



# The EAGLE CALL

Volume 44, Number 1  
January, 2012

## Worship

**Saturday**  
5:00 pm

**Sunday**  
7:45 am  
8:45 am  
11:00 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.

## Thank You for a Wonderful 2011!



More pictures can be found on pages 6 & 7

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**In the City for Good!**  
**Phone 515.243.7691**

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Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday

9:00 am – 5:00 p.m.,

4:00 p.m. Friday

Saturday

9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

**Next Eagle Call Deadline**  
**January 17 at 12 p.m.**



## A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Ray Runkel

As a young boy I spent most summers, preschool and vacations at my grandparents farm. I learned early on that along with hard work, one's faith and trust in God were vital and important. So when my grandmother in her late 80s asked me to read Psalm 71 as she rested in her hospital bed, I did so gladly. It has much wisdom for a person to reflect upon.

This past November we received a book of prayers and thoughts written by Reverend Fran Park who was a Presbyterian minister, professor and writer in Ohio and Arizona. He died this past November and his widow gave Mary Jane and me a book of prayers on the Psalms. Here is his reflection on Psalm 71 from his book "Pray with Me":

### Psalm 71:9

*Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent.*

One of the threads of thought which weaves its way throughout the Psalms is that God is our refuge and our fortress. The assurance that the Lord God is our constant companion and strength is reaffirmed over and over again. In Psalm 71 this same theme reappears but this time the emphasis is set forth as being of particular concern for an older person: "Do not cast me off in the time of old age." Obviously the psalmist has experienced God's presence from birth onward, but now in the midst of a time of waning powers, he or she needs some reassurance that the living God does not forget, as perhaps others do, that there is still the constant need for God's guidance and strength "...even to old age and gray hairs." The Psalms are always real and personal and down-to-earth. The affirmation is also clear that in spite of everything, it is God alone Who deals with all our troubles, Who revives us again and again, and Who rescues us, no matter what. As a result of this wonderful knowledge the psalmist urges us to shout for joy and sing our praises to the Lord of life for all His goodness to us.

### Pray with me:

Lord God of infants, youth, adults and gray heads, help us to know with great confidence that You continually hold us in the hollow of Your hand. From dawn to sunset You are the creating, caring Lord of all. Amen.

As many of you know St John's has had a long rich history of ministry to the elderly that goes back to its beginnings. The past 10 plus years it has been my privilege to visit and walk with St. John's elderly. What an amazing time it has been! Thank you. With my upcoming back surgery and rehab, I need to retire (again).

So thank you again for an amazing and wonderful time and ministry and God bless you all

*Editor's Note: After the first of the year and once Pastor Ray has had enough time recover from his surgery we will come together to celebrate his work, his ministry, and what he has meant to the St. John's family. Please watch the announcements, the website and issues of the Eagle Call for information about the celebration.*

## Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA's outreach program for January will be donations for the Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) food pantry. As always, the congregation is invited to participate.

Local needs are growing much faster than the available food supply. Cash donations specifically are appreciated because that allows DMARC to buy food at a discounted cost (they can buy in bulk quantities). Send cash contributions to DMARC 3816 36th St., Ste. 202, Des Moines, IA 50310.

*We thank all of those who contributed Christmas items for the women's shelter last month!*

Photos from this year's Cookie Walk



## Midweek Music

Don't get stuck inside this January! Every Wednesday noon at St. John's there is something special worth venturing out for. Need a New Year's pick-me-up? Look at this lineup:

- January 4 – the Ballyhoo Foxtrot Combo
- January 11 – violinist Nina Liu
- January 18 – Francine and Ed Griffith, piano and tenor
- January 25 – Ray Songayllo

If you were at our "Roaring Twenties" event two years ago at Grand View University, you heard the full Ballyhoo Foxtrot Orchestra, a top-notch, professional jazz band that plays traditional jazz from the 20s and 30s. This is the compact heart of that ensemble under the inspired direction of John Benoit. Nina Liu is a senior at Roosevelt, and has been one of our String Scholars for four years. You need to hear and hear about this amazing young woman. Francine and Ed Griffiths are what in politics are called a "Power Couple"; each is highly sought after in the area for their musical talents and skills. And Ray Songayllo is a composer, performing artist, and adjudicator of international experience.

Midweek Music concerts are held in the sanctuary from 12:05 to 12:30 pm, are free, and are open to the public. For those who can stay there is a hot, home-cooked lunch available in Weertz Hall for only \$6.



