



The EAGLE CALL

Volume 46, Number 03
March, 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@stjohnsdsm.org

Robert Speirs
Associate Pastor
pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org

Gene Anderson
Visitation Pastor
pastorgene@stjohnsdsm.org

Website

www.stjohnsdsm.org

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



Meeting JESUS Face to Face

The season of Lent - modeled after the "season" of 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness tempted by the devil at the beginning of his ministry - provides us the opportunity to engage in a discipline of worship, study and prayer around a common theme. This year's theme is *Meeting Jesus Face-to-Face*, inviting us to consider more deeply the Gospel readings for the Sundays of Lent.

In the questions of Nicodemus (John 3), the boldness of the unnamed woman at the well (John 4), the amazement of the man born blind (John 9) and the startling presence of Lazarus raised from death (John 11) **we** will meet Jesus face-to-face, trusting that such each encounter will transform us as profoundly as it did each of them.

Lenten mid-week worship begins with Ash Wednesday services at Noon and **7:15pm** on March 5th. (Please note the new time for the evening service.) We will continue to gather for worship around our theme every Wednesday through April 9th at the same times. The Noon service is followed by a lunch in Neumann Hall. The evening service is always preceded by our Beloved Community meal at 5:30pm and classes/choirs at 6:15.

We look forward to your participation in the Lenten season at St. John's.

WHAT'S INSIDE

A Word from Our Pastors	2	The Arts at St. John's	5	News from the Garden,
Notes from the Council &		Small Groups.....	6	Hospitality & Outreach.....
In the City for Good	3	Children's Ministry	7	Meet Our Seminary Intern
Prepare for Worship	4	Women of the ELCA &		11
		Youth Ministry	8	

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

Staff

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

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

Lisa DeGroot
 Nursery Coordinator
 lisadegroot5203@yahoo.com

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

John Kelly
 Security / Maintenance

Amanda Kuhlman
 Nursery

Scott LaBlanc
 Director of Parish Operations
 scottl@stjohnsdsdm.org

Kim Lamb
 Front Office Manager
 receptionist@stjohnsdsdm.org

Jeff McNeeley
 Security

Noah Niermann
 Director of Youth Ministry
 noah@stjohnsdsdm.org

Katie Tippins
 Hospitality & Outreach
 katietippins@stjohnsdsdm.org

Leslie Moeller
 Maintenance Supervisor
 lesmoeller@stjohnsdsdm.org

Darla Stiles
 Christian Involvement
 darlastiles@stjohnsdsdm.org

Patricia Stofferahn
 Lead Financial Assistant
 pstofferahn@stjohnsdsdm.org

Mark Welsh
 Security & Maintenance

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

Next Eagle Call Deadline
March 17 at noon



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Bob Speirs

Make me know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. Psalm 25:4-5

March is finally here, and we are entering the time of Lent, the 40-day period in the church calendar that leads us to Holy Week and Easter. It is a time in the church year that we traditionally associate with repentance and the renewal of our spiritual lives. It is a time for reflection, when we examine not only who we are as individuals but also our identity as a community of faith and the body of Christ in the world. We are called to love, serve and be reconciled with one another for the sake of Jesus Christ. Take some time during this time of Lent (and for that matter throughout the year) to ask how this is going. Are we living our lives with thankfulness and generosity for the abundant blessings and grace that God has given us? Are our relationships with those we love healthy and strong? How can we, as a worship community, better communicate our passion for God's kingdom of justice and mercy with an eye toward the well-being of our neighbors? I hope we can take time to prayerfully reflect on these and other questions that arise during this Lenten season, so to be strengthened in our faith and to grow in our love, support and esteem for one another.

I would also like to take this time to offer my thanks to all who have been participating in our Sunday morning Adult Forums. The presentations have been just great, and the attendance excellent. Thanks to Andy Anderson for keeping us well supplied with coffee each Sunday morning.

I would also like to direct your attention to a change in our Adult Forum schedule. Our Sunday Forum on the morning of March 16 will be led by Doug Johnson, CEO of Lutheran Services of Iowa (LSI), who will speak about The First Circle of Friends Program that LSI sponsors. It is a program that offers daycare services to both individuals who are experiencing early to mid-stage memory loss and their care-takers, who need a respite from caring for them on a day-to-day basis. St. John's is in conversation with LSI to determine whether this program can be set up at our church, so your attendance at this Sunday's forum will be a great way for you to hear about our ongoing discussions and how the program would be implemented. St. John's member Judy Latessa will introduce our speaker and help facilitate the Forum.

