



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

Volume 46, Number 09
September, 2014

Worship

Saturday
5:00 pm

Sunday
8:00 am
10:00 am

Radio Broadcast
KRNT 1350 AM
Sunday Mornings
8:30 am

Pastors

Rachel Thorson Mithelman
Senior Pastor
pastorrachel@stjohnsdsm.org

Robert Speirs
Associate Pastor
pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org

Gene Anderson
Visitation Pastor
pastorgene@stjohnsdsm.org

Website

www.stjohnsdsm.org

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

Seek and Discover the Word of God



Rally Sunday at St. John's is Sept. 7! We come together once again to commence our programming year. All children and their families are invited to stop by the Fireside Lounge between 8:45 and 9:45 a.m. to register for Sunday School, explore the curriculum, and learn about the fall schedule.

You are then encouraged to Seek and Discover as you navigate your way through some of the Bible stories we will study this year. There will be a scavenger hunt for items that relate to chosen stories from the Bible. Once you discover each item in your hunt, you will be challenged to determine which Bible story it connects to as well as the meaning of that item within the Bible story. Then return your completed Seek and Discover game sheets to Fireside Lounge to receive a little surprise!

WHAT'S INSIDE

A Word from Our Pastors	2	Small Groups.....	6	Arts at St. John's	10
Adult Forum Schedule	3	Synod Assembly Recap.....	7	We Are the Church	12
Prepare for Worship	4	Children's & Youth Ministry.....	8	Hospitality & Outreach.....	14
150th Ann. & WECLA Updates	5				

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

Staff

Andy Anderson
 Security & Maintenance

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

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

Lisa DeGroot
 Nursery Coordinator
 lisadegroot5203@yahoo.com

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

John Kelly
 Security / Maintenance

Amanda Kuhlman
 Nursery

Scott LaBlanc
 Director of Parish Operations
 scottl@stjohnsdsm.org

Kim Lamb
 Front Office Manager
 receptionist@stjohnsdsm.org

Noah Niermann
 Director of Youth Ministry
 noah@stjohnsdsm.org

Katie Tippins
 Hospitality & Outreach
 katietippins@stjohnsdsm.org

Leslie Moeller
 Maintenance Supervisor
 lesmoeller@stjohnsdsm.org

Darla Stiles
 Christian Involvement
 darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org

Patricia Stofferahn
 Lead Financial Assistant
 pstofferahn@stjohnsdsm.org

Mark Welsh
 Security & Maintenance

Deb Blume
 Eagle Call Copy Editor

Scott LaBlanc
 Eagle Call Editor & Designer

Summer Office Hours:
 Monday – Friday
 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Bob Speirs

“Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:16-20

This passage from Matthew's Gospel is called the "Great Commission." It is a passage that not only summarizes the call and mission of the early, post-resurrection church, but is still very much the call and mission of the church in our day and time as well. The main thrust of this passage in many of the Bible studies and sermons I have heard over the years is Jesus' command to baptize and make disciples of all nations, and rightly so, because each of these activities is foundational to our faith and our lives as Christians. However, the one aspect of this passage that at times gets overlooked is Jesus' emphasis on the church's ministry of teaching, which also implies learning. As summer has now mostly come to a close with our children and youth back in school and our many church activities starting to gear up for another great year, these are many of the learning opportunities in which I invite you to participate here at St. John's this coming year:

1. Tuesday morning Bible Study: We meet in Room 8 on the ground level from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., and we're currently studying Luther's Small Catechism. Coffee and refreshments included. Please join us.
2. Wednesday night Bible Study: From 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Pastor Rachel presents a Bible Study based on the lectionary readings for the following Sunday. This study is held in Neumann Hall on the first floor across from the Chapel, immediately after our Beloved Community meal. All are welcome.
3. Confirmation: Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6 p.m. in the Weertz Fellowship Hall, our Youth Director Noah Niermann, his dedicated group of Confirmation mentors and I (Pastor Bob) will begin another year of study with our 7th, 8th and 9th-grade students. We will begin this year of study with a get-together at my home on Friday, Sept. 5, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. See Noah's *Eagle Call* column for further details.
4. Sunday School: Led by our Children's Ministry Director Alicia Karwal, St. John's Kindergarten through 6th-grade Sunday school program starts up once again on Sept. 7 with Rally Day activities. Classes for our children begin Sept. 14. See Alicia's *Eagle Call* column for further details.
5. St. John's Sunday Morning Adult Forum: We meet in Neumann Hall from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. to hear from presenters on a wide range of topics. Coffee and refreshments are provided. The schedule of speakers for this class can be found on page 3.

I look forward to seeing you in church as we worship, study and learn together.

Peace,
 Pastor Bob

Adult Forum Schedule



The Sunday Morning Adult Forum meets at 9:00 in Room 8 unless otherwise noted.

Sept. 14 - Middle school/ High school Summer Mission Trip Report (Weertz Fellowship Hall)

This past summer our middle-school youth traveled to Green Bay, WI, and our high schoolers went to Red Lake Indian Reservation on mission trips associated with the Youth Works organization. We will hear about the people they met, the experiences they shared, and the perspectives they gained during their week of service and learning. The class will include a video and time for questions and answers.

Sept. 21 - 2014 Trip to Tanzania

Led by Carol Fisher, a St. John's group of eight traveled to Tanzania this summer to visit our Companion Parish friends in the Mramba Parish. They will offer a presentation and reflections on their trip.

