



The EAGLE CALL

Volume 46, Number 06
June, 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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Stewardship 2014
be generous.
st.john's lutheran church



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A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

St. John's Lutheran Church
In the City for Good!
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Summer Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Next Eagle Call Deadline
June 16 at noon



Friends,

My mother, a talented musician, was my first piano teacher. She obviously subscribed to the notion that the earlier you start a child at the piano the better, because I cannot remember a time that I did not know how to play. But like many children, I was not a great fan of practicing; so my grandmother, who lived downstairs in our two-story house in Thor, offered me a bribe that would keep me on the path to piano proficiency: practice 45 minutes per day, six days per week, and receive a shiny 50-cent coin every Saturday! I thought I was the luckiest kid in town! After all, none of my peers were making money at age 7! ... Of course now, some 50 years later, I realize that Grandma's modest bribe helped form the discipline that got me through college on music and academic scholarships, ensuring that I would enjoy the gift I've been given for the rest of my life.

The point of the story? I learned to play the piano by practicing for those 45 minutes per day, six days per week. (And believe me, there was no "wobble room" in this agreement. My grandmother heard every one of the notes I played; she lived downstairs!!) I didn't learn to play by studying the instruction book at the kitchen table. I didn't learn to play by imagining myself playing. I learned to play by practicing – just as I have learned to preach by preaching, to teach by teaching, to visit the sick by visiting the sick! Likewise, my friends, as we take this mid-year "check" on how well we are stewarding the time, passion and financial resources we have been given by God, the same truth applies: **the only way to be or become generous is by practicing generosity!**

And I have seen you "practicing" in a host of ways!

- Because you have been **practicing generosity**, we have three off-site opportunities for our middle- and high-school youth to grow in faith and community this summer! Your love, shown in part through your financial support of the youth ministry fundraisers, has made it possible for every student who wants to go to Lutheran Lakeside Bible Camp or on the middle-school mission trip to Green Bay, WI, or on the high-school mission trip to the Red Lake Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota to do so! You didn't just "think about" being generous! You've been **practicing generosity!**
- Because you have been **practicing generosity**, we have a wonderful start toward funding our year-long 150th anniversary celebration, beginning November 2nd! Music, so dear to the hearts of the people of St. John's, is being commissioned, service projects are being considered, and a strategic planning process will begin soon. Please continue **practicing generosity** of spirit and financial resources for the joy of giving thanks and planning for decades more ministry in the city!
- Because you have been **practicing generosity**, your brothers and sisters who face life's many challenges have been embraced and sustained by your prayers, visits, notes and meals. When I visit with them, they express how grateful they are for your **generous** love.

When Jesus called his disciples he did not give them a book on discipleship to read. He said simply, "Follow me!" They learned to be disciples by being disciples! As you continue to share your time, passion and financial resources for the sake of God's mission through St. John's, I urge you to **grow in generosity by being generous!** Serve a meal at the shelter, welcome the stranger to worship, talk with a child, increase your monthly giving for the rest of the year by \$10, \$20, \$50 per month – just for the joy of it! Generosity begets generosity! And as children of a generous God, who has given us all that we need for life, it is truly a joy to **be generous** each and every day!

With a grateful heart,
Pastor Mithelman

Notes from the Council

News from the Garden



Be Generous

Recently, Kathy and I attended our alma mater's spring Regents Meeting as Alumni Council representatives. During the Outreach and Gifts Committee meeting, they discussed targeted giving levels in the next fund-raising campaign. They also discussed minimum giving amounts for various levels of recognition and to be part of the governing board. This is not an unusual process for many colleges, universities and philanthropic and nonprofit organizations.

However, giving to the church is much different. At St. John's we do not set a minimum giving level to be a member and rarely highlight big gifts. The pastors and council do not set minimum giving levels for the council, elders, choir members, teachers, volunteers or any other member of the congregation. All our gifts are important and appreciated.