Recently, and with the help of member Diana Sickles, St. John's has a new team made up of church members who have agreed to serve as our congregational advocates with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. The purpose of this team is to take advantage of the many opportunities Thrivent offers that can assist us in our ministry efforts. We held our first meeting in February, attended by Thrivent's Manager of Community Engagement for Central Iowa, Carol Olsen. The members of our newly formed team are: Diana Sickles, Roma Youngquist, Larry and Vicki Hedlin, Andy Anderson, Pastor Gregory Nelson Davis, Dan Dusenbery and Pastor Bob Speirs.

One of the agenda items we discussed was the Thrivent Choice Dollars program, which gives Thrivent members the opportunity to designate money they have earned to ministries here at St. John's. Over the past few years, St. John's has benefitted greatly from the Thrivent Choice Dollars program with money going toward our Beloved Community Meals, Sunday morning bus service, St. John's Sunday morning radio broadcasts on 1350 KRNT and more. For those of you who are Thrivent members and have not as yet designated your 2013 Choice Dollars, you still have time. The deadline for assigning your dollars is March 31. Please consider St. John's as you decide.

Thanks for all you do for St. John's and our surrounding community.

Peace and Blessings,
 Pastor Bob

Notes from the Council



Be Generous – Pray

During January and February, your council has been talking about how we can BE GENEROUS in WELCOMING. We want to show hospitality to visitors and engage all our members in meaningful relationships with one another. We have shown a welcoming spirit as 15 people became new members in January. Two of those families told me that the people of St. John's are very welcoming and helped them to feel they belong in this wonderful community. That is good news. But, remember, there is always someone you may not know (or who does not know you). Say hello and you are glad they are here. Our faith community is diverse, and we are all blessed to be part of God's family.

(A personal comment: Attending 10 a.m. church encourages flexibility. For those of us (Kathy and I), who are "creatures of habit," it can be hard to find "our pew" since a full church often means someone else might be sitting in "our spot." So we have been able to sit toward the front (to have a better view of the bells), in the back (to see who comes even later than us) and "on the other side" (for a new perspective). Really, we love to see the pews are full for worship. It is a delight to sing with others, and it shows our community is active with people of all ages. So we want to encourage you to sit in a new spot and engage those around you in conversation!

In March and April as we move into Lent, the council will discuss how to BE GENEROUS as we PRAY. First, we will pray for God's will as we live out our mission in the city. We will pray for the message of Christ to be visible in us as we grow in faith and share with others. Next, we will pray for each other, our pastors, leaders, volunteers, youth and members in need. And we will pray for those in the community and the world: for the low-income and homeless people we help to feed, for the mentors and students who participate in the After School Arts Program (ASAP), for our sisters and brothers in Tanzania, and for peace and healing in the world. Finally, we will pray for our seminary students (Megan and Gemechisa) and all who seek a life of service. As you lift up your prayers, please include the community we serve, the mission of our church, our members and your personal growth in faith. See you in church (I pray it is crowded)!

In Christ,
Kris Gregersen, 2014 Council President

In the City (and World) for Good!

To say "yes" to Christ is to say "yes" to people. To know Christ as God is to be organically, integrally part of a community, and to be ultimately responsible to Christ is to be responsible to others in Christ's Body. Together we show the world who Christ is, until the entire broken human race will respond to the love of God manifested in that Body. ... N. Gordon Cosby

As a center for mission in the heart of Des Moines, our community seeks daily to say "yes" to Christ and "yes" to our neighbors in need. Please note

some opportunities for service and information regarding various aspects of ministry below ...

