



The EAGLE CALL

Volume 46, Number 05
May, 2014

Worship

Saturday
5:00 pm

Sunday
8:00 am
10:00 am

Radio Broadcast
KRNT 1350 AM
Sunday Mornings
8:30 am

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

First Circle Friends comes to St. John's

Many of us know someone affected by early to mid-stage memory loss. As our population ages, many of us will deal with this on a very personal level, and will be seeking guidance and opportunities for assistance and care.

Lutheran Service's in Iowa has established a group respite program, First Circle Friends, that provides a day of renewal, friendship and support for people with memory loss and their family caregiver. Beginning in June, St. John's is pleased and honored to partner with them in hosting a location for them to gather.

Meeting twice a month, from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., trained volunteers are matched with participants for a day of cognitively stimulating activities, such as music, games, light exercise, painting and discussion groups that reminisce on past events, sports or history. Volunteers from St. John's will provide all the activities. Because of the one-to-one ratio between volunteers, no one is left alone or isolated.

Meanwhile, family caregivers can enjoy a day off to rest, run errands and rejuvenate themselves for their care giving role. Having time for personal wellness is important so family caregivers can continue to provide their best care for a loved one. According to the Alzheimer's Association, 80 percent of care provided at home is delivered by family members.

At the end of the day, both participants and their caregivers can go home feeling refreshed for the days ahead. Wondering if there is a way to assist with this worthwhile program? There is!

St. John's is known for our hospitality. Volunteers are needed to provide lunch for participants and the volunteers; the anticipated number is 12-16 people. Something simple - soup, sandwiches, fruit, veggies, dessert bars – may be dropped off in the morning; no set-up, serving or clean up. The group meets twice a month so there is ample opportunity to help. To offer your assistance, please contact Katie at 515-243-7691 or katiel@stjohnsdsm.org.



First *Circle* Friends

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In the City for Good!
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Next Eagle Call Deadline
May 19 at noon



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Bob Speirs

Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good." - Genesis 1:11-12

After a seemingly endless winter, the trees are budding, the perennials are emerging, the grass is turning a wonderful shade of green, and the warmer air of spring is finally with us. This gives me great joy, for a variety of reasons.

First, I look forward to working with our St. John's Faith Garden team, so we can begin to put into action all the plans we've made over the past several months – to plant, water, and care for all the vegetables that we hope will grow in abundance. Once again, the produce that comes from our garden will be donated to the Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry system, so our friends and neighbors who don't have good access to fresh produce can benefit and enjoy what we've grown. Last year we were able to donate over 600 pounds of fresh produce to DMARC, through our Faith Garden ministry, which included several of our church members also giving a portion of what they grew to the food pantry in the name of St. John's. Each of the past three years we have surpassed the total poundage of the previous year, and I believe that we can do so once again. We have a great and faithful group of dedicated gardeners, but are always looking for more help and/or donations for this effort. If you have interest in being part of this wonderful ministry, but are a little apprehensive because of lack of time or experience, not to worry, your enthusiasm and commitment is more important than your experience. I, personally, am living proof! ☺ I encourage you to speak with either Diana Sickles, or me, for more information and discussion. We may both be reached by e-mail. Diana's address is dsickles4@gmail.com; mine is, pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org. I may also be reached by phone, 243-7691.

Second, St. John's bicycling group is looking forward to another season of getting together for recreation, fun and fellowship (not to mention refreshments). We are in the process of planning events that could include joining with some local organized rides around town, but also some casual rides on our local trail system, as well. We try and get together a couple of times a month, especially Sundays after church. All levels of bicycle riding skill and physical conditioning are welcome. Feel free to join us if you're looking for a fun riding experience with a nice community of friends. We have a Facebook page, Bicycle St. John's, for more information, our planned rides will also be listed in the church bulletin and on St. John's website.

Third, with the spring here and the summer drawing near, our kids will soon be out of school and that means opportunities for our Middle/High school students...Confirmation camp and the two mission trips have been planned for this summer. Noah and our Youth Ministry Advisory Committee have done a great job in organizing and putting all this put together, along with the fund raising efforts that are needed to help pay for these events. The kids are excited and looking forward to another great summer of new experiences and fun together. I am grateful for our church community who are so generous, encouraging and supportive, with their prayers, their time, and resources in helping us to have a vibrant and meaningful youth program.

