



The EAGLE CALL

Volume 46, Number 04
April, 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.

Holy Week worship captivates all the senses...

On Palm Sunday we parade around the building with palm branches lifted high, and within a matter of minutes are so engaged in Matthew's account of Christ's suffering that we shout with the crowds, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

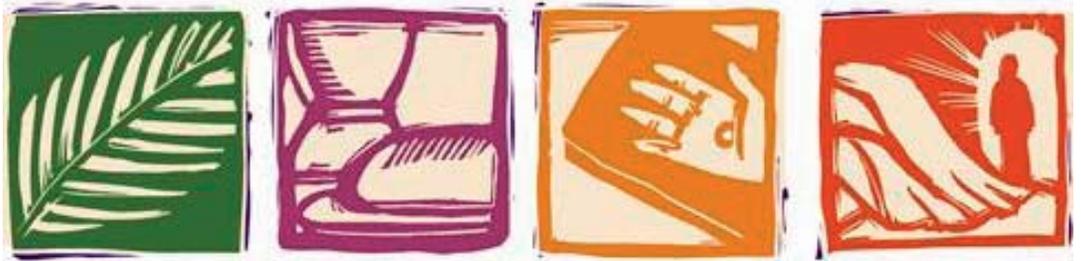
On Maundy Thursday we move bare-footed first to the table, then to the foot-washing chair, and finally witness the solemn procession of cloth and candle out of the chancel.

Good Friday presents us with John's account of the passion of Christ – read and sung – in deepening shadows, a rough cross settled on the chancel steps for adoration...

The Vigil of Easter begins outdoors, around a new fire, then we are on the move – as we were on Sunday - candles in hand, crossing over from darkness to light, death to life! The chapel is filled with story, song, water, bread, wine - and laughter! The Easter gospel is proclaimed and a toast is raised to the One who defeats death's power forever!

Easter morning, trumpets announce the proclamation – Christ is Risen! – and alleluias fill the air once again! This Feast of Victory for our God begins the great fifty days of Easter.

Worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday is held at 12:05 and 7:30 pm. The Vigil begins at 7:30 pm on Saturday, and Easter morning worship is at 8 and 10 am, with breakfast beginning at 7:30 am.



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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

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
April 21 at noon



A Word from Our Pastors
 Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

This little note was on the back of one of our worship cards a few weeks ago. It was written by a 6-year-old, life-time member of St. John's. She worships with her family every week, singing the hymns, sharing the peace, looking up expectantly at the altar railing for the sign of the cross to be traced on her brow. She dances through Weertz Hall on Wednesday evenings, part of the Beloved Community, one of several lively little girls who have become the best of "church friends."

The first time I glanced at this card I smiled, so glad to see a positive, thoughtful note - from a child! It offset the note written on an envelope a few weeks prior by a visitor who said he had grown up at St. John's and was now "dismayed to see what diversity... and the dilution of the Gospel have done" to this beloved church. (I am not kidding - that's what the note said! Furthermore, below that comment he had written his phone number and said, "feel free to call.") But I've also wondered what provoked our 6-year-old sister in Christ to write, *I like this church, in fact I LOVE this church!* What has she seen and heard in our community of faith that has caused her to LOVE St. John's? Because I know you all pretty well by now, I believe that she has experienced the following:

- She has been treated with respect - been accorded her worth as a child of God – both when she is in "the house" and when she encounters her faith community outside our walls. You have taken the time to look her in the eye, give her your undivided attention, and ask about her life.
- She has been welcomed not only on Sundays, but at other times when our community gathers to be "in the city for good."
- She has been part of our children's ministry programming since she was 3 years old. Her Sunday School teachers love her, pray for her, call her by name and value what she brings to the classroom.
- She takes part in worship: singing in a children's choir, sitting "up front" in order to catch all of the action, kneeling before a healing minister for prayer.
- And, most important of all, she has parents who are doing their best to keep the promises they made the day she was baptized. They pray with her, share their faith with her, and speak well of our faith community in her presence.