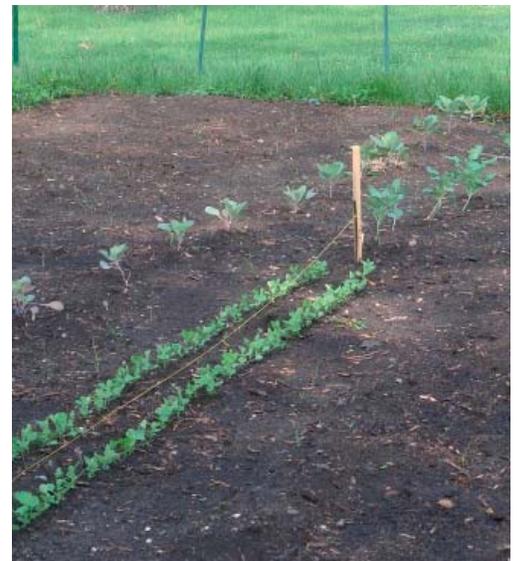
We talk about being good stewards of all the gifts God has given us. We believe everything is a gift from God – our health, our minds, our talents and the fruits of our labor. If we want to honor and give thanks to God, we are taught to give our time, our talents and our treasure. Each of us is called to grow in our faith by learning to share our abilities and money in support of the mission of our church.

We are midway through the year celebrating our stewardship theme of "Be Generous." How do we teach and encourage people to share and grow in their generosity? Kathy and I remember watching our parents bring their offering regularly to church and being active volunteers. Early in our marriage, we heard Pastor Ron Mohr encourage us to increase our giving by 1% of our income per year until we stretched to the level we knew was right for us. We were also very active in sharing our time and talents, because we knew the support was needed in many areas of the church.

Who taught you to Be Generous with all God has given you? Can you share that story with others?

Kris Gregersen,
2014 Council President

Led by prayer at 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, the Faith Gardeners began the long-awaited day of planting the garden! Everyone worked hard until 11:30 a.m. putting up fence to deter critters and planting early crops (lettuce, carrots, beets, peas, onions, cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage). Many thanks to Ed Slatterly for tilling the garden and the Dittmers for their donation of plants; we are also grateful for the beautiful weather that day. Team members are looking forward to a plentiful harvest for the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) pantry. We still welcome other volunteers (it's only a small time commitment). If you are interested, please contact Diana Sickles (dsickles4@gmail.com or 255-5055).



Prepare for Worship

This summer's liturgies begin in the Easter Season with Easter 7 reflecting the themes of Christ's Ascension and June 8, the Day of Pentecost, the completion and culmination of the Easter cycle. The music for offering and communion during the summer is usually provided by vocal and instrumental soloists and small groups; at this writing, individuals are checking their summer schedules to see when they will be available. Small groups also are "plotting" to get together, so stay tuned for what is always an exciting, excellent variety of music within our summer liturgies.

Sunday, June 1, Seventh Sunday of Easter

In this Sunday between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus prays for his followers and their mission in his name. Amid religious, social and economic divisions, we seek the unity Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity God intends for the whole human family.

The readings are Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; and John 17:1-11. The hymns will be ELW 393, "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing," ELW 482, "I Come with Joy," and ELW 392, "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus."

Sunday, June 8, Day of Pentecost

This Sunday's festival derives its name from the Jewish festival of Pentecost, observed 50 days after Passover. On the 50th day of Easter, we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us that heals, forgives, inspires and unites. In the reading from Acts, images of wind and fire describe the Spirit poured out on disciples of all nations. In John's gospel, the risen Christ breathes the Spirit on his followers on Easter evening. In the one Spirit, we are baptized into one body, and at the Lord's table the Spirit unites us for witness in the world.

The readings are Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; and John 20:10-23 (or John 7:37-39). The hymns will be ELW 627, "O Day Full of Grace," ELW 804, "Come Down, O Love Divine," and ELW 400, "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind." During communion Amy Wallman Madden and Larry Christensen will sing "O Living Breath of God."

