standing on the selected number will win a donated cake.

David Cherwien, Choral Clinician and Organist
Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m.

David will work with choral musicians from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, then field questions during lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Then on Sunday, March 30, at 5 p.m. David will lead a community-wide hymn festival. Details and registration forms will be posted on the St. John's website as they are available.

David Cherwien is director of music at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN. In 2002, he was appointed music director for the National Lutheran Choir, based in the Twin Cities.



Companion Parish News

St. John's is planning another trip to Tanzania in the summer of 2014 in order to visit our companion parish, Mramba Lutheran Parish, in the Pare Diocese. The cost for each participant is estimated to be around \$4,000. The trip not only includes a visit to Mramba but also to Usangi Leadership and Training College where our Johanna Scholarship students study, a camping experience in a coffee cooperative and a safari. Participants should be in good health and plan to be away from home for two weeks. The journey itself and the hospitality received are truly life-changing. For more information, please contact Carol Fisher at 515-537-2648 or crfisher036@gmail.com.



In partnership with Empower Tanzania, Inc., St. John's is providing more oversight of the Saturday Children's Club through a contract arrangement with Ched Daniel of Mramba. Ched is a son of the Mramba Parish, teaches at Bombo Secondary School, owns three small businesses, and serves as our translator when we visit. He is eager to help us track the challenges and successes of the children through monthly reports as well as developing ways to keep the children engaged in the club as they move on to secondary or vocational school. We are grateful for Ched's partnership in this ministry.

A heart-felt thanks for your generous support of all of our companion projects in Tanzania!

Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

St. John's Social Club: Saturday, Feb. 1, 4 to 7 p.m., home of Bob and Mary Miller, 1105 Oakwood Dr., Polk City (for planning 2014 activities).

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

Zumba: Mondays, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24, 5 p.m., third-floor Multi-Purpose Room at church.

Mah Jongg: Mondays, Feb. 3 and 10, 6 p.m., reserved room at Smokey Row, 1910 Cottage Grove Ave.; Mondays, Feb. 17 and 24, Neumann Hall at church.

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 6 p.m., Cosi Cucina, 1975 NW 86th St., Clive.

EAGLES: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 11 a.m., O.W.L.S. program at Jester Park Lodge. If interested in carpooling, let Carol Dittmer know and meet at church at 10 a.m.

WIRED Luncheon and Program: Sunday, Feb. 9, 11:15 a.m., Weertz Hall at church.

Hardanger: Wednesdays, Feb. 12 and 26, 9 a.m., Neumann Hall at church. Facilitator: Arlene Field, 964-3363.

Photography: Sunday, Feb. 16, 11 a.m., Neumann Hall at church.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, Feb. 19, 12:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, Feb. 20, 11:30 a.m.

Scrapbooking: Saturday, Feb. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Recreational Reading: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 4:30 p.m., Rose Holm at church.

WIRED Book Discussion: Thursday, Feb. 27, 6 p.m., home of Darla Stiles, 3812 Green Branch Dr., West Des Moines.

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

MORE INFORMATION:

St. John's Social Club will meet Saturday, Feb. 1, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the home of Bob and Mary Miller, 1105 Oakwood Dr., Polk City, to plan 2014 activities. Please bring an appetizer and ideas. A light meal and beverages will be provided. RSVP to Mary and Bob Miller at mmiller588@aol.com.

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

Zumba will meet at 5 p.m. on Mondays, Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24, in the third-floor Multi-Purpose Room at church. This class is open to all. A fee of \$5 per class will be charged. You may sign in when you attend and pay at the end of the session on Monday, March 10. Please plan to join us for any or all of the classes.

Mah Jongg will meet at 6 p.m. on Mondays, Feb. 3 and 10, in the reserved room at Smokey Row, 1910 Cottage Grove Ave. then again at St. John's in Neumann Hall on Mondays, Feb. 17 and 24.

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement will meet at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 4, at Cosi Cucina, 1975 NW 86th St. in Clive.

The EAGLES event at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4, will be the O.W.L.S. program at Jester Park Lodge. The program will be presented by Wes and Karen Ritchie, who spent a month on a photographic safari to Eastern Sub-Saharan Africa. They will share their pictures and stories of mammals, birds and mountain gorillas from ecologically diverse countries. If you want to carpool, please let Carol Dittmer know, so you can meet in the St. John's north parking lot at 10 a.m. Otherwise, we'll meet at Jester Park Lodge at 11 a.m. Following the program, we will meet for lunch at 12:30 p.m., at Ruby Tuesday's, 4900 86th St., Urbandale. RSVP to Carol Dittmer, dittmercl@msn.com or by phone, 287-7860, by Friday, Jan. 31, if you plan to eat lunch at Ruby Tuesdays with our group.

Hardanger will meet on Wednesdays, Feb. 12 and 26, 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 964-3363.

Photography will meet on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 11 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church.

Lunch Bunch II will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg at 279-6326.

Lunch Bunch I meets on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 11:30 a.m. Anyone who is interested in joining the group should call Dorothy Parry to reserve a space. New members are most welcome!