I am grateful for all the ways that you, as a community, make the love of God visible to our children from the day of their birth – honoring them with your support, your prayers, your delight in their presence. But it is not just the children we are called to honor as sisters and brothers in Christ. It is each and every person we meet – the one who sits beside us in the pew on Sunday morning, the one whose cubicle is next to ours at the office, the one who is struggling with their health or their family relationships or their faith, the one who walks in off the street in need of food or shelter or transportation, and the one with whom we have differences and find it so difficult to love. It is honor given and received in the name of Christ that makes a community a lively place in which joys and sorrows are shared, risks taken in faith, and the neighbor in need is loved.

Thank you for being a community that a 6-year-old girl LOVES! Please pray that we continue to extend the love of Christ to each and every one of God's children, in this city and in the world.

COMMENTS OR PRAYER REQUESTS

(check all that apply)

- Published Prayer List
- Pastoral Team Only
- Prayer Chain

*I like ~~this~~
 this church
 in fact I
 LOVE this
 church!*

Hospitality & Outreach



“Never Place a Period Where God has Placed a Comma”

The above quote is attributed to Gracie Allen, wife and comic partner of George Burns.

This was printed in a bulletin insert from a local United Church of Christ congregation. Gracie's performance persona was that of a foil to her husband, and to call her “ditzy” would be accurate, so I found it interesting that she would be a source of what I feel is a sound theological concept.

During this winter that won't go away – forget a January thaw or any thaw for that matter – people are tired: tired of nervous commutes, tired of being cold, tired of plans thwarted by snow and ice. We are worn down, which can weaken us psychologically and sometimes spiritually. As strong as we think we are, or try to be, we are fragile beings.

People are giving voice to pain – physical, emotional, mental. We are hearing of cancer diagnoses, accidents (minor and major), stresses, resulting in short tempers – a basic disorder of life. For all of us there are a myriad of things we feel unable to handle, pressures that can't be alleviated, tensions that won't lessen. I've heard voice given to the questions, “Where is God in all of this? Why is this happening? What is the purpose?”

I have an answer for you: I don't know! How's that for honesty?

But all these thoughts roiling in my head have led me to the certain knowledge that there IS a reason, only we're not privy to it. Nor do we need to be. That's where FAITH comes in.

We are told in Isaiah: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.” And as Romans 11:34 asks, “For who has known the mind of the Lord?”

I don't offer these references to propose that we all shut up and suffer in silence. Those of you who know me know that isn't my nature – especially the silence part. But I rely on the promises of God. I have to. If I don't, what else is there? What other possible reason could there be for our lives, our joys, our pain ... our world?

God doesn't owe me any explanations; although, to be honest, I do have a list of questions. I think God is okay with that. We were given free will and minds that God intends for us to use; we were not created to be subservient puppets. If we didn't question some things, there'd be something wrong.

I've been angry with God. God can handle it. Yet I know in the midst of pain, God comforts me. In my joy, God shares my happiness. When I have no more strength, God supports me. When I don't know which way to turn, God guides me. And when I don't understand the why of a situation, I may grouse, I may rail, but I know that God knows the reason, and I must trust and honor that.

Now, in case you're wondering what Gracie Allen's comment has to do with this, I'll tell you. There are times when God does speak in absolutes. We're all familiar with the “thou shall not” and “I command you.” But, when instead of a period God adds a comma, God is still speaking, and we need to continue to LISTEN.



It's That Time Again:

Saturday, April 5, Spring Cleaning Day at St. John's!

Per tradition, it's time to spruce up our church home in time for our Easter celebration. For the past few years, spring-break has thrown a curveball into the timing of our cleaning. Many families were out of town. This year Easter is later, and we are presented with a perfect opportunity for family participation.

We also invite the assistance of ALL ministry teams, social groups, and others who are bitten by the cleaning bug. Multi-generational events are fun for older and younger alike; our St. John's family is like our own family of origin – we all mix together!

Cleaning supplies are provided and there will be nutritional incentives to sweeten the deal. If you are able and willing, please contact Katie Tippins at katiet@stjohnsds.org or 243-7691. We want to have enough food and drink for everyone! And remember, the more people, the merrier, and the faster we're done!



Now available at stjohnsds.org or subscribe on iTunes.

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent

In John's gospel, Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism, we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life.