Sunday, June 15, The Holy Trinity

Though the word "trinity" is not found in the scriptures, today's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." In the gospel, Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: we have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit.

The readings are Genesis 1:1-2, 4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; and Matthew 28:16-20. The hymns are ELW 665, "Rise, Shine, You People!" ELW 735, "Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth," and ELW 415, "Father Most Holy."

Sunday, June 22, Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 12

Jeremiah knew the frustration of having his words rejected. Jesus declares that his words may not bring peace, but division. In baptism we are buried with Christ that we may walk in newness of life. As we take stands for the sake of justice and lose our lives for the sake of others, we need not be afraid. The hairs of our head are counted. In baptism we are marked with the cross of Christ forever.

The readings are Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-18; Romans 6:1b-11; and Matthew 10:24-39. The hymns will be ELW 796, "How Firm a Foundation," ELW 451, "We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus," and ELW 881, "Let All Things Now Living."

Sunday, June 29, Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 13

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

The readings are Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; and Matthew 10:40-42. The hymns will be ELW 526, "God Is Here!" ELW 575, "In Christ Called to Baptize," and ELW 707, "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us." Paul Stageberg will sing for offering, and Susie Stageberg will sing during the distribution of communion.

For postlude (and mini-concert) Shana Liu will play the *Chopin Scherzo No. 3*, which is only about seven or eight minutes in length but is an exciting piece of music.

In the City (and World) for Good!

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

Members and friends of St. John's are also called to see this city and this world as precious to God! There are so many opportunities to connect with our neighbors, particularly those whom the world does not count as precious or worthy of honor. Below, please find opportunities and notes of gratitude for seeing the precious nature of God's children, here and around the world!

- **Thank you for your generous support of the Most Vulnerable Children's Club** in our Companion Parish in Mramba, TZ, this spring! Your financial gifts provide our 50 students with school uniforms, supplies, nutritious meals, basic medical care, as well as providing salaries and continuing education for the teachers. We receive monthly reports on Children's Club activities, and all appears to be going well...Next, watch for an opportunity to support the Johanna Scholarship for women students at Usangi Leadership and Training College!
- **The same support we give our friends in TZ is what is provided on a much larger scale to women and children around the globe** through financial gifts to the World Hunger Appeal of the ELCA or Lutheran World Relief. (This writer has a monthly gift to LWR automatically deducted from her checking account. It's not a large amount, but it still makes a difference!) Check out www.lwr.org or www.elca.org.
- **Why not invite a friend to join you in serving supper at Central Iowa Shelter & Services this summer?** We are responsible for feeding 250 hungry people on the 18th & 19th of every month. There are sign-up sheets for food items AND helpers both in the narthex at church or on-line at www.volunteerspot.com. Our shelter "kitchen community" is a friendly, fun group – and one doesn't have to know how to cook to be involved!



- **The annual Capital City Pride celebration is scheduled for June 6-8**, and St. John's will again proudly participate in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 8th. This writer's personal goal is for **50** St. John's participants this year. Meet at 12:30 near the Capital where you see all the commotion. We'll be there!

- **It's time to quilt for Lutheran World Relief** – and no experience is required! We have three Saturday morning quilting opportunities scheduled this summer, 9am-Noon in Weertz Hall: **June 14, July 12, August 9**. If you can tie a knot, you qualify to help. Quilts (and kits) will be transported to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in the Twin Cities this fall. From there, they are shipped around the world to people in crisis due natural disasters or war.

Women of the ELCA

WELCA General Meeting

Both WELCA groups will attend the general meeting at Scottish Rite Park, 2909 Woodland Ave., Des Moines, on Thursday, June 5, at noon. Reservations are needed; the cost is \$7. The speaker is the Rev. Carla Werre, the chaplain for Madrid Home Communities. Call Evelyn Cole (967-3986) if you need to make a reservation.



