

# the Eagle Call

Volume 46, Number 11 | November 2014



Confirmation Class of 1926

Confirmation Class of 2012

## Worship

### Saturday

5:00 pm

### Sunday

8:00 am  
10:00 am

### Radio Broadcast

KRNT 1350 AM  
Sunday Mornings  
8:30 am

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stjohnsdsm.org

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

In 1865:

- Iowa celebrated 19 years of statehood.
- Polk County had a population of 16,473.
- Des Moines was a 16-year-old teen-ager.
- ...and St. John's Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA, was founded!

An astounding 150 years later St. John's continues to be in the city for good and ready to celebrate this amazing birthday! Mark your calendars and invite your friends, neighbors, and family.

All aspects of our heritage will be included in the 150th celebration starting now and continuing into 2015. For example:

- A "living" timeline
- Specially-commissioned music
- Nexus choir reunion
- Visits by former pastors
- Special displays in the Weertz Hall gallery
- Performance by the Wartburg College Choir
- Concerts by former organists
- Global missions display
- Special memorabilia
- AND...a banquet at the Iowa Events Center with special guest ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton!

These are just a portion of the many opportunities to recognize where we have been, where we are, and where we are going as a center for mission in the heart of the city. Happy 150th, St. John's!

The November 2nd Gospel Brunch is just the beginning. To find out about upcoming events follow the Eagle Call, weekly announcements, signage, and <http://www.stjohnsdsm.org>.

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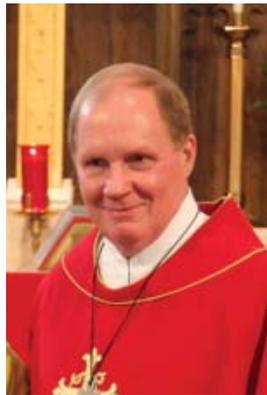
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## A Word from Our Pastors

by Pastor Bob Speirs

*For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the things for which I sent it. - Isaiah 55:10-11*

As I write this article, our St. John's Faith Garden Team has just concluded and celebrated another faithful (and successful) season of planting, tending and harvesting the produce of our Faith Garden. Over the course of the past several months, more than 800 pounds of fresh vegetables have been brought to the Des Moines Area Religious Council's Food Pantry to be shared with those who depend on the food pantry system here in Des Moines for a part of their week-to-week, month-to-month nutritional needs. I like to think of this garden ministry as "Faith in Action" or putting the Gospel into a visible expression of the Good News of Jesus Christ that we proclaim for the benefit and wellbeing of our neighbors, those we are called to love and serve.

On Reformation Sunday, after years of Sunday School classes, a three-year course of Confirmation study, retreats, mission trips, being present at worship and actively participating in the life of this faith community, seven of our young people made a public affirmation of the baptismal promises that their parents made for them as infants. By making this public declaration of their faith, they now have taken on a greater role and commitment to grow in their life of faith, the church and especially in their relationship with Jesus Christ. At their baptisms, we as a people of God promised to pray for and support them and their families, as they began their lives of faith. We have been faithful and lived out this promise to these young people in many and marvelous ways, yet these do not end at their confirmation. It is an ongoing commitment of love in our life together as a community of faith.

Over the past month, we at St. John's have been privileged to have both of our Seminarians, Gemechisa Mosa and Megan Clausen, who we support financially, prayerfully and with great hope and encouragement, present with us and to preach, teach and keep us up-to-date on their Seminary studies and progress. We have heard the Gospel articulated in our worship services in a very clear and faithful way by both Gemechisa and Megan. It is good to see and hear that they're both doing so well. As someone who has been a recipient of the generosity and great love of several congregations in my own life, both in the past and present, I think our support for both Gemechisa and Megan is a clear and tangible expression of our hope, faith and understanding of what we are called to do as Christ's presence in the world, in this place and at this time.

November is the month in which we Americans celebrate the day called Thanksgiving. Yet for us as a people of faith, who are loved, cared for and sustained by God each and every day of our lives, we know that Thanksgiving is an ongoing celebration of gratefulness, day in and day out, for the abundance we have received ourselves and for the opportunities we have been given to love and serve our brothers and sisters in this world ... those who need our help.

As you can see from some of the ministries I have mentioned above (and there are more, many more), what we do for our families, friends and neighbors matters

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and is a wonderful, significant representation of what we believe and who we follow and worship, Jesus Christ our Savior.

