



DES MOINES, IOWA



in the city for good

the Eagle Call

Volume 47, Number 06 | June 2015

Summer Adventures

School is out and summer is finally here! Listen closely: The collective sigh of kids everywhere can be heard on the wind. For kids at St. John's, there are many summer events to anticipate!



Sunday through Friday, June 7-12, Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Lakeside

All students entering Grade 7 this fall are invited to spend a week on East Lake Okaboji making new friends, learning new skills, and growing in their faith! We are proud to continue our long relationship with Lutheran Lakeside!

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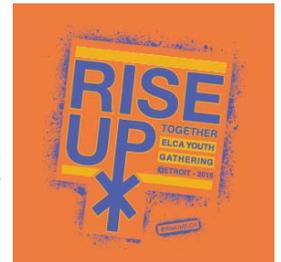
The Eagle Call is published monthly by St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA 600 6th Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1606.

Monday through Thursday, June 29-July 2, Vacation Bible School

Our friends from Lutheran Lakeside are coming to Des Moines to help lead this exciting day-camp for all students entering Preschool through Grade 6! This year's theme is: "Unending Love...Kickin' It Old School." Yes, there is a small focus on the Old Testament!

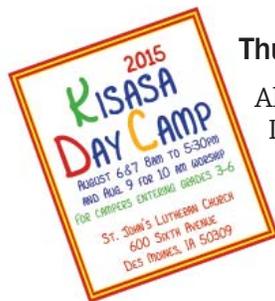
Tuesday through Sunday, July 14-19, ELCA National Youth Gathering

Ten high-school students and two adult leaders are traveling to Detroit this summer to join 30,000 other ELCA youth for a week of worship, service, learning and fellowship. These gatherings only occur once every three years. They are a powerful representation of what the church can be when we gather at the foot of the cross.



Friday through Saturday, July 31-Aug. 8, Wilderness Canoe Base

Nineteen young people and five adult leaders will travel north to the Boundary Waters this summer. It has been more than seven years since our last trip to the Boundary Waters, and we are excited to be returning! Through our encounters with the wilderness, we hope to learn more about ourselves, our world, and God's abiding presence in our lives.



Thursday and Friday, Aug. 6-7, Kisasa Day Camp

All students entering Grades 3-6 are invited to participate in Kisasa Day Camp in early August! This event provides a wonderful opportunity for students to build community through an arts-immersion curriculum. Classroom activities culminate in leading worship on Sunday, Aug. 9. Don't miss it!

What's Inside

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2 A Word from Our Pastors | 5 Update on Fine Arts | 8 Small Groups & WELCA Updates |
| 3 In the City for Good & Thank You! | 6 Children's Ministry | 9 Returning Pastor & Youth Ministry |
| 4 Prepare for Worship & Pride Parade 2015 | 7 Eagles in Pella, an Invitation & Pastor Richards Return | 10 New Members |
| | | 11 DMARC & LSI updates |

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A Word from Our Pastors

by Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

Alleluias on I-80... or Random thoughts from a tired, but grateful, pastor...

I recently attended the Festival of Homiletics, a week-long celebration of preaching in Denver, CO. No doubt considered by some church-goers to be a form of torture, this annual event is a "spa" for preachers, a place and time where we may listen to the best main-line preachers in the country and be nourished by the Word for this most important task of ministry. Sharing the 10-hour drive (x2) with the other Pastor Mithelman was most appreciated, but it still provided a significant amount of time for reflection on recent days...

What an amazing Easter season we have had at St. John's! Considering how unpredictable Iowa winters are, few 150th anniversary events were scheduled from December- March, but we have certainly been celebrating both our heritage and God's future with grateful hearts and joyful expectation since the first Easter "alleluia's" were sung! A Nexus reunion, the ordination of Pastor Gemechisa Mosa, heartfelt greetings from former Associate Pastors Darge, Witkowski and Stubbs, the introduction of a beautiful new book by Jean LemMon, the recognition of our high school graduates, a weekend with former Senior Pastor Elton Richards and family, and a hymn festival of gratitude to God for the ministry of Larry Christensen, our Director of Worship & Music – this has filled every nook & cranny of our life together this Easter season! I am in awe of your love for Christ that is reflected in your love for this community and the church at large. You are generous, gracious people and it continues to be a privilege to serve as one of your pastors...

