



The EAGLE CALL

Volume 46, Number 10
October, 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.

With Grateful Hearts *and Joyful Expectation*

Celebrating
ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH **150** years
1865-2015

Stewardship 2015

St. John's Congregational Council has chosen this hope-full theme for our 2015 stewardship emphasis, beginning the weekend of Oct. 18 and 19. The phrase comes from a hymn commissioned for our 150th Anniversary, titled *Our Grateful Hearts We Lift in Praise*, by Michael D. Costello.

It is a fitting stewardship theme, for we are entering this 150th anniversary year *with grateful hearts...*

- for the grace of God that has sustained and continues to enliven our worship, learning and service...
- for the privilege of ministry in the heart of this city – feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, welcoming the stranger – since 1865...
- for the remarkable witness of the saints of generations past, who trusted God's steadfast love through years of abundance and years of scarcity, through world wars, depression, recession and denominational struggles and mergers.

It is a fitting stewardship theme for we also are entering this 150th anniversary year *with joyful expectation...*

- that God will lead St. John's into ministry we have not yet dreamed of or imagined...
- that God will deepen faith in us, our children and our children's children...
- that God will sustain us to continue to be "in the city" of Des Moines – and in the world "for good" – as witnesses to the Good News of God's love for all people.

When you receive your stewardship packet this month, it is our prayer that you will respond, as we have every reason to live: *with grateful hearts & joyful expectation!*

WHAT'S INSIDE

A Word from Our Pastors	2	Small Groups.....	6	Hospitality and Outreach &	
Church Council Update	3	In the City for Good	7	WELCA Update	9
Prepare for Worship	4	Children's Ministry	8	The Arts at St. John's	10
150th Anniversary.....	5			Youth Ministry	11

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

Darla Stiles
 Christian Involvement
 darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org

Patricia Stofferahn
 Lead Financial Assistant
 pstofferahn@stjohnsdsm.org

Mark Welsh
 Facilities Manager
 mark@stjohnsdsm.org

Deb Blume
 Eagle Call Copy Editor

Scott LaBlanc
 Eagle Call Editor & Designer

Office Hours:
 Monday – Thursday
 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 4:00 p.m. Friday



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

Dear Friends,

This is a story of generosity – the generosity of a congregation toward one of their children...

On Sept. 18, 1983, I was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the American Lutheran Church (a predecessor body of the ELCA). My ordination took place during Sunday morning worship in the church where I had been baptized, confirmed and married: Ullensvang Lutheran Church in Thor, IA. It was a beautiful fall Sunday, many members of my extended family were present, and friends from seminary had also come for the celebration. But there were tears in my eyes for most of the morning because just two months prior we had gathered in that same sanctuary for my mother's funeral. My dad's funeral had been five years before that. And I knew that I wasn't the only one carrying all the memories of those two saints, their living and their dying, into worship that day. The community was small, and the memories belonged to all of us. Mixed in with the tears of sorrow and joy, however, were also tears of gratitude – for the community I looked out upon that day was the community that had paid for my entire seminary education. They did it because I was one of their children. They trusted that God was calling me to serve as a pastor in the church – even though many of them did not support the ordination of women – and they responded with a faithful generosity that still amazes and astounds me. I tried to express my gratitude in my response to the congregation after I was ordained:

This is indeed a bittersweet day for me. It seems that so often what we do and work for in life, we do in large part for our parents. I miss my mother and father terribly today.

On two occasions in the past five and one-half years, my sister Anna and I have listened to doctors speak of our parents' illnesses in these awful words: "There is nothing more that we can do." We have cried many, many tears over those awful words.

Yet, it occurs to me that there is One who never says those words, that there is One who never closes the file and walks away. Our God is one who never says, "There is nothing more that I can do." Our God is one who has already done it all for us – with arms outstretched on a cross, embracing His creation. Our God is the one who holds the wondrous promise that even our last enemy, death itself, will not have us in the end.