As you consider the present time and with an eye to the future, it is a great moment to be in prayer to discern and ask ourselves how each and every one of us can continue to share our time, talents and, yes, our financial resources to help our congregation of St. John's – this community we have come to love – to continue to grow and be about the amazing ministry which we have been and still are involved with for 149 years...

I thank you for your consideration, and for the remarkable work you do for all God's people. †

## In the City – and the World – For Good!

by Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

*"I'd been raised to reject religion, but I was finding that people often wanted more of it than the church was willing to give: more sacraments, more rites, more prayer and healing and blessing. Those desires of people formally outside the system of religion could be a force transforming the people inside, just as the visitors to our food pantry were transforming St. Gregory's..."*  
- from *Take This Bread* by Sara Miles

As we begin our 150th year of life in the heart of the city of Des Moines, we pray to be transformed into a community always willing to give more – more love, healing and blessing to our neighbors in need. Below, find gratitude for your generosity and ways to participate in sharing God's love with others.

- **The St. John's Faith Garden has been "put to bed" for the winter** after producing 800-plus pounds of food for the Des Moines Area Religious Council Emergency Food Pantry!! Our thanks to the Faith Garden teams and to the Speirs family for the donation of land.
- **Thanks for your consistent support of the evening meals at Central Iowa Shelter & Services!** The sign-up sheets are posted in the Narthex for three weeks prior to our serving days – the 18th and 19th of each month. It is not a requirement that you sign up only at the last minute :)
- **There are changes ahead for the Connection Café, the free noon meal program we sponsor in partnership with St. Paul's, St. Ambrose and First United Methodist.** By the second quarter of 2015, the Café will vacate its space at Seventh and Grand and operate out of St. Paul's and St. John's on a two-month rotating schedule. Our Congregational Council has approved this relocation, and a task force of members from both churches is working on the details involved.
- **The onsite classes for the After School Arts Program (ASAP) began on Tuesday, Oct. 21!** Deanna Axness is the new program coordinator for the St. John's site, and Michelle Bolton King continues as the executive director of ASAP. Volunteers willing to support children as they discover their creative gifts are always needed, as well as funding to support this amazing effort. ASAP now connects 800 students each school year with teaching artists in studios ranging from ceramics to dance and more! Learn more at [www.asap-dsm.org](http://www.asap-dsm.org).

- **The Saturday Children's Club in Mramba Parish – our companion congregation in Tanzania – is flourishing!** Several children are taking their exams this fall, hoping to join the eight other students who already have moved ahead to Secondary School. Please remember these children – as well as our own children and youth – in your daily prayers.
- **You can contribute to ministry in Ebola-stricken countries in West Africa** through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). Grants are made available to agencies "on the ground" through the ELCA Disaster Fund. You can give through St. John's or directly to the ELCA. More information is available at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

Thank you for your gracious and generous love of neighbors near and far! †

## Update from the Connection Café

Below is a letter sent to Pastor Rachel from Cynthia Morton and the Bridge Board.

The Bridge Board members would like to share a really great story that has resulted in a generous contribution to the Mission of Your Church and The Bridge / Connection Café. During family gatherings, Chris Rohwer and his wife would share stories about how Connection Café was helping individuals in need in downtown Des Moines. One of the family members, James Matulef, a hard working gentleman, who once owned the Fine Food store in the Roosevelt area, listened to these conversations. Upon Mr. Matulef's death the family found that he had designated not only Connection Café, but a number of other organizations with generous gifts.



This gift will certainly help to maintain our Mission of serving the hungry in the downtown area as we watch the landscape change within the city. Within the next year we will examine any and all opportunities to continue this important service to our guests at the Connection Café.

This is what we learned from this gift: listen to the conversations around you and you may learn something amazing that will help hundreds of people.

Thanks to you and your Congregation for keeping up the conversations about the Café. †

## Prepare for Worship

by Larry Christensen

### Sunday, Nov. 2

#### All Saints – Beginning of 150th Anniversary Year

*All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the land in our part of the world, the readings and liturgy call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. At the Lord's Table we gather with the faithful of every time and place, trusting that the promises of God will be fulfilled and that all tears will be wiped away in the new Jerusalem. At St. John's this All Saints, we especially rejoice in the memory of those who preceded us over the past 150 years of mission and ministry in Des Moines.*



The readings are Revelation 7:9-17, Psalm 34:1-10, 22, 1 John 3:1-3 and Matthew 5:1-12. Prayers will be offered and bells chimed at the Thanksgiving for Baptism for those baptized at St. John's in the past year. Later, during the intercessory prayers of the church, the names of all those members who have died since All Saints Day 2013 will be read as a bell is tolled.