Outreach Program for June

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

The Food Bank of Iowa itself is always in need of more donations. Most needed items at this time are high-protein foods such as canned meats and peanut butter. Canned fruit, canned soup, cold cereal and 100-percent fruit juice are needed as well as paper and personal products (bar soap, diapers, toothpaste, deodorant).

As always, Thank You for your generosity by giving the many items that we ask you to donate each month for our Outreach Program.

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.

Mah Jongg: Mondays, June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 6 p.m., Neumann Hall at church (If nice enough, we may meet on the patio at Smokey Row, 1910 Cottage Grove, Des Moines., so check with Darla Stiles (darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org)).

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement: Tuesday, June 3, 6 p.m. on patio at House of Bricks, 525 E. Grand Ave. in the East Village.

St. John's Social Club: Saturday, June 7, 4 p.m., west side architectural tour.

Gardening: Tuesday, June 10, 6 p.m., tour of the garden of Ann Proctor, 670 59th St., Des Moines.

EAGLES: Check the weekly announcement sheets on the tables outside the Sanctuary for information about the June event.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, June 18, 12:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, June 19, 11:30 a.m.

Groups taking a break for the summer months include: Recreational Reading, Scrapbooking, Zumba, Yoga, Hardanger and Photography.

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

Mah Jongg will meet on Mondays, June 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, at 6 p.m. in Neumann Hall at church. (If the weather is nice, the group will meet on the patio at Smokey Row, 1910 Cottage Grove Ave. Contact Darla Stiles (225-3499 or darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org) to find out where we are meeting.

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

St. John's Social Club will meet Saturday, June 7, 4 to 5:30 p.m. for an architectural tour of the west side of downtown Des Moines. Our guide is from the Iowa Architectural Foundation. Cost is \$10 per person. Reservations need to be made and money/check given to Carol Dittmer by Monday, June 2. Please make your checks out to Carol Dittmer, and send them to: Carol Dittmer, 8920 Oakwood Dr., Norwalk, IA 50211. One check will then be written for the entire group. Your reservation will be complete when your money/check is received by Carol. Also, we will meet for dinner following the tour: 6 p.m., Noah's Ark on Ingersoll Ave. Please be sure to let Carol know if you will be eating with our group, so she can turn in a reservation for that, too.

Gardening will meet Tuesday, June 10, at 6 p.m. at the home of Ann Proctor, 670 59th St., Des Moines. Ann has a "Charleston Garden with a Midwestern twist!" Enter through the clematis-clad trellis and walk the recycled basket-weave-laid brick walkway leading to the backyard where garden rooms are tucked into small spaces. View boxwoods, roses, tropical plants in pots (that winter indoors) and much more. Notice the Victorian plant stands she has

collected, and the statues, water fountain, bird-houses, etc. This is truly a unique garden and will be on the Master Gardeners Tour this summer. Enjoy a refreshing beverage or a glass of wine.

Lunch Bunch II will meet Wednesday, June 18, at 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg (279-6326).

Lunch Bunch I will meet Thursday, June 19, at 11:30 a.m. If anyone is interested in joining our group, please call Barb Hyler (462-9024). New members are most welcome!

Bicycle St. John's is gearing up for a season of riding. Go to facebook.com/BicycleStJohns or contact Rod Snaveley (rsnaveley@aol.com) to discover the upcoming activity.

EAGLES are reminded to check the weekly announcement sheets (on the tables outside the Sanctuary) for information about our June event.



St. John's Zoo outing, an all-congregational event, is planned for Sunday, July 13, from noon to 4 p.m. We will begin with lunch in the Pavilion, a covered patio area (reserved that day for St. John's members and friends) where you can enjoy a bite to eat and chat before meandering around the zoo. We will have the Pavilion for four hours, so when you get tired you can come back and sit (and chat again) for a while before venturing out again. Group rates for admission to the zoo for all adults and children are \$6 each (except children younger than age 3 are free). If you have a zoo pass, you may use that instead. Our menu includes a sandwich, chips, house salad, cookie and beverage in the Pavilion. Cost for food is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children age 3 to 12. Sign up for food and zoo admission this Sunday through Sunday, June 29, in the Fire-side Lounge at church.