## Prepare for Worship

### Sunday, January 1, The Name of Jesus One service at 10 am

From the beginning, by virtue of our baptism, we are called Christian. We were “Christ-ened” at the font. Bearing his name, we share the same Father and are invited to address him intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of the Father. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another year.

The readings are Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8; Galatians 4:4-7; and Luke 2:15-21. The hymns will be ELW 292, “Love Has Come”, ELW 634, “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” vs. 1, ELW 620, “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”, ELW 416, “At the Name of Jesus” vs. 1 and ELW 867, “In Thee is Gladness”. Since it is New Year’s Day there will only be one service Sunday morning at 10 am. There will also be a 5pm Saturday evening service in the chapel on New Year’s Eve, December 31st.

### Sunday, January 8, Epiphany of Our Lord

Epiphany means “manifestation.” On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles – that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

The readings are Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; and Matthew 2:1-12. The hymns will be ELW 300, “The First Noel”; ELW 308, “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!” ELW 302, “As with Gladness Men of Old”; and ELW 314, “Arise, Your Light Has Come!”

### Sunday, January 15, 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday

All the baptized have a calling in God’s world. God calls not just the clergy but also the youngest child, like Samuel. In fact, God most frequently sends the marginalized and out-cast to be the messengers of the Gospel, probably because they are the ones who, needing it the most, understand it best. We celebrate the ministry of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this Sunday and honor his voice for God’s justice and inclusion in a world from which African Americans were marginalized and excluded.

The readings are 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; and John 1:43-51. The hymns will be ELW 513, “Listen, God is Calling”; ELW 798, “Will You Come and Follow Me”; ELW 314, “Arise, Your Light Has Come!” and ELW 549, “Send Me, Jesus”.

The offering music at 8:45 and 11 will be the “Gloria,” from St. Francis in the Americas: A Caribbean Mass, Glenn McClure. The tunes used in this setting come from the spiritual “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child” and “Amazing Grace,” songs written by slaves and a former slave trader, John Newton. The juxtaposition of these two sources in one piece brings to our attention the tensions of sin and grace in our own, American history.

### Sunday, January 22, Third Sunday after Epiphany

Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of fisherman brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

The readings are Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; and Mark 1:14-20. The hymns will be ELW 720, “We Are Called”; ELW 815, “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” ELW 810, “O Jesus, I Have Promised”; and ELW 696, “Jesus Calls Us; O’er the Tumult”. The music during communion will be ELW 817, “You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”.

### Sunday, January 29, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God’s works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus’ actions and words. We encounter that authority in God’s word, around which we gather, the word that trumps any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

The readings are Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; and Mark 1:21-28. The hymns are ELW 507, “O God of Light”; ELW 519, “Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”; ELW 311, “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”; ELW 510, “Word of God, Come Down to Earth”; and ELW 665, “Rise, Shine, You People!”



## Small Groups

Questions? Contact Darla Stiles, Small Groups Coordinator  
243.7691 or [darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org)

### CALENDAR

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

**Saturday Morning Bible Study:** Saturdays, Jan. 7, 14, 21 and 28, at 8:30 a.m. Location to be announced. Contact Ellen Fisher, [ellenfisher123@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenfisher123@yahoo.com), or Rod Snavely, [rsnavely@aol.com](mailto:rsnavely@aol.com).

**St. John's Networking Group:** Monday, Jan. 9, 5:30 p.m., Gateway Market. Contact Ellen Fisher, [ellenfisher123@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenfisher123@yahoo.com) (274-5236).

**Hardanger:** Wednesdays, Jan. 11 and 25, 9 a.m., Neumann Hall at church.

**EAGLES:** Friday, Jan. 13, noon, Neumann Hall at church. Potluck and planning event.

**3D:** Wed., Jan. 18, 10 a.m.

**Lunch Bunch II:** Wed., Jan. 18, 12:30 a.m.

**Lunch Bunch I:** Thurs., Jan. 19, 11:30 a.m.

**Couples/Singles Group:** Saturday, Jan. 21, 6:30 p.m., Bill and Darla Stiles' home, 3812 Green Branch Dr., West Des Moines. Hors d'oeuvres and planning.