- Central Iowa Shelter and Services has made some changes to what they request of those serving evening meals at the shelter. (We serve on the 18th and 19th of every month.) These changes went into effect on Feb. 1, 2014, and include a request that we prepare for 250 hungry people each evening. In addition, the shelter will now provide the milk, juice, bread and breakfast items we used to provide. Because of the increased need, we have added two extra lines on the sign-up sheets for casseroles, vegetables and salads. (Each line represents a dish for 40 people.) Thank you for your generous "yes" to this monthly ministry.
- A reminder that one of the most desperately needed items at the Des Moines Area Religious Council Emergency Food Pantry is diapers – especially sizes 3 and up. There are many infants and toddlers in our city who stay in the same diaper for a full day (or more), because there is not enough household income to purchase diapers. As any parent knows, this leads to all sorts of skin irritations (or worse) that can make a little one pretty miserable. A good-sized package of diapers will cost the same as three "grande" skinny-mocha-salted caramel-lattes at Starbucks... Make coffee at home. Buy diapers instead.
- While we are not quite ready to announce the details, watch for the announcement of a new opportunity to serve at St. John's in partnership with Lutheran Services of Iowa. First Circle Friends focuses on providing companionship for people with mild dementia while giving respite to caregivers. Volunteers will be needed for two days each month. More information will be shared in the April issue of the Eagle Call.
- It is time to give thought to embracing a Lenten discipline of sacrificial love. Consider the quality of your days as winter (blessedly!) comes to an end. Is there a breathing space for prayer? Are there tattered relationships that need mending? Is there an area of ministry to which you would like to make a generous financial gift? Is there a neighbor who would appreciate an unhurried visit? As the quote above reminds us, "To say 'yes' to Christ is to say 'yes' to people."

Thank you for saying "yes" so faithfully and generously through our ministry in the city – and the world – for good!

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, March 2 Transfiguration of Our Lord

This festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close this Sunday and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins with Ash Wednesday. On the mount of transfiguration, Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. The vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We put away the "alleluia" at the end of worship and do not say or sing it again until Easter, the Resurrection of Our Lord.

The readings are Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2, 2 Peter 1:16-21 and Matthew 17:1-9. The hymns will be ELW 834, "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise," ELW 838, "Beautiful Savior," and ELW 315, "How Good, Lord, to Be Here." For offering, the Cathedral Choir will sing "This Glimpse of Glory" by David Ashley White, and during communion, the Youth Handbell Choir will ring "Alleluia! Amen!" by H.R. Bishop, arranged by Karen Lakey Buckwalter.

Sunday, March 9 First Sunday in Lent

The gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His 40-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church, Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical (teaching) focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

The gospel readings from John are particularly rich in detail, full of personality, and revealing of what sort of impact Jesus made on those who met and spoke with him. Most of them are also much longer than the typical Sunday lectionary reading; in order to give them their due, we will omit the psalm, second reading and Apostles' Creed for our Lenten weekend liturgies. We will also examine the same gospel readings in our Wednesday Midweek Lenten services.

The readings are Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 and Matthew 4:1-11. The hymns will be ELW 320, "The Glory of These Forty Days," ELW 325, "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me," and ELW 517, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word." At the 10 a.m. service during Lent, we will use ELW Setting 5, the chant setting, because its austerity matches the mood of the season. Kisasa will lead the 10 a.m. assembly in John Helgen's setting of Psalm 32 and will ring John Behnke's *Etude in G Minor* during offering. Cathedral Choir will sing "Since by Man Came Death" from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel.

Sunday, March 16 Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In the gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font, we are given a new birth as daughters and sons of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for the world.

The readings are Genesis 12:1-4a and John 3:1-17. The hymns will be ELW 660, "Lift High the Cross," ELW 448, "This is the Spirit's Entry Now," and ELW 796, "How Firm a Foundation." For offering, Cathedral Choir will sing "Give Me a Clean Heart" by Margaret J. Douroux, arranged by John Helgen and, for communion, "God So Loved the World" in John Stainer's famous setting.

Sunday, March 23 Third Sunday in Lent

In the gospel, a Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath and meal – offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

The readings are Exodus 17:1-7 and John 4:5-42. The hymns will be ELW 335, "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross," ELW 807, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," and ELW 618, "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer." Cathedral Choir will sing "Like As the Heart Desireth the Waterbrooks" by Herbert Howells. For communion, the Adult Handbell Choir will ring "What Wondrous Love is This," arranged by Douglas E. Wagner.

