



The EAGLE CALL

Volume 46, Number 07
July, 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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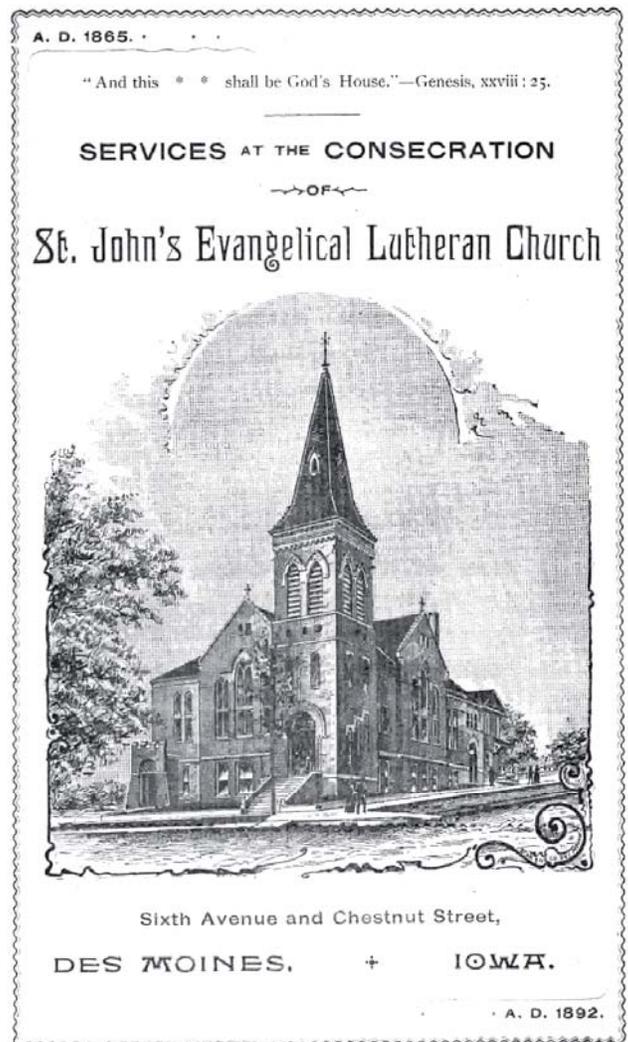
Preparing for our 150th Anniversary Celebration

The year long 150th Anniversary celebration beginning this November is going to be here before we know it and there is much to do and much to communicate.

Beginning with this issue of the *Eagle Call* information about how you can be involved with the celebration will begin to appear (check out page 7).

You will also find information about the history of St. John's and members of the congregation. For instance, the image to the right is the front page of the bulletin used for the dedication of the red brick church in 1892. Volunteers are working in our archives to find more interesting tidbits to share with the goal of putting together a collection to be on permanent display.

The celebration is a wonderful opportunity to look at the past and see where we've been, but also a time to look forward and help guide where we are headed in the years to come. If you'd like to volunteer or have items you'd like to contribute to the archives please contact the church office.



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A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Bob Speirs

I recently had a phone conversation with my mom in Brooklyn, who had just finished reading the June edition of the Eagle Call. She told me how much she enjoys keeping up with all that is happening here at St. John's. She said she is amazed at the many activities and programs we have and wondered how we managed to keep it all going. "We have a great staff of people, led by Pastor Rachel and others, who do a marvelous job organizing and keeping the activities interesting, relevant and welcoming" to our church members and neighbors, I told her. She said that she was happy I was in such a vibrant and exciting place, but hoped I was getting enough rest, taking good care of myself, and not overdoing it. She's looking forward to our visit in July and hearing more about how things are going for the Iowa Speirs and St. John's. Mothers will be mothers, no matter what their age.

Now, if my mom thought the June edition of our newsletter was filled with many significant activities and ministries here at St. John's, wait till she sees the July Eagle Call.