Because you care deeply about the worship life of St. John's, I can tell you that the search for a new Director of Worship & Music/Organist/Choir Director is going well. We plan on bringing three highly qualified candidates to St. John's for interviews and auditions in early June. Our search team, comprised of Vicki Hedlin, Susie Stageberg, Matt McIver, Michelle Bolton King and Kent Hartwig, has devoted considerable time, thought, and prayer to this task. One candidate whom we interviewed via Skype later sent a note that said, "I was impressed by the spirit of joy I observed around your table." That warmed my heart...

The Connection Café – a ministry we share with three other downtown churches - successfully moved to its new location at The Cathedral Church of St. Paul at the end of April. In a conversation regarding the ministry of the Café at a recent Congregational Council meeting, St. John's commitment to \$10,000 of support for the Café/year was reaffirmed. This amount is met, not through our budget, but through "over and above" gifts marked for the Café. The leadership of St. John's encourages you to be generous in support of this ministry...

Finally, a few thought-provoking lines from the Festival of Homiletics...

- "The Bible is a script of fidelity amongst the gods of certitude..." (Walter Brueggemann) That phrase alone provides a week's worth of food for thought.
- "Pain-free preaching is pitiful, because the groans of lament go somewhere – they move us toward resurrection and new life!" (Luke Powery on preaching the Psalms of Lament)
- "God will always be the God you didn't ask for!" (The last line of a lecture by William Willimon)

Let's keep celebrating God's gracious love together, my friends – with grateful hearts and joyful expectation!

“My Cup Runneth Over”

By Larry Christensen

Space, time and propriety do not permit me to thank everyone who deserves an expression of appreciation, but please know that the kindnesses of so many – indeed the entire St. John's congregational family – are noted and felt.

The 150th Anniversary Celebration committee and the Arts Visioning Team need to be mentioned for their collective work on the April “Artist of the Month” display in my honor, the Nexus/Hi Choir reunion, the gala dinner and party on May 23, and the reception after the service on May 24. My colleague and detail-chaser extraordinaire, Beth Ann Edwards, led the charge on most of these efforts, so my deep thanks to her.

The Cathedral Choir, String Scholars and other instrumentalists have knocked themselves out this year to make some of the best, most beautiful music I have had the privilege to be a part of in my life. They need to know that I noticed and appreciated the love-filled effort they were making. Nancy Stafford deserves special thanks. Twice she let me talk her out of resigning when the load just seemed more than she could handle on top of her full-time work. Nancy is a wonderful musician, and no organist could be more cooperative or easier to work with. What a gem she is.

Here is a huge thank-you to my staff colleagues. When there is never enough time, and we all need the same rooms, we work it out. Everyone shares, gives, flexes and remembers why we are here. It is a great team, and I have been privileged to be part of it.

Pastor Rachel has been very supportive, not only when she said yes to me but when she told me no. Keeping the big picture in view, Rachel sometimes had to convince me that some things that meant a lot to me were not in the best interests of the assembly's worship, and also that some things I was really tired of doing needed to be continued for the same reason. She also talked me through some of my thrashing about as I tried to decide when the best time for me to retire would be. She rode my emotional waves, helping me to keep the shore in sight. Most of all, she kept this old dog around believing I could learn some new tricks. Thank you, Rachel.

What a beautiful, amazing journey Linda, Erik, Tara and I have shared with you these past 40 years. You have my eternal – and I mean that literally – gratitude.

God's love, Christ's peace, and the Holy Spirit's guidance and comfort be with you all.

In the City (& the World) For Good!

By Pastor Rachel Mithelman

Everyone needs beauty as well as bread, places to play and pray, where nature heals and gives strength to body and soul alike. – John Muir

The quote above, which I received in a “word for the day” e-mail, came to mind as I pulled into the Principal parking lot last Saturday and saw the “yarn-bombed” trees in the alley, courtesy of the knitting studio of the After School Arts Program (ASAP). The entire spring session of ASAP was devoted to exploring “fiber” – from fibrous foods to fabric to yarn – and the knitted “leggings” for the trees definitely add beauty and cheer to our neighborhood landscape. They also lead to conversation about ASAP and its positive impact upon hundreds of children who would not have access to art-enrichment activities if not for this amazing program!

