



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

Volume 43, Number 5
May, 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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May 8th is Music Sunday



The contributions of our musicians – both youth and adult, both vocal and instrumental – to worship here at St. John's will be recognized on Sunday, May 8th, at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. It is no secret that the contributions of those who make music to the glory of God in the assembly here are key contributors to what makes worship at St. John's unique in Central Iowa. This congregation has a long history of providing the resources to make that possible from the pipe organs and grand pianos in both the chapel and sanctuary to making sure well-trained, liturgical musicians have a voice in worship planning. The 2010 updating, revoicing, and refurbishing of the sanctuary organ financed through the St. John's Foundation is just one recent example.

All of our choirs and ensembles will take part in the 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services that day with music that will shine with glorious resurrection brightness! In addition, the 2011 Gfeller Music Scholarship winners will be announced, and the 2010-2011 String Scholars, who lead the St. John's Chamber Orchestra, will be recognized as well. Come and help us say "thank you" to these servants.



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In the City for Good!
Phone 515.243.7691

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Office Hours are:

Monday – Thursday

9:00 am – 5:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Saturday

9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Next Eagle Call Deadline
May 16th at 12 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Bob Speirs

“And Jesus came and said to them, All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you to the end of the age.”
 Matthew 28:18-20

Our Christian Gospel makes the very bold proclamation that Jesus Christ is alive, well and on the hearts and minds of all who claim him as Lord. The Gospel story we have heard at Easter tells us that the story of Jesus doesn't end with his crucifixion or even his resurrection, but that Jesus lives and promises to be present and available to each and everyone of us, by faith, that comes to us as we read and dwell in God's word and especially hear God's Word preached, "which the Holy Spirit reveals and proclaims, through which he illuminates and inflames hearts so that they grasp and accept it, cling to it and preserve it."

It is through faith in the promise and presence of Jesus Christ that Jesus lays claim to us and gives us hope, peace, new life and freedom from sin, death and the power of evil. This is indeed good news for all of us, and it's news that needs to be shared. In this passage from Matthew, known as "The Great Commission," we are called as a people who have been given a great, generous and wonderful gift of a new and grace-filled life to share it with others. Jesus tells us to go, make disciples, baptize, and teach my word so that all might hear of God's plan for salvation. It's an awesome responsibility to share this good news, it's also a privilege that we embrace with trust and joy, confident that we are not alone, but that Jesus presence through the Holy Spirit accompanies us and guides us in this mission and ministry. As Christ is risen, we too shall arise, we are Easter people! Alleluia, thanks be to God.

I would like to lift up a couple of ministry opportunities for consideration and support:

Global Mission Team: We are looking for a few more people to join us on the first Tuesday of each month, from 5:30-6:30, to discuss the issues and implement the agenda that we have chosen for the year. Some of the opportunities we're looking at for the remainder of the year are: making quilts for Lutheran World Relief and their Global Ministry partners, a letter writing campaign for "Bread for the World", an organization that addresses the needs of the world's hungry (including those who hunger in our own nation as well), support for "Fair Trade" organizations, asking for donations for LAYETTES, Health kits and Education kits to be sent to Global Mission stations also through LWR, and much more. Please consider giving your time and your insight to this effort.

We are also planning a trip to Decorah, Iowa, July 22nd and 23rd, for the 2011 Global (Global/Local) Formation Event sponsored by the Global Ministry Team of the ELCA. This is a program that gives information, ideas and equips congregations to expand and improve their Global Ministry teams in their own congregations, and shows the marvelous work being done by the ELCA across the globe. This is a great way to meet people from

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other churches involved in similar work, attend workshops, worship and listen to great music from around the world. Registration is \$35.00 plus the cost of the hotel for a single night. Some of these expenses will be offset by the Global Mission Team budget. Please consider joining us. It should be great fun.