We strain for glimpses of this God and God's kingdom in the lives that we live every day. And if our eyes are open and our senses sharp we will meet him... Jack and I have clearly seen this God of ours in all of you in these parishes. You have shown a never-failing faithfulness to us in these seminary years; yes, in matters of money, but in many other ways as well. You have never said to us, as we looked to you for support, "There is nothing more that we can do." We have seen Christ in you, and for that we are truly grateful...

In October, we have the joy of hosting both of our seminarians in worship – two weekends in a row! Many of you know them: Gemechisa Mosa, who is nearing the completion of his internship at St. John's through Wartburg Seminary, and Megan Clausen, our former director of youth ministries, now a second-year student at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. As a congregation, we are able to offer some – though not full – financial support to Geme and Megan through the Logan/Samuels/Biel Scholarship established years ago by forward-looking saints of St. John's. I am truly grateful that we have such a fund. But I also encourage you to follow the example of those farmers, retirees and small-business owners in Thor back in the early 80s. Participate in God's call to these two beloved members of our congregation through a gift to

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

the General Fund – marked “seminarians” – or to the Logan/Samuelson/Biel Fund in support of Geme, Megan and future seminarians from St. John's.

The world aches for the Good News of God's generous grace for all. We have, in our midst, two who will devote their lives to proclaiming this grace. Let us pray for them, love them, support them and rejoice with them as they respond to God's call. To do so is both a privilege and a joy!

Church Council Update

With Grateful Hearts and Joyful Expectation



I have been attending several 150th anniversary planning meetings over the past few weeks. Actually, my part is small, but it has been such a pleasure to see Jim Swanstrom, the chairperson of the committee, gather a group of talented people together to plan all the wonderful activities that

will help us celebrate. We will spend time looking back at our extensive history and looking forward to a promising future. We are going to enjoy many great events throughout the year!

As part of the 150th anniversary celebration, the church council wants to promote our role as stewards of all the gifts God has given us. Our theme is: **“With Grateful Hearts and Joyful Expectation”** These words come from the hymn commissioned for our 150th celebration.

It is fitting that we celebrate **“With Grateful Hearts”** the long history of St. John's. We have been **“in the city for good”** for 150 years. Our first location was the corner of Seventh and Sycamore (now Grand Ave.), and two churches have been home to us at this location, now called 600 Sixth Ave. We have been leaders in the Lutheran church by hosting church conferences; encouraging lay people into the ministry; supporting women as deaconesses and later as pastors; providing liturgical worship, and welcoming all people in the metro to worship together. Many of you have been members for much longer than I, so I love hearing the stories about previous pastors, youth groups, music events and outreach programs. It makes me proud to know our role in the city has always been strong, and our place in the church-wide assembly has always been significant.

It is also fitting that we hold **“Joyful Expectation”** for our future. This location gives our congregation the perfect opportunity

to live out God's mission to love and help everyone, including the needy and homeless people living around and among us. We are alive with energy – worship in heartfelt, music is inspiring; education is engaging; outreach is extensive and purposeful, and hospitality is warm and sincere. We are in a very good position to continue God's mission for us to bring the good news to the city through our words and action!

It is in this light that I share with you our stewardship emphasis for 2014. Our church is financially stable and attendance is growing. We have **many** active members offering their gifts of leading, teaching, sharing, cooking, helping, mentoring, listening, and so much more. It really is wonderful to have so many people engaged in all areas of ministry. Yet that is not enough. We are still too dependent on our Unendowed Fund (savings account) and the generous support from the St. John's Foundation to meet our annual needs.

We always need new leaders, mentors, teachers, musicians, readers and givers in all areas of our ministry. **We need you!** St. John's ministry cannot grow if we do not continue to support our daily needs for money and people. We are not taught to be satisfied with our personal comfort; from God we have received everything, and we are called to share our blessings. So wherever you are in your faith journey, consider how God is calling you to be involved in the ministry of the church.