Sunday, March 30 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind who was healed by Christ. "I was blind, but now I see," declares the man. In baptism, God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved sons and daughters. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism, God anoints our heads with oil and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

The readings are 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and John 9:1-41. The hymns will be ELW 673, "God, Whose Almighty Word," ELW 779, "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound," and ELW 793, "Be Thou My Vision." At 10 a.m., the Youth Handbell Choir will ring "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown," a traditional Scottish

Continued on Page 5

Continued from Page 4

melody arranged by Martha Lynn Thompson, for offering. For communion, Kisasa will sing Psalm 23 in anthem form with "The Lord is My Shepherd" by Jill Gallina. Adult Handbell Choir will ring "Be Thou My Vision" in a setting by Lloyd Larson.

The Arts at St. Johns

Wartburg College Choir to Present During Worship

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

We are honored to have the Wartburg College Choir sing during our evening Lenten service on Wednesday, March 19, which begins at 7:15 p.m. Founded in 1937, the choir is an internationally acclaimed ensemble of great tradition and distinction.

After performing at St. John's, the choir will present at the American Choral Directors Association Conference on Thursday, March 20, in Des Moines.

Vocal Choir Clinic & Hymn Festival to Be Held at St. John's



The Arts Visioning Team is honored to host David Cherwien, noted composer, organist and clinician, for two events on March 29-30. David is director of music at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN, and in 2002 was appointed

music director for the National Lutheran Choir, also based in the Twin Cities.

Choral Musician Clinic - Saturday, March 29, 9 a.m. to noon

David will work with choral musicians from St. John's and the Des Moines community on technique and interpretation of liturgical church music. Space is limited; registration forms are available for download on the St. John's website (stjohnsdsdm.org/finearts).

Hymn Festival - Sunday, March 30, 5 p.m. in St. John's Sanctuary

All are invited to this community-wide Hymn Festival that is free and open to the public. David will shape and lead the program. Participants from Saturday's clinic (see above), along with guests from the National Lutheran Choir, will provide musical leadership.

Artist of the Month

The month of March brings us work from Amber Jackson-Elwer. Before Amber moved to Iowa City last summer, she and her family were active members of St. John's. Amber worked in the Nursery and her husband John was a member of Asphalt & Stained Glass.

Amber Jackson-Elwer's current work combines graphite drawings with block printing and elements of collage and text. Amber holds a bachelor's degree from Grand View University, where she studied fine art, graphic design and web design. Raised in the Des Moines area, Amber now lives in Iowa City, where she freelances as a graphic designer. She resides with her husband and two sons.



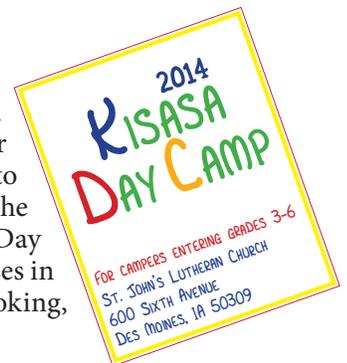
Midweek Music Series

The Midweek Music Series will take a break during Lent. Please join us after Easter for our final three performances:

- April 23 - Odyssey Trio
- April 30 - Ruth Harris, organ
- May 7 - Asphalt & Stained Glass

Kisasa Day Camp Dates Announced

Mark your calendars for our Second Annual Kisasa Day Camp. We are scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Aug. 7-8, from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and we will be worship leaders at the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, Aug. 10. Kisasa Day Camp is an all-day arts immersion, with classes in drama, vocal choir, handbells, visual arts, cooking, gardening and more!



All children entering Grades 3-6 are encouraged to attend. Cost is the same as last year: \$35 per person or \$50 maximum per family. Youth and adults Grades 7 and above are encouraged to volunteer as camp assistants. For more information, contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsdm.org).

Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

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

Zumba: Mondays, March 3 and 10, 5 p.m., third-floor Multi-Purpose Room at church.

Mah Jongg: Mondays, March 3, 10, 24 and 31, 6 p.m., reserved room at Smokey Row, 1910 Cottage Grove Ave., Des Moines; Monday, March 17, 6 p.m., Neumann Hall at church.

New Mah Jongg Class: Mondays, March 3, 10, 24, 31, 6 p.m., reserved room at Smokey Row, 1910 Cottage Grove Ave., Des Moines; Monday, March 17, 6 p.m., Neumann Hall at church.

St. John's Social Club: Tuesday, March 4, 5:30 p.m., Shrove Tuesday festivities at church.

Yoga: Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge at church.

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

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

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, March 19, 12:30 a.m.

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

Scrapbooking: Saturday, March 22, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at church.

