



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

Stewardship 2012

Volume 43, Number 10
October, 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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The word stewardship...refers to what people who belong to God do: how they think, how they act, how they live. Stewardship is a way of life – it is the way of life for individuals and communities who belong to God.

- Mark Allen Powell

This year to help prepare for the stewardship drive we asked some members to share their St. John's story. All of the stories that were collected can be found in your stewardship packet, what follows are some of those stories.

Virginia Deuben



Before she became the matriarch of St. John's, Virginia Deuben was highly active in circles, the choir, the call committee, as one of the church's first Stephen Ministers and as a Sunday School teacher who helped bring the messages and lessons of the Bible to young ones.

"We took the streetcar to 6th and Walnut, and then walked to Chestnut Street (later renamed Keosauqua Way) where St. John's then stood as an old, red brick church. Our family did everything there; people would tease us, asking if we lived there," says Virginia who later served the elderly in the church by providing transportation to and from church activities – a kindness she is so appreciative of today. "One of the greatest things a person can do is make transportation available."

Admittedly, times were different as she grew up in the church. St. John's was, not only a place to learn and grow in faith, it was also a fine place to meet boys. "I met my husband, Ralph at Luther League," she adds laughingly.

Today Virginia can be seen in the pew, eyes closed, singing hymns she's committed to memory, including "A Mighty Fortress is Our God."

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In the City for Good!
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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
October 17 at 12 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Ramon Runkel

A Start of a “New Year”

Following Labor Day, it seems we begin a “new year.” School starts for our kids and grandkids, colleges and universities get going again, and there are football games and all kinds of practices and activities. So, what are we about and where are we headed and what is our mission?

If we look at our St. John's mission statement, it reads: *Sharing God's story, growing in God's love, serving God's World, together.* And, as our church directory states: *St. John's is a center for mission in the heart of Des Moines.* On the west wall of our current building, is printed:

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

And we further state:

The faith community is committed to being “in the city for good” in at least three ways: 1) St. John's geographic home is downtown Des Moines. This is where God has called and placed us for ministry, and we have no intention of leaving the downtown area. St. John's is here “for good!” 2) St. John's lives to proclaim the “good news” of God's love to the immediate neighborhood, the city, and the world. This is done not only with our lips, but with lively and creative ministry that reaches far beyond our walls. 3) St. John's seeks to do “good works” in our community and the world. We strive to follow Jesus' call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, and work for justice and peace in this world.

Wow, what a statement! Now, where do YOU start? What do you do? What is your mission, and how does it fit with St. John's mission? I hope you do two things: 1) Pray to God for help and direction and then do what you sense God directs you to do, and 2) join with others and continue to help us all live up to our mission, *In the City for Good.*

Have a great fall season.

In Christ,
 Pastor Ramon Runkel



On Sunday, October 9th, we will be making a special effort to bring as many of our homebound members as desire to church for the 11am worship service. If you would be willing to help with transportation to church and back home after a noon luncheon, please contact Katie at 243-7691. Thanks!

Council Update

Pick Up Your Stewardship Packet



“God Gives ... We Share!” Our theme for the 2011-2012 church year says so much. Everything we have is from God and, through our faith, we are encouraged to share.

I hope you were able to come to the pancake breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 25, when we kicked off our fall stewardship emphasis. Did you pick up your stewardship packet? If not, you can do so at the Octoberfest service Sunday, Oct. 2, which begins at 10:30 a.m. at Jester Park Lodge. The packets also will be available after the 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 1, service during a cheese-and-crackers party. (Unfortunately, we cannot have them at the 7:45 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, service at the church.)



Your packet includes a:

- **Letter from Pastor Rachel** outlining the ministry needs and dreams for our congregation. We do so much to encourage the faithful and reach out to the community, but there is still more to do.
- **Tithing chart** to see where you are in your weekly contribution and how to challenge yourself to grow to the next level.
- **Stewardship Activity Guide** that allows you to make a personal review of your current involvement in the church as well as the many ways you might use your gifts in new areas.
- **Stewardship brochure** highlighting some St. John's stories of our members experiences in the church and their growth in generosity.
- **Commitment card** that is an expansion of the

Estimate of Giving form. We are asking everyone to review the data we currently have on you and your family, because we are upgrading our database and need accurate information. You also can let us know how you are involved with the church and how you might like to get involved. And, finally, there is a place for you to indicate how you would like to share financially with the church in 2012.

- **Simply Giving form**, which you can fill out if you are interested in the automatic option for contributing. Please consider this; the form can be amended whenever you choose.
- **Central Iowa Shelter envelope** for inserting a donation for the construction of a new building. As a founding member of Churches United (the organization's original name), we want to assist with its fund drive for a new, much-needed facility. Consider an “over and above” gift in 2012 to help. What a great opportunity to stretch and show how we are in the city for good!

After reviewing the packet, take your completed commitment card, put it in the supplied envelope, and return it to church anytime between now and Sunday, Nov. 6. There will be a special basket in church to collect the envelopes. Thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration.