I especially look forward to continuing our worship life together each Sunday morning throughout the spring and summer. Worship is not only the culmination of all our ministry and what brings all our faithful efforts together and gives them meaning, but worship – through word and sacrament – continues to equip, strengthen and prepare us to go out once again into the world and continue our witness to our neighbors week in and week out. I hope you have a wonderful spring, and see you in church.

Peace, Pastor Bob

Notes from the Council



“The Mission of God’s People” by Christopher J.H. Wright reminds us that our first mission was to care for creation—to “tend the garden” (Gen 2:15). God delegated to us God’s own kingly authority over God’s whole creation—an authority characterized by wisdom, power, goodness, grace, compassion, faithfulness, generosity, provision, protection, justice and love (Ps 145). This is also at the heart of our understanding of biblical stewardship. Our stewardship flows from God’s mission.

What if God’s redemptive love in Christ for all of creation were the foundation and scope of any understanding of the church’s mission? Imagine how an awareness of God’s cosmic redemption in Christ might inform our role as stewards. People who continually remind us that stewardship is about more than money are certainly right...and, we might add stewardship is about more than Time and Talent, too.

The question of mission is crucial. Whose mission are we on? Whose agenda are we pursuing? What if the church had no mission of its own other than to respond to God’s call to participate in God’s mission in Christ to heal, bless, and make new God’s whole creation?

Wright’s insights may transform our notion of congregational mission. I invite you to begin thinking about the potential implications for the stewardship ministry in your congregation.

I read this in a recent newsletter from Luther Seminary and I began to reflect on our **Be Generous** stewardship emphasis for 2013 and 2014. We are caring for God’s creation when we feed the hungry, tend a faith garden, educate our kids and support our friends in Tanzania. We carry out our mission for God’s creation when we **welcome** each other, **pray** for one another, lift our voices in **praise**, **serve** in the community, and **grow** in our understanding of God’s will.

We are generous but I think we are called to do more. We generously support many special programs, including the arts, Good Samaritan fund, Beloved Community, our youth, and more. It doesn’t take us long to raise funds for a special project when needed. (I hope you will add your support to more fund raising for the 150th Anniversary Celebration.) But, we also need to **Be Generous** when we support the Ministry Plan (operational budget) for the ongoing mission of St. John’s Lutheran Church. Supporting the Ministry Plan covers the staff, building and operational costs that allow us to support almost every other special activity of our ministry. I pray you continue to grow in your faith and grow in your giving which allows us to live out God’s mission for St. John’s to be **in the city for good**.

Kris Gregersen,
Council President

Memorial Service

Lois Valbracht Memorial Service May 10

A memorial service will be held at St. John’s Saturday, May 10th, at 11:00 a.m., for Lois Valbracht, wife of The Rev. Dr. Louis H. Valbracht, Senior Pastor of St. John’s from 1962 until 1979. The service will follow the 10:00 a.m. interment of her ashes in the courtyard next to her late husband. A memorial service has already taken place in Fairfield Bay, Ark., where she lived. Pastor Susan Flemr, the Valbracht’s daughter, will preach at the service, Pastor William Flemr will be Assisting Minister, with Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman presiding. A luncheon will follow in Weertz Fellowship Hall.

The Valbrachts were partners throughout their years in ministry with Lois always taking strong leadership positions in music directing children’s and youth choirs, handbells, and instrumental music.

Lois began a Boy’s Choir, handbell choirs for junior high youth (Chapel Bells) and high school (Temple Bells) and, along with Dorothy Gallegger, took the Temple Bells to Germany. The Baldwin baby grand piano, now in Weertz Fellowship Hall, was a gift to St. John’s in her honor as was our first harpsichord – built from a kit. A fine violinist, she also formed a Baroque Trio to perform 18th century chamber music.

But even more important than those organizational and programmatic contributions was Lois’ infectious joy. She seemed to be everywhere, loving everyone, and also performing a valuable role in presenting a personal, relational, and approachable side to Pastor V’s larger-than-life, dramatic persona. Lois was the “mom” of the whole congregation and was dearly loved.

With music having been such an important part of Mrs. V’s life, it will take a prominent position in the memorial service as well. The St. John’s Cathedral Choir, Adult Handbells, and Chamber Orchestra will all take part in the service, and the welcome mat is out for any singers, ringers, or instrumentalists who might wish to be part of the musical ensembles for this service. Rehearsals will begin at 9:30 a.m. that morning. Meet in the sanctuary in order to find where the various groups will be rehearsing.