Recreational Reading will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm at church. The book we have chosen to read for February is *Tigers in Red Weather* by Liza Klausmann. Facilitator: Carol MacDonald, macpac00@mchsi.com.

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Scrapbooking will meet on Saturday, Feb. 22, between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Bring materials you are working on for scrapbooking or card-making.



WIRED Book Discussion will meet Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m. at the home of Darla Stiles, 3812 Green Branch Dr., West Des Moines. Bring an appetizer and join us to discuss *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. All are welcome. If you plan to attend, please

RSVP to Darla at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

WIRED will meet for a luncheon program on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 11:15 a.m. (after the 10 a.m. service) in Weertz Hall at church. Chef Terrie Kohl will provide lunch from her catering business, Country Club Market. Cost is \$10. You may sign up in the lounge. Following lunch, several of the youth involved in InSight (our service project for this year) will talk about aging out of foster care and the needs and problems they face. We were able to give them 16 blankets from our meeting in November but their needs are great, and they could use a lot more. So following the Feb. 9 meeting, those who are able to stay for a while can work on more tied-fleece blankets. If you would like, bring two coordinating pieces of fleece, each 2 ½ yards. (We have some fleece that has been donated that you can work on if you do not make it to the store to purchase some.) Also, please pick up a list of other InSight needs (next to the signup sheet), and hopefully you can bring a few items from this list.

In the City (and World) for Good!

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our [sisters and brothers] throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. ...
Mother Teresa

It is a privilege to serve our neighbors “throughout the world,” as Mother Teresa’s prayer says above. St. John’s seeks to faithfully serve our neighbor in need through a host of partnerships, both local and global. Below are some updates on those partnerships and several opportunities for service.

- **As of mid-January, the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) offices and food pantry warehouse have officially moved to their new location at 1435 Mulberry (the former Central Iowa Shelter).** We welcome them to the downtown neighborhood! DMARC is in the midst of a capital campaign to pay for the necessary renovations to the building. Donations of any amount are welcome and can be given directly to DMARC, 1435 Mulberry St., Des Moines, 50309, or through St. John’s in an envelope marked “DMARC Capital Campaign.” Thanks!!
- **Is cabin fever setting in? Get out of the house (or office) and volunteer!** Habitat for Humanity is looking for Winter Warriors! Construction projects in the area continue throughout the winter. If you volunteer for a full day January through March, you get a *Winter Warriors* shirt and a chance to win an iPad mini! Call 515-309-0224 or visit www.gdmhabitat.org/winterwarriors for more information.

- **Thanks to all who are helping us keep our commitment to serve the evening meal at Central Iowa Shelter and Services on the 18th and 19th of every month!** The sign-up sheets are posted in the narthex beginning the last weekend of every month. You may sign up to provide food/help there or at www.volunteerspot.com. Your friends and neighbors are always welcome to participate!
- **Both the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Lutheran World Relief are assisting with long-term disaster relief in the Philippines and elsewhere.** Your offerings are always needed, and stories of the impact those offerings have are available at www.elca.org and www.lwr.org.
- **Sisters, do you have the second Thursday evening of the month free to provide support for survivors of domestic violence? Consider joining Serenity Seekers.** The group, facilitated by staff from Children and Families of Iowa, meets at St. John’s for a meal and conversation every second Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Contact Pastor Mithelman for more information.

With thanks for all of the ways that you make Christ’s love known through loving service to our neighbors in need!

Thank you!

Mitten Tree Offerings

We received 227 items for the Christmas Mitten Tree. There were stocking caps, gloves/mittens and scarves. We wish to thank everyone who contributed. These warm items were taken to New Directions, Des Moines Public Schools, and Harbor of Hope.



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.



Children's Ministry

"Whoever welcomes this child in my name, welcomes me..." Luke 9:48

Consider Volunteering

Volunteering as a Sunday School teacher or helper can allow you to grow your own faith as well as guiding our young children to learn about God's love. I invite you to consider volunteering once or twice a month in the Sunday School classrooms. I believe that you will come to appreciate the learning that is experienced on both ends... that of the child and the teacher.

We continue to use the SPARK curriculum published by Augsburg Fortress. The leader guides are easily navigated and include a multitude of activities, songs and prayers specific to the lesson that can be used as extensions to the Bible story.

Pennies for the Pantry Update

The children have continued to collect their pennies and other coins in effort to help feed others. We will continue to collect coins for local Des Moines food pantries until the end of the program year in May. At that time, we will donate all that has been given on behalf of St. John's Lutheran Church Children's Ministries. I am encouraged and excited as the level in our big "jug" grows higher! It is a great demonstration of sharing our means with others.

Growing Together Ministry Team

I am excited to explore the option of recreating a ministry team that will work together in planning events for Children's Ministries at St. John's. My vision is that we would meet approximately one time per month, either at St. John's or at other determined locations in the Des Moines area. This time would be spent discussing and planning learning and service opportunities for our young children in regard to their faith education. This team would be instrumental in planning for larger events, such as the Advent program and other family events. If you are interested in learning more about this possible ministry, please email Alicia at akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org.