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Calling all knitters! As part of our 150th anniversary celebration, a splendid display of St. John's prayer shawls will be featured as the Artist(s) of the Month in Weertz Fellowship Hall for the entire month of March 2015. If you have not been part of our Prayer Shawl group before but would like to knit or crochet a prayer shawl for this special exhibit, contact Darla Stiles (darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org) or Linda Rieck (catzorama@yahoo.com) for directions and information (yarn type, needle size, etc.). We will gather once or twice in the fall to knit and chat (with individual help offered to those who would like to learn). Feel free to get a head start!

These small groups will be taking a break for the summer: Zumba, Yoga, Hardanger, Photography, Recreational Reading and Scrapbooking.



Save the Date

150th Anniversary Opening Celebration

All Saints Gospel Brunch

Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014

At Scottish Rite Consistory
(across the street from St. John's)

All are welcome! Spread the word!

School Kits for LWR

In 2013 Lutheran World Relief (LWR) distributed 261,580 school kits around the world. Just think, 261,580 more children had the opportunity for an education because they had the supplies needed for school. This July and August the St John's Global Mission Ministry Team will be collecting school supplies to make 100 school kits to send to LWR. You may contribute all or part of the kit supplies at any time. Each kit is contained in a 14" x 17" drawstring backpack-style cloth bag with shoulder straps. If anyone would like to make these bags, directions are available on the LWR website or contact Phyllis Olson, paolson@mchsi.com for the pattern.

School Kit Contents and collection dates:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| July 5 & 6 | Five Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers Pencil sharpener |
| July 12 & 13 | 30-centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades) |
| July 19 & 20 | Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink) Eraser 2½" long |
| July 26 & 27 | Box of 16 or 24 crayons |
| August 2 & 3 | Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8 X 10½" |

Please place supplies in the LWR collection boxes available in the narthex and reception area. The Global Mission Ministry Team thanks you and 100 children around the world thank you for providing them the opportunity to get an education.



Children's Ministry

Volunteering Opportunities for Beloved Community: Summer Edition 2014

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

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 24-26, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. each evening, we will gather once again as a Beloved Community. We will meet at the Greenwood Park open-air shelter at 4500 Grand Ave. in Des Moines. Together we will share a meal, followed by time exploring the sacrament of Holy Communion through stories, music and art. While enjoying our time together, we will be reminded that Jesus fills our every need.

Volunteers are still needed for this event! If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Alicia Karwal at akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org. Volunteers are needed for food prep, serving, set-up/clean-up, and assisting with planned activities. If you missed the registration deadline, you can still attend! Please send Alicia an email indicating the number of individuals in your family who plan to attend, so that we are able to better account for food and materials.

Culmination of Sunday School Classes

As the Sunday School year came to a close on May 18, I gathered the children to spend some time remembering all that we had learned together this past year. It gave me a grand feeling to hear so many of them share the truths they know in their hearts. From some of our youngest friends to the collected wisdom of our sixth graders, I share their words with you:

*"God loves everyone."
"Jesus performs miracles."
"Jesus was born for us and died for us."
"Jesus is always with us."
"Jesus forgives us for our sins."
"Love God, love yourself, love your neighbor."
"Not seeing is believing."*

We prayed together for the time we had shared, the knowledge we had gained, the community we had created, and the love that we are so blessed to know as a part of the St. John's family. In closing, I again share my gratitude for those who dedicate their time and offer their gifts as teachers and helpers for St. John's Children's Ministries. I would also like to give thanks for the families who support and guide these children whom I have been so fortunate to know and grow with. Thank you for entrusting your children into a community that nurtures them through faith and prayer.