**Photography:** Sunday, Jan. 22, 10 a.m., Neumann Hall at church. Theme for photos is food.

**WIRED Yoga:** Thursdays, Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26, 5:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge at church. Contact Corinne Lambert, [callingwisdom1@hotmail.com](mailto:callingwisdom1@hotmail.com) (556-3679).

**Recreational Reading:** Wednesday, Jan. 25, 4:30 p.m., Rose Holm at church.

**Scrapbooking:** Saturday, Jan. 28, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Room 8 at church.

**WIRED Cooking:** Saturday, Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m., Karen Andeweg's house. Mid-winter doldrums party.

**WIRED Luncheon and Service Learning Program:** Sunday, Jan. 29, 12:30 p.m., Weertz Hall at church.

### Coming up:

**Quilting Group** meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 308 at church. Anyone who is interested in quilting, tying or learning how to quilt is welcome.

**Christian Involvement/Restaurant Visitation** will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 3, at 6 p.m. Location to be announced.

**Saturday Morning Bible Study** will meet Saturdays, January 7, 14, 21 and 28, at 8:30 a.m. Contact one of the facilitators, Ellen Fisher at [ellenfisher123@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenfisher123@yahoo.com) (274-5236) or Rod Snavely at [rsnavely@aol.com](mailto:rsnavely@aol.com) to learn the location.

**St. John's Networking Group** will meet on Monday, Jan. 9, at 5:30 p.m. at Gateway Market. Contact Ellen Fisher, [ellenfisher123@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenfisher123@yahoo.com) (274-5236).

**Hardanger** will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, Jan. 11 and 25, at 9 a.m. in Neumann Hall at church.

**EAGLES** will meet Friday, Jan. 13, at noon in Neumann Hall at church. Please bring a dish to share. Beverages and table service will be provided. Contact Darla at [darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org) or 243-7691 if you will be able to attend. Also contact Darla with any ideas for 2012 to put on a tentative planning list that we will distribute to members.

**WIRED Yoga** will continue to be held on Thursdays in January at 5:45 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge at church. Contact Corinne Lambert at [callingwisdom1@hotmail.com](mailto:callingwisdom1@hotmail.com) or call her at 556-3679.

**Lunch Bunch II** will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at 12:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining this group, call Janet Figg at 279-6326.

**Lunch Bunch I** will meet on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 11:30 a.m. Any who are interested in joining the group should call Margaret Roby at 288-6304 to reserve a space. New members are most welcome!

**Couples/Singles Group** will meet Saturday, Jan. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Bill and Darla Stiles for hors d'oeuvres and to plan events for the coming year. Bring some hors d'oeuvres and lots of ideas. Cost is \$5 each to cover beverages, etc. Contact them at [darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org) or 243-7691 if you will be able to attend.

**Recreational Reading** will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm at church. The book to read and discuss is *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson. If you have questions, contact Carol MacDonald at [macpac00@mchsi.com](mailto:macpac00@mchsi.com).

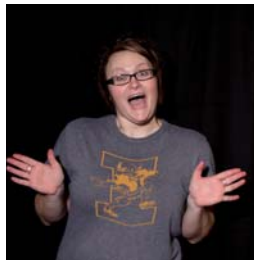
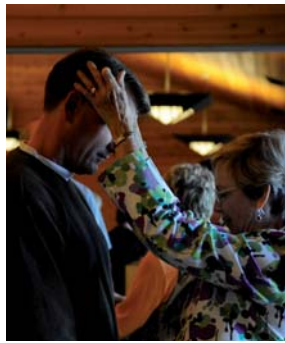
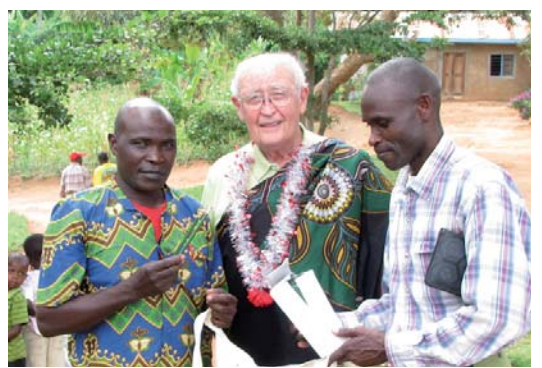
**Scrapbooking** will meet Saturday, Jan. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 8 at church. Bring pictures and materials to scrap. Anyone who is interested in scrapbooking is welcome.