Sept. 28 - Dr. Karla Erickson, Associate Professor & Chair of Sociology, Grinnell College

Professor Erickson's research explores the rituals, connections and strategies for resilience during longer lives and slower deaths. Based on interviews with nurses' aides, administrators, residents and family care providers, *How We Die Now: Intimacy and the Work of Dying* uses experiences in one small town to explore the new social terrain of old age.

Oct. 5 - Judy Latessa, First Circle Friends

Many know someone – a spouse, parent, grandparent or friend – who has been affected by early to mid-stage memory loss. Lutheran Services in Iowa's First Circle Friends is a creative ministry opportunity for our church. Through this program, participants put their faith into action by supporting neighbors who may be facing these issues. Judy and her team give us an update on

the progress of this important program St. John's has begun in partnership with LSI.

Oct. 12, 19 & Nov. 30 - Dr. Mark Mattes, Professor of Religion & Philosophy, Grandview University

Professor Mattes will lead us in the first session of this three-part forum on the Ten Commandments, their historical and Biblical significance and their significance and meaning for us in this day and time.

Oct. 26 - Gemechisa Mosa, Chaplain, Iowa Lutheran Hospital & St. John's Intern

Gemechisa will offer a presentation on his growing up in the Oromo region of Ethiopia. He will describe factors that have affected his life and sense of call to the ordained ministry as well as his spiritual formation during childhood. Gemechisa also discuss the Lutheran Church in Ethiopia and its formation in relation to the Protestant Reformation.

Nov. 2 - "All Saints Sunday", No Forum Scheduled

Nov. 9 & 16 - Pastor Gregory Nelson Davis

Pastor Davis will offer a two-part presentation on the Gospel of Mark, which is the Gospel we will be mostly hearing from in Year B of our three-year lectionary series that begins at Advent.

Nov. 23 - Larry Hedlin, Updates on Medicare & Affordable Health Care Act

Larry, a volunteer with the SHIP Program, will share the latest updates on the basic parts of Medicare A and B, preparation for Medicare enrollment and guidelines and more. Larry will also speak on the Affordable Care Act and its impact on Medicare enrollees. Please join us, and be sure to bring your questions.

Dec. 7 - Annual Congregational Meeting, No Forum Scheduled

Dec. 14 - Sunday School Advent Program, No Forum Scheduled

Dec. 21 - Miyoko Hijiki, "All I Could Be"

Miyoko Hijiki of Urbandale is a decorated veteran, friend of several writers at St. John's, model and the author of *All I Could Be: My Story as a Woman Warrior in Iraq*. Miyoko completed more than 70 supply convoy, security and raid missions throughout the northwest quadrant of Iraq. Simultaneously, she worked as the unit correspondent and administrative sergeant. She is outspoken on the issues of military sexual trauma (MST), post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) and suicide. In this special hour of the St. John's Adult Forum, she will offer the same message she has shared with Stars and Stripes, Marie Claire, USA Today, Armed Forces Radio and National Public Radio.

Dec. 28 - Christmas Weekend, No Forum Scheduled

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, Sept. 7, "Rally Sunday"

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 23

Conflict is a part of relationships in community, even churches, and Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, while Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation. This is also "Rally Sunday" at St. John's, when Sunday School teachers and youth leaders are installed, and children and youth are blessed for the coming year of faith-formation and relationship-building.

The readings are Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14 and Matthew 18:15-20. The hymns will be ELW 731, "Earth and All Stars," ELW 605, "Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive" (10 a.m. only – at 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. Sunday, we will use ELW 359, "Where Charity and Love Prevail") and ELW 864, "Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven." At 10 a.m. the offering music will be by the Kisasa musicians, and communion music will be performed by flautist Sandy Moore Wacha.



The Chapel Cross. Photo by Scott LaBlanc

Sunday, Sept. 14 - "Holy Cross Day"

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as a sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

The readings for "Holy Cross Day" are Numbers 21:4b-9, Psalm 98:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 and John 3:13-17. The hymns will be ELW 651, "Oh, Praise the Gracious Power," ELW 802, "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus," and ELW 660, "Lift High the Cross." At 10 a.m. the St. John's Cathedral Choir will sing "Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land," arranged by Glenn Eduard Burleigh, during offering and "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" in Thomas Keesecker's great arrangement.

Bibles in "age-appropriate" versions will be distributed at the 10 a.m. service to our 3-year-old children, third-graders, and seventh-graders as they enter confirmation. This congregation, along with their parents, takes seriously putting God's written word into the hands of our young members.

Sunday, Sept. 21

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 25

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes God's mind about punishing the people of Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism, we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

The readings are Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30 and Matthew 20:1-16. The hymns will be ELW 688, "Lord of Light," ELW 659, "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant," and ELW 845, "Voices Raised to You." At 10 a.m. offering, Cathedral Choir will sing "Give Me Jesus" in a classic and much-loved arrangement by Larry Fleming.

Sunday, Sept. 28

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 26

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel, the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are told to repent and turn to the Lord. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

The readings are Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13 and Matthew 21:23-32. The hymns will be ELW 526, "God Is Here!" ELW 606, "Our Father, We Have Wandered," and ELW 538, "The Lord Now Sends Us Forth." Rene Clausen's evocative setting of "At the Name of Jesus" will be the Cathedral Choir's contribution to the 10 a.m. service during the offering.

150th Anniversary



Calling Children of Ages 0 to 110

During the month of September, we will engage in a celebration of children and youth at St. John's Lutheran Church. An emphasis will be placed on celebrating the children of St. John's, *Now and Then*. Bring a photograph of yourself from when you were a child as well as photos of your own children. The pictures will be displayed in Weertz Fellowship Hall for all to enjoy.

