



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

Volume 43, Number 6
June, 2011

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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American Guild of Organists at St. John's

All members and friends of St. John's are invited to the Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists to be held here on Monday, June 20, as part of an organ festival hosted by the Region VI American Guild of Organists and the city of Des Moines. The competitors will perform at 11:20 a.m., 1 p.m. and 1:50 p.m., and prizes will be announced at 3:15 p.m. The winner will give a recital Thurs., June 23, at 9:15 a.m. in our sanctuary.

St. John's is considered one of the cornerstone churches for the festival and will host several events. A dozen or more churches—and their pipe organs—will be featured as venues for workshops, recitals, concerts, demonstrations and organ crawls.

Four evening events are open to the public free of charge. They include an incredible hymn festival with Dr. Aaron David Miller, an organ recital by Jan Kraybill, a concert featuring the Brahms' Requiem, and the young international organ star Christopher Houlihan.

Visit agodesmoines2011.org for more information.



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In the City for Good!
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Summer Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
 9:00 am – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday
 9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Next Eagle Call Deadline
June 20th at 12 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs..." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. Mark 10:13-14, 16

My dear friends,

By the time you receive this edition of the Eagle Call our SE Iowa Synod Assembly will be over; however, because you raised your voice on behalf of children and youth, our synod will have (most likely) passed a resolution that calls us to partner with the ELCA and several of its associated ministries to address bullying, harassment, and other related violence too prevalent in our society. The resolution – *A Memorial Calling the Church to Speak and Act to Prevent Bullying, Harassment and Related Violence* – was brought to our March 2011 congregational council meeting by St. John's Rainbow Ministry Team. After discussion, it was then unanimously endorsed and forwarded to the SE Iowa Synod.

In the "whereas" section of the resolution, two ELCA Social Statements – on education and sexuality – are referenced regarding the need for children, in particular, to be safe from verbal/emotional/physical violence that might be inflicted upon them because of actual or perceived "differences." The "whereas" section ends with the words: *Whereas the voice of the church addressing the intersection of race, economic status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and physical ability is a powerful witness to the healing and life affirming Gospel promise*, the resolution then calls the SE IA Synod, the ELCA, outdoor ministries, campus ministries, Lutheran Social Services, and Lutherans Concerned/ North America to raise awareness of bullying and harassment, focus on prevention, seek to change bystanders into allies, and create partnerships between youth and adults.

I am very proud of your support – through your elected leadership - of this resolution, and I intend to speak in favor of its adoption on the assembly floor. As we have sought to strengthen the ministry of and to children and youth at St. John's in the past several years – an effort led so well by staff members Sheryl Reed and Megan Clausen – we have also become more aware of the challenges our children and youth face every day. Research cited in the resolution says that children with disabilities or special needs are at a higher risk of being bullied than others, and that *Bullying around issues of sexual orientation, non-conforming gender behaviors, and dress was the most common form of bullying, second only to issues of appearance (e.g. body size and disability)*. (1) **Therefore, our support of this resolution is a visible sign of our love and support for all children, and particularly for the children and youth of St. John's.**

I remember a conversation I had with a young mother a few years ago. An acquaintance of hers had asked if the young family would be leaving St. John's to join a suburban church now that they had a child. The mother said to me, "I had to laugh and then I said, 'You haven't been to St. John's lately, have you?'" Indeed, this community treasures each and every infant, toddler, older child, and teen who considers St. John's "home." And as Jesus did, we are called to take them up into our arms and bless them with our love. You have done that by raising your voice against bullying and violence.

God bless you!

(1) from *New Perspective on Bullying*, 2002.

Council Updates



After each church council meeting, I leave tired but excited about who we are, what we are doing and what we still want to do to “be in the city for good”. We focus our meetings on the ministry of the church -- preaching the gospel and providing connections through meaningful relationships. Sure,

we need money for programming, supplies, to pay for utilities and maintenance but that is to help with our ministry.

I am pleased to report that our finances are on an even keel. Through April, we have brought in slightly more than we have needed to spend and that is a big step over the last few years. Your support is appreciated. There are some major expenses for tuck pointing and stain glass window repair, and with your gifts and the help of the St. John's Foundation, those repairs will be done in 2011. Please continue your regular giving as we enter the summer vacation season.