### 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 Ministries

### A Note from Megan

Wow! I can't believe that it's 2012! Last year was a very busy year for the youth at St. John's, and 2012 looks to be just as busy, meaningful and exciting!

#### Cookie Monster:

**"C is for Cookie...that's good enough for me!"**

The youth of St. John's are planning a fundraiser for the Connection Café! They're going to be selling ... you guessed it ... COOKIES!!! Throughout January you'll be able to send cookies and milk to someone you choose, and they'll be delivered to the person (or people) between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. on **Sunday, Jan. 29.**

The cost for a dozen freshly baked chocolate-chip cookies and a glass bottle of ice cold milk, plus delivery to the special person, will only cost \$12. Look for order forms in the Fireside Lounge starting Jan. 8. If you would like more information or to place an order, contact Megan Clausen at 243-7691 or [meganc@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:meganc@stjohnsdsm.org).

### Seeking "Big Ticket" Items for Youth Auction

## A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

4TH ANNUAL YOUTH FUNDRAISING AUCTION  
march 2nd, 2012 | 6:30pm | state historical building

Do you have connections? Can you call in a favor? Do you need to make a charitable donation before the end of the year? If so, our St. John's youth need YOU to call in those favors, use your connections, and donate what you can!

We are planning our fourth annual youth fundraising auction and dinner, which will be held March 4 at the State Historical Building, and we need "big ticket" items to auction! Need some ideas? Are you an artist? Do you know someone who is an artist? Do you have a cabin on a lake? Do you like to cook or bake? Do you sew or do woodworking in your free time? Do you have a service you could offer? Do you have season tickets to events that you could share with us? The possibilities are endless!

If you have an item or an idea, contact a member of the youth auction committee: Tammi Reyes, Heidi Slinker, Terri Speirs, Lora Simpson and Megan Clausen ([meganc@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:meganc@stjohnsdsm.org)). More surprises to come. Stay tuned!

And mark your calendars now for **March 2.**

### Citizens with the Saints 2012 National Youth Gathering

We are registered and preparing to go to the 2012 Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July! There are 16 high school students and five adults signed up!

The students registered are Amanda Speirs, Daniel Lunde, Kat Lunde, Ian Anderson, Sydney Runkel, Caleb Runkel, Alex Runkel, Olivia Simpson, Elizabeth Macro, Ann Strom, Rolf Stageberg, Ashley Reyes, Bryan Morrissey, Lander Gadelmann, Erin Andeweg and Nellie Higginbottom. The adults are Megan Clausen, Pastor Bob Speirs, Greg Anderson, Mary Bernau and Tammi Reyes.

If you would like to find out more about the ELCA National Youth Gathering, visit this web site: <http://www.elca.org/elca/youth-gathering.aspx>.

### Other News for Youth

**High School Students:** Watch your e-mail and Facebook for information regarding the High School Winter Retreat and Ski Trip! We will go either in early January or toward the end of February.

**Middle School Students:** Be watching and listening for information regarding upcoming service projects.

## Children's Ministries

### Families Can Follow the Star to Epiphany

The Follow the Star family event for Epiphany will be held Sunday, Jan. 8, beginning at 10 a.m. in the chapel. When you arrive you will receive instructions that will lead you on a journey to the best gift of all!!! Your journey will include fun activities to help you learn more about the season of Epiphany.



## Get WIRED!

**WIRED Cooking** will meet Saturday, Jan. 28, at 6:30 p.m. for a January mid-winter doldrums party at Karen Andeweg's house. If you plan to attend, notify Carol Lunde at [carollunde@q.com](mailto:carollunde@q.com) or 249-7272.



**WIRED Luncheon and Service Learning Program** is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 29, at 12:30 p.m. in Weertz Fellowship Hall at church. The program will have a service learning theme with speakers from three service agencies in Des Moines. Cynthia Olson will talk to the group about the Youth Emergency Services and Shelter; Rob Hoover will give a presentation on the Connection Café, and representatives Judy Latessa and Bonnie Ekse will speak about the Coalition in Support of Hungry Children. Following these three 15-minute educational opportunities, the group will work on a hands-on activity to help these organizations. Items each agency needs will be provided at the end of December; please bring items from these lists (in lieu of paying a speakers fee). The luncheon cost will be \$10 each. Registration will begin in January. Contact Darla Stiles at [darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org) with any questions.