Of course, I need to thank so many who continue to support our church! Our mission to feed others, open our doors to many groups and welcome new members does not stop. And I want to encourage all of us to keep our eyes and ears open to where God is calling us.

When you pick up your stewardship packet the weekend of Oct. 18-19 prayerfully consider how you are blessed by God. Then think about how you are involved in the mission of St. John's. Can you increase your support financially or with your time? What gifts can you share? Your gifts will be a blessing to our church and to God's desire for us to have **“With Grateful Hearts and Joyful Expectation”**.

Kris Gregersen
President, Congregational Council



SEND IN YOUR ST. JOHN'S PHOTOS

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

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, Oct. 5

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 27

In the gospel reading, Jesus tells a parable of the vineyard, an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread, that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

The readings are Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:7-15, Philip-
pians 3:4b-14 and Matthew 21:33-46. The hymns
are ELW 727, "Lord, Christ, When First You Came
to Earth," ELW 342, "There In God's Garden," and
ELW 826, "Thine the Amen." For offering Kisasa will
sing the American Spiritual, "Somebody's Knockin,'"
arranged by Ken Berg, and Cathedral Choir will sing
Michael Hassell's setting of "Jesus Loves Me" with
alto saxophone for communion.

Sunday, Oct. 12

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 28

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy, God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship, we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy, we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

The readings are Isaiah 25:1-9, Psalm 23, Philippians
4:1-9 and Matthew 22:1-14. The first two hymns have
a Latino/Latina source: ELW 486, "God Extends
an Invitation," and ELW 523, "Let Us Go Now to
the Banquet," and our final hymn, ELW 547, "Sent
Forth by God's Blessing," has a Welsh background.
For offering at 10 a.m., our Youth Handbell Choir
will play "Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown," a
traditional Scottish melody, and Cathedral Choir
will sing, "I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord," by
the contemporary American composer Carl Schalk.

Sunday, Oct. 19

Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 29

In today's first reading, God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give to the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

The readings are Isaiah 45:1-7, Psalm 96:1-13, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 and Matthew 22:15-22. The hymns are ELW 880, "O God Beyond All Praising," ELW 686, "We Give Thee but Thine Own," and ELW 705, "God of Grace and God of Glory." For offering the Adult Handbells will ring "Alleluia," by Brian Tervo. During communion the Cathedral Choir will sing "This Little Light of Mine" in a setting by Craig Carnahan. This weekend's services will also serve to introduce the fall stewardship emphasis.

Sunday, Oct. 26

Reformation Sunday

Confirmation at 10 a.m. Service

On Reformation Sunday we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ – the good news that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians also will be one at the Lord's Table.

The readings for Reformation Sunday are Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28 and John 8:31-36. The hymns will be ELW 729, "The Church of Christ, in Every Age," the Gospel Processional, ELW 513, "Listen, God Is Calling," ELW 652, "Built on a Rock," and ELW 627, "O Day Full of Grace." At 10 a.m. the Cathedral Choir and Kisasa will sing Paul D. Weber's arrangement of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." Also at the 10 a.m. service, we will affirm the baptisms of this year's confirmation class.



2013 Confirmands, photo by Jacque Warming

150th Anniversary



Anniversary Arts Opportunities for All

Weertz Hall Gallery Space

The St. John's 150th Anniversary celebration provides opportunities for all of us to contribute to the monthly exhibits in Weertz Hall. Please take a look at the list below and see where you fit in! All contributions are welcome, and we'll need your help to fill the space. Monetary contributions for framing, yarn and knitting needles, and additional exhibit supplies will also be accepted. For more information, please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

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

In collaboration with WELCA's June wedding celebration, photos of weddings that have taken place here at St. John's will be featured in the gallery space. All photos will be accepted: large or small, framed or not, digital or hard copy.