The main focus of our meetings has been on how to encourage year round stewardship. We want to encourage discipleship and that ALL we have is a gift from God. We regularly discuss the Ask, Thank, Tell stewardship book. The council is divided into three groups to bring those areas to life. The **Ask Group** has been working to get people to share themselves, including their time, talent and money. They want to encourage everyone to get involved in the community of St. John's by connecting with a group or activity. The **Thank Group** has been highlighting individuals and groups who share their time and talent in worship and activities. They want to make sure leadership is appreciated and to encourage everyone to support and reinforce our ministries. The **Tell Group** is working hard to share personal and collective stories about ministry at St. John's. They have highlighted events, ministry teams and individuals. All these activities will continue throughout the year.

We are also beginning to think about our a fall stewardship event. We are looking for a way to connect with everyone while sharing the gospel and the good news that brings to the ministry of St. John's. We already do much to serve the needs of our congregation and the

needs of the city, but there is still more we can do. I will share more about these plans in the next article.

I ask that you continue to support the council with your prayers and encouragement. Let us know what you think.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Kris Gregersen, 2011 Council President

A Thank You from the Council

The St. John's Congregational Council thanks all members AGAIN this month for continued faithful giving. Giving was at 113% of need year-to-date in February and at 103% in March. Treasurer Judi Langholz shared more good news with April's financial report: we are still in the black, with revenues at 101% of what is needed for our ministry plan. That 101% can be compared to April 2010, one year ago, when giving was at 86.2% of needed funds year-to-date. Let's all be thankful and keep up the good work!

Move the Food

Looking for something to do this summer? Looking for a fun way to give back to the community and have some fun at the same time? The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) needs seasonal and long-term volunteers! This is a perfect opportunity for families to serve together. Show your kids that not all people are as fortunate as we are. Offer your time and be an example of outreach and assistance.

MovetheFood is a DMARC-led initiative to catalyze resources so that everyone in Polk County has enough to eat. Join our MovetheFood volunteer team, and we promise these three things:

1. fun
2. variety
3. purpose



We depend on a truckload of volunteers to get food to people who need it and with spring here and summer approaching, we need even more volunteers to help us meet our commitment of providing fresh produce to our food pantry families.

We just posted new volunteer positions involving the Downtown Des Moines Farmers' Market, the Iowa Cubs, and working directly with pantry families. See what we mean about “fun” ?!

Check out our Volunteer page to view all the opportunities. Long- term and short-term positions are available. There are jobs for introverts and extroverts and choices for individuals, teams, families. You pick! www.MovetheFood.org/volunteer

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, June 5 Seventh Sunday of Easter

In the days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

The readings are Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11; and John 17:1-11. The hymns will be ELW 389, "Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing," ELW 654, "The Church's One Foundation," and ELW 826, "Thine the Amen." At 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. clarinetist Kris Joy will provide both offering and communion music.

Sunday, June 12 Day of Pentecost

This festival derives its name from the Jewish festival of Pentecost, observed 50 days after Passover. On the 50th day of Easter we celebrate the Holy Spirit as the power of God among us that heals, forgives, inspires, and unites. In the reading from Acts, images of wind and fire describe the Spirit poured out on disciples of all nations. In the one Spirit we are baptized into one body, and at the Lord's table the Spirit unites us for witness in the world.

The readings are Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; and John 20:19-23. The first reading from Acts, which describes the Spirit being poured out on the gathered assembly who then speak in various tongues, will be read simultaneously in a number of languages. If you speak a language other than English and would be willing to read some verses from Acts during the 8:45 a.m. or 11 a.m. services, please let one of the pastors or Larry Christensen know.

The hymns will be ELW 627, "O Day Full of Grace" (Danish), ELW 407, "O Living Breath of God" (Swedish tune with Spanish text), ELW 401, "Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading" (Tanzanian) and ELW 400, "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind" (Welsh tune with contemporary American text). At 8:45 a.m. Asphalt & Stained Glass will provide both offering and communion music. As a second Sunday of the month, there will be the rite of laying on of hands and

anointing with oil for healing at the communion rail at all services this weekend.