## Organist Search

We recently said “farewell and Godspeed” to our beloved organist Sarah Garner and her family, and many of you have asked how the search is going to find her replacement. This is normal, and we all have a natural anxiety about a position so central to our worship life at St. John's. However, the focus right now is on making sure we have the organ responsibilities covered in the short term.

The actual process of finding a new organist will be in two or three stages. The first is making sure services are covered every weekend. There could be an intermediate stage, during which an interim organist could possibly fill the services and rehearsal playing. But, for the long term, the Executive Ministry Team and Senior Pastor Rachel Mithelman need to determine the appropriate staffing pattern for music, worship and arts

ministries at St. John's. There cannot be a search for a candidate until there is an up-to-date job description for the position.

We were blessed five years ago that when the organist position became open, Sarah Garner was already here as a member of St. John's and the choir. That made this process look easy, but that was a truly once-in-a-lifetime circumstance. This time everyone should expect it to take longer and be a bit more complicated, because this is such an important appointment.

Larry Christensen  
Director of Music,  
Worship & the Arts

## LSI Update

### Poverty too often a reality for many Iowa families

There are people in poverty across Iowa. These people are in your community struggling to get by day-to-day. You may not know who they are, but they are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Nearly 12 percent of Iowans are living in poverty, and as the economic downturn and job growth struggles continue, this will undoubtedly continue to rise.

January is National Poverty Awareness Month: a time to remember families and children affected by poverty. Throughout Iowa communities, Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) assists people through services that provide education and set goals that can lead to a more self-sufficient life. By bringing hope to families, LSI can help break the cycle of poverty, leading to healthier, happier families and stronger communities. For more information on LSI, visit [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org). Join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

### “We came a long way. A very long way.”

A single mother, Roycene juggles parenting, work and night classes so that someday she can help women and children affected by substance abuse issues.

“If there hadn't been people helping me along the way, I wouldn't be where I am today,” she said.

Sober for over two years now, Roycene recalls when her then five-year-old son Lucas finally returned home after being placed in foster care.

“Lucas came home with a lot of behaviors,” she said. “It was almost unmanageable. I went from not having a child with me for a year and half to this. It was a transition for him and for me.”

For two years through LSI's behavioral health intervention services, LSI caseworker Heidi has helped Lucas learn anger management, communication skills and coping skills. Heidi is also helping Lucas improve his social skills to make friends at school and helping Roycene find ways to talk to Lucas about his father's incarceration.

“She has helped me through that,” Roycene said. “It's hard to know how to explain that his father isn't in the picture and what to tell him. It's not like he's going to be in his life.”

They still have tough days, but ask Roycene if she's proud of how far they've come and she grows quiet.

“Yes, I am,” she said softly. “We came a long way. A very long way.”

## Hospitality & Outreach



### A Resolution Revolution

Here we are again – and so quickly – the New Year!

The media proposes ways to recognize this artificial starting point as a time to create a new life for you. After all, isn't every new day a new start? But let's play along, shall we?

All avenues of social media are revving up with ways to help you improve yourself. Number one is losing weight by healthy eating and increased exercise. And they have just the equipment to sell you and the pills to make the losing easier!

After tackling your body, move on to lifestyle. Invest better to reap rewards, remodel your home or landscape, upgrade your vehicle. Let others see your status symbols.

These are just a few examples of the advertising campaigns we see every day. Now just suppose, instead of a make-over for our bodies and material items, we make over our souls.

In John 15:17, Jesus says, "This I command you; love one another." Psalm 100:2 tells us, "Serve the Lord with gladness." And there you have it!

As long as we are on this earth, we are God's hands and presence to others. Think of it, people, we are IT! What challenges, what possibilities and what an honor. We are acutely aware, or should be, of all the gifts God bestows upon us (please note the present tense, because our blessings are continuous). Everything we ARE, everything we HAVE, every talent we think we possess, every joy we EXPERIENCE comes from God Almighty. We matter that much to him!

That concept is overwhelming to me. And the truly amazing part is that God, being omniscient, has known all along what we are and what we are going to be and still takes a chance with us. He gives us every opportunity to serve in his name. When we are loved and trusted that much, how do we NOT act on his behalf?

I ask you to please look within yourself and at the

opportunities available, to us and through us, at St. John's – spiritual, service-oriented, social – and find ways to fulfill what God asks of us.