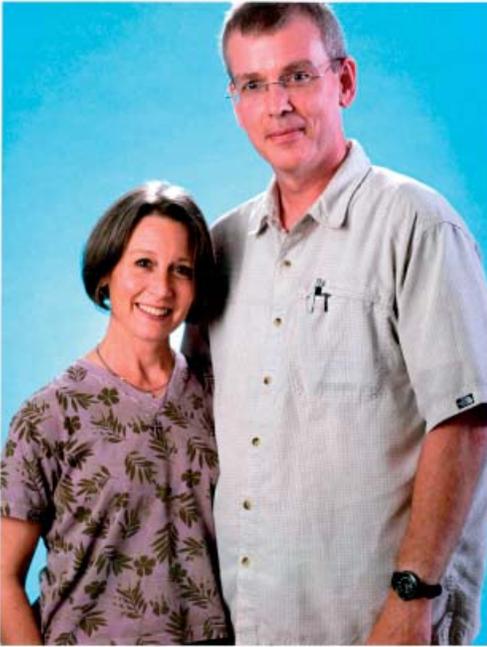
We begin with the summer edition of the After School Arts Program (ASAP), once again held at Evelyn K. Davis Park. The program begins Monday, June 30, from 12:30 to 3 p.m., and runs through Thursday, July 3. As we have in past summers, St. John's members will provide many of the volunteers that have made this week such a wonderful event. The person who is the site coordinator for this week of ASAP is Brian Robinson (brian.robinson@drake.edu). Please contact him if you would like to be part of this amazing week.

The following week, beginning July 6, our middle school youth will be travelling to Green Bay, WI, for their annual mission trip. Ten of our young people and an adult chaperone, Christina Andeweg, will be accompanied by St. John's Youth Director Noah Niermann. The youth and chaperones will work at local food pantries, Boys and Girls Clubs, health care centers and other service agencies. Please keep these young people, parents and leaders in your prayers.

No sooner do our middle schoolers return from their mission trip to Green Bay, than our high school youth head off to Red Lake Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota. Noah, along with Deb Anderson, will join 11 or 12 youth (with students from other churches) to experience life on a reservation. Our young people will leave Saturday, July 26, and return to Des Moines Saturday, Aug. 2. Both mission trips are arranged through the Youthworks program, an organization that offers Christ-centered mission trips to sites across North America.

Our Christian Involvement Team, led by Darla Stiles, are organizing an all-congregational event to the Blank Park Zoo for Sunday, July 13, noon to 4 p.m. Darla and her team have once again worked very hard to make this a fun intergenerational event. More details about this exciting event are available on the St. John's website.

The Global Mission Team also has an active calendar this month, including another quilting bee scheduled for Saturday, July 12, from 9 a.m. to noon. (Coffee and doughnuts included). Last summer we were able to put together and send to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Minneapolis, 72 quilts that were sent overseas to people in developing countries, who greatly benefitted from them – and the prayers and love that were sent with them. This team also is sponsoring a drive in July to collect school supplies that will be sent overseas along with the quilts. A schedule of items requested include: #2 pencils, 30-centimeter rulers, blunt scissors, black or blue ballpoint pens, 2.5-inch erasers, boxes of 16 or 24 crayons, and 70-sheet notebooks with 8 x10.5-inch-sized paper. More information will be available on flyers, which will be placed on tables behind the Sanctuary in the Narthex.



The Global Mission Team is also happy to announce that Pastor Brian and Christine Palmer (pictured above), the Missionaries we have been sponsoring for the past few years through the ELCA Global Mission program, will be with us the weekend of July 26-27. Pastor Brian will preach at all three services that weekend and offer a presentation of their work in Liberia, West Africa. More details of the Palmers' visit will be available soon.

So there you have what's coming up at St. John's in July, not to mention all the other regularly planned activities, like our weekend worship services, bible studies, committee meetings, serving at the Central Iowa Shelter and more. My mom was right, we are a vibrant, exciting community of faith that is faithful to our call to love God and serve our neighbors near and far. Have a great July, and I look forward to seeing you all in church!

Pastor Bob

P.S. Mom, have a happy and blessed birthday and see you soon.



In the City (and World) for Good!