Sunday, June 19 The Holy Trinity

Though the word "trinity" is not found in the scriptures, this Sunday's second reading includes the apostolic greeting that begins the liturgy: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." In the gospel Jesus sends his disciples forth to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. More than a doctrine, the Trinity expresses the heart of our faith: We have experienced the God of creation made known in Jesus Christ and with us always through the Holy Spirit. We celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity in word and sacrament as we profess the creed and as we are sent into the world to bear witness to our faith.

The readings are Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; and Matthew 28:16-20. The hymns will be ELW 413, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!" ELW 412, "Come, Join the Dance of Trinity," and ELW 414, "Holy God, We Praise Your Name." At 8:45 a.m. Katy McDowell will sing during communion.

Sunday, June 26 Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 13

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

The readings are Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; and Matthew 10:40-42. The hymns will be ELW 526, "God is Here!" ELW 641, "All Are Welcome," and ELW 546, "To Be Your Presence."



SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

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

If so, send them to scottl@stjohnsdsm.org or drop them off at the church office. You never know, you may end up in the next issue of the Eagle Call.

Volunteers Needed

Would you like to be part of a worship service in a meaningful experience praising God?



Acolytes and Crucifers are needed at the 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services. Training is provided. Support is provided by the pastors!

- Acolytes light and extinguish candles, receive offering trays and hold trays for communion.
- Crucifers lead the procession at the beginning and end of the service, bring the gospel book to the preacher

for the reading and assist at the altar during communion by bringing more bread and wine to the servers.

Please contact Kim at the church office if you would like to be involved.

Wellness Ministry Update



Sandy LaBlanc, our new Wellness Ministry Coordinator was installed at the 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services on Sunday May 15. After formally taking on this new non-stipendiary position we asked this long time member of St. John's to tell us about herself and her vision for Wellness Ministry here at St. John's.

Just a bit about myself: My husband and I have been members at St. John's for 29 years. I am an Associate in Ministry and have served the church at the national level for the last 27 years, the last 10 from the denominational headquarters in Chicago. My ministry has been focused on rural areas and small town which, by the way, has a lot in common with urban ministries. For the last 18 months, I've taken a sabbatical and listened for what God was calling me to do next. For the last year, I kept feeling

the call to St. John's to do servant ministry in the form of wellness of mind, body and spirit. Here I am! And I'm most happy to be here.

My office is in the McKinney Wellness Center. I will be working Tuesdays and Thursdays, well as Sunday mornings. I am not a nurse so the form of the ministry will be somewhat changing. Chaplaincy and Stephen Ministry are in my background, and I have a passion for prayer ministry.

The first item on the agenda is working with the Health Ministry Team on a survey to find out what you, the congregation, want in terms of wellness of mind, body and spirit. We'll analyze the results and go from there. What is envisioned, however, is to form teams with a point person; these teams will each have the same passion. The point persons will meet once a month.

I have begun asking people if they would like to join me in an intercessory prayer group. We will meet to pray for (among other items) the ministries of St. John's; the staff of St. John's; the outreach and evangelism efforts; the synod staff and their ministries; the denominational staff, and all the various ministries throughout the ELCA. Events occurring in the USA and the world will be prayed for as well.

Some years ago, I helped with a study on best practices in growing congregations. The very first thing listed was a vital prayer ministry. Just think about how often Jesus went away to pray! What better example could we have; but also, Jesus listened to what God was calling him to do. So we too need to listen, rather than just talk at God. My 21-month-old granddaughter, after her nightly prayers, will say "amine" - she can't pronounce "amen" as yet. How many of us think of "amine" - what I want - rather than "so be it," which is the meaning of "amen."



Last week I visited a person in hospice, and I always ask what they would like me to pray for. The response was a whole series of things they were thankful for. Now that is an example of wellness of mind, body and spirit! Let us move forward to create this at St. John's!

"This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and give thanks in it!"

Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

Quilting, Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. in Room 308.

WIRED Cooking, Thursday, June 2, 6 p.m.

Christian Involvement / Restaurant Visitation, Tuesday, June 7, 6 p.m.