St. John's Community Garden: Last summer a group of us from St. John's decided to take on a project of developing a community garden at the Speirs family home. So we met on Labor Day of 2010 and began to cover a plot of the grass (and weeds) with newspaper and mulch, using the no tilling-no weeding system employed by local gardening guru, Mark Kane. After a long winter the ground has been inspected and has been declared ready to start planting. We are excited and ready to begin. We plan to start planting late April / early May as the weather dictates. Our goal for this garden is that much of what is grown will be donated to the local DMARC Food Pantry for distribution to those who need fresh produce. If this garden is as successful as we hope, we will expand next year with more plots.

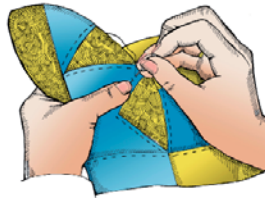


The purpose of this writing is to open this project up to whomever would like to help with our efforts, using your own gardening expertise, physically or financially, or even offering donations of gardening equipment and supplies that you no longer have use for, but is still in good condition. Some of our team members include: Diana Sickles, Bonnie Ekse, Jean LemMon, Margaret Townsend, Larry and Linda Christensen, Tim and Janet Andersen, Wanda Havard, Brenda Couch. We look for a good and fruitful (pardon the pun) summer of growth.

If you have questions or comments about either of these opportunities to give and share, please call me or see me at the church office. Hope you all have a great and blessed Spring season.

Peace, Pastor Bob

Sew What?!



Can you sew a seam on a sewing machine? Would you be willing to provide a warm quilt for people who need them? If so, then we have an opportunity for you!

The St. John's quilters were recently given five large bags of double-knit fabric cut into quilt blocks. The blocks have been sorted into 33 packets, each packet containing enough blocks to make a twin-size quilt top. Now we need volunteers to do the sewing!

Quilt packets will be available for you to pick up on Sunday, May 1! Sewing instructions are included in each packet, and it is not required that these quilt-tops be "State Fair perfect." There is no deadline by which the quilt-tops must be finished. Feel free to take your time, and when you have a top finished return it to the church office.

The quilts will be given to Harbor of Hope, a program that assists men who have been incarcerated to re-enter society. Harbor of Hope's Director is our own Andy Anderson.

Thank you, and remember that Jesus said, *"Inasmuch as you have done this for the least of your brothers and sisters, you have done it for me."* Matthew 25

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. 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. Johns Lutheran Church.** Those making a contribution of stocks or other equities, please notify the finance office at financeoffice@stjohnsdsm.org or call 515-243-7691. New rules, post 9/11, 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.

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, May 1, Second Sunday of Easter

In today's gospel, the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gatherings around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter, the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we received in baptism.

The readings are Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; and John 20:19-31. The hymns will be ELW 363, "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain," ELW 635, "We Walk by Faith," ELW 391, "This Joyful Eastertide," and ELW 382, "Christ is Risen! Alleluia!" All of the music for the 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services will be provided by singers and musicians from Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill, including the Ascension Singers under the direction of Michael Zemek, a student brass quartet, and organist Larry Peterson.

Sunday, May 8, Third Sunday of Easter Music Sunday & Mother's Day

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them, and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

The readings are Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-23; and Luke 24:13-35. The hymns will be ELW 384, "That Easter Day with Joy was Bright," ELW 374, "Day of Arising," and ELW 377, "Alleluia! Jesus is Risen." Since it is a second Sunday of the month, the rite of healing with laying on of hands and anointing with oil will be available at the communion raining at all services this weekend. And since we will be observing this Sunday as "Music Sunday" we will include as many of our singers, ensembles, and musicians in our worship as possible: Kisasa Choristers, Cantorei, Cathedral Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Brass Quartet, and Asphalt & Stained Glass. We will also award the 2011 Gfeller Music Scholarships, recognize the String Scholar leaders for our Chamber Orchestra, and thank our musicians for the way they enrich worship every week. We will not forget that this

Sunday is "Mother's Day;" after all, who got all these people to their music lessons and concerts through so many of their formative years?