The hymns will be ELW 422, "For All the Saints," ELW 632, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," and a new hymn, "Our Grateful Hearts We Lift in Praise," with words and music by Michael Costello, who was commissioned by St. John's to celebrate our 150th anniversary year. The offering music will be "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God," in an arrangement by Larry Christensen for Kisasa, Cathedral Choir, Handbells and Orff instruments. The communion music will be "How Lovely is Your Dwelling Place," by Johannes Brahms from his German Requiem and presented by our Cathedral Choir and Festival Orchestra. The postlude will be a rousing rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In" to accompany us as we move into the world and some of us across the street to the Scottish Rite Consistory for our celebratory Gospel Brunch!

### Sunday, Nov. 9

#### Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 32

*Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory – the marriage feast of the lamb.*

The readings are Amos 5:18-24, Psalm 70, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Matthew 25:1-13. Since the lectionary readings have a distinctly Advent feeling, the hymns and other music also may make you think of their more typical use in Advent. The hymns will be ELW 625, "Come, We That Love the Lord," ELW 244, "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers," and ELW 439, "Soon and Very Soon." In place of the psalm at 10 a.m., Asphalt & Stained Glass will lead the assembly in "Let Justice Roll

Like a River," by Marty Haugen. For the prelude at 10 a.m., Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra will do the first movement of "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme," by J.S. Bach from cantata BWV 140. It will be sung in English, but if you do not know what that German title means, it is the same as the Cathedral Choir piece for communion, "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying," by F.M. Christiansen. For offering, the Adult Handbell Choir will ring "Kyrie" by Cathy Moglebust.

### Sunday, Nov. 16

#### Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 33

*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope – word, water, bread and wine – eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming amongst us.*

The readings are Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18, Psalm 90:1-12, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 and Matthew 25:14-30. The hymns will be ELW 688, "Lord of Light," ELW 715, "Christ, Be Our Light," and ELW 441, "Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand." For offering, Cathedral Choir will sing Moses Hogan's arrangement of "My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord," and the Youth Handbell Choir will ring during communion.

### Sunday, Nov. 23

#### Christ the King Sunday

*On this final Sunday of the church year, our gospel is Jesus' story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick or estranged. In the first reading, God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.*



Our readings for Christ the King Sunday are Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 95:1-7a, Ephesians 1:15-23 and Matthew 25:31-46. St. John's also will be lifting up Global Missions and our Companion Parish in a special emphasis, so our hymns and other music reflect those themes. The hymns will be ELW 875, "Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord!" traditional Cameroon, ELW 872, "Praise Ye the Lord," ELW 869, "We Have Seen the Lord," traditional Tanzanian, and ELW 434, "Jesus Shall Reign." The Gospel processional will be "Alleluia Verse in African Style," by Mark Sedio. For offering Kisasa Handbells will ring "Leap of Faith," by Kath Wissinger. Offering music will be provided by Cathedral Choir: "Heri Ni Jina" and "Yesu Ni Mtakatifu" both by Deogratias Mahamba, edited by Mark Sedio.

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## Thursday, Nov. 27 10 a.m. Worship Service - National Day of Thanksgiving

At harvest time, we join the psalmist in offering thanksgiving to God: "You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths overflow with plenty." We are grateful for the abundance of the good things of God's creation. Paul reminds us that our thanksgiving overflows into generosity. As the body of Christ in the world, we give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

The readings are Deuteronomy 8:7-18, Psalm 65, 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 and Luke 17:11-19.

## Sunday, Nov. 30 First Sunday of Advent

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save and to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come with love, mercy and healing for all people.



The readings are Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 and Mark 13:24-37. The assembly's songs will be "We Are Waiting," by William T. Paxson, ELW 438, "My Lord, What a Morning," and ELW 439, "Soon and Very Soon." Cathedral Choir will sing "Soon in the Morning," by David Maddux for offering, and "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come," by Paul Manz for communion. †

## November is National Adoption Month

Article provided by Joyce Williams of Lutheran Services in Iowa

November is National Adoption Month, a time to celebrate the power of adoption and to raise awareness about children waiting to be adopted into a forever family.