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, May 4, Third Sunday of Easter

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them, and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

The readings are Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; and Luke 24:13-35. The hymns will be ELW 377, "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen!" ELW 374, "Day of Arising," and ELW 535, "Alleluia! We Sing Your Praises!" Cathedral Choir will sing "Stay with Us," Walter L. Pelz, with Sandy Moore Wacha playing flute.

Sunday, May 11, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in the gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

The readings are Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; and John 10:1-10. We are observing this Sunday as "Music Sunday," especially at our 10:00 a.m. service. Our singers, handbell ringers, organists, accompanist, and instrumentalists will be lifted up in appreciation for the way they lift us up every Sunday, observance, and festival service. The hymns will be ELW 850, "When in Our Music God is Glorified," ELW 362, "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing," and ELW 544, "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing." Cathedral Choir and our Chamber Orchestra will sing "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name," by Tom Fettke and "The Lord is My Shepherd," by John Rutter. Kisasa, Joyful Noise, Adult Handbells, and Youth Handbells will present Arnold Sherman's arrangement of "Jesus Loves Me."

Following the 10:00 a.m. service we will have another opportunity for a "mini-concert." One of our String Scholars, Nina Liu, will perform the "Spring Concerto" from Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. Those of you who remember Shana Liu playing the first movement of the Grieg Piano Concerto in February will recognize a couple of things: that this is the same format – a brief, excellent concert offering right after services (which many of you said we should do more often) – and that Nina is Shana's older sister.

Sunday, May 18, Fifth Sunday of Easter

As we continue to celebrate the 50 days of Easter, this day's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As First Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ – our way, our truth, our life.

The readings are Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; and John 14: 1-14. The hymns will be ELW 389, "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing," ELW 576, "We All Are One in Mission," and ELW 449, "We Know that Christ is Raised." For offering at 10:00 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing "For the Beauty of the Earth," arranged by Philip Stopford. Kisasa will present the communion music.

Sunday, May 25, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

The readings will be Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; and John 14:15-21. The hymns will be ELW 840, "Now Thank We All Our God," ELW 781, "Children of the Heavenly Father," and ELW 543, "Go, My Children, with My Blessing." Cathedral Choir will sing "Thy Holy Wings," arranged by Karle Erickson with flute parts played by Sandy Moore Wacha and Carol Lunde.

Hospitality & Outreach



The Path Always Leads To . . .

Last month, I gave voice to frustrations of our long winter, and the trials of friends – physical and emotional – that were taking a toll on our minds and spirits. I shared the conclusion that my comfort was achieved only by waiting and listening for God to speak, trusting in God's guidance and comfort.

At this time, I'd like to share a new thought. The thought may be new, but the end result is the same.

I recently read a fictionalized account of two female geologists who lived in the early 1800s. Their interest and pursuit in hunting and examining fossils at that time was totally unacceptable for women; in fact, there was a heated debate around the understanding and implication of geology as a science at all.

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At the beginning of the 20th century, the prevailing theory (call it theological, if you will) was that God created everything at once at the time of creation; therefore, when fossils were found, people couldn't figure out what they were. The fact that relics appeared to be creatures that no longer existed shook them to their core. These beings couldn't have been "drafts" that God created and rejected; God didn't do dry runs, nor make mistakes. Moreover, God wouldn't create them and then kill them off all. What was the point of that?

It is sometimes difficult to grasp how "far" we've come in such a relatively short period of historical time. We forget the decades, centuries, and millennia involved for thoughts and theories to be conceived, discussed, reviewed and then rejected or accepted. Our world is much more instantaneous – for better or worse.

Upon reflection, I think the word "far" is subjective and dubious. We may get information quickly, but is that always a good thing? Many times the first flash of information is incomplete, if not flat out wrong. But it gets people's attention and generates reactions. Emotional flames are fanned and, at times, innocent are people hurt or ruined by inaccurate new or deliberately misleading or falsified statements.

Our instantaneous world gives us news of school shootings, bullying, abuse, greed at the expense of others, and (my personal favorite that is absolutely ludicrous) a murder conspiracy charge against a nine-month old boy in Pakistan.

So when reading about a time when ideas traveled slowly and then come up against our in-your-face world, I get whiplash. Sometimes I handle it better than others, but the only way I can let go of the fear and emotion is to get grounded in my faith in God.

The book I mentioned earlier is *Remarkable Creatures* by Tracy Chevalier. One of the characters, a young, uneducated girl with an incredible eye for fossils is overwhelmed by the discussions and dissention surrounding her. She is also fearful; the money she is paid to find these treasures is the main livelihood of her family. How did she cope? God! She said, "I would have to go and sit in the chapel until I felt I could let God take care of all the mysteries and the worry went away."