Saturday a.m. Bible Study, taking a break for summer.

Hardanger, taking a break for summer.

St. John's Networking Group, taking a break for summer.

EAGLES, trip to Omaha to the zoo. More details to follow.

St. John's Moms, Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m. in the Nursery at church.

Couples / Singles Group, Saturday, June 11, 5:30 p.m., garden party at the Zaabels'.

Scrapbooking, taking a break for summer.

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

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

Gardening, Wednesday, June 22, 6:30 p.m., tour at home of Ron Branam, 14th and Ashworth, West Des Moines.

WIRED Night Out, Thursday, June 23, meet around 5:30 or 6 p.m. at Jasper Winery.

Photography, Sunday, June 26, 10 a.m. in Neumann.

Be sure to check www.stjohnsdsm.org for small group dates and events.

More information on upcoming events

Baseball and Apple Pie is an all-congregational event to be held on Sunday, June 5. There will be a picnic with an apple pie contest on the grass next to the parking lot at Principal Park between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Following the picnic and contest, we will attend an I-Cub's game at 1:05 p.m. Sign up in the lounge in May both to attend and/or to bring an apple pie for the contest. Cost: \$10/person (includes food, beverage and ticket.) Bring a lawn chair for the picnic. The food and table service will be provided.

Quilting Group: The quilting group will be meeting on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 308 at church.

Saturday a.m. Bible Study will take a break for the summer and start again in the fall. (Contacts: Ellen Fisher, 250-9916, or ellenfisher123@yahoo.com or Rod Snavely, rsnavely@aol.com)

Recreational Reading will break until fall.

St. John's Moms will meet on Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m. in the nursery at church. Facilitators: Kirsten LaBlanc, k.lablanc@gmail.com (491-0907) and Rachel Corron, rpcorron@gmail.com (313-6645).

EAGLES June event: The group will travel to Omaha to enjoy the zoo on Friday, June 24, leaving St. John's at 8 a.m. Call or e-mail Roma Youngquist at 285-3810 or plaallda@aol.com .

Couples/Singles Group will meet at the home of Dennis and Karen Zaabel for a garden party on Saturday, June 11, 2011, at 5:30 p.m. at 1102 South 50th Place in West Des Moines. Pam and Mike Hanna are co-hosting the event. Bring your creative side as the event will include a contest that will prove to be fun. Please bring a salad and a lawn chair. Beverages, plates, silverware and dessert will be provided. Cost per couple is \$10 and \$5 for single. Please RSVP by Wednesday, June 8, 2011, by contacting the Zaabels at kzaabel@msn.com or by phone at 225-8476 or Hannas at 987-3147 or email at pam_hnn@yahoo.com.

The St. John's Networking Group will take a break for the summer. (Contact: Ellen Fisher, 274-5236, or ellenfisher123@yahoo.com)

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

Lunch Bunch I will meet on Thursday, June 16, at 11:30 a.m. Anyone interested in joining the group please call Margaret Roby at 288-6304 to reserve a space. New members are most welcome!

Scrapbooking will break until fall.

The Gardening group will be meeting on Wednesday, June 22, at the home of Ron and Sandy Branam, 1409 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines, at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy the fantastic display of bulbs, perennials, grasses, shrubs and small trees at the Branams as well as more than 150 flower pots tucked in the open spaces, deck and gazebo. A past article in the Des Moines Register states, "The Branam's backyard is a premeditated chaos of

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blooms and hardscape, boulders and arbors. . . Their home is known throughout the city as the arboretum on Ashworth.” Parking can be found on 13th or 14th Streets as well as in the horseshoe driveway of the house. Questions? E-mail Darla at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

Photography will meet on Sunday, June 26, at 10 a.m. in Neumann. The theme this month is “doors and entrances.” If you have an interest in participating in St. John’s photography small group, please contact Rod Snavelly at rsnavelly@aol.com.