Nationally, there are more than 101,000 children waiting to be adopted from the U.S. foster care system. LSI is a partner agency in Iowa Kids-Net, the statewide collaboration of agencies that helps find safe homes for foster children, and LSI foster care and post-adoption support staff are helping families every day to care for children in the foster care system, whether for a few days or for a lifetime through adoption.

Thank you for being a partner in helping Iowa children feel safe, secure and loved during difficult times!

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

## A Note of Thanks

by Leslie and Ann Moleller



### Letter to Our St. John's Family:

In 2001 our family was devastated by the news that RR Donnelley was closing their Des Moines plant. Leslie had worked for RR Donnelley (formerly Meredith Corporation and Meredith/Burda) from the time he was 19 years old. He would be approaching his 50th birthday when the plant closed and was just one month shy of being eligible for full retirement.

In August of 2002 Leslie began his journey as a St. John's employee, thanks to the efforts of several people, notably Pastor Roy Nilsen, Ruth Bloxham and Wayne Erickson. Leslie, having been a member since 1976 (just prior to our wedding), already felt like St. John's was home.

We have seen many changes over the years (Ann is a lifelong member). One thing that has remained constant, however, is the love, friendship and support of our St. John's family. We give thanks and praise God and feel so blessed to be part of this beloved community.

For all the years of support you have shown our family, and especially Leslie, we are truly grateful. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the St. John's Council, the staff and the congregation for the very generous gift that you gave us at Leslie's reception. We are humbled and overwhelmed by your kindness. Thanks also to all who were able to join us Sunday. Your presence meant so much.

God's blessings. †

## Small Groups

by Darla Stiles

### Upcoming Events

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

**Yoga:** Thursdays through Nov. 20, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge.

**Mah Jongg:** Mondays, Nov. 3, 10, 17 and 24, 6 p.m. at church. Contact Darla Stiles ([darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org)).

**Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement:** Tuesday, Nov. 4, 6 p.m., Jethro's BBQ 'n Jambalaya, 9350 University Ave., Waukee.

**WIRED Night Out:** Thursday, Nov. 6, 6 p.m., home of Darla Stiles, 3812 Green Branch Dr., West Des Moines.

**Hardanger:** Tuesdays, Nov. 11 and 25, 11:30 a.m., Valbracht Gallery at church.

**EAGLES:** Date to be announced; game day at church.

**St. John's Social Club:** Saturday, Nov. 15, 4 p.m., Movie Night, Fleur Cinema, 4545 Fleur Dr., Des Moines; followed by dinner at Baratta's Italian Restaurant, 2320 South Union, Des Moines.

**Photography:** Sunday, Nov. 16, 11 a.m., Neumann Hall at church.

**Lunch Bunch II:** Wednesday, Nov. 19, 12:30 p.m.

**Recreational Reading:** Wednesday, Nov. 19, 4:30 p.m., Rose Holm Room at church.

**Lunch Bunch I:** Thursday, Nov. 20, 11:30 a.m.

**Scrapbooking:** Saturday, Nov. 22, between 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Room 8 at church.

*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](http://www.stjohnsdsm.org/news)*

### More Information

**Yoga** will continue on Thursdays through Nov. 20 from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at church. The cost is \$10 per class. If you are interested, contact the yoga instructor, Corinne Lambert (556-3679 or [callingwisdom1@hotmail.com](mailto:callingwisdom1@hotmail.com)).

**EAGLES** will gather in November for a game day. Watch for more information.

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

**Mah Jongg** will meet Mondays, Nov. 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 6 p.m. at St. John's in Neumann Hall.

**WIRED Night Out** will meet on Thursday, Nov. 6, at 6 p.m. at the home of Darla Stiles. Bring a recipe from Pinterest that you've wanted to try (or from any magazine, online website, etc.) It will be a "testing and tasting" evening. RSVP to Darla Stiles at [darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org) 225-3499 or Jacque Warming at [jrwarming@msn.com](mailto:jrwarming@msn.com).