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

Names and contact information for former High School and Nexus Choir members Spread the word and help us locate former singers! Nexus singers are returning to reminisce about their days in the St. John's high school choir. A special anthem commissioned by Stacey B. Gibbs will be sung by reunion

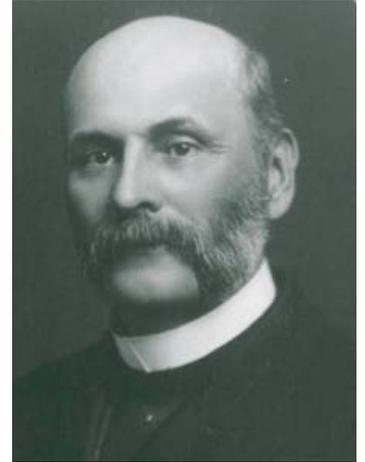
attendees during worship on Sunday, April 19. Reunion chairs: LaDonna Russell and Julie Lowe.

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 or instrumental ensembles. Liturgical dancers and visual artists also will be called upon to share in the celebration!

One of Our Many Beloved Pastors

Rev. John Adam Wirt, who served St. John's Lutheran from 1895 to 1908, still has a living descendent among us – lifetime member Virginia W. Deuben, who just celebrated her 100th birthday in 2013. Virginia's father, John Albert Wirt, was the youngest of the four sons of Rev. Wirt and his wife "Mattie."



Rev. Wirt was beloved by his congregation and the Des Moines community, who were shocked by his death the evening of Saturday, May 9, 1908. He had become ill with heart pain during his morning ritual of sawing wood. Rev. A. B. Leamer, president of the Iowa Synod and a good friend, later gave the sermon at his funeral.

"One of God's noble men, a good man, a sympathetic advisor, a true friend and devoted pastor has gone from us to that holy and grand reward that has been provided for all saints," Rev. Leamer began and then ended, "... as we drop our thoughts of love upon this life and lay our laurel of appreciation upon this casket, there is One above who has announced, 'Well done thou good and faithful servant.'"

Then the next day, as his casket was taken to the train station for the final ride to his hometown in Pennsylvania, a press account related, "While the thunder crashed and roared, while the lightning flashed and a torrent of rain and hail fell upon the earth, hundreds of friends ... escorted the remains of the minister to the depot ... There were sinners, some of them men and women who had not entered a church in years, who had come to honor the one man who had taken an interest in them and tried to lead them into cleaner lives."

Just one of the many St. John's pastors who was "in the city for good."

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.

WIRED Cooking: Thursday, Oct. 2, 6 to 8 p.m., focaccia-making, Cooking with Alessandra, 333 East Grand Ave., Ste. 103, Historic East Village (pre-registration required).

Yoga: Thursdays, Oct. 2 through Nov. 20, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge at church.

EAGLES: Friday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m., meet at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, 909 Robert D. Ray Dr., Des Moines.

Zumba: Still working out a day to meet; watch announcements for more information.

Mah Jongg: Mondays, Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27, 6 p.m. at church. Questions? Contact Darla Stiles (darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org).

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement: Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6 p.m., Cool Basil, Foursquare, 8801 University Ave., Ste. 22, Clive.

Hardanger: Tuesdays, Oct. 14 and 28, 11:30 a.m., Valbracht Room at church.

St. John's Social Club: Saturday, Oct. 25, 6 p.m., Oktoberfest at Hessen Haus, 101 Fourth St., Des Moines.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, Oct. 15, 12:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, Oct. 16, 11:30 a.m.

Photography: Sunday, Oct. 19, 11 a.m., Room 8 at church.

Recreational Reading: Wednesday, Oct. 22, 4:30 p.m., Rose Holm at church.

Scrapbooking: Saturday, Oct. 25, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Room 8 at church.

WIRED Retreat: Sunday, Oct. 26. Meet at church to leave by 9 a.m. for a 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. retreat at the Iowa Arboretum outside of Madrid.