The readings are Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 11:1-45. The hymns will be ELW 379, "Now the Green Blade Rises," ELW 452, "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" and ELW 321, "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church." At 10 a.m. for offering, Asphalt & Stained Glass will sing a setting of Psalm 130, the appointed psalm for the day, "De Profundis Blues," by Paul Wellcome. During communion distribution, Cathedral Choir will sing "Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee," by Johannes Brahms, and Asphalt & Stained Glass will sing "Show the Way," by David Wilcox.

Sunday, April 13, 10 a.m. Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday liturgy begins with a palm procession, commemorating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. At the 10 a.m. service, the processional group forms on the west side of the church in the alley, hears the account of this event in Matthew 21:1-11, proceeds around the exterior of the building, and then enters into the sanctuary to the strains of the first hymn. The tone shifts quickly from "Palm Sunday" to "Sunday of the Passion" as we meditate on Jesus' passion and death. Because the story is so central to our faith, we hear Matthew's account of the passion this day and John's version on Good Friday. Though Jesus is obedient even unto death on the cross, he is exalted by God. We gather to remember his offering for the life of the world and to be fed by his life-giving mercy. This holy week will culminate in the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.

The readings are Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11 and Matthew 26:14-27:66. The hymns are ELW 344, "All Glory, Laud, and Honor," ELW 343, "My Song is Love Unknown," and ELW 347, "Go to Dark Gethsemane." For offering, Cathedral Choir will sing, "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me," arranged by Alice Parker.

The Three Days – Triduum: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil

See the description of these services on the cover page of this Eagle Call. These three evening gatherings are considered one liturgy, one service, a unity, a whole, and they are best experienced together.

Sunday, April 20, 8 a.m. & 10 a.m. services Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday

On this day the Lord has acted! On the first day of the week, God began creation, transformed darkness into light. On this, the "eighth day" of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate this new creation in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory. With great joy we celebrate this day of days, even as we begin the great 50 days of Easter.

The readings are Acts 10: 34-43, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4 and Matthew 28:1-10 (or John 20:1-18.) The hymns will be accompanied by organ, brass and all of our choirs, bell choirs and ensembles – a fitting celebration of the central festival of our faith. "The Lord is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!"

Sunday, April 27 Second Sunday of Easter

In the appointed gospel for today, the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal and in our everyday lives — peace. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

The readings will be Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16, 1 Peter 1:3-9 and John 20:19-31. The hymns are ELW 363, "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain," ELW 635, "We Walk by Faith" and ELW 548, "Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen." The offering and communion music will be provided by our Chamber Orchestra.

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@stjohnsdsm.org).



Children's Ministry

Beloved Community: Summer Edition

ALL are invited to Beloved Community: Summer Edition 2014! Please join us for three evenings of community, prayer and exploration of our faith! We will meet at Greenwood Park Shelter from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, June 24-26. During this special time of fellowship, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. Registration forms will be available in early May so that we can account for materials and plan for meals. I certainly hope your family will consider joining us! If you have questions or can volunteer, please contact Alicia Karwal at akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org.

BELOVED COMMUNITY: SUMMER EDITION 2014

*As we have been filled,
help us to fill others.*

June 24, 25 & 26
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Greenwood Park Shelter
4500 Grand Ave

All are welcome to this
2nd annual intergenerational event
Registration begins May 4th!



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**.

Easter Cards Created & Shared

The children of St. John's are sharing the love of God and the celebration of Jesus' resurrection with others! They recently created Easter cards to be sent to the children in residential care at Beloit and Bremwood treatment centers, which are run by Lutheran Services in Iowa. These residential care facilities ensure that necessary mental health services are provided to the young children and teens they serve. Many of the residents experience severe emotional and behavioral disorders. St. John's children decorated many beautiful cards with thoughtful, inspiring messages reminding the recipients that "Jesus loves us all!" and "We are all God's children!"

A Jar Fills with Coins

April and May mark the final months of our service project as we continue collecting pennies (and lots of other coins and bills) for local food pantries. The children have worked hard to fill the jar! In May, we will deliver the collected funds to local food pantries in the Des Moines area. I am so proud of the many children who have creatively collected and earned their pennies to help others not as fortunate!

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.

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.