All photos will be returned. Or, if you prefer, you can bring copies of the originals. To participate, simply hang your photos on the display set up in Weertz, or you may drop your photo(s) off at the front desk.

Opportunities to Serve During Year of Celebration

Service to the community, both within and outside St. John's, is one of the congregation's many traditions to uphold and recognize as we celebrate 150 years of history. The 150th Anniversary Planning Committee is creating several opportunities for us to come together and work as a team to provide needed service to the greater Des Moines community and within St. John's.

Service projects, both internal and external, will begin this fall (before the celebration kicks off) and continue on a quarterly basis through late fall 2015. Ideally, there would be a minimum of 150 people completing a minimum of 1,500 hours of service during this time period. That's doable, right?

This fall's service projects are:

- **Sept. 28** – Fall Yard Clean Up at a Mosaic house on Des Moines' east side. Mosaic represents the consolidated programs of Bethphage and Martin Luther Homes (www.mosaicinfo.org/des moines).

org/des moines). We'll rake, we'll clip, we'll chop and saw to renew and refresh the outdoor surroundings of this key social-service provider location.

- **Oct. 13-18** – Spruce Up Time at St. John's. With so much company visiting our doors during the year of celebration, St. John's needs to look its best. We need to scrub, paint and tidy up. There will be opportunities daily, beginning Monday, Oct. 13, for small groups of people to work; then on Saturday, Oct. 18, we'll bring together as many people as possible to get a lot of work accomplished.
- **Dec. 6 & 20** – Christmas Decorating at St. John's! It will be time to prepare the sanctuary and common spaces for the Christmas celebration that we all know and love. Decorating will take place during these two Saturdays as we build to the celebrations of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

There's a little something for everyone in this fall's service opportunities. Folks of all ages, skill levels and abilities are needed. The age-old adage of "many hands make light work" applies as the St. John's faith community renews its commitment to serve during this 150th anniversary year of celebration.

Watch the weekly announcement sheets, the 150th Anniversary Bulletin Board and the St. John's website for sign-ups!

Women of the ELCA

Outreach Program for September

For the month of September, Children and Family Urban Ministries will be our outreach project. They have a Breakfast Club and a Supper Club that provide healthy food for children in their nearby neighborhood. Some needed items at this time are bottles of juice, instant oatmeal, granola bars, #10 cans of fruit, pancake mix needing only water to add, peanut butter and jelly. They encourage food donations to be sugar-free or low in sugar.



At this time, the most needed school or office items are backpacks, notebooks and reams of paper.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support of the WELCA Outreach Program.

September Group Meetings

- **Women of the ELCA groups** will meet on Thursday, Sept. 4. *All women of the congregation are encouraged to attend.*
- **Sarah Group** will meet at 10 a.m. at Wesley Acres at the Mansion, 3520 Grand Ave. Lou Johnston will host.
- **Lois Group** will meet at 12:30 p.m. in Neumann Hall at church. Leader is Judy Munger.

Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY: photographers will be here Tuesday through Saturday, Sept. 9-13, and Tuesday through Saturday, Sept. 16-20 (more information below).

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

Zumba: Mondays, September 8, 15, 22, and 29, 5 to 5:45 p.m., Multi-Purpose Room on third floor at church.

Mah Jongg: Mondays, Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29, 6 p.m., Smokey Row on the patio (weather permitting, otherwise at church in Neumann Hall). If weather is questionable, check with Darla Stiles (darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org).

Hardanger: Tuesdays, Sept. 9 and 23, 11:30 a.m., at church.

St. John's Social Club: Sunday, Sept. 14, 3:30 p.m., Road Rally.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 12:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, Sept. 18, 11:30 a.m.

EAGLES: Friday and Saturday, Sept. 19-20, Applejack Festival, Nebraska City.

Photography: Sunday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m., Neumann Hall at church.

Recreational Reading: Wednesday, September 24, 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm;

WIRED Book Discussion: Thursday, September 25, at 6 p.m. at the home of Mary Miller.

Scrapbooking: Saturday, Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at church.

WIRED women's group: Sunday, Sept. 28, 9 a.m. WIRED will attend adult education class featuring Professor Karla Erickson, who will talk about her book, *How We Die Now*.

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

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY portrait reservations are still being taken!!! There is still time to sign up to get your photographs taken for our 150th anniversary edition of the pictorial directory! Call the church office (243-7691) or go online to our website (www.stjohnsdsm.org) and click at the left where it says 150th Ann. Directory signup. There are two weeks in September when the photographer will be back, Tuesday through Saturday, Sept. 9-13, and Tuesday through Saturday, Sept. 16-20. Times for Tuesdays through Fridays are 2 to 8 p.m. Times for Saturdays are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have questions, call or e-mail Darla Stiles (darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org or 515-243-7691). You will receive a free 8- by 10-inch photo as well as a free directory if you have your picture taken, so there is no cost to you. There is no pressure to buy more photos, but the option is available. They have a "Feed the Need" program where you bring a canned good when you come to be photographed; it will be donated to the food pantry, and you get \$5 off any order you make.



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

Mah Jongg will meet Mondays, Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29 (excluding Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 1) at 6 p.m. at Smokey Row (weather permitting). If questionable, call or e-mail Darla Stiles to find out where to meet (225-3499 or darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org).