Look at St. John's website to see the various activities happening around you. Check out past issues of the Eagle Call. Look at the Tell Cards located in the church reception area or review the enclosure that came with your stewardship packet – a full sheet, front and back, of possibilities.

If you hesitate to venture into a new area, God's grace will be sufficient to help you do it. God will hold your hand as you hold another's. I positively guarantee that you will be blessed. There is grace in giving and receiving. We've all been at the receiving end. Let's be joyful in our giving.

Please don't hesitate to contact me. I will help connect you with possibilities for your make-over.

Have a very blessed 2012.  
Katie Tippins  
Hospitality and Outreach Coordinator

## Financials

**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: 0418. MSSB's account number is: 461-00524-1-9-013. 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](mailto: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.

## Security Help Wanted

Jack Huff, a member of our security team, will be leaving us in the middle of January. We would like to thank Jack for his work and help over the last year and a half. We have begun searching for a new member of our security team. If you know someone who is available weekends and some evenings, can multitask, and communicates well with others please have them contact Scott LaBlanc at [scottl@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:scottl@stjohnsdsm.org) or 515-243-7691. This is a paid position



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# Johanna Scholarship

## Meet Our Usangi College Scholarship Recipients

*The Johanna Scholarship was established in July 2011 to support women training to work for the Lutheran Church in the Pare Diocese, Tanzania. With generous contributions from the women of St. John's, we are currently supporting two women at Usangi Leadership and Training College with their two-year courses of study.*

I am happy to present to you our scholarship recipients from Usangi Leadership and Training College. I spent a week there early in November and was not only able to meet Leah and Rhoda but also was able to see them in class and interacting with their classmates. Here is some biographical information on each of them.

Leah Paul is from Bonde la Ruvu, a Masai land and mission field for the Pare Diocese. She is 37 years old, married and has four children at home. Leah is training to be an evangelist to assist the parish pastor. As an evangelist, she will head at least one preaching point and present all services except for those conducted by an ordained minister. Leah told me she always has felt called and even as a teenager would tell others about Jesus. She is very happy to have this opportunity to study and particularly enjoys studying the history of Israel.

Rhoda Nathanael from Kwakoa is a 19-year-old single mother with a young child, who is training to be a parish worker. In this role, she will serve with the parish pastor in caring for the congregation and visitors and will advocate for women and children. Her favorite classes are about sermons, liturgy and English.

Both of the women wanted me to pass on their appreciation for the scholarships. They could not afford to be students at the college without your help!

This year there are only 27 students at Usangi, because they did not have enough registrations to form the pastors' class this fall. Of the 27 who are enrolled, 10 are women! All of the students are serious about their studies as they realize this education can make a difference in their lives. Most have left family at home and are sacrificing a great deal to be at school.

I had the opportunity to observe classes, worship and even sing with them. They are great people.

In chatting with them one on one, they would often ask if I could help them fund their schooling. I told them that funding the scholarships allows us to help while giving the school staff the responsibility of choosing those with the most need.

One goal I have is to work with the synod to see what we can do synod-wide to offer scholarships for Usangi students. Tanzania is one of the fastest-growing Lutheran areas in the world, and there is a need for pastors, evangelists and parish workers. We can make a huge impact by helping educate the next generation in the work of the church.

Thank you all for your contributions to this worthwhile cause. This summer, when Mary Jo Maass is in Iowa, we will have another get-together so she can report on progress so we can look to the future.

If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, make your check out to St. John's and put Johanna Scholarship in the notes line.

Judi Langholz



*A group of women at St. John's raised scholarship funds last year to send Leah Paul, left, and Rhoda Nathanael to Usangi Leadership Training College in Tanzania. They are studying to become church workers.*



*Leah and Rhoda are modeling scarves from Youth Director Megan Clausen and the St. John's high school girls and book bags from Pastor Rachel. They were very happy to receive these gifts; Leah wore her scarf the whole week that Judi Langholz was there!*

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**Follow the Star**  
family event for  
Epiphany  
will be held Sunday,  
Jan. 8, beginning  
at 10 a.m. in the  
chapel.

## FEBRUARY EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Tuesday, January 17, 2011**. *This is one week earlier than normal.* Please send information or articles in digital format if possible, to Scott LaBlanc, [scottl@stjohnsdsm.org](mailto:scottl@stjohnsdsm.org). If you cannot send it by e-mail, drop it off at the church office.  
Thank you!