Youth Ministry



Epiphany Bonfire

On Sunday, Jan. 12, a small but stalwart group of St. John's youth and families gathered to celebrate the Light of The World by making a little of our own light. As the old Christmas trees lighted the night sky, we were reminded that: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people."

Office Hours

I have started to hold open office hours at Smokey Row, 1910 Cottage Grove Ave., from 7 to 9 p.m. each Thursday evening! Swing by and grab a caffeinated beverage if you have a long night ahead or wind down the day with a cup of tea. I'll be around to visit, play a game of cards, or just sit and read a book with. Hope to see you there!



Women of the ELCA

Mission Project for February

The Mission in Action project for February is Central Iowa Shelter. We will be collecting items for men and women who reside at the shelter. Winter socks, gloves, scarves and hats are needed along with undergarments, such as women's Cuddle Duds and men's t-shirts or briefs. The drop-boxes for these items are located near the office reception area adjacent Neuman Hall. In January, we received many items for those at Harbor of Hope. Thanks to all who contributed.



February Meetings

Women of the ELCA meetings will be Thursday, Feb. 6. All women of the congregation are invited.

- Sarah Group will meet at Caribou Coffee, 3200 Ingersoll Ave., at 10 a.m.
- Lois Group will meet at 12:30 p.m. in Neumann Hall.
- The Women of the ELCA board meeting is Thursday, Feb. 27, at 9:30 a.m. in Neumann Hall.

Hospitality & Outreach



Time Passages

At the time of this writing, I am leaving for Chicago. In a previous column, I shared that my son and daughter-in-law (Joe and Jen) were expecting the first in a new generation of our family. Adeline Maureen arrived on Sunday, Dec. 23. First child for them, first grandchild for me and, oh, the rollercoaster of emotions!

For those of you who have achieved the title of "Grandparent" you understand, and I'm sure felt the same, when I say there has never been a more beautiful child, nor one more precocious. And she is not yet three weeks old – just imagine what she'll be like at six months!

I am overjoyed at the new life, overcome and in awe as I watch Joe and Jen assume the mantle of parenthood. How I wish my parents were here to share this. I know they're watching and, I believe, celebrating as our family achieves a new milestone. Naturally, thoughts go to my grandparents and even those who preceded them. I can't help but marvel at the continuity of our family lineage.

With this new branch on our family tree, I'm aware of not only the physical features passed on through genetics – complexion, hair and eye color – but also what I'll call the intangibles – personality, aptitudes, morals, values, faith. Inner qualities that are harder to track, but are equally a part of the core of our being as the physical characteristics.

My family came from Ireland. Many were fleeing the persecution and destitution in their home country, but they came with determination, hope, a rock-hard work ethic and faith. They may have left a desperate situation, but they came with optimism and belief that where they were, there also was God. While occupations and locations varied widely over the generations, belief and reliance on God never wavered.

Only one grandparent was here by the time I came on the scene. My maternal grandmother lived here in Des Moines, and I was blessed to have a wonderful relationship with her. She was known in our family and beyond as the one to go to for intercessory prayer. She had a prayer book

that was tattered and worn from thousands of hours, turned into years, of praying for others. She was the most quietly faithful person I've ever known. Her example, and that of family I never personally knew, forms the spiritual underpinning of those of us struggling through the 21st century. Our foundation is that of rock, not of sand, and one we will work hard to pass on to Adeline and any others who come along.

I share these thoughts knowing that many of your family's ancestry, while it may not mirror mine, may be similar. We didn't get here by ourselves, and we'll leave part of ourselves when we pass on to our eternal home. Love of God and others, wisdom, understanding, right judgment, knowledge, wonder and awe, reverence – these are all gifts and qualities I believe have been passed on through generations. Please, God, let it continue through your grace. Amen.

Central Iowa Shelter Update

Central Iowa Shelter & Services Meal Update

As this issue of the Eagle Call was about to go to press, we received a letter from our friends at Central Iowa Shelter & Services regarding some changes they are making to the evening meal routine. Since St. John's serves the evening meal on the 18th & 19th of every month, please note the changes going into effect on February 1:

- Prepare for 250 hungry people!
- Beverages, breakfast items and bread will now be provided by CISS, rather than the serving group. (However, if bread is part of the meal rather than a supplement – i.e. buns for sandwiches – the serving group will still need to provide it.)
- Groups are welcome to prepare or finish preparing their meal in the CISS kitchen. A phone call to AJ Olson at the shelter the day before is all the notice needed to do this.

We will remodel our sign-up sheets and the volunteerspot.com site accordingly. Thank you for your faithfulness to this ministry!

Financial Information

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: 0015. MSSB's account number is: 316-105627-048. 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@stjohnsdsms.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.

Christmas at St. John's





February 2014
Volume 46, No. 02

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.



NEXT EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, February 17.**

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!