Everyone needs both beauty and bread, places to play and to pray. ... There are opportunities for you to serve this city and world with both “beauty and bread” through the ministry of St. John's.

- If you would be willing to plant some beautiful tomato plants and donate the produce to the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) food pantry this summer, Peter and Carol Dittmer have several varieties to contribute to your garden. Contact Pastor Bob Speirs (pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org or 243-7691) for more information!
- The After School Arts Program Summer Arts Camp will be in Evelyn Davis Park the week of June 22. Volunteers are needed every afternoon to paint, dance, sculpt and be a friend to children in the neighborhood. If you would like to help, please contact Michelle Bolton King (michelle@asap-dsm.org or 770-3380).
- A financial gift to either Lutheran World Relief (LWR) or the Disaster Response Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) will help provide bread – and hope – to those affected by the earthquakes in Nepal and India. These agencies have already sent initial financial support but much more is needed as recovery from disasters is a long process, and both LWR and the ELCA are in it “for the long haul.” Gifts may be given through St. John's or directly to Lutheran World Relief (www.lwr.org) and the ELCA at (www.elca.org).
- Thank you for your ongoing ministry to the residents of Central Iowa Shelter and Services (CISS). We will serve the evening meals on Thursday and Friday, June 18-19. CISS sign-up sheets for food and volunteers will be in the Narthex before June 1. The shelter recently received a grant for a three-month pilot program to have a police officer present in the building from 5 to 9 p.m.
- The Connection Café has made a successful transition to its new home at The Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul on High Street, between Eighth and Ninth Streets. Thanks to the St. John's representatives on the Bridge Board of Directors – Judy Latessa, Sue Ging, Mary Kay Frasier and Ed Slattery – for their part in this move to St. Paul's. St. John's financial goal of support for the Café is \$10,000 per year. We fell short of that goal in 2014, so please help us meet it in 2015. An ongoing weekly or monthly gift to the ministry of the Café would be most appreciated! Thank you!!!



Prepare to Worship

by Larry Christensen

Sunday, June 7, Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 10

A house divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus makes this observation in light of charges that he is possessed. He is possessed, not by a demon, but by the Holy Spirit. We who have received the Holy Spirit through baptism have been joined to Christ's death and resurrection and knit together in the body of Christ. Those with whom we sing and pray are sisters and brothers of the Lord. With them we go forth in peace to do the will of God.

The readings are Genesis 3:8-15, Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 and Mark 3:20-35. The hymns will be ELW 401, "Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading," ELW 661, "I Love to Tell the Story", "My Life Flows on in Endless Song." Offering and communion music at 10 a.m. will be provided by bassoonist Tyler Chen.

Sunday, June 14 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 11

The mustard seed becomes a shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We would expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It is not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody is looking, it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

The readings are Ezekiel 17:22-24, Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15, 2 Corinthians 5:6-17 and Mark 4:26-34. The hymns will be ELW 879, "For the Beauty of the Earth," ELW 679, "For the Fruit of All Creation," and ELW 665, "Rise, Shine, You People!" Sue Odem will provide the offering and communion music at 10 a.m.

Sunday, June 21 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 12

Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation! Now we are in the storm, the boat almost swamped, but Jesus is here now, and when we call him he will calm the storm. Even the wind and waves listen to him as they would to their creator. We also listen to him and are called to believe in the power of God's word in him, a power greater than all that we fear.

The readings are Job 38:1-11, Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32, 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 and Mark 4:35-41. The hymns will be ELW 756, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save," ELW 755, "Jesus, Savior,

Pilot Me," and ELW 773, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." The offering and communion music at 10 a.m. will be presented by Julie Lowe.

Sunday, June 28 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 13

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases, a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel, Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

The readings are Lamentations 3:22-33, Psalm 30, 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 and Mark 5:21-43. The hymns will be ELW 532, "Gather Us In," ELW 576, "We All Are One in Mission," and ELW 548, "Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen." A vocal quartet will provide offering and communion music at the 10 a.m. service. Its members are Katy McDowell, Amy Wallman Madden, Chris Frantsvog and Chris Wilde.