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

Quilting continues to meet Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 308 on the third floor at church. Contact Dorothy Parry (255-6049).

Mah Jongg will meet Mondays, Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 6 p.m. in Neumann Hall at St. John's.

Zumba continues to look for a day that works for both the instructor and the St. John's schedule. Stay tuned.

Hardanger will meet Tuesdays, Oct. 14 and 28, at 11:30 a.m., Valbracht Room at church.

Lunch Bunch II will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 12:30 p.m. If interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg (279-6326).

Lunch Bunch I meets on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 11:30 a.m. New members are most welcome! If anyone is interested in joining the group, please call Barb Hyler (401-5721).

Photography will meet Sunday, Oct. 19, 11 a.m. in Room 8 at church. The theme for this month is open. Bring a couple of your favorite photos. "Night scenes" will be postponed until spring. All are welcome.

Recreational Reading will be meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm at church. The book we are reading and discussing is *A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power* by Jimmy Carter.

Scrapbooking will meet on Saturday, Oct. 25, between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. in Room 8 at church. Bring photos and materials or cards to work on and enjoy the fellowship of sharing projects. All are welcome.

St. John's Social Club will enjoy Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 25, at 6 p.m. at Hessen Haus, 101 Fourth St., Des Moines. Dinner and activities start at 6:30 p.m. RSVP to Mike (mike_hnn@yahoo.com) or Pam Hanna (pam_hnn@yahoo.com).

More Information on Above Events

Yoga will meet Thursdays, Oct. 2 through Nov. 20, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge at church. Cost is \$10 per class or \$70 for an 8-week session. If you are interested, contact Yoga instructor, Corinne Lambert (556-3679 or callingwisdom1@hotmail.com).

EAGLES will meet Friday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m., at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden to view the new outdoor garden as well as the revamped indoor garden. The group will enjoy lunch at Barattas following their Botanical browsing.

Continued on Page 7

Continued from Page 6



WIRED Cooking will learn to make focaccia on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. Meet at Cooking with Alessandra, 333 East Grand Ave., Ste. 103, Historic East Village. Only a limited number of people can take the class, so if you are interested, check with Carol Lunde (carollunde@q.com) as soon as possible.

WIRED Retreat is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Iowa Arboretum. Take the day for you! Spend the day in renewal, education and discovery in a beautiful natural setting. The theme is Extreme Self-Care and will include a chance to learn new things or get a refresher through gentle and nourishing Yoga, meditation, writing and drawing, and spending time in nature. We will cook lunch together and enjoy a wonderful community of women. Cost is \$40 (scholarships are available). Carpooling opportunities will leave the Des Moines area at 9 a.m. Signups will be Sundays, Oct. 5, 12 and 19, or you can let email Darla Stiles (darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org).



In the City - and World - For Good

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
the privilege is ours to share in the loving, healing,
reconciling mission of your Son Jesus Christ,
our Lord, in this age and wherever we are...
From "An African Prayer Book"*

It is true - as children of God, called to lives of joy-full service, "the privilege is ours to share in the loving..."! Please note the many ways that you can exercise such a privilege in a world so full of hurt:

We have the privilege of assisting the women and children from Central America who have made the arduous journey to the U.S. in search of safety and shelter. *Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service*, based in Baltimore, MD, is working to unite families, provide foster care for unaccompanied children, and advocate for justice in the halls of Congress. Financial contributions may be sent to the organization at *700 Light St., Baltimore, MD, 21230* or on-line at *www.lirs.org*.

We also have the privilege of caring for those wounded and traumatized by the August bombings of Gaza and those affected by the Ebola virus in West Africa through gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response of the ELCA. Financial contributions, marked for any of these on-going disasters, may be mailed to the *ELCA, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL, 60631* or made on-line at *www.elca.org*.

We had the privilege of contributing 6000+ diapers to the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry in August! When asked, you generously responded to this critical need in our city. Babies, mothers, fathers, and caregivers around the city thank you!