EAGLES: Tuesday, April 1, 11 a.m., Jester Park Lodge, OWLS program; AND Friday, April 4, 2 p.m., Hoyt Sherman Place, "Church Basement Ladies" production.

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement: Tuesday, April 1, 6 p.m., Mi Mexico.

Yoga: Thursdays, April 3, 10 and 24, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge at church.

Zumba: Mondays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, 5 p.m., third-floor Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) at church.

Mah Jongg: Mondays, April 7, 14, 21, 28, 6 p.m., Neumann Hall at church.

Hardanger: (Note new day, time and location) Tuesdays, April 8 and 22, 11:30 a.m., Room 308 at church. Facilitator: Arlene Field, 266-0384.

Photography: No meeting this month.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, April 16, 12:30 a.m.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, April 17, 11:30 a.m.

Recreational Reading: Wednesday, April 23, 4:30 p.m., Rose Holm at church.

Scrapbooking: Saturday, April 26, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Room 8 at church.

WIRED Lunch and Activity: Sunday, April 27, 11:45 a.m., lunch at Bruegger's, 86th St. and Swanson Blvd., WDM, followed by creative opportunity at Glazed Expressions.

St. John's Social Club: No meeting this month. A tour of the state Capitol will be in late May.

Bicycle St. John's: Sunday, April 27, at 3 p.m. Meet in the parking lot of Ace Hardware in Beaverdale.

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

The EAGLES will meet twice in April:

- 1) Tuesday, April 1, at 11a.m., we will hear the OWLS program, "Immersed in Water," by Bill Stowe, CEO and General Manager of Des Moines Water Works, at Jester Park. Afterward, we will eat at Montana Mike's, located at 5030 N.E. 14th St. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Karen Van Hoever at 282-1637 or karenandarlin@gmail.com.
- 2) Friday, April 4, at 2 p.m., the EAGLES will attend the "Church Basement Ladies" at Hoyt Sherman Place. If you have made reservations, see Ginny Pauling for the tickets.

Mah Jongg will meet on Mondays, April 7, 14, 21 and 28, at 6 p.m. in Neumann Hall at St. John's.

Yoga will be held Thursdays, April 3, 10 and 24, from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at church. (No class on Maundy Thursday, April 17.) Cost of each class is \$10. If interested, contact Corinne Lambert at 515-556-3679 or calling-wisdom1@hotmail.com.

Zumba will meet Mondays, April 7, 14, 21 and 28, at 5 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room on the 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 arrive and pay at the end of the session on April 28. Please join us for any or all of the classes. (If you arrive after 5 p.m., call Darla Stiles' cell phone at 205-0564 to enter the church.) If you have questions, contact Darla at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

Quilting continues to meet every Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. in Room 308. If interested, contact Dorothy Parry at 255-6049.

Hardanger has changed its meeting days, time and location. The group will meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month (April 8 and 22) at 11:30 a.m. in Room 308. Arlene Field is the facilitator and willing to teach anyone who is interested. Arlene may be reached at 266-0384.

Photography will meet Sunday, April 13, at 11 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church. The theme for this month is "things rotten or dilapidated." Bring a couple of photos to share.

Lunch Bunch II will meet Wednesday, April 16, at 12:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg at 279-6326.

Lunch Bunch I will meet Thursday, April 17, at 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining the group, call Barb Hyler at 262-5261 to reserve a space. New members are most welcome!

Recreational Reading will meet Wednesday, April 23, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm at church. For April we are reading *Zealot* by Reza Aslan. The facilitator of the group is Carol MacDonald, who can be contacted at macpac00@mchsi.com.

Scrapbooking will meet Saturday, April 26, between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Bring materials you are using for scrapbooking or card-making.

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St. John's Social Club will not meet in April. Their next meeting is a tour of the state Capitol in late May.



WIRED Lunch & Activity is scheduled for Sunday, April 27, at 11:45 a.m. We will meet at Bruegger's at 86th St. and Swanson Blvd. for lunch and then go across the street to Glazed Expressions to engage in a creative and fun activity. You can paint a pottery piece selected there or create a glass mosaic

or jewelry. The cost is \$8 (studio fee) plus \$12 or more for art supplies. We will need to sign up for either the pottery room or glass room by April 8. You can sign up in the Fireside Lounge (or you may e-mail darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org with your reservation and choice of art work).