Pride Parade 2015!

by Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

We say we are "A Church for All People," so join St. John's members and friends of all ages to make that phrase visible by participating in the annual PRIDE PARADE on Sunday, June 14th, in the East Village!

Meet in the parking lot directly east of the State Capitol by 12:30 pm that afternoon. Find the St. John's group by looking for a familiar face, the rainbow ribbon banner held high, or our new float depicting St. John's steeple! The parade begins at 1 pm.

In 2014, over 20 people marched for St. John's. Wouldn't it be great to double that number in 2015?!



Updates on the Arts

by Beth Ann Edwards

Artist of the Month is Weddings at St. John's

In collaboration with the Women of the ELCA and the 150th anniversary celebration, the Weertz Hall gallery exhibit features photos of weddings that have taken place in the St. John's Sanctuary and Chapel. If St. John's has averaged 10 weddings per year, more than 1,500 weddings would have taken place throughout our congregation's history. The photos that are on loan show a happy couple in a beautiful location.

As you take a deeper look into the photographs, St. John's history can often be perceived in the details: building architecture and renovations, presiding ministers, fashions, and customs of each era. Thank you to all who have shared your wedding photographs and remembrances of a most blessed day in your lives.

The Arts at St. John's

As one program year comes to a close, we look with excitement and anticipation towards the 2015-16 church "season." The Midweek Music Series is going strong and continuing to build on its previous successes. The new season will open the first week of October. The schedule is filling up and will be announced soon.

The Arts at St. John's annual Patrons' Garden Party will take place later this summer; plans are underway.

The fall 2015 Performing Arts schedule includes a concert by the Wartburg College Choir on Saturday, Oct. 24, and the 150th-anniversary-year finale will include St. John's musicians and a visit from the North High Gospel Choir. Any church members who would like to serve on the Arts Visioning Team, should contact chairperson Larry Hanson (lhanson@ft.NewYorkLife.com) or Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

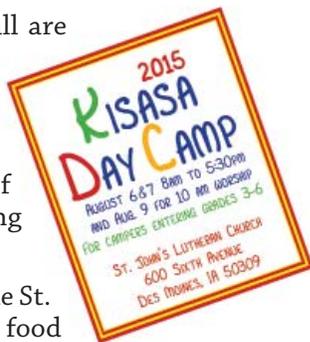
Kisasa Day Camp 2015

All students entering Grades 3-6 this fall are invited to attend a two-day summer day-camp here at St. John's. Campers will be exposed to full arts immersion, including drama, ringing, singing, visual arts and cooking. We also have scheduled plenty of time for relaxing, hanging out and playing games.

On Thursday afternoon, we'll hang out in the St. John's kitchen to bake bread and prepare food for Friday's cookout. On Friday afternoon, we will travel to the home of Pastor Bob and Terri Speirs to work in the St. John's Faith Garden and swim in the pool. Our day will conclude with a family cook-out with the Speirs.

Dates

- Thursday and Friday, Aug. 6-7, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, Aug. 9, 10 a.m. worship service



Staff

- Vocal choir and handbells: Camp Director Beth Ann Edwards
- Assistant Day-Camp Director: Elizabeth Reed
- Drama and Faith Garden: Deanna Axness
- Bible study and devotions: Senior Pastor Rachel Mithelman
- Visual Arts: Nicole Krayneski James
- Friday afternoon swimming and activity hosts: Pastor Bob and Terri Speirs

Volunteers

Volunteer positions are available for all who are in Grades 7-12 and to adult ages, and their hours are flexible. Volunteers are asked to attend an orientation training- and planning-session (time and date to be determined).

Registration

Registration forms for Kisasa Day Camp can be found in the church reception area or can be downloaded from the church website (stjohnsdsm.org/childrensministries). Cost is \$35 per camper, with a maximum of \$50 per family, plus one snack item to share. Payment can be made online (www.stjohnsdsm.org/eventregistration), and scholarships are available. For more information, contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

Children's Ministries

by Alicia Karwal

Sunday School Finale

The Sunday School classes came together on May 17 for the final gathering of the 2014-15 program year. The children were asked to briefly share their most memorable moments from the past class year. They remembered singing, writing letters to those who had made a difference in their lives (pictures on the right and additional photos of other honored individuals on the Children's Ministries bulletin board in Fireside), reading stories from the Bible in their classrooms, and spending time with their church family. I believe the last memory speaks volumes.