Every true disciple of Jesus is going to be surrounded by devastating need. Sometimes it is a need for bread; sometimes it is a need for clothing; sometimes it is a need for emotional support...All that's required is to bring the little bit we have – not the radiant, mature personality we do not yet possess, not the human capacity to fill every need. [Jesus] simply asks us to offer what we have right now, to start where we are. N. Gordon Cosby

What do you “have right now”? Where might you “start”? See below...

A new farmers market debuted on June 7 with produce provided by refugees living in the Greater Des Moines area. Their gardens are in West Des Moines and they tend them without synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. The market is part of Lutheran Services of Iowa's *Global Greens* program, and can be found every Saturday through Sept. 27th, 10:30am-2pm at the LSI parking lot, 3200 University Ave. Please support these urban farmers who are seeking to increase their income and for whom gardening brings emotional healing from the losses they have endured.

Did you hear the news? The After School Arts Program received the Governor's Award for Impact and Accessibility in the Arts at the Iowa Arts Summit on June 6th! Thank you for 7 years of support for this outstanding arts offering to underserved children in Des Moines! To volunteer for this year's Summer Arts Camp at EK Davis Park (June 30-July3), please contact ASAP's summer intern, Brian Robinson at Brian.Robinson@drake.edu.

DMARC's new home at 1435 Mulberry St. is open for business! Statistics show that in *the first four months of 2014* 10,000 children or youth and 11,000 adults were provided food assistance through one of DMARC'S Emergency Food Pantries. Infants in particular suffer greatly when household income is not adequate, often fed watered-down formula and kept in one diaper for an entire day (or more.) Please give generously via the shopping baskets in the narthex or through a regular financial gift. (DMARC can get 6x the food we can for every \$1 they spend!) Thanks for your on-going support of this ministry!

A group of 8 members of St. John's is about to depart for Tanzania! The fifth visit to our companion parish is scheduled for July 22nd through August 6th. Making the journey this time are 3 “repeaters” and 5 “newbies!” The group will be led by Carol Fisher and includes Greg Anderson, Thomas Mayes, Mary Bernau, Sharon Beerman, Phyllis Olson, Olivia Simpson, and Jacque Warming. Please keep them all in your daily prayers as they travel and while they are with our friends in TZ. We are grateful for their willingness to make this journey, representing all of us here at St. John's in our companionship with Mramba Lutheran Parish!

We are ready to begin LSI's new program, “First Circle Friends,” at St. John's! If you know of a household where a family member is living with mild-to mid-stage memory loss, “First Circle Friends” could be an answer to prayer for a “break,” both the person with dementia and their caregiver. Contact Cannady at Lutheran Services of Iowa, 271-7408, for more information.

Prepare for Worship

We continue our Season of Creation series the first three Sundays in July and return to the regular Revised Common Lectionary readings on Sunday, July 27.

Sunday, July 6 Season of Creation – Land

The readings are Genesis 3:14-19, 4:8-16, Psalm 139:1-12, Romans 5:12-17 and Matthew 12:38-40. The hymns will be ELW 681, "We Plow the Fields and Scatter," ELW 887, "This is My Song," and ELW 836, "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee." The offering music will be by a vocal quartet consisting of Katy McDowell, Amy Walman-Madden and Chris Frantsvog. Music during communion will be a solo by soprano Katy McDowell.

Sunday, July 13 Season of Creation – Wilderness

The readings are Joel 1:8-10, 17-20, Psalm 18:6-19, Romans 8:18-27 and Mark 1:1-13. The hymns will be ELW 831, "The God of Abraham Praise," LBW 378, "Amid the World's Bleak Wilderness," and ELW 545, "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing." The offering music will be a vocal duet by soprano Karen Andeweg and her daughter Christina, alto. Carol Lunde will play *Andante fur Flute*, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, during communion.