Alicia Karwal, Director of Children's Ministries

Youth Ministry

Dear St. John's Congregation

Our weekly gatherings have come to an end for the season, but the long days of summer promise to be full with lots of opportunities. With mission trips to Wisconsin and Minnesota, camp at Lutheran Lakeside, and volunteer and social excursions close to home, we will have stories to tell! Check in with us on Sunday mornings. Ask about what we have done or what we are planning. And remember, you are always invited to join us for any and all social or service events whether you are age 0 or 99+ years. Just check the calendar and give me a call. Most importantly, please continue to keep us all in your prayers this summer. We will do the same for you.

God Bless,
Noah

Confirmation Camp

From June 8 to 13, all of our confirmation students are invited to join us for a week of camp at Lutheran Lakeside! If you haven't signed up yet, you can still do so until Saturday, June 7. Talk with Pastor Bob or Noah if you have any questions about the week.

Mosaic Volunteer Time

Since 1983, Mosaic has served adults with disabilities in the Des Moines area. Their mission is to provide a life of possibilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. They help people define their own happiness, empower them to pursue their goals, and celebrate their successes. Two months ago, our junior and senior high youth began volunteering with Mosaic. We partner with a house not far from Fleur Cinema that is home to four Mosaic residents. On the second and fourth Monday of each month, we spend about one hour at the house playing games, doing crafts, and just getting to know the residents there. Please let me know when you would like to join us! We are building some great relationships at the house. This is a partnership we hope will continue through the summer and into years to come.

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*Continued from Page 8***Love Like Jesus: June 19 – 22**

Love Like Jesus is a service event sponsored by the Southeastern Iowa Synod and Grand View University on Thursday through Sunday, June 19 to 22. Youth who have completed 8th through 12th grade are invited to attend! The cost is \$150 and includes lodging, meals and program activities. St. John's will sponsor interested youth by contributing \$75. The long weekend will include one day of integrated hands-on learning in art, music, drama, recreation, sports and theology on the Grand View campus, and one day out in the community serving alongside local agencies, congregations and institutions. Potential service partners include Lutheran Services in Iowa, Mosaic and the Wallace Centers of Iowa. Let me know whether your son or daughter would like to participate.

Update from Seminary

The following letter is from our former Youth Director, Megan Clausen, who is currently finishing her first year of Seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Dearest St. John's Family-

My first year of seminary is quickly drawing to a close. It does not feel real. As I sit and reflect on this year and what it has meant to me, I am humbled by your support. You will never know how much your prayers and financial support has meant to me this year. Without that support I would not have made it through the trying times I faced. Knowing that all of you were rooting for me to succeed was helpful when it seemed that I just could not read one more book or write one more page. The beginning of this year was challenging for me. It was a harder transition than I ever would have thought. I will tell you that I missed all of you and have thought of you often. The community of St. John's is quite unique and special, as all of you know. I carry the lessons you all taught me throughout my years at St. John's. I was not able to put into words what my St. John's family meant to me when I left because I did not want to think about what I was leaving. However, after having had all year to reflect on what brought me to seminary it has become evident that I am here because I am called to be here and because all of you have supported me in that call along the way.



Photo Credit: Tricia Koning

This year I have been stretched far beyond what I thought I could. This year has been full of learning in and out of the classroom. I learned how important is it to have a church family and how much that community can add to your life. This was always something that I talked about, but never really appreciated until I did not have it. So, thank you for giving that to me over these past years. I have learned a great deal about my Lutheran faith this year. I learned to articulate that we are saved by grace through faith