Sunday, May 15, Fourth Sunday of Easter "Good Shepherd Sunday"

This Sunday is sometimes called "Good Shepherd Sunday." Jesus is called the "gate" of the sheep in the gospel, for the risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us in the midst of the world's violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God's tender care to all creation.

The readings are Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; and John 10:1-10. The hymns will be ELW 619, "I Know that My Redeemer Lives," ELW 502, "The King of Love My Shepherd Is," ELW 362, "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" stz. 1, and ELW 544, "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing." At 8:45 a.m., Asphalt & Stained Glass will lead the assembly in Marty Haugen's "Shepherd Me, O God," and then Graham Kendrick's "Here Is Bread," during communion. Cathedral Choir will also do the Haugen piece for offering and, for communion, "Very Bread, Good Shepherd, Tend us by C. L. Talmadge.

Sunday, May 22, Fifth Sunday of Easter Graduates Sunday

As we continue to celebrate the 50 days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As First Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds, we bear witness to the risen Christ – our way, our truth, our life.

The readings are Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; and John 14:1-14. The hymns are ELW 660, "Lift High the Cross," ELW 758, "You Are the Way," ELW 388, "Be Not Afraid," and ELW 549, "Send Me, Jesus." The offering music at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. will be "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!" and communion music, "Now we Remain, by David Haas and the anonymous "I Received the Living God" will be led by Cantorei at 8:45 a.m. and Cathedral Choir at 11:00 a.m. Our graduates will be recognized and honored as well.

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Sunday, May 29, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Jesus does not leave his followers orphaned. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

The readings are Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; and John 14:15-21. The hymns will be ELW 822, "Oh, Sing to the Lord," ELW 804, "Come Down, O Love Divine," and ELW 392, "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus."

Midweek Music

**Last Midweek Music Concert
of the Spring 2011 Series
Wednesday, May 4th**

May 4th will be the final noontime concert of the 2010-2011 Midweek Music Series, one of the best so far in the 20 year plus history of these

concerts. The violin and viola students of Dr. Sarah Plum of the Drake University string faculty, will be the guest artists.

Dr. Plum has shown unusual energy and talent for recruiting and training gifted string violin and viola players for Drake, and this will be a great opportunity to hear some of the result. The program begins at 12:05 and lasts about 25 minutes. It is free and is, as always, followed by a home-cooked lunch for just \$6.

Planning for the 2011-2012 series is nearly complete, and it promises to be even better with new performers along with favorites and an expanding range of ensembles. It begins with folk-singer and guitarist Seth Hedquist on September 28th, so mark your calendars right now so as not to miss a single program.

A big "thank you" goes to our Midweek Music cooks, servers, ushers, and helpers. They are what makes this program possible and so well thought of in the metro area.

June Organ Festival

This summer (June 20-23), the city of Des Moines and the Central Iowa chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) will host an Organ Festival as part of the Region VI Convention of the AGO. A dozen or more churches (and their pipe organs) will be featured as venues for workshops, recitals, concerts, demonstrations and organ crawls. St. John's Lutheran Church is considered one of the cornerstone churches for the festival and will be hosting several events.



St. John's organist, Sarah Garner, is currently Dean of the Central Iowa AGO, a member of the Festival Steering Committee and also competition coordinator for the Regional Competition for Young Organists (RCYO) which is held in conjunction with the convention. "The opportunity to share the wealth of artistic resources in Central Iowa is wonderful. We are excited to welcome the organ community to the city and show off our best instruments, spaces, and personalities! We also consider this to be a great celebration of our instruments and hope that the people of Des Moines will take this opportunity to learn more about the pipe organ and hear our region's great talent. Included as one of our workshop presenters will be our own Larry Christensen."