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

EAGLES: Thursday, March 27, 10 a.m., Neumann Hall at church. Speaker: Larry Spencer, Prisoner of War in Vietnam.

WIRED Night Out: Thursday, March 27, 6:30 p.m., Miss Kitty's, 8800 Swanson Blvd., Clive. Beginning line dance lessons.

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

Zumba will meet at 5 p.m. on Mondays, March 3 and 10, in the Multi-Purpose Room on third floor 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 March 10. Please plan to join us for any or all of the classes.

Mah Jongg will meet Monday, March 3, 10, 24 and 31, at 6 p.m. in the reserved room at Smokey Row, 1910 Cottage Grove Ave., Des Moines, and at St. John's in Neumann Hall on March 17.

A new class for beginning **Mah Jongg** will start Monday, March 3, and at the same dates, times and places as the original Mah Jongg group (see preceding

entry). Vicki Hedlin will teach the new class. If you are interested in learning, contact her at VLHed@aol.com.

Shrove Tuesday Festivities will be held Sunday, March 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Weertz Fellowship Hall at church. A pancake supper will be prepared by the Christian Involvement Team. Afterward, the youth will serve coffee and dessert as you listen to the wonderful Ballyhoo Foxtrot Orchestra. A free-will offering will be collected. To add to the evening, there will be a cake walk and a chance to take home one of several cakes.

St. John's Social Club will attend the Shrove Tuesday festivities on Sunday, March 4, as their event this month. For more information, see preceding entry.

A new class of **Yoga** is starting. Our Yoga teacher, Corinne, is available to teach a session of Yoga on Thursdays, March 6-27, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at church, and continuing through April 24 (with the exception of Maundy Thursday on April 17). Cost of the class is \$10 each week. If interested, contact Corinne Lambert at callingwisdom1@hotmail.com or by phone at (515) 556-3679.

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

Hardanger will meet on Wednesdays, March 12 and 26, at 9 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church. Facilitator Arlene Field is willing to teach anyone who is interested. Arlene may be contacted at 964-3363, if you have questions.

Photography will meet on Sunday, March 16, at 11 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church. The theme for this month is "patterns." Bring a couple photos that show patterns of some kind.

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

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6

Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, March 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!

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

Recreational Reading will meet on Wednesday, March 26, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm at church. The book for March is *Half Broke Horses* by Jeannette Wall. You can contact facilitator Carol MacDonald at macpac00@mchsi.com .

The EAGLES will meet on Thursday, March 27, at 10 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church to hear speaker, Larry Spencer, who was a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam for seven years. He then served at the Pentagon on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He is a most impressive decorated veteran of the U. S. Navy. Everyone is welcome to hear him speak; don't hesitate to bring friends.



WIRED Night Out will meet on Thursday, March 27, from 6:30 to 7:30 for a beginning line dance class at Miss Kitty's at 8800 Swanson Blvd., Clive. Contact Jacque Warming at jrwarming@msn.com or Darla at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org if you are interested in attending. If we have enough people, we will reserve a table.

Children's Ministry

Growing Together Ministry Team

A new ministry team has formed! The Growing Together Ministry Team will work together to plan events for Children's Ministries at St. John's. We will discuss and plan learning and service opportunities for our young children in regard to their faith education. The ministry team also will be instrumental in planning for larger events, such as Beloved Community: Summer Edition and the

Advent Program. If you are interested in learning more about serving in this ministry, please contact Alicia Karwal at akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org. We'd love to have you join us!

March Sunday School Schedule

The children at St. John's have focused mostly on the books of the New Testament this semester. Below is the Sunday School schedule for March. If you would like, reread the story from the Bible at home and share in a discussion with your child, using the questions provided.

March 2 – An Angel Frees Peter (Acts 12:1-19)

- Discuss the following questions with your child:
- How would you feel if an angel woke you up in the middle of the night?
- What would you do if you had powers like an angel?
- What would you like to ask an angel to do for you?

March 9 – Paul's Letters (Romans 1:1-17)

- Discuss the following questions with your child:
- Have you ever written a letter to someone? What was it about?
- How do you decide if something you read is true?
- How do you share good news with other people?

March 16 – Abrams's Call (Genesis 12:1-9)

Multi-age Sunday School in Room 205: This special Sunday School session will include singing, stories and active learning for all ages.