Sunday, July 20 Season of Creation – River

The readings are Genesis 8:20-22, 9:12-17, Psalm 104:24-33, Revelation 22:1-5 and Matthew 28:1-10. The hymns will be ELW 423, "Shall We Gather at the River," ELW 331, "As the Deer Runs to the River," and ELW 717, "Let Justice Flow Like Streams." Offering music will be "I Went Down to the River to Pray," which you may remember from the 2000 movie, "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou." If you would like to participate with a group of singers pulled together to perform this piece, contact Larry Christensen at St. John's or simply come to the chapel at 9:15 a.m. on July 20. Sue Odem will provide oboe music during communion.

Sunday, July 27 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 17

The readings are 1 Kings 3:5-12, Psalm 119:129-136, Romans 8:26-39 and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52. The hymns will be ELW 532, "Gather Us In," ELW 519, "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People," ELW 488, "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness," and ELW 797, "Blessed Be the Name" (*Heri ni jina*). During offering the assembly and a cantor will sing Marty Haugen's "Neither Death nor Life." The communion music will be "Pie Jesu," by Andrew Lloyd Webber, sung by Abbie and Wyatt Evan and Katy McDowell.

The Arts at St. John's

Suds and Spuds – Arts Visioning Team's Second Annual Garden Party!

Saturday, July 26, 2014
6 to 9 p.m.

Hosts: Kevin and Maria Brownell
843 27th St., West Des Moines

Please join the Arts Visioning Team for our second annual summer garden party! We will celebrate a successful 2013-14 arts season as we look toward planning the 150th anniversary of St. John's. The evening will feature a potato bar with fixings and suds of many varieties: bubbles to blow, root beer floats and perhaps a craft beer or two! All are welcome; free will donations will be taken.

Beer brewers: Brewing is a craft and an art! If you would like to share your "art" with us or know of someone who would like to share, please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

Mark your calendars and invite your friends! The evening promises to be a relaxing, friend-filled, art-loving occasion at the home of Kevin and Maria Brownell. Please check the website (<http://stjohnsdsm.org/finarts/>) for directions to their house and updates about the party.

Kisasa Day Camp

Thursday and Friday, Aug. 7- 8, 2014
8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Plus:

Sunday, Aug. 10, 2014
10 a.m. Worship

Campers

All students entering Grades 3-6 this fall are invited to attend a two-day day camp here at St. John's. The curriculum includes ringing, singing, painting and other visual arts, cooking, gardening, hanging out, recreation, swimming and more!



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Volunteers

Volunteer positions for everyone, Grades 7 through adult, are available. Assistants can work two 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). Drivers are needed to transport campers and volunteers to the Faith Garden at the Speirs' residence each day at 3:15 p.m.

Staff

Beth Ann Edwards: Vocal choir, handbells, visual arts
 Megan and Kent Hartwig: Drama
 Pastor Rachel Mithelman: Bible study, devotions
 Noah Niermann: Cooking, snacks (perhaps a game or two!)
 Deanna Axness: Gardening in the St. John's Faith Garden
 Terri and Bob Speirs: Swimming and activity hosts

Registration

Registration forms can be found in the church office or downloaded from the St. John's website. Cost is \$35 per camper, with a maximum of \$50 per family, plus one snack item to share. Scholarships are available. For more information, please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

July Artist of the Month

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

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



Women of the ELCA

Outreach Program for July

For the month of July, the women of the ELCA have the Ronald McDonald House as their outreach project. Their needs are full-size sheet sets (white), bed pillows, shower liners, ice packs, crock-pot liners, gift cards (Dahl's, HyVee, Quick Trip, Casey's and Target), stamps and activity pads, such as Word Search, Sudoku and Crossword. In addition, they need individual snacks like chips, cereal, crackers, breakfast bars, Pop Tarts, Breakfast on the Go, etc.



The congregation is invited to participate as well. And **thank you for donating in June** for the Back Pack Program of the Food Bank of Iowa.

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.

St. John's offers Wi-Fi from Weertz to DDI. Just look for the STJOHNS wireless network and use 'inthecity' for the passcode.



Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

Gardening: Tuesday, July 1, 6 p.m., tour the garden of Brenda Mouw.

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

Mah Jongg: Mondays, July 7, 14, 21 and 28, 6 p.m., Smokey Row on the patio (weather permitting, otherwise at church in Neumann Hall). Check with Darla (darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org).