Members of St. John's are invited to come and hear the RCYO competition on Monday, June 20. The competitors will play at 10:00, 11:20, 1:00 and 1:50 with prizes announced at 3:15. Then, come and hear the competition winner in recital on Thursday, June 23rd at 9:15 in our Sanctuary.

The four evening events which 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 are all open to the public and free of charge. Please visit agodesmoines2011.org for more information. Also, if you have interest in volunteering to help with events, contact Sarah Garner (sgarner22@me.com).

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.

Christian Involvement / Restaurant Visitation, Tuesday, May 3, 6:00 p.m. at Johnny's Italian Restaurant.

3D: Wednesday, May 4, 10:00 a.m.

Saturday am Bible Study, Saturdays in May (except May 28), 8:30 a.m.

St. John's Networking Group, Monday, May 9, 5:30 p.m. Gateway Market on MLKing.

EAGLES, Tour of the Better Homes & Gardens test gardens and lunch in the garden, then tour of the Sculpture Park.

St. John's Moms, Saturday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. in the Nursery at church.

Scrapbooking, Saturday, May 14, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Room 8.

Lunch Bunch II, Wednesday, May 18, 12:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch I, Thursday, May 19, 11:30 a.m.

Couples / Singles Group, Saturday, May 21, 5:30 p.m., "Waterfalls & Wine" at the Stiles', more details to follow.

Photography, Sunday, May 22, 10:00 a.m. in Neumann, theme: "funny" pictures.

Gardening, Tuesday, May 24, 6:30 p.m., tour and presentation at Loki's Gardens west of Booneville.

Recreational Reading, Wednesday, May 25, 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm.

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

More information on upcoming events

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

Saturday am Bible Study will meet Saturdays in May (except Memorial Day weekend, May 28) 8:30 a.m. at a location to be determined by the group—Contact Ellen Fisher, 250-9916 or ellenfisher123@yahoo.com or Rod Snavely, rsnavelly@aol.com for location.

St. John's Moms will meet on Saturday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. in the nursery at church. This group is for moms of young children (around age 3 and under). Facilitators: Kirsten LaBlanc k.lablanc@gmail.com (491-0907) and Rachel Corron, rpcorron@gmail.com (313-6645).

EAGLES May: The group will tour the test gardens at Better Homes & Gardens on Locust and 15th, enjoy a box lunch there, then tour the Sculpture Park just down the street. More details will be announced soon.

The St. John's Networking Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month which is May 9 of this month. The group meets at Gateway Market @ 5:30 p.m. Whether you're job hunting or not, it's a fun way to get to know great people from varied backgrounds. Gatherings are very informal. Questions? Contact Ellen Fisher 274-5236 or ellenfisher123@yahoo.com

Lunch Bunch II: This group will meet on Wednesday, May 18, at 12:30 p.m. If interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg, 279-6326.

Lunch Bunch I will meet on Thursday, May 19, 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!

Recreational Reading will meet on Wednesday, May 25, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm. The book for discussion is In Other Rooms, Other Wonders by Daniyal Mueenuddin.

Scrapbooking will meet on Saturday, May 14, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. since the 4th Saturday falls on Memorial Day weekend. All are welcome. Bring pictures, papers and materials to work with. The group shares ideas.

Photography will meet on Sunday, May 22, at 10:00 a.m. in Neumann. The theme this month is "funny"— a funny picture or something to make you laugh. If you have an interest in participating in St. John's photography small group, please contact Rod Snavely at rsnavelly@aol.com.

Gardening will be starting for the spring / summer / fall months on Tuesday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m. The group will meet at Loki's Gardens, west of the Des Moines metro area. (Take Grand Avenue west of the interstate, turn left at Raccoon River Drive and drive 7.5 miles.) Be inspired by five acres of

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charming wooded hills with an exceptional array of perennials, trees and shrubs, as well as display gardens. You may also purchase plants following the tour. Pick up a 2011 summer garden schedule in the hospitality center or find it at www.stjohnsdsm.org, in the lounge or e-mail Darla at darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org

“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 grassy knoll of the parking lot at Principal Park between 11:30 and 1:00. Following the picnic and contest, we will attend an I-Cub's game at 1:05. 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.) The Christian Involvement Team will provide the food.