In recent weeks, the children learned about the early believers. We shared that not only do we have our immediate family that know and love us, but we have our St. John's family and a still larger, global family of believers. This memory also serves as a reminder to us all. We made a promise to these children: to guide them and help them grow in their faith. It is evident to me that these children know the love of their St. John's family and that is a really good thing!

Finally, the children, along with their fearless Sunday School leaders, re-enacted a sampling of stories that they had studied from the Bible this year. Allotted a short amount of time to create their performance (and provided any necessary props), the children came together to perform for one another as we revisited what we had learned together.

Register for Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held at St. John's Monday through Thursday, June 29-July 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. Join those who already have signed up for our VBS day-camp to be led by Lutheran Lakeside camp counselors!

All children, age four through current sixth graders, are invited, but you must register in order to participate! You are invited to register through the St. John's website (www.stjohnsdsm.org) under Event Registration or by emailing Alicia Karwal (akarwl@stjohnsdsm.org). You also can pick up a registration form from the tables outside of the Sanctuary.

Volunteers from St. John's are still needed to assist the counselors. If you are interested in joining others who volunteer during the week of St. John's VBS, please contact Alicia Karwal (akarwl@stjohnsdsm.org).



Isabelle Karwal (1st grade) with Andy Anderson. Isabelle honored Andy for someone at St. John's that has made a difference in her life.



Laynie Madden (3rd grade) who chose to honor Linda Christensen as someone that has made a difference in her life.



Gretchen Axness (1st grade) with Elena Busick (6th grade). Gretchen honored Elena for being someone that has made a difference in her life.

The EAGLES in Pella

150th Anniversary

Pastor Richards Returns



The Women of the ELCA
request the honor of your presence at a
Wedding Reception
to commemorate all weddings performed at
St. John's Lutheran Church during the last 150 years.
Following 10 a.m. Sunday worship on June 7, 2015

Small Groups

by Darla Stiles

Mah Jongg: 6 p.m. Mondays, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 6 p.m. at church (unless otherwise notified).

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

Restaurant Visitation/Christian Involvement: Tuesday, June 2, 6 p.m., Centro, 100 Locust Ave., Des Moines.

WIRED Book Discussion: Thursday, June 4, 6 p.m., Lorraine Wilbur's house, 703 16th St., Des Moines.

Gardening: Tuesday, June 9, 6:30 p.m., home of Mark and Pat Johnson.

St. John's Social Club: Saturday, June 13, 5:30 p.m., garden party at the Dennis and Karen Zaabel, 1102 S. 50th Pl., West Des Moines.

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

EAGLES: Wednesday, June 17, leave from church at 8 a.m., trip to Sutherland to the glass studio.

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

Keep up to date with all events by subscribing to our weekly email newsletter (sign up on the homepage of our website) or keep an eye on www.stjohnsdsm.org/news

More Information

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

Mah Jongg will meet Mondays, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 6 p.m. in Neumann Hall at St. John's. (If the group decides to meet at Smokey Row on nice evenings, members will be contacted.) If you can attend, contact Darla Stiles (darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org).

WIRED Book Discussion will meet Thursday, June 4, at 6 p.m. at the home of Lorraine Wilbur (703 16th St., Des Moines) to discuss the book *All the Light We Cannot See*, by Anthony Doerr. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share and suggestions for the next book. RSVP to Lorraine (lorraineannpaul@gmail.com).

The Gardening Small Group will meet Tuesday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m. to tour the gardens of Mark & Pat Johnson (1089 44th St., Des Moines). Over the 28 years they have lived at this address, they have transformed an all-grass yard into a yard of many plantings. Their style is "Iowa naturalness," with an emphasis on wildflowers, "unusual" plants (Pat's favorites), and other plants found in nature such as May apples, milkweed for the monarchs and Soloman Seal. Please join us! All are welcome.