- Discuss the following questions with your child:
- How can you show that you trust God to guide you?
- What is the longest trip you've ever taken?
- What promises has God made to you in your life?

March 23 – Woman at the Well (John 4:5-42)

Multi-age Sunday School in Room 205: This special Sunday School session will include singing, stories and active learning for all ages.

- Discuss the following questions with your child:
- When we cross a border to another place, how does Jesus go with us?
- Where was Samaria?
- Do you think Jesus liked to jump and run, like we do?

March 30 – The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13)

- Discuss the following questions with your child:
- Have you ever helped someone understand something? What was it?
- Has something ever been very confusing to you until someone helped you understand it more clearly?
- What great things have you learned from Jesus about loving one another?

Women of the ELCA



March Mission in Action

In March, our mission project will be collecting items for the Connection Café. Some items needed are lunch bags, dinner-size napkins, plastic spoons and forks, hot and cold beverage cups, and bus tokens. Personal items needed are toothpaste, toothbrushes, socks, shampoo and combs. Drop boxes are located near the reception area and outside of Neumann Hall. Thanks to all who donated items for Central Iowa Shelter in February. As always your generosity is much appreciated.

Women of the ELCA News

Lois and Sarah Groups will attend the Lenten service at noon on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and then will have lunch following in Neumann Hall. Lois Group will hold a short business meeting in the Lounge after lunch. All women of the church are welcome.

Lenten Lunches

Lunch will be served by the women of Lois and Sarah Circles after the Ash Wednesday service on March 5 at noon in Neumann Hall and following every Wednesday service during Lent. The menu will be beef-burgers or egg-salad sandwiches, soup, salad and dessert. The cost is \$6. Come and join us.

Youth Ministry

St. John's Youth Plant Sale

It may be snowing as I write this, but it's already that time of year to start planning your garden! Spring is on its way, and the St. John's youth are once again holding a plant sale. Please think of us as you think about the flowers and plants that will decorate your yard in the year to come!

An order form is included on page 9.

All you have to do is:

1. Choose your plants.
2. Return your order form and payment to church or to Noah Niermann by Sunday, March 30. The order form can be returned via email to noah@stjohnsdsm.org.
3. Pick up your flowers and plants (provided by Central Iowa Floral) on Saturday, May 3, from 9 to 11 a.m. in the north parking lot at St. John's.

Please share this news with your neighbors, friends and family. You do not need to be a member of St. John's to place an order! All proceeds will help

the youth of St. John's serve others this summer! If you have any questions, contact Noah Niermann at 241-7691.

Office Hours

Office Hours at Smokey Row continue each Thursday evening from 7 to 9 p.m.! Come by and grab a caffeinated beverage if you have a long night ahead or, instead, relax 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!



20+C+M+B+14

Have your eyes noticed this weird writing inscribed above any doorways throughout the church? The celebration of Epiphany may have been all the way back on Jan. 6, but this time after Epiphany and before Lent has given us lots of opportunities to think about how God reveals God's self to us on a daily basis.

The above inscription is a traditional house blessing for Epiphany. 2014 is the year and C, M and B stand for Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar: the three magi who followed the star all the way to Bethlehem. CMB can also stand for the Latin phrase, *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*: May Christ bless this house. One Wednesday night not long ago, our high school group adapted this traditional house blessing to different spaces here in our church, blessing and praying over them for the year ahead. See if you can find the rooms we blessed!

Buried Alleluias

Together with our church as a whole, our youth programs are now looking toward Lent. Soon we will be creating an alleluia banner only to then turn around and bury it in our courtyard for the 40 days of Lent. Join us immediately following the Ash Wednesday service and get your hands a little dirty!



Audio
Sermons

Now available at
stjohnsdsm.org or
subscribe on iTunes.