**Hardanger** will meet Tuesdays, Nov. 11 and 25, at 11:30 a.m. in Valbracht Gallery.

**St. John's Social Club** will enjoy a movie on Saturday, Nov. 15, around 4 p.m. at the Fleur Cinema followed by dinner at Baratta's about 6:30 p.m. (We have to wait until a week before to find out what movies are there so the time might vary slightly, but we will let you know the time and the movie by e-mail.) If you plan to attend, contact Mary Miller at [mmiller588@aol.com](mailto:mmiller588@aol.com).

**Photography** will meet on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 11 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church. The theme is "children in action" this month. Bring a couple of photos to share. All are welcome.

**Recreational Reading** will be meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 19, 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm Room at church. The book to read and discuss is *The Prisoner of Heaven* by Carlos Ruiz Zafon.

**Lunch Bunch II** will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg at 279-6326.

**Lunch Bunch I** meets on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 11:30 a.m. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please call Barb Hyler. New members are most welcome!

**Scrapbooking** will meet on Saturday, Nov. 22, 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. Everyone is welcome. †

## A Special Request

by Jacque Warming

### Please join us for a "Fill the Sanctuary" Photo!

In connection with our 150th Anniversary Celebration, we would like to take a "Fill the Sanctuary" photograph. On Sunday, Nov. 23, we want to see how many people we can get into the front of the Sanctuary.

There will be two or three cameras in the Choir Loft to take a picture that we will use throughout the year. If you have family in town for the Thanksgiving holiday, bring them. We plan to do this right after the 10 a.m. service. †



## Global Mission

by Phyllis Olson

### Fair Trade Market Nov. 22-23

Start your Christmas shopping early at the Global Mission Ministry Team's Fair Trade Market on Mission Weekend, Nov. 22-23, in the West Lounge. When you buy items from the Fair Trade Market not only are you purchasing a gift for yourself, family or friends, but also a gift for the low-income artisan who crafted your product. With this, you have the opportunity to change lives for the better, help someone physically or emotionally or help send children to school.

Worldly Goods in Ames is assisting the Global Mission Ministry Team with inventory for the market. Items will be available for sale before and after the Saturday, Nov. 22, evening service and on Sunday morning, Nov. 23, from 8 a.m. to noon. A large assortment of items will be available: jewelry, scarves, handbags, ornaments, baskets, wooden boxes and trays. Each handcrafted item is guaranteed as authentic and individually made.

So bring your cash, checkbook or credit card to church the weekend of Nov. 22-23, so you can get your Christmas shopping done.

### Quilting Bees

Quilting Bees will again be held once a month on Saturday mornings from 9 to noon in order to make quilts for the Lutheran World Relief Quilt Mission. The first quilting bee will be Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to noon in Weertz Hall.

During this first meeting, we will cut and package quilt squares. If you have material, and you want to get started early at home, you can cut 5 ½-inch, 10 ½-inch and 20 ½-inch squares. Our first meeting requires no sewing ability. All you need to be able to do is use a pair of scissors and a ruler or template. We welcome anyone who wants to help.

Our other quilting bee dates scheduled so far are: Saturday, Dec. 13, and Saturday, Jan. 10. If you need more information, contact Mary Liechty (326-2737). †

## Women of the ELCA

Information provided by members of WELCA

### November Group Meetings

Sarah Group will meet Thursday, Nov. 6, at 10 a.m. in Neumann Hall. Phyllis Olson will speak about and show photos of her recent trip to Mramba Parish in Tanzania.

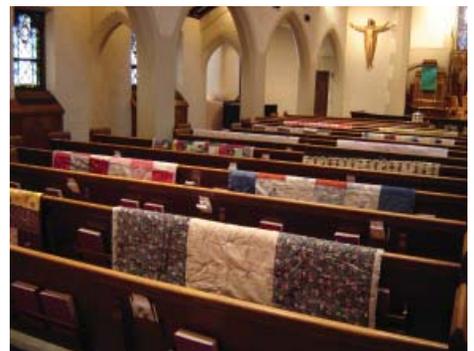
Lois Group will meet Thursday, Nov. 6, at 12:30 p.m. in Neumann Hall. The program is "Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality," presented by Judy Munger.

### November Outreach Project

During the month of November, our outreach project will be Meals in a Bag. Grocery bags with recipes attached will be handed out to you. We ask that you purchase the nonperishable items in

the recipe and return the bag to St John's. These bags then will be donated to the Des Moines Area Religious Council for their distribution.