St. John's Social Club will gather Saturday, June 13, at 5:30 p.m. for the "Every other Year Garden Party" at the home of Dennis and Karen Zaabel (1102 S. 50th Pl., West Des Moines). Join us for an evening of fun and a funky game in the garden! Please bring a salad to share. In addition to the Zaabels, Mike and Pam Hanna are helping to host (The Hannahs will furnish table service, beverages and dessert.) If you are planning to attend, please email Karen (kzaabel@msn.com).

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

Lunch Bunch I will meet Thursday, June 18, at 11:30 a.m. New members are most welcome! If you are interested in joining, please call Barb Hyler (401-5721).

EAGLES will go to Sutherland to tour Bogenrief Studios and visit the Prairie Heritage Center on Wednesday, June 17, leaving the church at 8 a.m. If you can join us, contact Margaret Townsend (mtownsend1@mchsi.com or 274-0962).

Women of the ELCA

By Members of WELCA

General Meeting

The General Meeting of the Women of the ELCA will be held Thursday June 4, at noon at Windsor Place, 6300 School St., Community Room (# 118). A catered lunch will be provided; cost is \$6, and reservations are required (please call Evelyn Cole at 967-3986 to RSVP). The program is about aprons, and members are encouraged to bring and/or wear aprons. (Judy Munger lives in this complex, and her phone number is 971-1549).



June and July Outreach Program

For June and July, WELCA's outreach program will be the Food Bank of Iowa. Some most needed items at this time are canned meats, peanut butter, canned soup and 100-percent-fruit juices. Kitchen and bathroom paper products also are needed. These items may be put in our drop boxes in the reception area and outside of Neumann Hall.

Monetary contributions are accepted and appreciated. Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church, and note Food Bank on the memo line. These donations support the Backpack Buddies endeavor.

Thank you for the many donations provided for May's outreach, Beacon of Life. We always appreciate your support for our outreach programs.

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

By Noah Niermann

Thank You!

Many thanks to everyone who helped with Confirmation and Youth Ministry this past program year! As we look ahead to an exciting summer, I also want to look back and give thanks for everyone who helped shape our year.

- Thank you to our weekly confirmation mentors, whose importance and impact as both role models and friends cannot be overstated.
- Thank you to our Youth Ministry Advisory Team members, whose caring and leadership guides our ministry.
- Thank you to our many fundraising volunteers, who helped organize, envision and execute everything from the plant sale to the winter auction.
- Thank you to all of you who supported those fundraising efforts with generous gifts.
- Thank you to those volunteers who are leading trips this summer and to all those who have helped with special events or classes.
- Thank you to those who joined a taskforce or sat through meetings and offered your voice, experience and knowledge to better our youth programs.
- Thank you to everyone who supports our young people with prayer.

Blessings.



Honoring our 2015 High School Graduates.

150th Anniversary

Pastor Jerry & Carol Schmalenberger to be Remembered

By Ellen Fisher



A message from former Senior Pastor Jerry Schmalenberger will be read to the congregation during worship on Sunday, June 14, and his daughter Bethany will attend and be introduced at that time. The following is a little information about Pastor Schmalenberger and his wife Carol who served St. John's from 1979 to 1988:

Pastor Schmalenberger was born at home in Greenville, Ohio, on Jan. 23, 1934. He graduated from Greenville High School and went on to graduate from Wittenberg University in 1956. He was married

to Carol Ann Walthall of Springfield, Ohio, that same year. Carol eventually became a nurse, social worker and archivist (in fact, she spent many hours organizing the St. John's archive, including writing people in the Synod for more information about our earliest pastors and sending copies of the most important St. John's historical information to the Synod and to the Iowa State Historical Library).

Pastor Schmalenberger graduated from Hamma Divinity School on his birthday in 1959, the same year as his ordination. During college and seminary he served as program director and then director of the Lutheran Church Camp Mowana near Mansfield, Ohio.

Carol and Jerry had three biological children, a son and two daughters, and took into their home 13 others as foster children, so they would have a place to live and family to call their own. Daughter Bethany, a school teacher, is the only one of their offspring remaining in this area.

After serving St. John's from 1979 to 1988, Pastor Jerry accepted a call to be president and professor of parish ministry at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, California, retiring from that position in 1996. Other churches he served were Third Lutheran, Springfield, Ohio; First Lutheran, Bellefontaine, Ohio; First Lutheran, Tiffin, Ohio, and First Lutheran, Mansfield, Ohio.