I hang on to my relationship with God like a veritable live-preserver – which is it. It is also a

soul-preserver. I was blessed to have been raised by parents who believed in God with their whole being. They taught me by word and showed me by example. They laid the basis for one of the constants of my life, a sustaining relationship with God. I know many of you share this foundation.

Whether our faith is life-long or relatively new, it is the ultimate gift. For those of us who know God's unconditional love, guidance, comfort, and redemptive power, let us say, "Thank you, God."

In the City (and World) for Good!

Keep following. Keep your feet on his way. Remember, he said: "I am the Way." Not, at the end of the way you will find me, but I AM the way. As soon as you get started on my way you will find me...Keep following, keep praying, keep loving. - N. Gordon Cosby

The Way is a path of loving service to our neighbor in need, whether he/she is sitting in "our" pew on Sunday morning or living on the other side of the world. It is in them that we meet the Risen Christ. Below are just a few of the ways that you are invited to walk the Way of love with partners in Des Moines and around the globe...

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your continued faithfulness to serving the evening meal at Central Iowa Shelter & Services on the 18th and 19th of every month!! Even though our April dates fell during Holy Week, you graciously provided for our sisters and brothers in need. Keep up the great work!

DMARC (Des Moines Area Religious Council) is settled in their new building on Mulberry St. – which is actually the "old" Central Iowa Shelter! DMARC continues to seek contributions to their capital campaign for renovations and improvements to the building. One-time gifts and/or pledges are most welcome DMARC's new address is 1435 Mulberry. You may read all about them at www.dmreligious.org. Please give generously!

We have a great group of folks traveling to our Companion Parish in TZ, July 22-August 6th, 2014! Carol Fisher will be leading the group and participants include Phyllis Olson, Mary Bernau, Jacque Warming, Sharon Beerman, Olivia Simpson, Thomas Mayes, and Greg Anderson...**Please note:** If you sponsor a child in the Children's Club, it is time to renew the sponsorship for next year. And information will be available soon to women and girls of St. John's regarding a June fundraising event in support of the Johanna Scholarship.

The After School Arts Program (ASAP) has accepted an invitation from United Way to provide arts enrichment at a pilot summer school program at King Elementary! This new venture, along with the annual Summer Arts Camp at Evelyn K. Davis Park, speaks volumes about the respect ASAP is gaining in the Des Moines community! St. John's is the "birth mother" of ASAP, and your continued support is crucial. The annual fundraising event for ASAP, *Savor*, is scheduled for Monday, June 9, at the Des Moines Social Club. Ticket information will be available soon!

Thank you for all of the ways that you *keep following, keep praying, keep loving...*

Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

Hosta Sale in Courtyard: Saturday, May 3, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Quilting: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. in Room 308.

Mah Jongg: Mondays, May 5, 12, 19, and 26, at 6:00 p.m. in Neumann.

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement: Tuesday, May 6, 6:00 p.m. at Eatery A on Ingersoll.

WIRED Book Discussion: Thursday, May 8, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Ritchie.

EAGLES: Friday, May 9, Meet between 4:00 and 4:30 at the Fleur Theater followed by dinner at Bennigan's.

Hardanger: Tuesdays, May 13 and 27, 11:30 a.m. in Room 308—anyone welcome; facilitator: Arlene Field, 266-0384.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, May 15, 11:30 a.m.

Photography: Sunday, May 18, 11:00 a.m.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, May 21, 12:30 a.m.

St. John's Social Club: Saturday, May 24, 10:15 a.m. for a tour of the Capitol.

Gardening: Tuesday, May 27, 6:00 p.m. Meet at Quilted Gardens at 1895 Army Post Road in Des Moines.

Recreational Reading: Wednesday, May 28, 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm.

Scrapbooking: Saturday, May 31, 9:30 am to 2:00 p.m., Room 8.

Zumba will not meet from May through August and will start again in September;

Yoga will not meet May through August.

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:

Hosta Sale (from our own courtyard!): Get a deal on hosta cuttings (\$5 each) as St. John's Gardeners dig and divide the hostas in the courtyard to thin them out! Come down on Saturday, May 3, between 9 and 11 to select the kinds of hostas you like. We will have some bags/containers on hand but feel free to bring extras. (This is also the morning you can pick up your plant order from the youth if you pre-ordered.)