Zumba will start again, after Labor Day, on Mondays, Sept. 8, 15, 22 and 29, 5 to 5:45 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room on third floor at church. Cost is \$5 per class; you may sign in each week and pay for the days you attend at the end of the 8-week session. Teacher Kelli is back with us to make it a fun workout. Open to all.

Hardanger will meet on Tuesdays, Sept. 9 and 23, at 11:30 a.m. at church.

Lunch Bunch II will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg (279-6326).

Lunch Bunch I meets on Thursday, Sept. 18, at 11:30 a.m. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please call Barb Hyler (262-5261). New members are most welcome!

EAGLES will travel to Nebraska City on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 19-20, for the Applejack Festival. Watch for more information. Contact is Roma Youngquist (285-3810 or plaallda@aol.com). All are welcome.

Photography will meet on Sunday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church. The theme for this month is "night" photos. All are welcome.

Recreational Reading will meet Wednesday, Sept. 24, 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm at church.

Scrapbooking will meet Saturday, Sept. 27, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or whatever time between these hours works for you) in Room 8 at church. Bring photos and materials or cards to work on and enjoy the fellowship of sharing projects. Everyone is welcome.

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6



WIRED Book Discussion will meet Thursday, Sept. 25, at 6 p.m. at the home of Mary Miller, 1105 Oakwood Dr., Polk City. The book to read and discuss is *Philomena*. Please bring an appetizer, and contact Mary if you can attend (mmiller588@aol.com).

WIRED is encouraged to attend the adult education class on Sunday, Sept. 28, at 9 a.m. Professor Karla Erickson will discuss her book, *How We Die Now*.

WIRED Cooking has the opportunity to take a “Focaccia Class” with Alessandra on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. in East Village. (Only a limited number of people can attend. Check with Carol Lunde (carollunde@q.com) for more details.

WIRED Retreat is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Iowa Arboretum. Mark your calendars and watch for more information.

Please Help Our Veterans

Would you be able to contribute shampoo, conditioner, lotion, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, combs, socks, tissues and/or Band Aids to a worthy project? The Central Iowa Shelter and Services will distribute kits of these personal items to homeless persons living on the streets, many of whom are veterans.

This project is being sponsored by AmeriCorps (in honor of the organization's 20th anniversary) on their national day of service Friday, Sept. 12. Also involved is Home Base Iowa, a program that finds jobs and educational opportunities for veterans settling in Iowa.

Just take these items to the new CISS shelter at 1420 Mulberry St. in Des Moines. Mike Beck, a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) volunteer is there on Saturdays and would be glad to take any items you might wish to donate.

Questions should be directed to Mike Beck (mike.beck@iowa.gov).

News from Synod Assembly

Richard and Bonnie Ekse say they were honored to be among the voting members of the Southeast Iowa Synod (of the ELCA) Assembly the weekend of May 30 to June 1 in Coralville. Others attending were voting members Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman, Pastor Bob Speirs, Rev. Norman Ullestad, Diana Sickles as well as two guests from St. John's, Marilyn Ullestad and Norma Hirsch.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, presided over the assembly during election of the bishop. Each major vote was preceded by a lovely original prayer. Voting members cast their ballots electronically using small keypads, which were attached to their name-tag lanyards. Most of the votes were tabulated in a matter of seconds, with totals displayed on the screens in the hall by the savvy audio-visual team.

The synod assembly was truly *Led by the Spirit* (the theme of the assembly) and moved by the music and the sermons presented by Bishop Michael Burk and Bishop Eaton. We were pleased Bishop Eaton lifted up The After School Arts Program (ASAP), which was started here at St. John's, in her report on the work of the ELCA. St. John's is still a major sponsor of ASAP.

The assembly watched videos and slide presentations to honor congregations celebrating significant anniversaries. Next year St. John's of Des Moines will be honored as we celebrate our 150th anniversary.

Pastors celebrating milestone anniversaries of ordination were honored, including St. John's own son, Pastor Norman Ullestad, who was ordained at St. John's 60 years ago.

Saturday night we celebrated with a banquet and were entertained by singer Rachel Kurtz. A volunteer backup group for one number included Bishop Eaton and Bishop Burk, who regaled us with their cool dance moves even while dressed in their black clerical garb. Bishop Eaton delighted us with her rendition of the 1970s dance move, “the monkey.”

We were very impressed by the careful planning and hard work of the staff of the SE Iowa Synod of the ELCA and the many willing volunteers.

You can review the Synod Assembly summary, videos and pictures on the Synod web site at www.seiasynod.org.

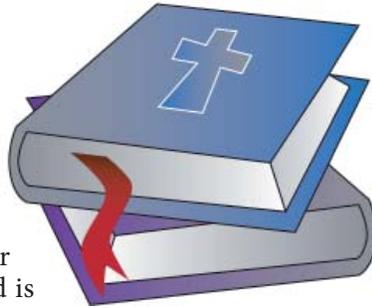


Now available at
stjohnsdsm.org or
subscribe on iTunes.

Children's Ministry

Children to Receive Bibles

On Sunday, Sept. 14, at the 10 a.m. service, Bibles will be presented to all 3-year-olds and third-graders of St. John's. During the worship service, these children and their families will be called to the altar for a special presentation as the word of God is placed in their hands.



Would You Teach Sunday School?

Children's Ministries still needs Sunday School teachers and helpers! Could you commit to teaching or helping one Sunday a month? You do not need to be a parent, nor do you need to have any teaching experience. A detailed teacher's guide is provided, which gives you a brief description of the Bible story to be explored. It explains how to relate this to children in a Lutheran-based, age-appropriate way and gives you a selection of activities for the class.