WIRED Cooking: Enjoy an evening with a shared meal and fellowship at Karen Zaabel’s home, 1102 South 50th Place, West Des Moines on Thursday, June 2, 6 p.m. Each participant will be asked to make an item from a planned menu. Then we will put them all together for a shared meal. Karen and Carol will make the main entree. Recipes for appetizers, salads, vegetables and desserts will be provided. Please respond if you are able to attend and indicate which menu category you would like to prepare. Bring your own drink of choice and enjoy an evening of good food and some new recipes to take home. Please respond by Friday, May 27. Due to limited seating, the number of people who can attend is limited so respond early! Contact Carol at carollunde@q.com or 249-7272 or Karen at kzaabel@msn.com or 225-8476.

WIRED Night Out is meeting at the Jasper Winery on Thursday, June 23, between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to enjoy the entertainment, friends, food and beverages. If you are able to attend, e-mail Darla at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org or Jacque Warming at jrwarming@msn.com. Bring a lawn chair and come early to get a parking place. We will provide crackers/cheese and grapes. Other food and beverages can be purchased on the premises.

Women of the ELCA



Lois Group will meet in Neumann at noon on June 2 for a salad luncheon. Attendees will be treated to a surprise program. Sarah Group resumes in September.

Over the summer please continue to fill our baskets for donations (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, sanitary supplies).

Our Mission in Action drives resume in September when the emphasis will be school supplies, which are usually on sale in August.

Interfaith Hospitality

On June 14 and 16 St. John’s will assist WDM Christian Church in hosting three homeless families who are in transition. Please consider volunteering for a shift. We need food preparers and servers and evening and overnight hosts. This is a great opportunity for youth, families or small groups to serve together.



June 14 (Tuesday) & June 16 (Thursday)
Need at least 2 people per shift

5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.	Serve supper & clean up
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Evening hosts
8 p.m. - 6 a.m.	Overnight hosts (at least one male needed)

Food Needs - Deliver by 5:30 p.m.

Main dish	Enough for 25 people
Salad	
Vegetable / starch	
Bread - two loaves	
Dessert	
Milk - two gallons	



WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE AN ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE EAGLE CALL?

E-mail businessoffice@stjohnsdsm.org and request the eEagle Call. Help us save on the cost of postage, use less paper, and see each issue in **FULL COLOR**.

Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School 2011

Who: Kids entering Kindergarten through 6th Grade

What: VBS Daycamp Week led by the Lutheran Lakeside camp staff: "When All Else Falls Away..." based on 1 Corinthians 13:7-8a, "Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

When: June 27-30, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church



Registration and health form can be found on the table by the chapel entrance or at www.stjohnsdsdm.org. For more information, contact Sheryl Reed at 243-7691, ext. 193, or sherylreed@stjohnsdsdm.org.

COMPLETE AND RETURN REGISTRATIONS BY JUNE 13.

Vacation Bible School Daycamp Week at a Glance

Day 1: The Shepherd Stands Firm (1 Samuel 17:17-50)

Day 2: The Rock is Solid (Matthew 7:24-29)

Day 3: The Son Rises (Isaiah 42:1-4)

Day 4: The Beat Goes On (1 Corinthians 10:11-13)



Sunday School teachers are needed for the 2011-12 Sunday School year. Could you share your faith with a class of kids once or twice a month? A schedule can be made to fit the schedule of even the busiest person! Teacher's guides are provided that make lessons easy and rewarding to plan and lead. You'll learn right along with the kids!!!!

Contact Sheryl Reed, if interested, 243-7691, ext. 193.

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

Well, this program year certainly FLEW by! It was a great year full of fun, fellowship, service and learning! What more could we ask for? How about a summer full of the same things?! That is what we are sure to have with all of the super-awesome things we have planned for the youth at St. John's. We have students going to Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Lakeside in Spirit Lake during the week of June 19-24. We have 10 middle school girls and three adult women headed to Duluth, Minnesota, to do service and meet new people the week of July 10, and we have seven high school students and three adults headed to Booneville, Arkansas, the week of August 1 to serve others and grow in their faith! It will be a FULL summer to be sure! Please keep the youth of St. John's and the adults that lead them in your prayers this summer as they go out from Des Moines to share the love of Christ with others. Thank you to ALL for your continued support!