Mah Jongg will meet Monday evenings, May 5, 12, 19, and 26 at 6:00 p.m. at St. John's in Neumann.

Quilting continues Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. in Room 308. Contact Dorothy Parry, 255-6049 if interested.

EAGLES will attend a matinee movie at the Fleur Theater on Friday, May 9. Plan on meeting at the Fleur between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m. (For those who RSVP, Barb Hyler will let you know the beginning of that week the exact movie and time which the Fleur Theater publishes that Monday before). Price for seniors is \$7. The group will go out for dinner AFTER the movie at Bennigan's on Army Post and Fleur. You may let Barb know if you plan to attend by e-mailing her at b.hyler@mchsi.com or calling 401-5721.

Hardanger will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, (May 13 and 27) at 11:30 a.m. in Room 308. Arlene Field is the facilitator and willing to teach anyone interested. She may be contacted at 266-0384 if you have questions.

Lunch Bunch I meets on Thursday, May 15, 11:30 a.m. If interested in joining the group please call Barb Hyler, 401-5721. New members are most welcome!

Photography will meet on May 18. The theme is "things rotten or dilapidated" or anything regarding "Nature."

Lunch Bunch II will meet on Wednesday, May 21, 12:30 p.m. If interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg, 279-6326.

St. John's Social Club will meet May 24 at 10:15 a.m. at the tour station at the State Capitol Building for a formal tour of the Capitol, followed by a "behind the scene" tour at 11:30. Lunch following the tour will be determined. Please RSVP to Mary Slattery by Saturday, May 17, at marywslatt@gmail.com.

The June activity for the St. John's Social Club will be an architectural tour of the West side of downtown Des Moines, on Saturday, June 7, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. Our guide is from the Iowa Architectural Foundation. Cost is \$10.00/person. Reservations must be made and money/check given to Carol Dittmer by Monday, June 2. Please make your checks out to Carol, and send them to: Carol Dittmer, 8920 Oakwood Drive, Norwalk, IA, 50211. One check will then be written for the entire group. Your RSVP will be made when your money/check is received by Carol. Dinner will follow the tour at 6:00 p.m. at Noah's Ark on Ingersoll. Please be sure to let Carol know if you will be eating with our group, so she can turn in a reservation.

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Gardening will begin the spring/summer/fall garden tours on Tuesday, May 27, at 6:00 p.m. Meet at Quilted Gardens at 1895 Army Post Road, Des Moines. Quilted Gardens is a nursery specializing in the unique and unusual perennials, hostas, trees, shrubs, and conifers. They also carry unique garden art and accessories for pondless water features. "Let your garden come to life by going beyond the obvious." Please join us for a tour of this facility and a chance to purchase, if you so wish. Since Ewing Park is close by, it might be just the right time to view their amazing display of lilacs so swing by the park following the Quilted Gardens tour.

Recreational Reading will meet Wednesday, May 28, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm. The selected book to read for May is *Franklin and Winston* by Jon Meacham. Facilitator: Carol MacDonald, macpac00@mchsi.com.

Scrapbooking will meet Saturday, May 31 between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Bring materials you are working on for scrapbooking or card making.

Bicycle St. John's is gearing up for a season of riding. We would like to do at least one ride each month appropriate for any level of bicycle skills. 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 you know.
- Are you planning to ride the Mayor's Ride for Trails? Sign up to pick a meeting place for other Bicycle St. John's riders to 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 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, then agree to meet up with others who want to ride along. Then you simply act as the 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 or contact Rod Snavely: rsnavely@aol.com. (Rides that have volunteer hosts will be announced on facebook.)

WIRED Book Discussion will meet Thursday, May 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Mary Ritchie, 4819 Cedar Drive, West Des Moines. The book to discuss is *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olive Ann Burns. You are encouraged to attend even if you haven't read the book so you can have input on the next book. RSVP to Mary at ritchiem82@gmail.com or phone 277-3540 if you plan to attend. Please bring an appetizer if you so choose.



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**.

Women of the ELCA

Women of the ELCA Outreach Program for May and June



During the months of May and June, we will collect for the "Back Pack Program" At this time only monetary gifts are being received. If you would like to donate, simply make your check payable to Food Bank of Iowa and note on the check that this donation should be directed to the "Back Pack Program".