If you choose to share your gifts in this way, you will undoubtedly take great delight in growing in your own faith as you share God's love with the children of St. John's! For more information, contact Alicia Karwal (akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org).

Youth Ministry

A New Year

The coming of September once again marks the start of a whole new program year at St. Johns! We're excited to continue strengthening and growing our youth-ministry programs, and we've made some important changes outlined below. As you read about what this year will hold, please consider sharing your time and gifts with our young people. When they have questions about faith and life, they look to you! Thank you for all your support.



Think About Becoming a Confirmation Sponsor

This year in confirmation class, we are asking all of our seventh-, eighth- and ninth-graders to find one member of the congregation (18 or older) to be a sponsor during the year ahead. Students and sponsors can connect as often as they would like, but the only

commitment we ask of students and sponsors is that they check in with one another at least once per month. This check-in can happen over the

phone or after church on Sundays or Saturdays. If you think you might be willing to be a sponsor, talk with Youth Director Noah Niermann (noah@stjohnsdsm.org) or Pastor Bob Speirs (pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org).

CONFIRMATION NEWS:

Welcome Party

On Sept. 5, 5:30 to 8 p.m., all confirmation students are invited to our start-of-the-year celebration at Pastor Bob's house at 2716 Westover Blvd. Student's families are welcome to come for all or part of the evening. A main dish will be provided, but we ask that families bring a small side or salad, if able.

Time Change!

We are moving confirmation class 30 minutes earlier on Wednesday nights! We will now meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Students are asked to gather in Weertz Hall any time between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. (no later). Special confirmation tables will be reserved, and everyone is invited to eat as much or as little of the Beloved Community meal as they would like. After worshipping together, seventh- and eighth-graders will move to the third-floor MPR (Multi-Purpose Room) and ninth-grade students will move to Room 307.

First Day

Our first confirmation class will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 10! This is an orientation night for all students and parents. It will run from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in MPR on the third floor. All other classes are scheduled for 6 to 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

New Student?

If you're new to the St. John's confirmation program, please contact the church office (243-7691) so we can get you registered!

Continued on Page 9

Continued from Page 10

Breakfast Club

All confirmation students not participating in a musical ensemble are invited up to the DDI (Do Drop In) from 9 to 9:45 p.m. between services. We will have food, games (foosball, air hockey, pool, etc.). We'll also set aside a little time each week to watch a short video and talk about a theological, social or ethical question of our students' choosing.



High School Youth at Red Lake

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:

Time Change

Our High School Youth Group will begin meeting again on Sunday, Sept. 14! Join us every Sunday after 10 a.m. worship (usually around 11:30 a.m.) for lunch and an afternoon of fellowship up in the third-floor DDI. We normally finish up around 1:30 p.m. All high-school youth (Grades 9-12) are invited to attend. This is our opportunity to come together as a group, play games, explore downtown Des Moines, and ask those theological, ethical, moral or social questions that make us itch. It also gives us the chance to avoid homework for a few more hours. Come for all or just part of the time and bring a friend.

Controversial Movie Night

Starting in October, we will host Controversial Movie Night on the first Saturdays of each month. Meet in the DDI on third floor at 6 p.m. A movie list will be made available in the coming weeks and be assured that the movies will get us talking! Let me know if you have any requests.



Office Hours

My Office Hours at Smokey Row will resume starting the second week in September. Look for me at Smokey Row on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m. Come if you're feeling bored, need help with a school paper or college admissions essay, want a cup of coffee, or need to talk.

Bible Study

“What Does This Mean?”

Now that's a Lutheran question if there ever was one! Do you find yourself asking this as you listen to the readings in worship on Saturday evening or Sunday morning? Did you know that there is an opportunity earlier in the week to study and work through the readings in order to deepen your worship experience on the weekend?

On Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in Neumann Hall, following the Beloved Community meal and worship, Pastor Mithelman leads a text study on the readings for the coming weekend. No prior Bible-study experience is required, and the conversation is wide-ranging, meaningful and fun. All are truly welcome! Again, class begins at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10!

DID YOU KNOW?

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



The Arts at St. John's

Arts at St. John's Celebrate, Too

Our 150th anniversary year beginning on All Saints Day, Nov. 2, provides unique opportunities for the St. John's Arts Visioning Team. Our existing programs and events, including the Midweek Music Series and Artist of the Month, are planned and ready to go. And starting in November, the Weertz Hall art gallery will be devoted to exhibits specific to our anniversary year – the first being a historical overview of St. John's.

Sunday morning worship will include special music, including the String Scholars, organ concerts, and distinctive choral and orchestral works. Also, the Performing Arts Series will dovetail with anniversary events, such as the Gospel Brunch on Sunday, Nov. 2, following the 10 a.m. worship service. Stay tuned for more exciting information and details.

In a related matter, The Arts at St. John's is currently in the midst of its annual fundraising drive. Please consider making a donation to the arts to keep these programs available to members, artists and the Des Moines community. Because of your generosity and dedication to the arts, all events are free and open to the public. Contributions can be made by check or on-line at the St. John's website. If you have questions or would like more information, visit stjohnsdsm.org/finearts or contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org) or Larry Hanson (lhanson@ft.newyorklife.com).

Musical Opportunities – for YOU!

There are singing choirs, handbell choirs and instrumental groups for almost every age at St. John's. Anyone who has ever worshipped here can tell that music and the arts are important to this congregation and play a large role in our life together as a community, especially to our worship.