for Christ's sake apart from works. I learned just how important Baptism and Holy Communion are to our faith. How wonderful is it that we do not deserve this radical gift of forgiveness, but we get it over and over again? Every week we get to celebrate the good news of the gospel that is proclaimed and shared with us through the Eucharist. I have studied Biblical Greek and the Pentateuch (the first 5 books of the Old Testament) and wisdom literature. I have had the privilege of getting to look at Jesus as a community organizer in the Gospels. I have gotten to take a class on nurturing the spiritual lives of children and families. I have studied the Book of Concord and what we confess as Lutherans. I got to take a class on God, Faith, and Art (So wonderful!) I got take a class on Lutheran worship and was challenged to sing (yes, sing!) the Great Thanksgiving. Aside from classroom learning, I have met some amazing people, shared meals and life with them. I have gotten to know the Hyde Park area and the city of Chicago. I am so thankful and blessed to have had these opportunities this year and am looking forward to what next year holds. This summer I will be completing Clinical Pastoral Education at Wake Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. I will be living with a friend from college. I am very excited and nervous about this opportunity. Your prayers would be appreciated. Thank you again for your support and love this year. You truly are a special group of people and I thank God for all of you!

Peace and love,
Megan

Photo of the Month

St. John's Grill Masters at the final Beloved Community of the season. Photo courtesy of Micholyn Fajen.

Artist of the Month



Donna McConkey, who was born and raised in Des Moines, has been painting for the past 31 years. She began taking lessons in oils at Des Moines Area Community College, then studied watercolor under locally and nationally known instructors like Mary Muller, Arleta Pech, Nita Engle, Tom Lynch and many others. She says she loves to explore nature and light patterns by building up glazes of transparent watercolors.

Donna is a signature member of the Transparent Watercolor Society of America and the Iowa Watercolor Society (IWS) as well as a member of the American Watercolor Society and National Watercolor Society. She has exhibited in shows such as Iowa Exhibited, Heritage Gallery, Iowa State Fair, St John's Lutheran Church of Des Moines, and the Des Moines Women's Club. She has won numerous awards in juried shows and most recently placed second in the 2010 IWS show. She also placed first at the 2007 Iowa Artist regional show, first place in the 2005 Iowa Artist State Show, first place in watercolor at the 2005 Iowa State Fair, and third place overall and second place in watercolor in 2004.

"I love to convey the beauty of things around me," Donna says. "To quote Georgia O'Keefe, 'When you take a flower in your hand and really look at it, it's your world for the moment. I want to give that world to someone else.'"

Kisasa Day Camp

Dates

Thursday and Friday, August 7 and 8, 2013, 8 am to 5:30 pm, plus 10 am Sunday worship August 10, 2014

Campers

All students entering grades 3 through 6 this fall are invited to attend a two-day day camp here at St. John's. The Kisasa musicians have helped set the curriculum and it will include ringing, singing, painting and other visual arts, cooking, hanging out, playing games, and more.

Staff

Beth Ann Edwards: Vocal choir, handbells, and visual arts classes
 Megan and Kent Hartwig: drama
 Pastor Rachel Mithelman: Bible study and devotions
 Noah Niermann: cooking and snacks, and perhaps a game or two!
 Deanna Axness: Gardening in the Faith Garden
 Terri and Bob Speirs: Swimming and activity hosts

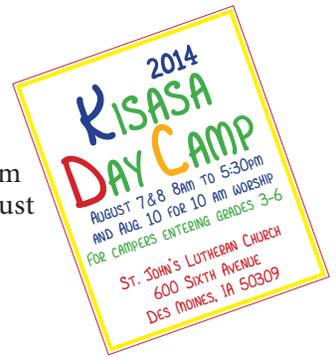
Volunteers

Volunteer positions for all, grades 7 through adult, are available. Assistants can work both days, just mornings, just afternoons, or just one day. Volunteers are asked to attend an orientation training and planning session (time and date to be determined).

Registration

Registration forms can be found in the church office, or downloaded from stjohnsdsm.org/childrensministries

Cost: \$35 per camper, max. \$50 per family, plus one snack item to share. Scholarships are available. Please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org) for more information.



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.

Hospitality & Outreach



Church – As It should Be

Language is a funny thing. For verbal and written communication, we are limited to words and sounds. Many times, however, that is simply not enough. What can be missing and difficult to convey is the emotion, the heart, the feeling of something.