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement: Tuesday, July 8, 6 p.m., place yet to be determined.

St. John's Zoo Outing: Sunday, July 13, noon to 4 p.m., Blank Park Zoo, for all St. John's members and friends.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, July 16, 12:30 p.m.

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

St. John's Social Club: Friday, July 18, 6:30 p.m. Meet for Jazz in July at Beaverdale Park.

EAGLES: Trip to LeClaire, exact date yet to be determined.

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

Gardening will meet on Tuesday, July 1, at 6 p.m. to tour the gardens of Brenda Mouw (1105 44th St., DM). Brenda's goal for her garden is to incorporate texture and shape. She has mostly shade gardens on a ¼-acre lot filled with perennials and varying shades of green. Kentucky Coffee Trees frame a turn-around area in front. A naturalized area shows off ferns, hostas and other plants. Questions? E-mail Darla Stiles (darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org).

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

Mah Jongg will meet on Mondays, July 7, 14, 21 and 28 at 6 p.m. at Smokey Row (weather permitting). If the weather is questionable, call or e-mail Darla Stiles (515-225-3499 or darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org) to find out where we will meet.

St. John's Social Club will meet Friday, July 18, at Beaverdale Park (3333 Adams Ave.) for Jazz in July. Ken Jolls Quartet, featuring Kersten Tipping, performs from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Bring lawn chairs, your own drinks and snacks or even a picnic dinner. Meet at the red balloons! If you have questions, contact Sue Ging (210-0826 or susan.ging@yahoo.com).

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

Lunch Bunch I will meet Thursday, July 17, 11:30 a.m. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please call Barb Hyler (262-5261). New members are most welcome!

Bicycle St. John's schedules regular bicycling events. Go to facebook.com/BicycleStJohns or e-mail Rod Snavelly (rsnavely@aol.com) to see the upcoming activity.

EAGLES will travel to LeClaire, IA, to enjoy lunch and browse Antique Archeology, where television's American Pickers call home. Other sights we might visit include Wild Bill Hickock Museum, unique shops, etc. Watch the bulletin announcement sheets to discover the scheduled date.



St. John's Zoo Outing is an all-congregational event. Plan to join us at Blank Park Zoo on Sunday, July 13, from noon to 4 p.m.! We will begin with lunch in the Pavilion, a covered patio area reserved just for St. John's members and friends; the Pavilion is where you can enjoy a bite to eat (and chat) before meandering around the zoo. We will be able to use the space for four hours, so when you get tired come back and sit (and chat) for a while before venturing out again. Group rates for admission to the zoo for all adults and children are \$6 each (except children under age 3 are free). If you have a zoo pass, you may use that instead. We will have a sandwich, chips, house salad, cookie and beverage in the Pavilion. Cost for food: Adults, \$7, and children (3-12), \$5.

Calling all Knitters! We are planning a splendid display of prayer shawls for the Artist(s) of the Month in Weertz Fellowship Hall for the month of March 2015, as part of the year-long celebration for St. John's 150th anniversary. If you have not been a member of the Prayer Shawl small group but would like to knit or crochet a prayer shawl for this special event, contact Darla Stiles (darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org), Linda Rieck (catzorama@yahoo.com) or BethAnn Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org) for directions and information (the kind of yarn, size needles, etc.). In the fall, we will gather once or twice to knit and chat (with individual

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help for those of you who would like to learn). Feel free to get a head start if you already know how to knit!

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

150th Anniversary Celebration

Opportunities for Involvement

The St. John's 150th Anniversary celebration will be kicked off on this year's All Saints Day, Nov. 2, with a very special, music-filled worship service followed by a gospel brunch. The next entire year will be filled with activities and celebrations of who we were and who we are now. Opportunities abound for all to join in! Besides attending worship and special events throughout the year, please consider taking part in the following. (And stay tuned for more chances to become involved as the planning progresses!)



Christmas at St. John's: December 2014

We are collecting Christmas photos of St. John's families and individual members, at church or at home, to display during December 2014! Written memories of Christmases past are also welcome!