We have the privilege of daily tending to the emergency needs of our sisters and brothers - some you may know and some you will never meet - through our Good Samaritan Fund. Thank you for your generous, on-going support of this fund.

We have the privilege of starting a new project with our partners in the Mramba Lutheran Parish in Tanzania! On a recent visit there Carol Fisher, Chairperson of our Companion Parish Ministry Team, asked if the women of the Parish would like to learn to sew and sell school uniforms as an income generating project. The response was a resounding, joyful, "Yes!" The project is in its infancy, but will require support for the purchase of electric and treadle sewing machines and training from the village tailor...

And please remember the privilege that is ours as we provide meals - both at the Connection Café and Central Iowa Shelter & Services - to those who are hungry in Des Moines. Please continue to volunteer and pray for all who serve and receive these meals, and to advocate for our neighbors in need of employment, safe housing, and mental health care.

Children's Ministry



Each week a Family Page, with activities to enhance your child's learning at home, will be sent to your home via email. Please take a moment to ask your child what he or she learned in Sunday School and challenge your student to think how these lessons may be applied at home and in their community. These weekly lessons allow your children to continue to learn and grow in their knowledge of the Bible. They are encouraged to strive to live as God has commanded through opportunities in their everyday lives.

Time is taken each week in Sunday School to build relationships and strengthen our young community at St. John's. To take this one step farther again this year, the children will participate in a service project to aid others in need. More to come on this upcoming Children's Ministries service project!

Teachers Still Needed

We continue to need more volunteers to help our children grow in their faith. If you are interested in learning more about opportunities to teach or help with Sunday School, please contact Alicia Karwal (243-7691 or akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org).

First Communion Class

A First Communion Class will be offered for our Sunday school children on Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 8 (adjacent Weertz Fellowship Hall). Parents who are interested in having their child participate should register them by calling the church office (243-7691). If you have any questions regarding your child's participation, contact Pastor Bob Speirs (pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org or 243-7691).



Second Annual Beloved Community Halloween Event

On Wednesday, Oct. 29, children of ALL ages are invited to dress up for a special Beloved Community Halloween Event! The Beloved Community meal and worship will be held as usual at 5:30 p.m. in Weertz Fellowship Hall. The children will go to their regular locations for programming from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Then, beginning at 7 p.m., all children are invited to trick-or-treat in the church building. If you could donate peanut-free candy, small inexpensive trinkets, stickers, etc., for the children, please drop them off at the church front office. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

Also, volunteers are needed to hand out these goodies to our trick-or-treaters. If you would be willing to help, contact Alicia Karwal (akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org).

Sunday School Has Resumed!

Bible stories from the Old Testament and the New Testament will be explored in St. John's Sunday School classes throughout this program year.



Audio
Sermons

Now available at
stjohnsdsm.org or
subscribe on iTunes.

Hospitality & Outreach



A Method in My Madness

If you've noticed a theme in my past few articles, I thank you for your keen observation. If you haven't, no offense taken; I will just take this opportunity to explain my intent.

Recently I asked you to make a concerted effort to smile at others to create a tangible sense of greeting and friendship. Another time I highlighted a few (of the many) outreach and service ministries that are the backbone of our church community. Many of these efforts are so seamlessly met they maybe taken for granted or overlooked.

This Month St. John's will send you information relating to our annual stewardship endeavor. A church, like any living organism, has needs that must be met in order to thrive. That includes financial support, but equally essential is the involvement and participation of the people who comprise the church community, meaning all of you!

Included in the information you will receive is a sheet outlining various areas where volunteers are needed – sometimes desperately needed. Opportunities range wide. Some require physical capabilities, others simply your thoughts, insight and presence.

I think it may be human condition for a person to question these skills and/or abilities to participate in certain activities. Thoughts may include, "I'm not creative. I don't have the right skills. What do I have to offer?" Believe me, you have plenty to offer.