The other day after a discussion with a friend, I decided to look up the word church. An online dictionary defines it as: 1) a building for public Christian worship; 2) public worship of God or a religious service in such a building; 3) the whole body of Christian believers, Christendom; 4) any division of this body professing the same creed and acknowledging the same ecclesiastical authority; and 5) that part of the whole Christian body, or of a particular denomination, belonging to the same city, country, nation, etc.

I don't know about you, but I find these definitions to be real yawners, and they don't begin to touch on the real meaning.

Church can be just a building, but if that's all it has no more significance than any other edifice. To call it a mere structure is to diminish it. That definition does not begin to take into account the soul, breath or Spirit at its core.

Church has as many meanings as there are people, and we still can't calculate all that church is and can be. With God at the helm and the Spirit at its core, church is peace, comfort, acceptance, compassion, insight, strength, leader, reconciler, healer, forgiver, inspiration, witness, joyful, welcoming, creative, community, proclaiming, growing, understanding and more.

Here are some quotes regarding church (some attributable, some not):

The church is not a museum of saints, but a hospital for sinners.

"The holiest moment of the church service is the moment when God's people – strengthened by preaching and sacrament – go out of the church

door into the world to be the church. We don't go to church; we are the church." (Canon Ernest Southcott)

"Whether a person is straight or gay, Republican, Democrat, good person, not a good person, they're all welcome, because to me, church is a place you're supposed to get healed and whole and loved." (Joel Osteen)

"I love you when you bow in your mosque, kneel in your temple, pray in your church. For you and I are sons of one religion, and it is the spirit." (Khalil Gibran)

"Church isn't where you meet. Church isn't a building. Church is what you do. Church is who you are. Church is the human outworking of the person of Jesus Christ. Let's not go to Church, let's be the Church." (Bridget Willard)

"The miracles of the church seem to me to rest not so much upon faces or voices of healing power coming suddenly near to us from afar off, but upon our perceptions being made finer, so that for a moment our eyes can see and our ears can hear what is there about us always." (Willa Sibert Cather)

Church is who we are not where we go. It all may be summed up in "WE are church." We are the visible presence of Jesus to the world. We are the Body of Christ and led by the Holy Spirit – when we allow ourselves to be.

We are coming to a time in our "program" year at St. John's when activities slow down ... just a little. Some ministry teams take a break, families are traveling, but church is always open. Needs never stop. Those needs will only be met through outreach – not simply by church staff – but by each one of us.

There are always opportunities:

- Lunch for First Circle Friends (a two-day-a-month gathering for adults with mild dementia).
- In the fall when Mid-week Music resumes, lunches need to be prepared. At this time, the dedicated women of WELCA have been spear-heading that event. But they need more help, so it doesn't fall to the same people all the time.
- As St. John's is chosen for more meetings and concerts, people are needed to serve as hosts and guides to make visible our hospitality. When we welcome others, we welcome the One who sent them.
- Other projects and programs continue but greatly need a new infusion of energy and willing hands: Beloved Community (numbers increase every week and the number of families with young children is rapidly rising); help a few hours a week at the front desk (very easy and you're never alone; there is always a staff person nearby); helping with meals at Central Iowa Shelter and Services (18th and 19th of each month; some people prepare meals, some help serve and some do both). These are just a few.

I ask you to prayerfully consider how you may be the church. Feel free to contact me (243-7691 or kati@stjohnsdsm.org). There are many opportunities, and I am more than happy to talk with you and connect you with your choice.

June 2014
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You Are Invited!

Who: Des Moines Area Religious Council
What: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Grand Opening
Where: 1435 Mulberry Street, Des Moines, IA 50309
When: 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 10, 2014

RSVP to
lvanderhart@dmareligious.org
or 515-277-6969
by June 3



Join the Celebration • Hear from DMARC Leaders • Tour Our New Facility

NEXT EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all
Eagle Call information is

Monday, June 16.

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!