You can discover almost anything about the “what” and “when” of the music program here on the St. John's website at www.stjohnsdsm.org. From the homepage click on “Ministries,” then from the drop-down menu select “Worship & Music Ministry.” At the bottom of that page you will find buttons for “St. John's Choirs” and “Instrumentalists” pages, and each describes our offerings pretty well.

But there are things you cannot find on the website. For instance, you cannot tell how much you will enjoy working with and learning from Beth Ann Edwards in one of her bell choirs or what a master teacher she is of children and the creativity she can evoke from them. You cannot tell how open, accepting and welcoming the Cathedral Choir is to new members or how much you will feel “needed.” And you might be surprised how understanding Director of Worship and Music Larry Christensen is of your complicated life and how hard it is for you to fit everything in or make room in your schedule for choir. This is the norm. Only real people with real lives are on the worship and music teams here.

Most of all, you cannot tell from the website how you will feel to be part of creating the fabric of worship and how much your contribution is needed.

It is easy to believe that, “They've got it covered. They don't need me.” Not true. The word we most often use for worship at St. John's is “liturgy,” which comes from a Greek term referring to “the common, shared work of the people.” Liturgy is not “done to” or “shot at” the people who assemble for worship. It is the work we all share. All means you, too.



Jan Davison, Artist of the Month

Jan Davison has had a passion for art as long as she can remember. She loved drawing as a child and continued her interest in art throughout her formative years. Jan, who earned a bachelor of fine arts degree at Drake University, enjoys creating with pastels, acrylics and mixed media. Her subject matters are often abstract concepts and the beauty of nature.

Most of Jan's working career was spent as a freelance graphic designer, but after more than 25 years in business, she accepted the position of director of communications at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where she worked for 12½ years before retirement.

The founder of Charitable Creations, Jan uses her art to raise money for charitable causes. She also serves as a volunteer art instructor at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville.

Jan lives in Des Moines and is married to Polk Davison. Their family includes her daughter and son-in-law, Erin and Brad Davison-Rippey, and grandson Henry.

Midweek Music Begins Oct. 1

Please join us each Wednesday, beginning October 1, 2014, for performances by world-class musicians. A variety of classical, folk, pop, and jazz concerts will be presented throughout the season. Each 25-minute concert begins at 12:05 pm in the Sanctuary. All concerts are free and open to the public. A light lunch, priced at \$6 each, is available in Weertz Hall, following the concert.

Midweek Music Series 2014-15		
Oct	1	Asphalt & Stained Glass
	8	Carol Palmer/Dan Chase/Francine Griffith
	15	Opus 3
	22	The Des Moines Tango Trio
	29	Steve Kennedy
Nov.	5	Mary McAdams
	12	Big Joe Kinser
	19	Sarah Plum and Drake string studio
	26	Bruch Trio
Dec.	3	Grand View College Choir
	10	Principal Guys
	17	Christmas at St. John's
Jan.	2	Sue Hudson and family (Friday Performance)
	7	Odyssey Trio
	14	Scott Davis
	21	Rob Lumbard
Feb.	28	Sarah Plum and Drake string studio
	4	North High School Gospel Choir
	11	IMTA piano audition winners
Apr.	8	Amadeus Trio
	15	Ballyhoo Foxtrot Combo
	22	David Liljedahl
May	29	City Voices
	6	Kathleen Hurley and Dancers

Update from LSI

Direct Support Professionals Week

Do you know someone who is a caregiver to a loved one? It is often both a demanding and meaningful role. At LSI, nearly half of our staff statewide serve in a direct care role, whether it's providing support or respite to a person with an intellectual disability or providing care for the children and youth who live on our Beloit and Bremwood residential treatment campuses.

During September's National Direct Support Professionals Week, we celebrate all the ways in which these professionals help children and adults achieve their goals and build meaningful lives. Sometimes that means helping an adult with a disability live on his own for the first time. Other times it means helping a child who was sexually abused have a safe, caring environment in which to heal. Your prayers and support of LSI open up so many new possibilities for children, families and adults!

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

"LSI is a lifesaver"

Just going grocery shopping used to be a difficult task for Scott, who has autism. However, today Scott's future is full of new possibilities. The changes, said Scott's mom Karen, are partly because LSI took the time to know her son.

"LSI has done a great job just getting to know Scott and understanding him," Karen said. "They've just done phenomenal things with him. The staff all treat him like their own. The doors are just opening up right and left for him. We've seen him do things we never thought he would be able to do."

Scott's family can now spend more time with him in the community.

"Before it was hard to take him along to do things for fear of not knowing what would happen," she said. "Now it's just 'C'mon, Scott, let's go!'"

"LSI is a lifesaver," Karen added. "I don't know what I'd do without them. It's been wonderful. Scott has grown as an individual, and we just can't thank people enough."

As Scott grows, Karen said her ultimate goal for Scott remains the same.

"I just want to see him as independent and happy as he can be," she said. "Nothing makes you happier than to see a smile on his face."



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.**

We Are the Church

Reflections on the Service

of Les Moeller, Maintenance Supervisor

by Terri Mork Speirs

- Artist.
- Chef.
- Veteran.
- Repairman.
- Boiler operator.
- Nature enthusiast.
- Funny guy.
- Family man.



This month we bid farewell to Les Moeller, St. John's maintenance supervisor, and a man of many talents who could be summarized in one word, caretaker. He takes care of the creation around him, whether brick, mortar, tile, carpet, steel, copper or human. While Les is not actually leaving the congregation, he is retiring from his role as St. John's maintenance supervisor, a full-time position he's more than aptly filled since 2002.