The other day I read, "God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called." Take a look at the Apostles, quite a motley crew. Yet, Jesus called them. During the past 2,000-plus years, people of all ages, education levels, economic status, race, color, etc., have served God faithfully by merely having a willing heart and hand. You have gifts God has given you. Don't deny or dismiss them.

And please don't assume others will step forward. A case in point: Recently in the *Eagle Call* and weekly announcements there was a plea for people to provide lunch twice a month for a small gathering here at church. No serving, no cleanup – simply drop off some food. Out of the hundreds of people who had an opportunity to see the notices, **two** people came forward.

To state it plainly – you are needed. I very respectfully ask that you prayerfully consider ways in which you could help. You will be a blessing to others, and you will be blessed. I guarantee it.

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." Hebrews 6:10

Women of the ELCA

Outreach Program for October

The Clothes Closet at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church is our outreach program for October. Clothing and household items are distributed free of charge to those in need. You may donate any clean used or new clothing, including underwear, shoes and boots. Personal care items of shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes as well as household items, such as sheets, blankets and bath linens, also are needed.



Thank you for all the September donations for the Children and Family Urban Ministries. The groups who we support are always grateful for the items we collect for them. Thanks to you.

WELCA Meetings

Sarah Group will meet on Thursday, Oct. 2, at 10 a.m. in Neumann Hall. Diana Sickles will speak about the Faith Garden and feeding the homeless.

Lois Group will meet Thursday, Oct. 2, at 12:30 p.m. in Neumann Hall. They will have worship and business meeting there. Then we will visit shut-in members by carpooling. Please join us.

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.

The Arts at St. John's

Midweek Music Begins Oct. 1

Please join us Wednesday, Oct. 1, as we open our Midweek Music Series anniversary season with our very own Asphalt & Stained Glass! Larry and crew are sure to get our toes tappin' and faces smilin'!

Each week, the 30-minute concert begins at 12:05 p.m. in the Sanctuary. It is free and open to the public. A light lunch, priced at \$6 per person, will be served in Weertz Hall at 12:35 p.m. Please join us!

A full Midweek Music Series schedule can be found on the Arts page of the St. John's website (www.stjohnsdsm.org). Our October performances are listed below.



Asphalt & Stained Glass, photo by Brent Isenberger

- Oct. 1 Asphalt & Stained Glass
- Oct. 8 Carol Palmer/Dan Chase/Francine Griffith
- Oct. 15 Opus 3 (Julie Murphy, Karla Killinger, Marie Eikenberry)
- Oct. 22 The Des Moines Tango Trio (Bruce Martin, Patrick Riley, Norman Sue)
- Oct. 29 Steve Kennedy, classical guitarist

Join a Group: Make Music and Friends

The U.S. Navy had the slogan, "Join the Navy; see the world." However, if you join a musical ensemble, the world comes to you! Music from around the world and through the centuries greets you every week, and you get to immerse yourself and swim in it. And you don't have to do it alone. You have no doubt heard the saying, "If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together." Music lets you travel with a crew of friendly and fascinating companions.

We have:

Vocal choirs: Cathedral Choir for high-school age through adult; Kisasa for third through sixth-grade children, and Joyful Noise for Kindergarten, first and second graders.

Handbell choirs: for adults, middle and high-school students; and Kisasa ringers for the third- through sixth-grade crowd.

Instrumental ensembles: String Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, Festival Orchestra and Blower Room Brass.

Do you play an instrument you think might not fit into one of the above ensembles? Say banjo, harmonic/blues harp, mountain dulcimer, hammered dulcimer, saxophone, electric guitar, acoustic guitar, bass guitar, hand percussion, Latin percussion, marimba, xylophone, vibes, penny whistle... each and every single one of those would be a treasured addition to the music ministry at St. John's.