WIRED Cooking event: A Demonstration Class with Chef Terri Kohl is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2011, class begins at 12:00 p.m. for about 1.5 to 2 hours. Cost is \$45 plus tax and gratuity with cash or check. Credit cards add 10%. Please RSVP to Carol Lunde at carollunde@q.com by May 1.

Couples/Singles Group will meet at the home of Bill and Darla Stiles, 3812 Greenbranch Drive, West Des Moines on Saturday, May 21, at 5:30 p.m. for a backyard gathering, “Waterfalls and Wine,” with hors d'oeuvres and beverages. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre and RSVP to the Stiles at 225-3499 or darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org. Cost: \$5 per person. A raindate will be announced if there is inclement weather.

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.

Rainbow Ministry



St. John's Lutheran Church
“A Church for ALL People”

The Rainbow Ministry Team of St. John's will continue our annual tradition of participating in the Des Moines Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 12th, at 1:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for us to represent St. John's as a “Church for All People.”

St. John's members and friends are invited to join us in the march. Meeting time is 12:30 p.m. and the location is on the east side of the Capitol near Capitol Avenue in the large parking lot. The parade ends on Robert D. Ray Drive near the river. Feel free to show off your new St. John's Rainbow t-shirt which can be ordered until May 15th at the reception desk for \$16.00 plus tax per shirt.

If you have any questions regarding this event, contact Bruce Remmey at 515.208.4386.

Women of the ELCA



Groups will meet Thursday May 5th. Lois Group will meet at church in Neumann at 12:30 p.m. Mary Liechty will speak.

Sarah Group will meet on Thursday May 5th at Iowa Lutheran Hospital at 9:30 a.m. in Room 1. Gemechisa Mosa will speak. Guests are welcome. Please call Roma Youngquist at

285-3810 if you can join us.

The Spring General Meeting will be held at noon on Wednesday May 18th. Our speaker will be Greg Anderson on Tanzania. Reservations are required for lunch at a cost of \$6.00.

WELCA Board will be meet in Room 8 on May 2nd and May 23rd at 9: 30 a.m.

Lenten Lunches were a big success. We served about 40 worshipers each Wednesday. All who attended the meals and all WELCA members who provided food and help were much appreciated. A special thank you to Carol Dittmer for coordinating and making all the soups and Kathy Kroll for cooking all the beef burgers.

The May WELCA outreach will be a collection for the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN). Needs are:

Combs, brushes, children's DVD's or video cassettes, disposal diapers and wipes, baby shampoo, men and women's deoderant, all sizes of socks, and feminine products. Please select one or more items and place in the boxes marked IHN near the office reception desk or in the hallway outside Neumann Hall. Your support is truly appreciated!

Children's Ministries

May Sunday School Schedule:

Sunday, May 1 -- The Ascension (Acts 1:6-14)

Talk about these questions:

- What would you like others to know about Jesus?
- How can we be witnesses? Do we have to tell people with our voices or are there other ways to spread the word of the Lord?
- Who could we witness to?

Sunday, May 8 -- The Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-21, 36-42)

Talk about these questions:

- Why do you think our second volunteer was unable to pull the first volunteers arms apart?
- Have you ever felt like God was giving you power to do something incredible?
- Who are the powerful people we see every day? Where does their power come from?

Sunday, May 15 -- Philip and the Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-40)

Talk about these questions:

- Have you ever felt like you didn't understand something that someone else did?
- Share a time when you have helped someone who didn't understand something.
- The word gospel means "good news." How can we share the good news about Jesus with people?