Middle School Students (all 7th and 8th graders)

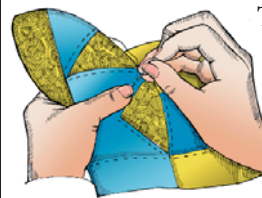
Watch your e-mail – or your parent's e-mail – for upcoming summer fellowship activities, i.e. movie nights, pool parties, service projects, etc! ☺

High School Students (all 9th-12th graders)

Watch your Facebook and ask your parents to check their e-mail for information concerning summer opportunities for you and your friends! Be sure to keep in touch over the summer! ☺

Peace & love, Megan

Sew What?



Thank you for the wonderful response to our request for folks to complete a quilt top for Hope Ministry quilts. We were joyful that there were only three packets left! Four quilts are already complete and ready for delivery.

As you finish your project, drop off the quilt top at the church office. Then the quilting group will step in and complete the three "B's" (batting, backing and binding).

Thank you all for making this such a successful campaign.

The Quilting Group

In the City (and the World) for Good!

...love one another deeply from the heart. 1 Peter 1:22b

Below are updates on & invitations to ministry outside of the walls of St. John's. We invite you to discern where your particular passions meet the community's needs and find an opportunity there to love "deeply from the heart."

June brings us another opportunity to assist WDM Christian Church as they host three homeless families through the Interfaith Hospitality Network. We are responsible for providing an evening meal, along with evening and overnight hosting, on Tuesday, June 14 and Thursday, June 16. This is a ministry that parents and children can do together. Please sign up to help on the "Interfaith Hospitality Network" clipboard in the narthex.

Thanks for your continued support of DMARC, especially through your gifts of food, and thanks to Laura Mackaman who regularly delivers our donations to the Food Pantry. We recently received a letter from DMARC asking for financial gifts that will support the Food Pantry as well as DMARC's other ministries: childcare subsidies and emergency financial assistance. In the letter was the following quote from someone who came to DMARC for assistance:

My electric is being shut off. I'm 56 years old, and I've been sick. Savings went to pay medical bills and care for my grandnephew - he's 2 years old. I don't have custody, but I'm all he's got. It will be three months before I can go back to my CAN job. We've been making ends meet, but the cost of diapers - and the unexpected hospital bills - I owe the utility company \$237. There's just no money. I've always paid my way...

You may give to DMARC through St. John's - just mark your check appropriately.

Please plan to participate in the Pride Parade this year with others from St. John's! The event is scheduled for June 12 and will assemble behind the Capitol at 1 p.m. As a community of faith where people of all sexual orientations are welcome and involved in ministry, Pastor Mithelman's personal goal is to have at least 50 people marching this year! What a great way to celebrate Pentecost and be a witness "in the city for good!" (If you don't have a St. John's t-shirt, wear something red!)

The After School Arts Program (ASAP) will host a summer arts camp in Evelyn K. Davis Park, June 27 - 30, thanks to a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Watch for opportunities to volunteer as a friend and teaching assistant to the children.

Thanks for all that you do for love of Christ and your neighbor. It all matters.

ASAP Benefit Concert

**Benefit Concert for the
After School Arts Program "Art and Soul,"
Sunday, July 17, at Ritual Café**

The After School Arts Program, begun by St. John's four years ago and still housed here, will be the beneficiary of an eclectic concert given by local musicians who are donating their time and talents.



Award-winning singer and songwriter Mary McAdams helped spearhead the effort to pull this event together and recruited the oft-recorded Iowa folk icon Brian Joens. St. John's "house band," Asphalt & Stained Glass, will once again collaborate with Hurley & Dancers for a set. Finally, rollicking Klezmer music (Jewish jazz) will be provided by Abe Goldstein and the Java Jews. There will truly be something for everyone, even as the whole evening promises to be entertaining and enjoyable.

Sunday, July 17, is the date, and 5:30 to 8:45 p.m. will be the time. The venue is the Ritual Café in downtown Des Moines on 13th between Grand and Locust, just east of the Sculpture Garden and across the street from the Pappajohn Center. Beverages and counter snacks will be for sale, but the grill will not be open for sandwiches and meals.