Additionally, the Food Bank of Iowa is always in need of more donations. Most needed items at this time are high protein items such as canned meats and peanut butter. Canned fruit, canned soup, cold cereal, 100% fruit juice along with paper and personal products (bar soap, diapers, toothpaste, deodorant) are also needed.

As always, **Thank You** for your generosity by giving the many jars of peanut butter during the month of April.

Women of the ELCA will meet on May 1: Lois Group will meet at Beaverdale Estates (4610 Douglas Ave.) at 12:30 p.m. This is the residence of Judy and Les Munger. We will have lunch and a short meeting with a speaker. Sarah Group will meet at 10:00 a.m. at Deerfield (13731 Hickman Road). The host is Sue Sandahl.

NOTICE TO THRIVENT MEMBERS WITH CHOICE DOLLARS

If you designate your Choice Dollars before May 31, \$20 will be added to the Choice Dollars you are designating. Don't know if you have any Choice Dollars to be designated? Call Thrivent Financial at 800-847-4836. When asked, "How can I help you?" simply respond, "Choice Dollars." A representative will let you know how many Choice Dollars you have and will direct them as you request.

Also Mark Your Calendar: Thrivent's Two Rivers Chapter is sponsoring a family event for Thrivent members at Blank Park Zoo on Sunday, June 8, from 5:30-7:30 PM. Free admission during these hours. No reservations required. "

Children's Ministry

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!

Beloved Community: Summer Edition 2014

Join us for this intergenerational event! During this special time of fellowship, we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. For three evenings, we will gather to share in community, prayer and exploring our faith! We will be reminded of how Jesus helps to fill us and how we may help to fill others.

Registration begins May 4. Registration forms may be found on the Children's Ministry bulletin board in the narthex, as well as, at stjohnsdsm.org/childrensministries. **Registration forms are due June 1** so that we can better account for materials and plan for meals. Volunteers are needed! Please contact akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org for more information or mark on your registration form how you might be willing to help out!

Pennies for the Pantry

We are in the last month of our service project, collecting coins to benefit local food pantries. **May 18th will be the last time to add your coins to the large container.** The donations will then be calculated and a special delivery will be made to DMARC to present the donation on behalf of St.

John's Children's Ministries. Thank you to all who have contributed! Through your generosity, you are making a difference.

A Special Thank You

"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world." Romans 1:8

I give thanks to all of the volunteers that have been involved with Children's Ministries during the current program year. As Sunday School, KIDZ@St. John's, and Joyful Noise come to a close in the coming weeks, I take a moment to reflect on the past year and also to look forward to what is coming in the months ahead. In this year of change, there has been a great deal of learning. I have loved being a part of that change and learning. With heartfelt gratitude, I am eager to continue sharing with our children and their families this summer during Beloved Community: Summer Edition 2014 and as we embark upon another program year this fall.

Alicia Karwal, Director of Children's Ministries

Youth Ministry

*"We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where started
And know the place for the first time."
-T.S. Eliot*

On Sunday, May 18th, at the 10:00 a.m. service, we will celebrate our high school seniors. We will also take this time to say our goodbyes. Many of these students have been a part of our St John's family since they were young. Many of you, whether you know it or not, have helped teach them what it means to live with faith and grace in this world. That is not an easy task! As we say our goodbyes we say, very literally, God be with you. We bless them as they go out, we thank them for being a part of the story of our lives, we reassure them that we love them no matter what, we tell them to stay in touch, we share in the excitement of a new stage in life, and we also mourn their leaving. They have been and will always be a part of our family, even as they set out on new roads and new adventures.

I quote T.S. Eliot above because it is a reminder that, like our high school seniors, all of us are called to be explorers. There is always more to learn about the world and about ourselves. We do not set out on these explorations alone, but instead travel with the whole communion of saints. Remember to be that communion of saints for all of our high school seniors and for one another. We are all novices in this exploration task and we need all the help we can get!

Transition Wednesday

All 6th graders going into 7th grade this coming fall are invited to join our Confirmation Class on Wednesday, May 7th, for Transition Wednesday! We will meet from 6:30 to 8:00 in the MPR room on the 3rd floor. Come also for

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the Beloved Community meal between 5:30 and 6:30 in Weertz Hall and bring your whole family! Transition Wednesday is an opportunity for our 6th graders to get a feel for what confirmation will be like next year. They'll sit in with our 7th and 8th grade class, play a few icebreakers to get to know some of our current students, and then participate in our evening's lesson. All parents are invited to join as well. You'll get to meet the mentors who are an integral part of our program, get a feel for what an average night looks like, and also get to know the other kids.