St. Johns Lutheran Church Plant Sale 2014

order due by March 30, 2014

Name						Phone		
Address								
Email								
BEDDING PLANTS	Red	White	Pink	Blue	Mixed	Quantity	Price	Total
Petunia [flat]							\$ 18.00	\$
Petunia [4-pack]							\$ 2.00	\$
Impatiens [flat]							\$ 18.00	\$
Impatiens [4-pack]							\$ 2.00	\$
Wax Begonias [flat]							\$ 18.00	\$
Wax Begonias [4-pack]							\$ 2.00	\$
Pansy [flat]							\$ 18.00	\$
Pansy [4-pack]							\$ 2.00	\$
BEDDING PLANTS	Yellow	Orange	2-Tone			Quantity	Price	Total
Dwarf Marigolds [flat]							\$ 18.00	\$
Dwarf Marigolds [4-pack]							\$ 2.00	\$
POTS	Red	White	Pink	Salmon	Violet	Quantity	Price	Total
Geraniums [4-1/2"]							\$ 5.00	\$
Geraniums [7"]							\$ 12.50	\$
POTS	Red	White	Pink	Orange	Lilac	Quantity	Price	Total
Hybrid Impatiens [4-1/2"]							\$ 5.00	\$
Hybrid Impatiens [6"]							\$ 10.00	\$
Hybrid Impatiens [10"]							\$ 20.00	\$
ACCENT PLANTS						Quantity	Price	Total
Sweet Potato Vine / Dark Purple [4-1/2" pot]							\$ 5.00	\$
Sweet Potato Vine / Lime Green [4-1/2" pot]							\$ 5.00	\$
Hosta / Green [6" pot]							\$ 8.50	\$
Purple Plume Grass [6" pot]							\$ 8.50	\$
Spikes [3" pot]							\$ 3.00	\$
Vinca Vine [3" pot]							\$ 3.00	\$
Asparagus Fern [3" pot]							\$ 3.00	\$
HANGING BASKETS	Red	Pink	Orange	White	Lilac	Quantity	Price	Total
Hybrid Impatiens							\$ 21.00	\$
	Red	Pink	Purple	White		Quantity	Price	Total
Ivy Geranium							\$ 21.00	\$
	Red	Pink	Dk Blue	Yellow		Quantity	Price	Total
Mini Petunia							\$ 21.00	\$
	Pink	Purple				Quantity	Price	Total
Wavy Petunia							\$ 21.00	\$
Asparagus Fern							\$ 21.00	\$
Fushia							\$ 21.00	\$
<i>PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO St. John's Lutheran Church</i>						QUANTITY	GRAND TOTAL	
<i>WRITE "Plant Sale" ON MEMO</i>							\$	
Thank you for your order!								

News from the Garden

St. John's Faith Garden

While this winter has certainly been a relentless one, gardening is still fresh in the minds of the St. John's Faith Gardeners. We met on Jan. 19 to discuss plans for this year's garden. Jean Rothfusz has taken on the role of garden manager this year and brings a wealth of knowledge to share and guide us in our endeavors. She has planned out the garden to help us use the space better, prevent disease and increase our harvest.

We would like to welcome new members David and Linda Miller and Tony Filippini and look forward to welcoming more interested people. No experience necessary!

Next meeting is Sunday, March 9, at 11 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church.

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@stjohnsdsm.org or call 515-243-7691. New rules do not allow brokers to identify donors without prior approval from the donor.

Thank you for your generous and continued support of the ministries of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Hospitality & Outreach



Welcome New Members!

brief introductions.

Our first new member class of the New Year was a winner, as are all our classes! Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with their names, faces and

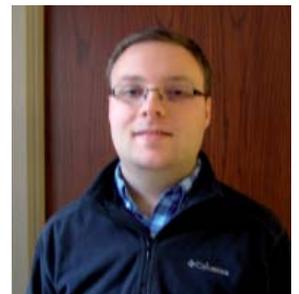
Brian, Maryann, Elise and Bryce Huey: The Huey family transferred to St. John's a little over a year ago and are active participants. This last class, however, is the first opportunity they had to come and get the official St. John's introduction. Maryann is a professor of mathematics education at Drake University. She is focused on improving mathematics education for secondary, middle school and pre-service teachers. In 2013, Maryann was awarded a grant from the Iowa Department of Education to perform professional development for math teachers in southeast Iowa. Brian works for Sprint in business development, M2M (Machine-to-Machine Communications). His interests are varied and include science, exercise, communications, outdoor activities, nature, volunteering and their children's development. Speaking of children, Elise and Bryce are 11 and 8 and attend schools in Urbandale. Elise loves nature, animals, soccer and volleyball, whereas Bryce enjoys Legos, building things, basketball and soccer. They were attracted to St. John's by Pastor Rachel and her sermons.



definitely found the right place!