There will be no admission charged, but, since it is a benefit concert, there will most certainly be an opportunity to write checks that will help Executive Director Michelle Bolton King sleep better at night. In fact, Michelle will be there to bring us up to date with what ASAP has been up to and what plans are for the near and not-so-near future. This event is also a way for you to acquaint your friends with the program so that our circle of supporters can grow wider, so invite some folks to come with you. Support art education for some special children at King and Moulton elementary schools while you have a great evening on the town!

Hospitality & Outreach



Please Make Welcome Our New St. John's Members!

We are blessed to welcome new members to our St. John's family. In May, we welcomed Keith and Blanca Hanson and Kristin Tracy.



Keith and Blanca live in Des Moines and are in their 40th year of wedded bliss. Blanca was born in Mexico, and Keith heralds from Minnesota. Keith is lucky enough to be retired, while Blanca is employed by Wells Fargo. They are parents to two adult daughters, Elizabeth and Carmen. For recreation, Blanca enjoys cross-stitching, camping and cooking. Keith is an avid reader and

woodworker. They were attracted to St. John's after visiting here with their daughter, Elizabeth. They enjoy Pastor Rachel's excellent sermons and the early Sunday and Saturday evening services.

Kristin is a downtown Des Moines resident and attracted to our convenient location. She is a born-and-bred Lutheran, born in Ames. She is a project manager and web developer for Red 5 Interactive (and from a quick peek at their website she's very good). Kristin's nonwork related interests include pets and animals (we're bonding over that shared interest), music, Iowa State University activities, the arts and travel.



I encourage all members – “newbies” and “seasoned” alike – to welcome Keith, Blanca and Kristin. Issue invitations to our social functions, introduce them around, show them first-hand our St. John's hospitality!

Our next new member class will be in August. Consider asking friends, relatives, co-workers, neighbors and/or family members with whom you'd like to share your faith journey. We are a welcoming church for all. Suggest they contact me, or feel free to give me their contact information, and I will issue a “formal” invitation. If you have membership questions, involvement or volunteer opportunities, or suggestions for new outreach ministries, contact Katie at 243-7691 or katiel@stjohnsdsm.org, Hospitality and Outreach Coordinator.

Kisasa Annoucement



Kisasa Choristers to commission anthem with Warming Memorial Fund

The Kisasa Choristers have been generously gifted money from the Richard Warming Memorial Fund. After several weeks of discussion and ideas regarding how the money might be put to use, the Kisasa Choristers agreed upon a commissioned anthem to honor Dick and be dedicated to the Kisasa Choristers. The next challenge was to find a composer to commission. The director, Sarah Garner, took a survey of some of their favorite composers – Bach and Mozart were among those named. Unfortunately, they were not available. However, the choristers were particularly excited by the works of Julia Simon, a choral director in Silicon Valley, California, who wrote two pieces that the choristers sang this year: “Follow Me” and “Why the Cross?” Ms. Simon was very excited by the opportunity to honor Dick and the choristers in this way and will be composing an anthem for us this summer! Look forward to hearing our anthem in Fall of 2011!

Faith Garden

St. John's has a Faith Garden at the home of the Speirs family! Produce from St. John's Faith Garden will be donated to the DMARC food pantries to feed hungry children and their families. We need gardeners, tools and dollars! We welcome monetary contributions to cover costs of plant starts, garden supplies and equipment. Mark your contribution “for St. John's Faith Garden.” Another way to contribute is to donate your own excess garden produce to DMARC--plant some extra rows! Please call Bonnie Ekse, 964-5929, if you can help tend the garden, deliver produce to DMARC food pantries, or if you have spare tools, garden hoses or supplies. Let's help alleviate childhood hunger in Greater Des Moines by 2015.

See pictures of the Faith Garden on the next page.

Photos of the Month



Pastor Ray and Mary Jane share a rainy moment during the EAGLES May event.



Pastor Rachel and Isla Corron share a moment after church services in Neumann.

Return Service Requested

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*Just a reminder that from Memorial Day to Labor Day
the church office will be open from
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.*

JULY EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, June 20, 2011**. Please send information or articles in digital format if possible, to Scott LaBlanc, scottl@stjohnsdsm.org. If you cannot send it by e-mail, drop it off at the church office.
Thank you!