But we all know that "maintenance supervisor" is a title that doesn't even come close to describing the way Les approached his job. Take all the roles listed above, add them up, and Les' work style would still be greater than the sum. For Les, it's been more than fixing things (although we all appreciate a good handyman, heaven knows our enormous building needs at least one). For Les, it has been far more than taking care of a building.

Some of you may remember "The Church Song," by Jay Beech. A song that inspired youth to sing and dance at Lutheran camps. A song that could raise the stadium roof at Lutheran youth gatherings. A song that used simple language to explore the dynamics between congregation and facility. Some of the lyrics follow:

*"The church is not a building,
where people go to pray;
It's not made out of sticks and stones,
and it's not made out of clay.*

*You can go to worship,
but you cannot go to church;
You can't find a building that's alive,
no matter where you search.*

*The church is not a business,
a committee or a board;*

It's not a corporation for the business of our Lord."

For Les, fulfilling duties as a maintenance supervisor of this gorgeous, massive church building was about one thing. It was about building renovations and repairs, facilities maintenance and upgrades, yes, but in the end, it's been more than that.

"It's the people," Les said. He seems to have intuitively known that he needed to care for both the building and the people around him. Les probably didn't need a simple campfire song with big words to know this truth. Always ready with a quick smile and maybe a joke, Les has treated everyone with dignity and has honored all requests for assistance.

"When people come to me with a problem, I look them in the eye, listen to their concern, and tell them that I'll check it out right away," said Les. And he did – whether a burned-out light bulb, a nasty bathroom accident, or a flood in the basement, Les fixed it. If he couldn't fix it, he found someone who could. (Then he proceeded to hire and supervise them.) Big deal or not, Les checked it out. Real or imagined, Les has taken each concern seriously. If you calculated Les' value per square foot of St. John's . . . well, let's not. Some things are priceless. The last verse of the rousing Jay Beech song goes like this:

*"The church it is the people,
living out their lives;*

*Called, enlightened, sanctified,
for the work of Jesus Christ."*

Les first came to St. John's when he and his lovely wife, Ann, were married here in 1976. Since then, their family has grown to three adult children, Matthew, Stephanie and Kelly, and



Les and his wife, Ann.

four grandchildren, Trey, Grace, Haley, Rachel. Les' interest in photography started as a way to capture the precious moments of his family. Eventually, he accessed a higher quality camera and started shooting the natural world, the outdoors, animals, weather. His unique eye for nature and wildlife photography has earned him a following, catching the attention of the buyer's

market. How does a congregation get so lucky to hire a maintenance man who is also a master artist?



Photo taken by Les Moeller. A favorite of the congregation.

When asked what Les would like to say to the congregation, his answer is a pretty simple message of gratitude: "Thank you for your help over the years. Thank you for your friendships. Thank you for being there. I'll miss you." He and Ann plan to remain involved with St. John's.

Les also wanted to extend a personal thanks to Wayne Erickson, "for all that he's helped me with in the past 12 years, and his great friendship. You couldn't ask for a better teacher."

In deep gratitude for Les, the caretaker, this reflection closes in the style of Les, the funny man. It's an old joke, a facilities manager joke, of sorts:

Question: "Can you be a Christian if you don't go to church?"

(Confession: It's a trick question.)

Answer: "It's impossible to go to church. We *are* the church."

Les Moeller, on behalf of the entire congregation and all the people we seek to serve in the community and around the world, thank you for taking care of us.



Maintenance at St. John's knows no bounds, Les performs a repair on the roof.



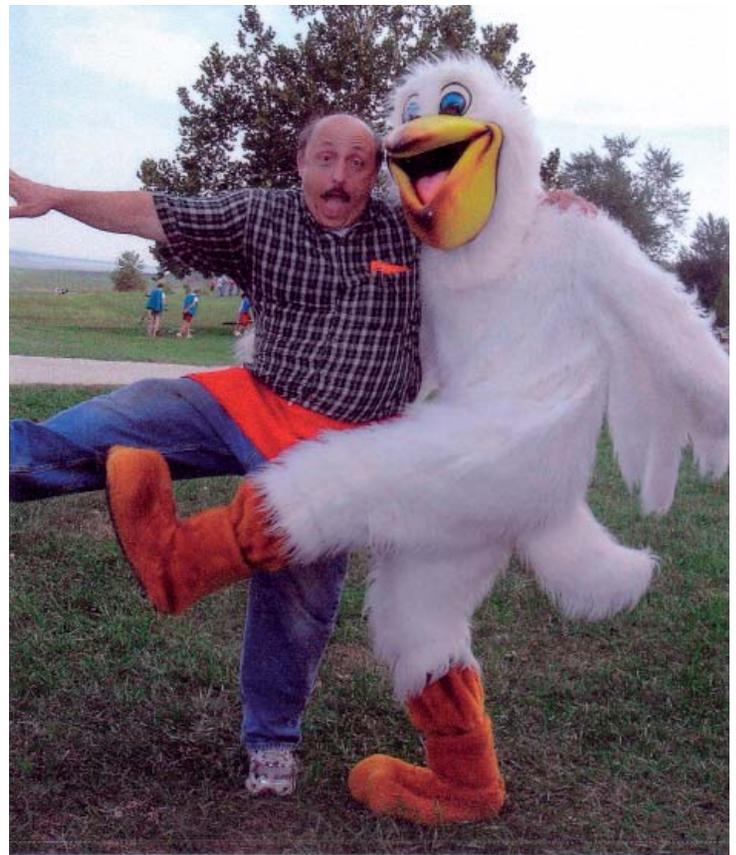
Always good natured, Les posed for a photo.