Vacation Bible School will be June 27-30 for Kindergarten - Sixth graders. Registrations will be available May 15 on the table by the chapel. Why send your child to VBS? Because we only

have one hour a week in Sunday School. That's less than 30 hours a year!!!! When your child goes to VBS they get a chance to learn songs, experience the Bible and relate what the Bible is telling them in their own lives. It's a big "dose" of faith-building all in one week! They are given opportunities to eat, pray, laugh and be a kid in our big beautiful church with other brothers and sisters at St. John's

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, where did this school year go? I cannot believe we are almost ready for another summer at St. John's. In the next month the youth will be deciding what they would like to do/learn about this summer. It is sure to be a busy, busy summer around St. John's between outings, get-togethers, book clubs, art dates, and mission trips. Make sure to ask a youth what their summer plans are!

Confirmation 7/8

Thank you for all of your hard work during Holy Week! You are all awesome!

Mark your calendars! Confirmation End-of-the-Year Party-Wednesday, May 18th, 2011 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. @ Jim and Mary Bernau's house! Families invited! Bring a side dish to share! Hot Dogs and drinks provided!

High School

Sunday, May 22, 2011- Graduation Sunday @ the 8:45 a.m. service. A cupcake reception will follow in Weertz. All are welcome!

BE SURE TO BE ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR SUMMER HAPPENINGS SOON!

Buzz Rupp Returns

Buzz Rupp, former St. John's member, will be visiting Des Moines this summer. Buzz taught high school Sunday school from 1970 to 1974 at St. John's. We will be meeting with her for dinner at the Gateway Market on Sunday, June 26th at 5:00 p.m. to talk about fond memories and to catch up on her news. If you have any questions about the get-together call/email Janet Witte at 255-5678 or witte_j_dsm@yahoo.com.



LSI Update



This May join Lutheran Services in Iowa, a partner of Iowa KidsNet, in making a difference in the lives of children in foster care. May is National Foster Care Month, a

chance to come together on behalf of the over 463,000 American children in foster care. Established in 1988, National Foster Care Month highlights the needs of youth in foster care and celebrates the families, social workers, advocates, mentors and volunteers who make a difference in their lives.

It only takes one person to make an extraordinary and lifelong impact in a child's life, whether it is a foster parent or a caring mentor in the community. Youth in foster care need safe and loving homes with adults who will support them until they can safely reunite with their birth families, live with relatives or find a permanent home through adoption.

LSI is a lead agency in Iowa KidsNet, a statewide collaboration of agencies that recruits, trains, licenses and supports families to foster and adopt Iowa children. With support, these children can reach their potential for greatness and make successful transitions to adulthood.

For more information on ways LSI provides hope to Iowa's most vulnerable populations, visit www.lsiowa.org.

Artist of the Month



Bonnie Flora, a former Des Moines artist now living in Nashville, Tennessee is St. John's Artist of the Month for May. The rolling farmlands of Iowa and the high plains of South Dakota are among her favorite painting subjects.

This painting of a wind generator is one of several in a series entitled, "Sowing the Wind." Flora says she has loved the graceful lines of the wind farms in northern Iowa since the first time she saw them. "I was happy knowing there are new "crops" growing in Iowa---ones which provide a different "green" but are as lovely to look at in their rhythmic motion as the waving fields of corn in late summer," say Flora. Don't miss seeing her work in Weertz Fellowship Hall.

Mramba Children's Club



The Companion Parish Ministry Team says, "THANK YOU!"

The 50 "most vulnerable" children and three teachers who participate in the newly established Saturday Children's Club in our Companion Parish – Mramba Lutheran Parish – were "adopted" in a matter of a few hours on the weekend of April 9-10! We asked you for a commitment of \$65/year per student and teacher in order to provide three nutritious meals every Saturday, school supplies, AND continuing education for the teachers. St. John's members came through like gang-busters on this, and we are so grateful for your support! (Photos of the children and teachers can be found in Neumann Hall.)