In 1997 he began a second career as a Global Mission volunteer for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, teaching, preaching, counseling and supporting students in Jamaica, Suriname, Argentina, Uruguay, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Mainland China, West Africa, Nepal, Germany and Myanmar.

He is the author of 24 books, including those in the Chinese, Bahasa Indonesian and Spanish languages.

Because a church building was gifted to the West African country of Liberia many years ago by deceased St. John's member Silvia Heidt, Pastor Jerry took a sabbatical there during his St. John's tenure and established a relationship with the people there, which the Schmalenbergers maintain to this day.

Hospitality & Outreach

By Katie Tippins

Welcome New Members!

A new member class was held on April 26. Unfortunately, I was not present as I was in Ohio meeting my new granddaughter (Emerson Margaret)! Thank you to the pastors and Nancy Budrevich for welcoming our new members and introducing them to St. John's. Please take a moment to acquaint yourself with their names, faces and some personal facts about them.

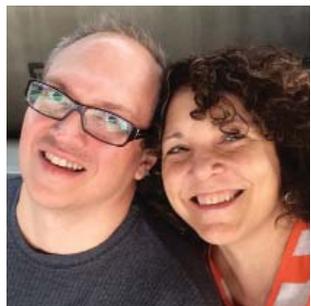


Logan Dorpinghaus is a West Des Moines resident who was born in Ottumwa. He works for Nationwide Insurance as an underwriter, is recently engaged and is a very happy man! His interests include cooking and running. Eat first, run later. Logan's aunt was a member here and had good things to say about St. John's so he thought he'd give us a try. He also likes our location and is intrigued by our 150-year history.



Elizabeth and Page Smith are the proud parents of 4-month-old Crew Hayden, who is scheduled to be baptized here in June. While awaiting Crew's arrival, they built a brand new home in Clive! Elizabeth works for the Scouler Compan and Page for The Meycocks Group. Their interests include home building, do-it-yourself projects, decorating, fitness, wine, blogging, and then more wine! They are good

friends with daughter of St. John's Megan Clausen and enjoy our style of worship.



Lorraine Wilbur moved to Des Moines from Pierre, SD, had her membership transferred to St. John's earlier this year, and jumped right into the "deep end"! She and her husband David have children and step-children and will be happy to share stories with you. She is a case manager at Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa

and works with pregnant women in the Healthy Start Program. Lorraine loves to read, go for walks with her golden retriever Rusty, and enjoys movie dates with her husband. She adores her granddaughter, but it's hard to have her so far away (I can relate!). She loves sports and attends her son's track meets as often as possible. David is originally from

Des Moines and was baptized at St. John's but now attends St. Anthony's Catholic Church. They met in Pierre and lived there for 30 years before moving to our area in fall 2014. As for St. John's, Lorraine feels the music is amazing, loves kneeling at the altar for communion and the traditional service. Lorraine immediately felt at home here as our hanging chandeliers are identical to the ones at her home church, and she has a miniature wooden angel that is identical to the two angels that greet us at the entrance to the Sanctuary. Welcome home, Lorraine.



Anne Williams lives in Des Moines and will be married at St. John's later this year. Her fiancé Andrew was not able to attend the new-member class but will be joining as well. Anne is a fourth-grade teacher in Altoona in the Southeast Polk School District. She enjoys singing (Do we have a choir for you!), playing with her

two dogs, Simon and Garfunkel (LOVE the names!) and crafting. She has lived in Chicago and Las Vegas. Anne and her mother had been looking for a new church and instantly fell in love with our St. John's community, which leads us to...



Nancy Williams lives on the south side of Des Moines and is president of AIB College of Business. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Des Moines and was named a 40 Under 40 in her first year. She loves being involved in the community and served as the south Des Moines chamber president. Nancy became a Lutheran in the late 1970s and has been looking for a new church since she moved from Windsor Heights, where she raised her

family. She also missed Pastor Rehfeldt. We're happy she has found a new home with us.

We are blessed to have these new members as part of our congregational family. Please take time to introduce yourself and make them feel most welcome.