Please contact Noah (noah@stjohnsdsm.org) or Alicia (akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org) to let us know if you plan on attending. This RSVP isn't necessary but will help us plan an appropriate welcome.

End of Year Party

All confirmation students, their families, and our mentors are invited to Pastor Bob's house on Wednesday, May 21st, from 5:30 to 8:00, to celebrate the completion of our 2013/2014 confirmation session! There will be a BBQ dinner, lawn games, a bonfire, and of course s'mores, too. With good weather and fingers crossed, maybe even their pool will be open! Come for the whole night or just a part of the evening's festivities. RSVP to either Pastor Bob or Noah so we can plan for the right amount of food to buy. Hope to see you there!

Companion Parish

Greetings from Mramba

This is our first article in the *Eagle Call* and we look forward to communicating with you on a quarterly basis through our parish newsletter. First, our biggest change, we have hired Ched Daniels as our liaison between St. John's and Mramba Parish. For those who have been to Tanzania, Ched is Goodluck and Grace's son who has served as our interpreter the past couple visits. He teaches English at Bombo Secondary School, as well as mentors our Children's Club students who attend Bombo. Ched will also provide monthly updates on Village activity.

In 2013, there were four students who passed their government primary school exams and moved on to Bombo Secondary School. In January 2014, two

more students passed their exams and moved up to Bombo; we hope two additional students passed their exams in March and will also move up as well. We will then have a total of eight children in secondary school. These are eight children who were selected by the Village's Most Vulnerable Committee because they had never attended school, were illiterate, neither parent valued education, or were orphans. These children believe it is an honor to be allowed to attend school and are willing to walk a very long distance daily just for the privilege.

The children remaining in the Children's Club continue to learn and grow all the while looking forward to entering secondary school. The teachers and children plant their garden twice a year based on the rainy season. The produce provides food for their Saturday lunch and contributes to the government school hot lunch program. They are also learning to speak English so they can talk to us when we visit...this was all their own idea.

The chickens, all 10, are alive, well and plump!! The children take care of cleaning the chicken coop and much of the feeding and watering. There was trouble with the chickens pecking their eggs, so a specialist was hired who checked out the problem. With a slight change of food, everything is back on track. The chickens continue to lay and the children have eggs in their lunch on Saturday.

On behalf of the Companion Parish Ministry Team, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to be a part of this program. With your help and support, we continue to make a difference on the other side of the World. Thank you to all who have re-sponsored a child for the coming year and to those who continue to support our work with your kind words and financial support.

Asante Sana,
Carol Fisher



SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

Do you have photos from a St. John's event or group activity? Do you have a photo that says "St. John's"?

If so, send them to scottl@stjohnsdsm.org or drop them off at the church office. You never know, you may end up in the next issue of the Eagle Call.

The Arts at St. Johns

Kisasa Day Camp

August 7 and 8, and Aug. 10 for 10:00 a.m. Worship

Our second annual Kisasa Day Camp is open for registration! All students entering grades 3 through 6 are welcome to join us for two full days of music, visual arts, bible study, cooking, gardening, swimming, and more. Our days will start at St. John's, where we will have a full arts immersion. In the afternoon, we travel to the home of Terri and Bob Speirs, where we will work in the Faith Garden and then end each day with swimming and recreation.



This year we welcome Noah Niermann to our staff. He will be in charge of lunches, and perhaps a recreation activity or two. Volunteers grades 7 and above, plus adults, are welcome to be a part of our community.

Information and registration forms can be found on the website on the Arts Ministries page, in the church office, or by contacting Beth Ann. For more information, please contact Beth Ann Edwards.

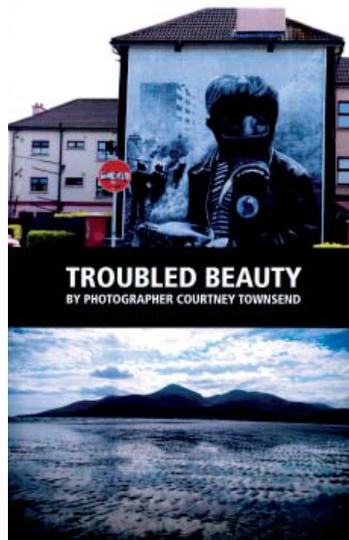
Second-graders Invited to Kisasa on May 7

Kisasa Musicians, grades three through 6, meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and they present music in worship about once a month. On Wednesday, May 7, we are inviting all current second-graders to visit us and spend some time getting acquainted with our programming and activities. Please send (or bring) your second-grader to Fuller Rehearsal Room at 6:30. Special activities and rehearsals are planned for our very important guests. Parents are welcome to stay, as well. We will walk down to the receptionist's desk at 7:30, where students can be picked up. For more information, please contact Beth Ann Edwards, Kisasa Director.