The Companion Parish Team realizes that there are more willing donors who would like to participate in this program, so please watch for a "second tier" opportunity. This may include scholarships for the children as they age-out of the Saturday program and seek admission to secondary or vocational schools, as well as "scholarships" (☺) for goats, chickens, seed, etc., that would significantly improve basic nutrition for the children and their families.

The Pare Diocese considers the Saturday Children's Club for vulnerable children a "pilot program" that they would like to see replicated in other communities. We are privileged to be part of something with so much potential! Thank you so much for your support!



Hospitality & Outreach



Global Mission at Its Finest

“Go ... therefore, and make disciples of all the nations...”

Matthew 28:19a

One of the definitions of a “disciple” is, simply, one who follows Christ. The definition may be simple but following Christ is anything but! The amazing thing is there are so many diverse ways in which to follow Jesus. God, in his infinite wisdom (and with more than a little sense of humor!), did not use a cookie-cutter when creating us. He gave us all differing talents, abilities and gifts to show our love for Him and the variety of human beings with which we share our planet.

The past several months I've been highlighting various ministries and outreach opportunities here at St. John's. This time I wish to highlight our Global Mission Ministry Team and the Companion Parish Ministry Team.

Global Mission Ministry Team



This group of volunteers encourages our witness to Christ's love around the world. Partnering with the larger ELCA, and other agencies, they focus on deepening relationships with our sisters and brothers around the world.

Included in their ministry (but not limited to) are:

- Attending educational programs
- Hosting global visitors
- Contributing to missionary support (through a variety of fundraising occasions)
- Assisting in the Fair Trade Market
- Assisting in preparing Hospice Kits

Companion Parish Ministry Team

Established in 2010, this Team works to deepen relationships with our sisters and brothers in Mramba Lutheran Parish of

the Pare Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. A covenant has been signed between the parishes, a long-term relationship has been established, and ideas for partnership are being shared on a continuing basis. Members of St. John's travel to Mramba approximately every 18 months to 24 months. In fact, a group recently visited in February and returned with wonderful stories and pictures. It is truly a life altering experience.

This Ministry Team sponsors auctions and solicits donations from our congregation. Through these efforts, support has been extended to the main church in Mramba, to schools, and medical programs in nearby Gonja Hospital, a hospital of the ELCT. The women of St. John's have made numerous baby quilts - given to each newborn for their trip home. Financial donations have also been sent to help support Kianga Group for AIDS orphans, a community program through Gonja hospital.

You can take part in this ministry by:

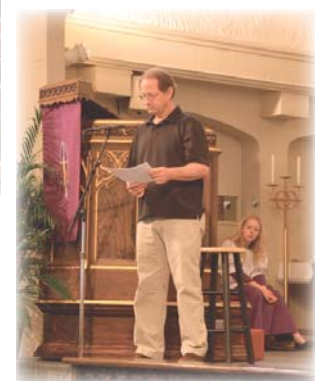
- Praying for our friends in Christ in Mramba
- Pray for the continuing work of the Companion Parish Ministry Team
- Financially contribute to Mramba projects
- Learn about the culture and life of those living in Tanzania
- Take a mission trip to Mramba Parish
- Join us! Become part of the Companion Parish Ministry Team

By helping provide basic human needs to this group of God's children, Team members literally represent the face of Christ to them. By observing generous hearts, minds and spirits, the people of Tanzania see the joy of being a disciple. The road of discipleship may be a bit bumpy at times, but to know that Jesus is walking the journey with you...could there be any greater joy, peace or confidence?

If you wish to be involved in either of these Ministry Teams - trips across the world, or assistance on this side of the ocean - there is a place for you! Please contact Katie, Hospitality and Outreach Coordinator at 243-7691 or katiet@stjohnsdsm.org.



Palm Sunday





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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**.

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JUNE EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, May 16, 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!