Bicycle St. John's first official ride of the season is on Sunday, April 27. At 3 p.m. riders will meet in the parking lot for Ace Hardware in Beaverdale. We will do easy riding on the nearby trails. Total ride time will be about 2.5 hours with stops along the way. Your Ride Host is Rod Snavely (rsnavely@aol.com).



Bicycle St. John's is gearing up for the riding season. We would like to do at least one ride each month that is appropriate for any level of bicycle skill. Additional rides for more aggressive riders are also welcome.

Do you have great trails near your home? Sign up to lead a ride on the trails that you know. Are you planning to ride the Mayor's Ride for Trails? Sign up to be our ride host by picking a place where we can congregate and ride together. Are you planning a High Trestle Trail moonlight ride? Sign up to meet St. John's riders and ride together. Are you planning to ride in RAGBRAI? Sign up as a ride coordinator for people who want to ride faster and farther.

Being a ride leader is easy. Simply pick the ride you want to do and choose a place to meet up with others who want to ride along. Then you simply act as host for that ride. Signing up to be a ride leader is also easy. Simply 'like' our community on [facebook.com/BicycleStJohns](https://www.facebook.com/BicycleStJohns) or email Rod Snavely at rsnavely@aol.com. (Rides that have volunteer hosts before Sunday, April 27, will be announced on facebook.)

News from the Garden

St. John's Faith Gardeners met this month to discuss breaking ground to plant some early-crop vegetables. With a goal of growing more food to donate to the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry, we've decided to stagger our planting to get more out of the space we use.

The Southeast Iowa Synod Hunger Work Group is encouraging everyone in the synod to "Grow Your Lawn – Don't Mow Your Lawn," and we'd like to encourage all home gardeners to donate a part of what they grow to the Food Pantry so we can multiply our impact of feeding hungry people. In the spirit of this, Diana Sickles has some seeds from Seed Savers that are free for the taking for those who would like to use them in their gardens with the intention of sharing the produce.

The garden group also is in need of more volunteers for the garden teams. This is a minimal time commitment of one week a month, working with a group of **five** people. You do not need to have gardening experience; people of all ages are encouraged to join. It's a wonderful adventure to see first-hand the plants going into the ground, growing and bearing fruit, and being delivered directly to those who need them most.

If you are interested in joining the Faith Gardeners, please contact Diana Sickles (dsickles4@gmail.com) or Pastor Bob Speirs (pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org).

Submitted by Diana Sickles

More About Faith Garden(ing)

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 Jan. 19 and March 9 to discuss plans for this year's garden. **Jean Rothfusz** has taken on the role of garden manager this year, and she brings a wealth of knowledge to share with us and guide us. 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!

Submitted by DeAnna Axness

Women of the ELCA

Lois and Sarah Groups will attend the St. John's Lenten service on Wednesday, April 2, at noon. We will then provide the Lenten lunch in Neumann Hall. A short business meeting will be conducted in the Lounge following lunch. All women of the church are welcome.



Lenten Lunch

Lunch will be served by the Lois and Sarah Circles in Neumann Hall after the noon Wednesday Lenten services. The menu includes beef burgers or egg-salad sandwiches, soup, salad and dessert. The cost is \$6. Please join us.

Outreach Project

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) is our designated project for the month of April. We are mainly asking for jars of peanut butter. Let's try to fill the boxes that are located near the Reception area and Neumann Hall.

Another way to give to DMARC is with a monetary donation. If you choose this way of giving, simply make your check payable to St John's Lutheran Church and state on your check that it is a donation for DMARC.

We would like to express our appreciation to those who donated items to the Connection Café, our outreach project for last month. Thank you!

Youth Ministry

Thank You!

St John's and the Chocolate Factory, our youth sponsored fundraising auction, was an enormous success. We want to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of you who gave so generously! From donated item to joyful bidders to everyone who came ready to celebrate and enjoy good food and good company, all we can say is thank you! We raised more than \$15,000 by the end of the night. Specific thanks go to members of the Auction

Planning Team and the Youth Ministry Advisory Committee without whose expertise and good judgment the night would not have been a success: Lora Simpson, Heidi Slinker, Tammi Reyes, Terri Speirs, Erin Hill, Deb Anderson and so many more! Thank you!