This is a big THANK YOU for an overwhelming number of items that were donated to the Clothes Closet at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church last month. There was clothing for all ages and many household items and toys. Capitol Hill Lutheran Church extends their thanks to you as well.



## The Mitten Tree

by Margaret Townsend

The Mitten Tree will be up by the end of November for your gifts of gloves, mittens, scarves and hats. These donations are delivered to schools and shelters in January. Adult men's gloves are especially needed for the shelters. †



## Children's Ministry

by Alicia Karwal

### Tree of Gratitude Returns

During the month of November, Sunday School classes will spend time discussing what it means to be grateful. Children will reflect on the good in their own lives and how they might share their gifts with others. One way that the children will demonstrate their gratitude is by recording what they are most thankful for on a leaf that will then be hung on our "Tree of Gratitude." Each child will be invited to contribute a leaf to the tree. The tree will be displayed in Fireside Lounge on the Children's Ministries bulletin board during the latter half of November.

### A Healthy Breakfast for All!

Children's Ministries at St. John's will be participating in a service project as we collaborate once again with the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC). This year, our goal is to help all children have a healthy start to their day!



The children of St. John's are invited to participate by donating coins to their Sunday School class "milk jar" located in each classroom. The money collected will go toward providing nutritious breakfast cereals to local families in need. A&E Dairy generously donates milk to DMARC on a weekly basis and we can help ensure that the children have healthy and needed cereal to go with that milk! Each class will have their own milk jar to fill. The total jars filled by each class will be calculated and charted as we go to keep the children motivated. This project will begin on Sunday, November 2 and will continue throughout the remainder of our program year. This wonderful opportunity allows our children to share with those in our very own community and to demonstrate caring for all people.

### Upcoming Events for Children's Ministries at SJLC:

- Rehearsals for The Advent Program will begin on November 16th during the Sunday School hour for 1st-6th grades. We will meet in room 307. The three year old, preschool, and kindergarten classes will meet as usual in their assigned classrooms, rehearsing during their normally scheduled music time at the end of the Sunday School hour.
- A final rehearsal for The Advent Program will be held Saturday, December 13th from 9:00-10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary for 1st-6th grades.
- The Advent Program will be held Sunday, December 14 at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary with a reception in Fireside Lounge following the 10:00 a.m. service. We hope you will be able to celebrate with us! †

## Youth Ministry

by Noah Niermann

### You Belong to Christ, in Whom You Have Been Baptized. Alleluia!

On Reformation Sunday, seven of our young people stood before the congregation and made a public affirmation of their baptism. They affirmed the gift of new life through Christ — a gift that will never leave them. And, in response to that gift, they made the same promises that we all once made.

They promised: "to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people following the example of Jesus, and to strive for Justice and Peace in all the earth." This is not an easy promise. Please continue to lift up these young people, encourage them, support them, and walk with them through the joys and sorrows of their lives. We affirm our baptism publicly and in community for a reason. Faith is not something we do alone. Thanks be to God.

Our 2014 Confirmands are: Ellen Reed, Grace Moeller, Connor Johnson, Arthur Finney, Aidan Speirs, Nathan Reyes and Ben Mowitz.



### 150 Envelopes

This November, start looking for a small display of envelopes in the Fireside Lounge. There will be 150 of them to correspond with our 150th Anniversary. But, more importantly, there are 150 of them because we are celebrating our youth and young people throughout our church's long history!

Each envelope will hold a story, a picture, or a prayer that connects us to our young people throughout the years. We ask that you take an envelope, enjoy what you find inside, and return the envelope with the dollar amount that corresponds to the number on the envelope that you chose. This is a fundraiser for our young people and our youth programs. It is also a celebration of our past and present, and it is a prayer for our future. Thank you!

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## Reggie's Sleepout

On Saturday, Nov. 8 a small contingent of our young people will join with hundreds of other supporters to spend the night outside at Drake Stadium. Our goal is to raise money and awareness for homeless youth in Iowa.

The organization that hosts this fundraiser is Iowa Homeless Youth Centers. The money we raise goes toward education, job training, food assistance, child care, mental health services, housing and much more. If you're reading this before Nov. 8, please consider making a donation through our St. John's Social Ministry Team, which supports these needed services.