May Artist of the Month

"Troubled Beauty" by Courtney Townsend is a juxtaposition of the physical splendor of Northern Ireland and the serious conflict that is visible through politically inspired murals used as territorial markers. The murals stand as a physical representation demonstrating how Northern Ireland still suffers from prejudice, violence, economic disparity and, most of all, the separation that is a result of the fighting.

Despite the tension and conflict, Northern Ireland is also an incredibly beautiful and



inspiring country with magnificent vistas, lush landscapes and hospitable people. Townsend was able to travel extensively throughout the nation to document the natural beauty that serves as a pastoral backdrop to the underling social and economic tensions.

Townsend, a 2012 alumna of Grand View University with a degree in Graphic Journalism and a minor in photography, signed up after graduation to serve a year as a Young Adult Volunteer in Belfast, Northern Ireland, through the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Northern Ireland's tumultuous and tragic history of violence has created scars resulting in the economic, spiritual and emotional wounds of the present day. Townsend's job as a Young Adult Volunteer was to help serve her Belfast community in peace and reconciliation work, ministering to urban youth in the country's largest city.

Midweek Music Series

This season's Series concludes on May 7 as we welcome our own "house band" *Asphalt & Stained Glass*. Please join us for some covers, blues, folk music, and more! Music (free and open to the public) begins at 12:05 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and lunch (\$6 per person) is served at 12:30 in Weertz Hall. Our 2014-15 season will start up on Wednesday, October 1. Musicians are signing up now for next year. If you, or a musician you recommend, would like to be considered for next season's Series, please contact Beth Ann Edwards.

The Arts and the 150th Anniversary

St. John's 150th Anniversary celebration year begins November 2, 2014. The Anniversary Steering Committee and sub-committees have been meeting for a few months now, planning and scheduling events, activities, and other celebratory and commemorative benchmarks.

The subcommittee for worship, music, and arts will dovetail its anniversary activities with the Arts Visioning Team. We will involve current

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and past members of our St. John's community in a variety of artistic endeavors. Throughout the anniversary year, the Weertz Gallery will highlight our past and present members and ministries. If you, or an ancestor, family member or friend, were married at St. John's or were included in a wedding party, consider sharing your wedding picture with us in June of 2015! If you have a photo or memento of Christmas at St. John's, we will exhibit them in December, 2014. One month will be set aside to display prayer shawls made by our members and friends. If you or someone you know would like to make a prayer shawl, we will supply yarn, needles, and instructions.

Worship music will include at least three commissions: one to commence our anniversary year; one to see us into the future beyond the anniversary; and one to observe the retirement of Larry Christensen. A Nexus reunion is planned for the weekend of April 18 and 19. Please invite any and all Nexus graduates to spend the weekend with their high school choir friends. Reunion weekends with former senior pastors and organists will present opportunities for special worship music and perhaps a concert or two. Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth A. Eaton, will join us on November 1, 2015, in worship as we move into our next 150 years.

The Performing Arts Series is taking shape with input from both committees. Please feel free to share ideas with the Anniversary Steering Committee or the Arts Visioning Team. We're excited about the celebration and we want to share our love of the Arts with St. John's and the greater community. If you have questions, or for more information, please contact Beth Ann Edwards.

Beth Ann Edwards
 Director of Arts, Handbells, and Youth Choirs
 bethann@stjohnsdsm.org
 work: 515-243-7691 x.345
 mobile: 515-490-9408 mobile

Nexus Reunion

As part of the 150th anniversary celebration, we are looking for former Nexus members who may be interested in being part of a Nexus anniversary choir. Please email LaDonna Cowdin Russell at russelllks@aol.com if you or someone you know would like to be on the email list for information. Please share widely!

Easter 2014



May 2014
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Serving at Central Iowa Shelter & Services

On the 18th and 19th of each month St. John's prepares and serves meals at the shelter.

If you would like to help prepare, serve or donate to this wonderful ministry located in the heart of downtown Des Moines, please call 243.7691 or e-mail scottl@stjohnsdsm.org.



NEXT EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, May 19.**

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!