Passing It Forward

Sticking with our plan to donate 10 percent of our total fundraising efforts, we are excited to announce that we are able to give away a little more than \$1,500! The donation will be going to support Iowa Homeless Youth Centers. Their mission is to eliminate homelessness among children, youth and young mothers in Polk County. Specifically, IHYC works with those individuals who have aged out of the foster care system. We are happy to support them!

Photos from St. John's and the Chocolate Factory





The Arts at St. Johns



April Artist of the Month:

Craig Shives is an Iowa native who grew up in Newton and has lived in Des Moines since 1970. Craig practiced law as an employee benefits attorney at the Nyemaster Goode Law Firm for forty years. Since retiring three years ago, he has been working on right-brain or creative activities, primarily photography and writing.

His photos have been selected for exhibit at the Iowa State Fair each of the last three years, and he won a blue ribbon in 2012. Two of his photos have been published in the Dallas County News calendar for 2014.

Craig has been a volunteer photographer for The Brenton Arboretum since early 2011. All of the photos in this exhibit are from the Arboretum.

Arts Visioning Team Update

The Arts Visioning Team had a very eventful/event-full month of March, from the Shrove Tuesday celebration to the Hymn Festival with David Cherwien and, over Spring Break, we fed six meals to 140 honor choir students who rehearsed in the St. John's Sanctuary. The Wartburg Choir joined us for Wednesday evening worship on March 19 while they were in town for the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) meeting, and the ACDA held a seminar at St. John's on worship and music (the Cathedral Choir and Adult Handbell Choir were featured choirs for this even).

Our St. John's Arts program year is about to come to a close. As we look to next year, we

are excited about dovetailing its activities with St. John's 150th anniversary activities. We're looking at music commissions, anniversary choirs, concerts, art exhibits and more. All of this is possible because of the generosity of you, St. John's community. You provide the funds available to make this happen. And, more importantly, you provide indispensable support with your enthusiastic willingness to volunteer and attend events. Thank you for understanding the role the arts play in our faith and our everyday lives. This is truly a congregation that "gets it" and steps up to make it happen.

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

Midweek Music

The 2013-14 Midweek Music Series has three wonderful free concerts remaining for this season. The next will be Wednesday, April 23, at 12:05 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Afterward, head downstairs to Weertz Hall for a light lunch served by the Lois and Sarah Circles of the Women of the ELCA. Lunch costs \$6 per person.

- **April 23** - Odyssey Trio: Sandy Moore Wacha, flute; Kristin Maahs, harp, and Mary Pshonik, cello.
- **April 30** - Ruth Harris: organ.
- **May 7** - Asphalt & Stained Glass band: folk, blues and jazz music.

Musicians have started asking for 2014-15 Midweek Music season dates. If you or someone you know is interested in being part of the Midweek Music Series, contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

April Handbell Choir & Kisasa Music Schedules

Wednesday, April 2

- Adult Handbell Rehearsal: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Kisasa Handbell Rehearsal: 6:15-7:15 p.m., ring for worship processional

Sunday, April 6

- Youth Handbell Rehearsal: 8:45-9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 9

- Adult Handbell Rehearsal: 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Kisasa Handbell Rehearsal: 6:15-7:15 p.m., ring for worship processional

Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday

- Youth Handbell Choir rehearsal: 8:45-9:30 a.m.
- Youth Handbell Choir to assist: 10 a.m. processional
- Adult Handbell Choir: 10 a.m. worship

Wednesday, April 16

- Rehearsals for Triduum and Easter: Times TBA

Revisiting Shrove Tuesday



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Palm Sunday Procession for Peace Sunday, April 13

Procession begins at 3:00 on the Capitol West Terrace and ends at First United Methodist Church, where the ecumenical service begins at 3:45. Please attend either or both.

This procession and prayer service will express a vision of peace and a position against war. We will remember the true meaning of Palm Sunday (a challenge to first century economic/political powers) and renew our commitment to be instruments of God's peace.

NEXT EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, April 21.**

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!