If you're reading this article after Nov. 8, please ask our young people what they have learned about homeless youth in Iowa. Thank you! †

## Companion Parish News

*by Carol Fisher (Mama Carol)*

### Mramba Women's Sewing Group

Before we left for Mramba earlier this year, I e-mailed Ched, our colleague in Mramba, and told him I had an idea for the village women to earn a little money and asked him to arrange a meeting after church while we were there. Those of us who have traveled to Mramba know the men always seem to "run" the entire five days of our visit. Even though in the past we have asked to meet with the women, it just doesn't seem to work out.

This trip I had a Plan A and Plan B. (I was determined.) Plan A was to meet with the women after Church; Plan B was to gather three or four women and my interpreter and walk down the mountain to find a place we could sit and chat amongst the rocks and flowers. I was on a mission! To my amazement, Plan A worked; 17 women came to the meeting plus 10 more were interested but had to go home and feed their children lunch. The women were ready to talk about "earning money."

I explained that I was thinking about a project for the women villagers to sew uniforms for the school children

and the Children's Club. We would purchase 50 uniforms from them for the Children's Club and Government School. They could also sew uniforms for children in the seven other schools in the village. This would be their project to manage as they choose. They were so very excited, they clapped and cheered – someone believed in them. One woman spoke up and thought they should have a chairwoman for the group. After a two-minute discussion, Mary Semboja was named chairwoman of the Women's Sewing Group. It was official.

I went on to explain my not-so-fancy plan. We would purchase sewing machines for them and hire a village tailor for training. They would have a building or room just for the sewing project. The women decided it should be away from the church, in a centrally located area for them. They wanted both electric and treadle sewing machines so they could continue to sew even when the electricity was out. They also decided 10 women should be trained first, and they in turn would train the others. Indeed, they were already busy making decisions.

I suggested they charge 7,000 shillings (about \$4.35) for a shirt and pants or skirt – 3,500 would go to the "bank" for running the business, and 3,500 shillings would go to the seamstress for her labor. It was their choice how much time they would spend on the sewing.

The place erupted with cheering, clapping, African whistling, and a few were so overcome they slumped down in the pew and simply sobbed. One woman remarked, "We never get anything." Another shouted: "Now we can feed our children!" A third cried, "God has sent you to us. Thank you!" It was difficult for them to believe this project was only for them. There would be no men in the group ... that decision was made by Mama Carol.

After our farewell dinner on Monday evening, Mary, Sifaeli and Maria took me aside and told me they were going to teach the girls in the Children's Club to sew. The women knew it was important for the girls to learn a skill. Already, progress was being made. †



*Mary Semboja and Carol Fisher meeting in Mramba.*

## Hospitality & Outreach

by Katie Tippins

### "May You Live in a Time of Transition"

For as long as I can remember, I've been told the above phrase is considered a curse. And, for many years, I've been a living example. I always seem to look upon change with fear and trepidation. Just as I would settle into comfort and routine, I'd be shaken to my core and life would be disrupted ... again.

My most recent earthquake was about a year ago, when I moved from my home of 20-plus years in Des Moines to a condominium in Ankeny. I did not go quietly, although I did go. Leaving the home where I'd raised my children and my familiar neighborhood was frightening. Major down-sizing left me reeling. Tokens of their childhood and items from my parent's home finally had to be chosen from and decided upon. What stays and what goes?

Then just to make life interesting, my daughter set her wedding date for five days after my move – and all the way over in Ohio! It's not like any of this was a surprise. The move had been in the planning stages for months as had the wedding. Circumstances beyond our control left both events occurring within the same week. We survived, and all is well. In fact, it's better than well. I really like my new home, and Sara and Patrick are enjoying married life.

I've reflected on why I look upon change as the enemy. Basically, I'm a coward. But when I actually pause and review, I know all change in my life has been for the better. Oh, I didn't realize it as it occurred, but history taught me that God's hand was in on it every time. I'm not talking obvious life-forwarding events like marriage, births, new job, new friends, etc. I'm speaking of life-altering, don't-want-this-to-happen-to-me occurrences – divorce, lost home, lost jobs, lost friends.

This also leads me to ponder the era in which we all live – the changes, choices, fast-paced, make-a-quick-decision-and-live-with-it-world that we inhabit. Maybe a minor, but prime case in point: If your phone is two months old, it's a dinosaur and you need a new one – one that will make your life easier and more manageable, provided you can figure out how to operate it.