From the 2000 Church Directory.



Participating in worship at Jester Park.



The editor could find no reasonable explanation for this photo.

Hospitality & Outreach



An Attitude of Gratitude

By Katie Tippins

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you are called in one body; and be you thankful." Colossians 3:15

A couple months ago, I invited you to embody the welcoming nature of St. John's by the simple act of smiling – at friends, strangers, young and old. Send your smile. It may be returned, it may not. But don't doubt the impact it may have on the receiver. God has worked with a lot less than a smile to offer encouragement, kindness and hope to an individual who may need it at just that moment.

Now I wish to encourage you to adopt a mind-set of thankfulness, but I'm going to stretch the "gratitude zone" for lack of a better term.

I believe most of us are truly thankful for the many blessings and advantages with which God graces us. I do know we all have endured pain, stress and fear but, on the whole, we are cognizant of our good fortunes – family, friends, home, health and more.

What I now ask you to consider is thankfulness for your membership in the family of St. John's. We have MANY long-term members who have seen this church grow and adapt to the changing needs of not only our congregation but also the changing times within our setting in the city of Des Moines. We have members over the age of 90 and 100 who remember this church from their childhood. Not many congregations have that kind of history. What really stands out in their memories are the gifts of the people of God who have made this church what it is – a site in the city for good.

To achieve this status, it all comes down to people. Think of the contributions of individuals over the years. All this just didn't simply materialize with good thought and intentions; it's taken hard work.

St. John's has a well-deserved reputation for contributing to the arts in this city. This is a result of years of commitment, study and rehearsals for choirs and musicians of all types. (Beautiful music at Sunday worship doesn't just happen.) Years of nurturing relationships with university choral groups from around the country result in several performances a year. (Lodging, meals and hospitality are provided to these groups.) Mid-Week Music supports and promotes local musicians who grace us with their talents. (Lunch is made available to the audience by St. John's volunteers; for many of these folks it is a weekly social gathering of old friends.)

For years, St. John's has been a continuing presence for two meals a month at the Central Iowa Shelter. The number of people being fed each night has grown from 125 to 250. Faithful St. John's members provide meals and help serve – and it's been many of the same people for years.

The communication you receive from St. John's – this monthly Eagle Call, announcements of events and even financial statements – don't happen with the wave of a magic wand. There is labeling, stuffing and mail processing to be done, which takes time and willing hands.

Teachers, helpers and chaperones for Children and Youth Ministries make our programs what they are – examples of faith in action and outreach to people in need. Kids don't grow up with automatic faith; it is provided by their interaction with adults who articulate their beliefs by words and actions.

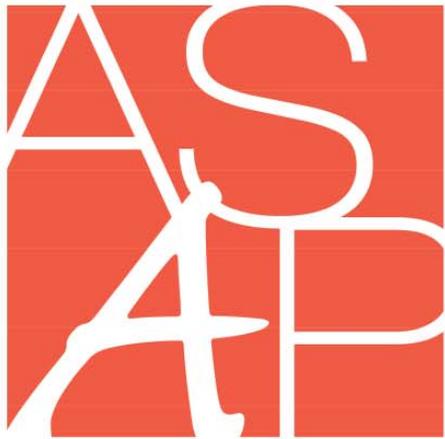
The Women of the ELCA do many unheralded services for St. John's. These faithful ladies have persevered for years with community projects and fundraisers – all for the benefit of the congregation and people in need. Talk about years of service. They are always available to help – whether it's to purchase much-needed kitchen equipment or a bathroom vanity and many things in between. One of their most faithful ministries is providing hospitality for funeral and memorial receptions. This service is so appreciated by grieving families. The ladies quietly go about decorating, serving and cleaning up after the meals so the families may spend time with their friends and relatives. Without them, I don't know how we could provide that service.

And please don't forget the worship assistants – lecturers, ushers, communion assistants, acolytes, healing ministers. Again, faithful people participate every week, year in and year out, to enhance your worship. Altar Guild also serves in many ways – refilling pew supplies, preparation for weekly worship and setting up for Holy Communion. They also serve at funerals and weddings.

So many people are the heart, mind, hands and feet of St. John's – literally the Body of Christ. I call upon you to offer a word of thanks to these individuals who do so much work "behind the scenes." Please let them know you appreciate their efforts.

And then, if you're not already, think about becoming one of those people with willing hearts and hands. There is ALWAYS something to do here at St. John's. In a few weeks, we will be sending information regarding our annual stewardship campaign. We will again ask you to consider ways in which you may serve our mission; please prayerfully reflect on your participation.

"... but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." Ephesians 4:15-16



AFTER
SCHOOL
ARTS
PROGRAM

Volunteer!
Motivate!
Assist!
Organize!
Share!
Smile!



We are seeking volunteer studio assistants for arts enrichment classes for grades 3-5. The program takes place downtown at St. John's church (800 6th Ave) and meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30-5:30. You may volunteer for one or both days for the 7 week session. No experience necessary! A brief training will provide all you need to know to be a successful volunteer. Please contact DeAnna Axness at deanna@asap-dsm.org or 779-9236. Fall session begins the week of October 20th.

September 2014
Volume 46, No. 9

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, September 15.** 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!