Check out the St. John's website (www.stjohnsdsm.org) for more information, or contact Director of Worship and Music Larry Christensen (larryc@stjohnsdsm.org) or Director of Arts, Handbells and Youth Choirs Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

Kisasa Musicians Off to a Strong Start

Kisasa musicians started the year with momentum. Kisasa Day Camp, held in August, helped our new members become acquainted with each other, our routines and expectations. The campers learned a song that they sang in worship on Rally Sunday, and our first rehearsal on Wednesday, Sept. 10, was productive and enjoyable. The choir has grown this year, and we welcome our new friends to the fold.

All children Grades 3-6 are invited to join us as we sing, ring handbells, create visual art and make new friends. Rehearsals take place immediately after the Wednesday night Beloved Community dinner and worship (which starts at 5:30 p.m.). Kisasa presents music in worship once or twice each month. For more information, contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

Handbell Choirs in Full Gear

The three handbell choirs at St. John's are back in the swing of things. In fact, the Adult Handbell Choir was invited to perform for an AGO (American Guild of Organists) event held at St. John's on Monday, Sept. 29. With the upcoming 150th anniversary celebration, our schedule this year is ambitious, and ringers are working on beautiful music to help support the liturgy and the seasons. There's always room for more ringers!

Adult rehearsals are held Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Youth in Grades 7-12 rehearse Sunday mornings at 8:45 p.m. Children in Grades 3- 6 rehearse on Wednesdays as part of the Kisasa curriculum. For more information, contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

October Artist of the Month: Saturday Sketch Club



Originally started 65 years ago by two Des Moines-area art professors and some Des Moines Register newspaper employees, this group of men would meet on Saturday afternoon someplace outdoors to draw and paint. In 1979, the group was opened to women. Each Saturday, the members gather in a parking lot at 9:30 a.m., decide where to go and drive there. The group is pleasantly informal, and there are no rules.

The Saturday Sketch Club artists represent a wide cross-section of occupations and retirees, including attorneys, nurses and architects. Some have been creating art for years while others are just starting out, but they are all enthusiastic. The artists have exhibited widely throughout Iowa as individual artists and collectively.

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.



Youth Ministry

YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

High School Youth Group: Sundays, 11:30 to 1:30 p.m., third-floor Do Drop Inn (DDI). Lunch included! Grades 9-12.

Controversial Movie Night: Sat., Oct. 4 (always first Saturday of month), 6 p.m., third-floor DDI. Gathering ends 20 minutes after movie's end. Grades 9-12.

Confirmation: Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. Starts in Weertz Fellowship Hall; ends in third-floor Multi-Purpose Room (MPR). Grades 7-9.

Breakfast Club: Sundays, 8:45 to 9:45 p.m., DDI on third floor. Breakfast snacks included! Grades 7-9.

Office Hours at Smokey Row: Tuesdays, 3 to 5 p.m., Smokey Row. All are welcome!

Fall Confirmation Retreat at Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp: Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10-11. Grades 7-10.

ELCA National Youth Gathering Detroit, MI July 15-19, 2015

Be sure to put this on your calendars because it's **only held once every three years**: the next ELCA Youth Gathering will be Wednesday through Sunday, July 15-19, 2015, in Detroit, MI! The five-day gathering features opportunities for faith formation, worship, study, fellowship, service and play. For high-school-aged youth who share a common commitment and faith in Christ, the event will include closes to 40,000 peers from across the United States and the world.



St. John's Youth traveled to New Orleans three years ago for the last youth gathering, and we plan to travel to Detroit for this summer's event! During our days there we will explore and strengthen our faith by studying God's word, serving our neighbor, sharing bread and wine in worship, and participating in lively faith discussions. We will return to Des Moines with new friends and a broadened understanding of this diverse and beautiful world!

If you would like to learn more about this unique experience, contact Pastor Bob Speirs (pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org) or Director of Youth Ministry Noah Niermann (noah@stjohnsdsm.org). Or call one of them at the church (243-7691).

October 2014
Volume 46, No. 10

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, October 20.

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!