But I would rather look at the human and soul side of our world. There is no lack of change or transition in that realm either, but I am now choosing to be continuously aware of God's presence within those transitions. For example, I still grieve the loss of my parents. They both passed within

the past 15 years. Even as an adult I couldn't imagine my life without them. After the initial shock, however, I knew my mother was again whole. She conquered Alzheimer's the only way she could. My father's 92-year-old body had survived 33 surgeries in this lifetime; he is now healthy and pain-free. And I know my parents watch over me and my children, as evidenced by some close calls we have each experienced. And I KNOW I will be with them again one day.

And, speaking of transitions, if it weren't for change I wouldn't have my granddaughter, Adeline who is my heart.

Similar scenarios play out in your lives – and in the grand-life scale of St. John's. We are coming upon a year-long celebration of 150 years. Wow! Think of the hundreds of thousands of souls who have worshipped, celebrated, grieved and supported one another over that time. Some have been itinerant travelers, others were predecessors of some of you who helped build, not only the building, but the Spirit within. God's hand has been on each and every one of them ... and every one of us.

Life may be more predictable and less painful without change. But the pain that we would have wouldn't have transcended to joy, and we wouldn't have expanded our hearts to include the love of new family and friends. And I don't mean merely our family of origin, I include all the saints in our Saint John's family – those who are with us to celebrate this anniversary and those who have gone on ahead. They will lead the celebration from the best seats in the house ... at the right hand of God. †

## Photos of the Month



Distribution of bibles to our youth on Rally Sunday.



The EAGLES at Applefest

## Arts Ministries

by Beth Ann Edwards

### String Scholars in Worship

The St. John's String Scholars, which are supported by the Arts at St. John's, rehearse weekly and provide music in worship as needed. This string quartet (two violinists, one viola and one cellist) play in worship, accompany choral selections, liturgy and hymns when called upon, and also form the core of larger ensembles.

The String Scholars are not intended to replace student or adult volunteer musicians, but to encourage and strengthen less-experienced players. They also make possible more authentic performance of music from the past, which would have been performed with strings, winds, brass and timpani rather than organ or piano, thereby breaking down stereotypes of what "traditional" church music has been and adding variety and color to the 10 a.m. worship music.

In honor of our 150th Anniversary Celebration, four additional string players will join our core string quartet for the spring semester only. These additional string players will enrich our worship together time and provide the opportunity to expand repertoire for all St. John's musicians.



2014 String Scholars preparing for Music Sunday

### Midweek Music Series

Please join us in the Sanctuary each Wednesday at 12:05 p.m. for music presented by the best of the best! These 25-minute concerts are free and open to the public. A light lunch, priced at \$6 per person, is served at 12:30 p.m. in Weertz Fellowship Hall.

The month begins with two performances by folk and blues singers who write much of their own music and clearly love to perform! The second two weeks bring us music on a more classical side, with strings from Sarah Plum's Drake string studio, followed by the Bruch Trio performing music for piano, clarinet, and English horn.

- Nov. 5 - Mary McAdams, singer and song-writer
- Nov. 12 - Big Joe Kinser Band
- Nov. 19 - Sarah Plum and Drake string studio
- Nov. 26 - Bruch Trio (Sue Odem, Dan Stevenson, Bruce Martin)



The Bruch Trio will be performing at Midweek Music on Nov. 26.

### Artist of the Month

November's featured Artist of the Month is YOU (along with the other members of St. John's Lutheran Church). As a kick-off to the year-long celebration of St John's 150th anniversary, Steve King and Jacque Warming have started a timeline of photos, events and memorabilia that describes the history of St John's along with Des Moines, the State of Iowa and the world around us.

The timeline is intended to help illustrate how our church developed within the context of a broader history. As we move together through this exciting anniversary year, you'll be asked to update the timeline with the dates and memorable events that are important to you and your church family. †



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### **Serving at Central Iowa Shelter & Services**

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

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



### **EAGLE CALL DEADLINE**

The next deadline for all Eagle Call content is **noon on Monday, November 17**. Please send articles in digital format to Scott LaBlanc, [scottl@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:scottl@stjohnsdsm.org). If you are unable to send it by e-mail, drop it off at the church office.

Thank you!