St. John's Weddings: June 2015

Photos of weddings that have taken place here at St. John's will be featured as June's art exhibit. Please let us know whether you have photos of your wedding, an ancestor's wedding or even if you are aware of someone who might share a St. John's wedding photo.

St. John's Reflections: February 2015

Writers and photographers are pairing up to expand on life at St. John's. Please sign up to share your photographic and written memories.

Prayer Shawl Ministries: March 2015

In March, we are highlighting ministries that help us take care of members and our world-wide community. Please consider knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl to be displayed in Weertz Hall. Also featured will be baby quilts and adult-size quilts that will be shared with our Tanzanian friends when the next St. John's group visits our companion parish in July.

Nexus Reunion: April 18-19, 2015

Spread the word! Nexus singers are returning to reminisce about their days in the St. John's high school choir. A special commissioned piece will be sung by reunion attendees during worship on Sunday, April 19.

The Arts in Worship throughout the Year

Share your musical talents by singing in Cathedral Choir, ringing in a bell choir, or playing in the St. John's orchestra. Information about music opportunities will be posted in the next month or so. Liturgical dancers and visual artists also will be called upon to share in the celebration!



DID YOU KNOW



The corner stone of the red brick church was laid on September 12, 1889. The first service was held at the new church on March 23, 1890 just 6 months and 11 days later.

Children's Ministry

Pennies for the Pantry Update

Over the course of the program year, the children of St. John's raised \$211.26 to benefit local food pantries. In June, the check was delivered to a very grateful group of individuals at the Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry Network warehouse. The donation will be used to purchase needed food items that are delivered to families in need around the Des Moines metro area. I am very thankful to all who contributed and so proud of the children as they demonstrated giving to others.



Mark your calendars!

Rally Sunday 2014 will be Sept. 7, and Sunday School classes will begin Sept. 14. Sunday School registration forms will be available in late August.

Sunday School Teachers Needed for 2014-15

If you are interested in teaching or helping with Children's Ministries, we welcome you! I am looking for individuals to share their faith with a class of children one or two times a month. Teacher's guides are provided, allowing for easy planning. I promise, you will find this experience rewarding! Please contact Alicia Karwal (akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org) at your convenience 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.

Youth Ministry

Summer Mission Trips

"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

The youth of St. John's will participate in two service-learning trips this fall, and we want to say thank you for the generous support of this family of faith. Thank you for the offerings you give to make these experiences possible. Thank you for the prayers and words of encouragement that support us as we travel away from home. We give thanks to God for you, and we cannot say it enough!

We leave on Sunday, July 6, and return to Des Moines on Saturday, July 12.

This year, 10 middle school youth will be traveling to Green Bay, WI, with Director of Youth Ministry Noah Niermann and Christina Andeweg. We will spend our days volunteering at food banks, soup kitchens, retirement homes, and many other community partners in the area. In the evenings, we will explore Lambeau Field (the home of the Green Bay Packers), visit a local amusement park, and simply spend time relaxing with new friends.

Our high school youth will travel to the Red Lake Indian Reservation in northern Minnesota during the last week of July for their service-learning trip. Between 10 and 12 youth will participate, along with Noah Niermann and Deb Anderson. Our volunteer projects will focus on leading children's programs, helping with neighborhood painting projects, and working with a local animal shelter. In the evenings, we will relax at the lake, listen to community leaders share their stories about the Native American culture in Red lake, and host a community cook-out.

We are excited to embark on these trips! We learn a lot about ourselves, the world, and the ways God's grace dances between the two. Thank you again for your prayers and support!

Confirmation Camp

This past June Brita Higginbottom and Quinn Johnson joined 33 other confirmation students from congregations around Des Moines and

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greater Iowa for a week at Lutheran Lakeside Camp. The week was filled with games, worship, study, and the opportunity to learn new skills. Students went sailing, paddle boarding, kayaking and even learned a little synchronized swimming. Groups of confirmation students sat down every day with pastors and youth directors to explore questions related to prayer and the meditative practice of labyrinths, creation and our calling to the environment, and liturgy and the ways we worship. Students also explored questions about how we read the Bible, gaining important tools for reading scripture intentionally.