If you are interested in becoming a member we have New Membership Classes throughout the year. Please contact me, Katie Tippins at katiet@stjohnsdsm.org or 515-243-7691. I will make sure that you're invited when the next membership class is scheduled.

MORE than the Food Pantry!

Many of us are familiar with the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) and are generous in support of their Food Pantry, but DMARC has other programs as well. Here is a brief description of their services:

Move the Food

Move the Food addresses the entire food system in Greater Des Moines, building on nearly 40 years of food assistance work and engaging new constituencies to further support a vision for a day when everyone in Polk County has enough to eat. DMARC partners with 12 food pantry sites around the city to provide food for people who request it.

Red Barrel Program

Have you noticed a red barrel in the grocery store where you shop? In 2013, Red Barrel donations totaled nearly 113,789 food items and over 6,000 pre-sacked bags of food were purchased. Contributing to the red barrel is as easy as buying a few extra cans of food while you shop and dropping them in on your way out of the store. An even better way to contribute is to buy a \$6.00 or \$12.00 hunger sack, a grocery bag containing the most needed items. All food and personal care items collected go to the Food Pantry Network.

Housing Stability Fund

Background – DMARC entered into a pilot project with the Polk County Community, Family and Youth Services, funded in part by United Way of Central Iowa and DMARC and launched in August 2013, to provide a coordinated service model for housing stability and homelessness prevention assistance in Polk County. Objectives were to streamline and coordinate the intake and service delivery processes to make sure families get the help they need – when they need it. Based on the success of the pilot project, DMARC and Polk County committed to fully implement the Housing Stability Fund in FY2014-15.

Donations received by DMARC for the Housing Stability Fund will be used to provide rent and utilities assistance for program participants. Thank you for your support!

Child Care Assistance

The Des Area Religious Council's Child Care Assistance program provides scholarship funding for families needing financial assistance so that their children can attend high quality child care.

Scholarships funding is intended to meet the needs of families experiencing an inability to pay for childcare. Families may seek DMARC Child Care Assistance funds while looking for work, enrolling in school, experiencing a crisis (medical, employment, housing, change in family status), waiting to receive child care subsidies, or if, even though employed, they still struggle to afford child care. Scholarships are short-term; recipients will be reviewed after six months for consideration of scholarship renewal.

Interfaith Engagement

At its roots, DMARC is a multi-faith collaboration working to meet basic needs in the Des Moines community. We have relationships with members of Baha'ism, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Sikhism, Unitarian Universalism and Native American religion. We take pride in offering a variety of opportunities for interfaith engagement. These include: The Interfaith Dialogue Group, Winter Thaw, and the David Bear Memorial Interfaith Lecture Series.

LADOS (Life After Death of Spouse)

LADOS provides a forum where widowed men and women of all ages meet to encourage one another to grieve in their unique way. In helping process grief, LADOS focuses on redefining one's future and encouraging the participants to embrace the 'now' life. After the main presentation, facilitated small group discussions give the opportunity for people to share experiences and feelings.

You are invited and most welcome to participate as a volunteer, contribute, or contact them for assistance. For additional information please visit DMARC's website (dmarcunited.org) or call 515-277-6969.

LSI Update

by the Staff of Lutheran Services in Iowa

World Refugee Day

World Refugee Day is held annually on June 20 to honor the resilience of millions of people around the world who are forcibly displaced. Through your help, LSI provides extended support services in the Des Moines area for people of refugee status who have been resettled to Iowa. These families and individuals bring with them unique talents and dreams, including skills in a field well known to us in Iowa—agriculture! Many people of refugee status grew up in agricultural communities in their home countries and desire to become farmers once again. LSI's Global Greens program helps reconnect people with the land and empowers market farmers to sell their local, sustainably grown food. Join us at LSI's Global Greens Farmers' Market on Saturdays, May through October, at LSI's Des Moines campus (3200 University Ave). For details, visit www.LSIowa.org/globalgreens.

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.



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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.



EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The next deadline for all Eagle Call content is **noon on Monday, June 15**. Please send articles in digital format to Scott LaBlanc, scottl@stjohnsdsm.org. If you are unable to send it by e-mail, drop it off at the church office.

Thank you!