Amy Kennel: Amy resides in Des Moines and is an insurance marketing strategist for Insurance Insights Group. She enjoys reading, writing, boating, cooking and college basketball. She actually put in writing, "Always ask if you need help with any ministry. I love to help." (I know for a fact that word has gotten out and she HAS been asked!) She was attracted to St. John's by the incredible messages, Bible Study, Beloved Community and the ongoing opportunities to serve. She has

Tony Filippini: Tony also lives in the downtown area and is a transit planner with DART. He is an Iowa State athletics fan and is a master gardener. I know first-hand that he has been approached to participate in our St. John's Faith Garden project. Tony loves music and said our great music and art appealed to him. It doesn't hurt that we're close to his home, and he finds our members "very welcoming."



Daniel and Elizabeth Arthur: Dan and Liz are downtown residents, and St. John's has location appeal. Liz has participated in some of our ministry opportunities and decided she and Dan would make membership official.

Dan was born in Germany, is in the information technology field and employed by DomiKnow. Liz is very much a people person and works in customer service at Fareway Stores. Dan is interested in transformational education and peace efforts. While Liz likes nature and outdoor activities, Dan loves playing the Words with Friends game on his electronic devices. Both like spending time with family and friends.



Ross and Sonja Wastvedt: Ross and Sonja are good friends of St. John's own Mike and Lindsey Ludwig. They came to Des Moines after living in Pennsylvania for years. Bill is Academic Dean of Humanities and Education at Grand View University, and Sonja is a teacher in the Des Moines Public School system. They have three grown children, Trygve, Bjorn and Solvejg. You win a prize if you can guess their ancestral heritage!

Kourtney Liepelt: To the best of my knowledge, Kourtney is the fastest Des Moines transplant to ever attend a new member class. She literally moved to Des Moines the week prior to the class. Kourtney works for a news service and knows she will only be in our area a few months; however, she wants a church home while she's here. We welcome her for as long as she is here, and invite her participation in any and all activities.



Bill and Stacey Schofield: Bill and Stacy are new to Des Moines from North Carolina. I imagine this winter has given them pause about their choice of location. Bill is employed by Vermeer Manufacturing Corporation as a design engineer. Stacey is an in-home childcare provider and enjoys walks, shopping, baking and swimming, while Bill is an avid golfer and enjoys football and cooking. They, too, reside in the downtown area. Their search for a family-oriented, close-to-home church led them to St. John's. We're very glad that it did.

We are blessed to have these new members as part of our congregational family. This group brings to us a variety of talents, skills and interests, coupled with an enthusiastic attitude to serve. Word on the street is St. John's is a welcoming, vibrant congregation with opportunities for spiritual growth, service opportunities and wonderfully fun social activities. Be sure to meet and greet them and make them feel most welcome.

Meet Our Seminary Intern

Yes, his is a familiar face because Gemechisa Mosa has been an active member of St. John's since 2008 when he came to Des Moines to train in Clinical Pastoral Education-Chaplaincy at Methodist Medical Center.



Gemechisa grew up in Ambo, a town located 80 miles west of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He is the oldest of 5 siblings. He attended a Presbyterian boarding school in Ethiopia, as well as the Lutheran Seminary in Addis Ababa. Following graduation, Gemechisa taught church history for a time at the seminary. In 2006 he came to the U.S. for the first time to do graduate work at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan. In 2008 he arrived in Des Moines to train in Clinical Pastoral Education, and his wife, Demi, obtained a visa to join him here.

Gemechisa is seeking ordination as a pastor in the ELCA through a unique program offered at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA. To qualify for ordination, he must serve a year-long internship in a parish, which he began at St. John's on December 1, 2013. He will gain experience in pastoral ministry through this 15 hours/week, non-stipendiary position, supervised by Pastor Doug Holmgren (retired ELCA clergy and member of St. John's) and mentored by Pastor Mithelman. A lay Internship Committee will provide support for Gemechisa, as well. Members of that committee include: Linda Christensen, Mary Slattery, Jason Madden, Sue Tew Warming, Jim Hanson, and Katie Swanson.

While engaged in his internship at St. John's, Gemechisa continues to work full-time as a Chaplain in the Pastoral Care Dept. for Unity Point Healthcare. His office - and most of his chaplaincy work - is at Lutheran Hospital. Please keep Gemechisa in your prayers for a meaningful internship experience.



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

March 2014
Volume 46, No. 03

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, March 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!