Most importantly, our youth had the opportunity to live in community centered on the cross. Thank you for supporting all our youth who have chosen to go to Lutheran Lakeside over the years. A week of camp is a wonderful gift!

Youth Mentors

Our youth learn about faith from you! Yes, you're being watched. We're not the National Security Administration. We're just people on life's journey of faith, trying to figure out what's what. With that in mind, I invite anyone and everyone above the age of 18 to think about helping with our youth ministry programs at St. John's. I promise, you'll have fun and learn a few things along the way. Most importantly, I know you'll get the opportunity to form relationships with some pretty wonderful kids. Talk to me, Noah at noah@stjohnsdsm.org or 243-7691, if you're curious. Thanks!

ASAP Honored...

...with Governor's Arts Award

ASAP, the After School Arts Program, has been awarded the 2014 Governor's Arts Award for Impact and Accessibility in the Arts. Executive Director Michelle Bolton King accepted the award from First Lady Chris Branstad and Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Director Mary Cownie on Friday, June 6, as part of the closing ceremony of the Iowa Arts Summit, a day-long conference sponsored by the Iowa Arts Council.

The Governor's Arts Awards recognize and honor individuals, organizations and businesses who

have had a significant impact on the vitality of the arts in Iowa. Of 65 nominations received, one award was given in each of the following categories:

- **Public Art Leadership Award — Lynette Pohlman:** Recognizes an individual, organization or business that demonstrates leadership and commitment to developing public art in Iowa
- **Collaboration and Partnership in the Arts Award — John Busbee:** Recognizes an individual, organization or business that undertakes an artistic cooperation that brings together diverse partners from within and beyond the Iowa arts community
- **Excellence and Innovation in the Arts Award — Make Break (Cat Rocketship, Laura Palmer and Dani Ausen):** Recognizes an individual, organization or business that is dedicated to artistic excellence and capitalizes on new or emerging methods or trends in the arts
- **Impact and Accessibility in the Arts Award — ASAP, the After School Arts Program:** Recognizes an individual, organization or business that initiates a community-wide artistic undertaking that is broad in scope and seeks to serve a significant amount of Iowans or that seeks to improve accessibility to the arts for an under-served target population in Iowa

ASAP is grateful for this recognition and honor, and thanks St. John's Lutheran Church for giving the program and organization a firm foundation. For more information about ASAP, go to www.asap-dsm.org.



ASAP Executive Director Michelle Bolton King accepted the Governor's Arts Award from Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs Director Mary Cownie and First Lady Christine Branstad. Photo by Eric Salmon.



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Johanna Scholarship

Pentecost Sunday

*Johanna Scholarship Fund -
to equip the women of Tanzania for lives of service to the church*

The church in Tanzania is growing rapidly. It is a challenge for the church to train enough pastors to serve all the parishes. Pastors are often responsible for many churches within a region, therefore they are often assisted in their congregations by evangelists. Evangelists are lay leaders who are responsible and able to lead worship, preach, and care for the people. They do not have the authority to baptize or preside over communion.

Usangi Leadership and Training College prepares evangelists for work in their home congregations. It is a two year program with coursework in interpreting Bible texts, preaching, liturgy and English. Tuition is often paid by the home congregation as individuals rarely have the means to pay their own fees. And women are less likely to be sponsored as this patriarchal society does not recognize the resources available in women.

The Johanna Scholarship is St. John's project to equip the saints in Tanzania to do God's work, and the saints we lift up are women. St. John's began the Johanna Scholarship in 2011 with support for two young women—Leah and Rhoda. They graduated in July of 2013 and are now actively serving the church. We currently are sponsoring four women. Angela and Natujwa will graduate in July 2014 and Rachel and Christina are finishing their first year of study.

With my service on the board for Usangi Leadership and Training College I have had the privilege to get to know these remarkable women. I have seen the sacrifices they make and the growth they have experienced in their time at Usangi. I have also been blessed to be the recipient of their appreciation for St. John's support. It is my task to convey their thanks to all of you. When I receive the fabric, beadwork, fresh coffee and live chicken they bring, they always ask me to share their thanks with you. I am sorry you cannot be on the receiving end of their wonderful hugs.

So thank you for your gifts to support these women. The lives of these women are changed and the church is stronger with your gifts!



Pictured left to right - Johanna Scholarship Recipients: Christine, Natujwa, Angela and Rachel

Hospitality & Outreach



Smile!

Do you smile very often? Do you notice other people smiling? How do you feel when you're on the receiving end of a smile?

These days, it seems, smile references or discussion revolve around whitening or strengthening a person's teeth, or using a particular product to achieve perfect teeth or perfect breath. Not that I'm opposed to either, but a person's smile is so much more. It provides insight to one's thoughts, feelings and attitudes.

I'm living in a condo development now, quite a shift from my former single-family home. Close-quarter living is a bit of an adjustment. One thing I've noticed is that people in the complex fall into two categories. Generally speaking, people over age 50 smile and acknowledge each other, those younger don't make eye contact and usually have ear-buds employed to totally reduce the chance that you may speak to them. Now I am not drawing battle lines between generations, I'm simply making an observation.

This was reinforced during my latest trip to Chicago. My son and I were walking Maxwell I, the wonder dog. As we passed folks, I smiled and greeted them – "Hello!" or "What a nice day." No one, and I mean no one, made eye contact. After a few blocks, my son informed me that people in Chicago don't talk to people they don't know. More's the pity.

Frankly, I believe this change is cultural, not generational. But I propose we change it. I recommend we start here at St. John's with a conscious effort to draw people into our sphere, simply with a smile.

Many of you know numerous people within our church family, but not everyone is in that comfort zone, especially newcomers. There are also those who attend worship but are unable, for a variety of reasons, to participate in church activities that help form community. They are here for worship and that is the only time we, as people and as a congregation, have the opportunity to reach them.

Think how intimidating it can be to come to a church of this size with its long history and feel alone in the midst of a throng of people – and yet how easy it is to simply smile at someone. It acknowledges their presence, lets them know you actually see them, and you're glad they're here. You don't even have to say anything; however, if you're feeling particularly adventurous, add a comment: "Nice to see you!" or "Wonderful sermon/music, wasn't it?" or "Hi! Have we met before?" It takes little effort and can make someone's day.

In our new-member class, we ask people what initially attracted them to St. John's. One of the primary responses we get is that the congregation is welcoming and friendly. That is wonderful to hear! Every once in a while, however, we'll get a note left on a worship card that says otherwise. In fact, we received one on Easter this year. The woman wrote, "Beautiful service. People weren't very friendly, but after all we are Lutherans."

I took particular exception to that! Let's prove her wrong. Let's welcome everyone with a smile. If you already know someone, I bet you automatically smile when you greet them. If you don't know someone, surprise them with a smile.

How wonderful it would be to make everyone who steps into our home here feel they are welcome and valued. Sometimes something that simple can make a huge difference in someone's life. And you just may feel more positive, too. Smiling is guaranteed to benefit both giver and recipient.

I found these facts on the internet (so they MUST be true :))

- Smiling releases endorphins. These endorphins relieve stress and help you feel better.
- Smiling is known as an expression of happiness and acceptance across all cultures.
- Smiling is contagious. A Swedish study found that people had trouble frowning when they looked at other people who were smiling. Their muscles twitched into a smile on their own!
- Babies start smiling in their sleep as soon as they're born. Smiling is something that comes naturally and isn't learned.
- Smiling can reduce your blood pressure. Researchers found that when subjects smiled continuously for a minute, their blood pressure decreased.
- There are 19 types of smiles expressing different emotions. From heart-felt smiles to polite smiles, we can express ourselves in 19 different ways, just by smiling.
- Mother Teresa said, "Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing."

What a treasure you can give someone simply with a smile. And what a legacy it will be when members and visitors can say, "When I think of St. John's, I smile."

Katie Tippins
Hospitality and Outreach

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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, July 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!