In Christ,
Kris Gregersen
2011 Council President

Women of the ELCA

The Women of the ELCA will be having their regular group meetings on Thursday, October 6th. Sarah Group will be gathering at Karen Schoenberger's home at 5131 Merced St, Des Moines at 9:30 AM. Judy Munger will be presenting a report on the Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA which she attended in Spokane, Washington, this July. Lois group will meet in Neumann at church at 12:30 PM with Judy again giving her report.



The Board will meet on Monday, October 24th in Neumann. Any women in the church is more than welcome to attend any of these meetings. Please give the church a call so the hostesses will be able to plan.

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, Oct. 2, Oktoberfest at Jester Park

While the 5 p.m. Saturday and 7:45 a.m. Sunday services will take place as usual at St. John's, 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. will be combined and moved to the scenic setting of Jester Park Lodge for one special creation-themed liturgy. As usual, we will use Marty Haugen's popular "Now the Feast" setting, accompanied by the St. John's Chamber Orchestra. The Kisasa Choristers will sing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" for offering. Then, accompanied by Asphalt & Stained Glass, they will sing Carlton Young's setting of a Dakota Indian hymn, "Psalm of Thanksgiving" ("Many and Great"), and the Chamber Orchestra and singers will present "Soft Mist Is Rising" by Robert A. Hobby, during communion. It is possible we will have witnessed just that scene through the big lake-facing windows at the Jester Park Lodge. See the article elsewhere in this issue for details of the entire Oktoberfest event.

Sunday, Oct. 9, Time after Pentecost

After Israel sinned by worshipping the golden calf, Moses interceded with God to spare Israel, lest the Egyptians conclude that God had evil intents in the exodus. Moses reminds God of the promises God made to Israel. In the gospel, Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

The readings are Exodus 32:1-14, Psalm 106:1-6 and 19-23, Philippians 4:1-9 and Matthew 22:1-14. The hymns are ELW 522, "As We Gather at Your Table," ELW 523, "Let Us Go Now to the Banquet," ELW 531, "The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing" for offertory and ELW 547, "Sent Forth by God's Blessing." At 11 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing "Come, Join Cana's Feast," by David Ashley White, for offering and "O Sacred Feast," by Healey Willan. On this second Sunday of the month, the rite of laying on of hands and anointing with oil for healing will be administered at the altar railing at all services.

Sunday, Oct. 16, Time after Pentecost

After Moses successfully interceded with God to accompany Israel to the Holy Land, God responds to Moses' request to see God's face with the phrase, "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious." Moses is not allowed to see God's face, but only God's back. In the gospel, after Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First, they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The readings are Exodus 33:12-23, Psalm 99, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 and Matthew 22:15-22.

The hymns are ELW 713, "O God of Every Nation," ELW 580, "How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord," ELW 686, "We Give Thee but Thine Own," for offertory and ELW 705, "God of Grace and God of Glory." At 8:45 a.m. Cathedral Choir and Cantorei, will join together to sing "Clap Your Hands," by Alfred V. Fedak, and for communion they will sing "Psalm 96," by Michael Bedford. The St. John's Chamber Orchestra will provide the offering and communion music at 11 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 23, Time after Pentecost

This Sunday we change from the semi-continuous lectionary Old Testament readings and psalm we have used since June to the regular lections. Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.

The readings will be Leviticus 19:1-2 and 15-18, Psalm 1, 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 and Matthew 22:34-46. The hymns will be ELW 631, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," ELW 358, "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us Here," ELW 708, "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love" for offertory and ELW 546, "To Be Your Presence." At 8:45 a.m. our Kisasa Choristers will present the offering music, and our house band, Asphalt & Stained Glass, will lead the congregation in ELW 525, "You Are Holy," by Per Harling. At 11 a.m. the offering music will be "You Will I Love," by K. Lee Scott, sung by Cathedral Choir who will lead "You Are Holy" during communion.

Sunday, Oct. 30, Reformation Sunday

On this day we celebrate the heart of our faith: the gospel of Christ – the good news – that makes us free! We pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to unite the church today in its proclamation and witness to the world. In the waters of baptism, we are made one body; we pray for the day that all Christians also will be one at the Lord's table.

The Reformation readings are Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 46, Romans 3:19-28 and John 8:31-36. The hymns will be ELW 504, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," ELW 651, "Oh,

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Praise the Gracious Power," as the Hymn of Praise, ELW 513, "Listen, God is Calling," for the gospel procession, ELW 516, "Almighty God, Your Word is Cast," ELW 517, "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" for the offertory and ELW 654, "The Church's One Foundation." At 8:45 a.m. Cantorei will sing, "Yet it Stood Strong," by Bradley Ellingboe, and at 11 a.m. Cathedral Choir will sing "Ein feste Burg is unser Gott," by Hans Leo Hassler, for offering. The congregation will sing ELW 591, "That Priceless Grace," at both services.

The rite of Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation will be celebrated at the 8:45 a.m. Reformation Sunday service. Congratulations to our confirmands!

Fine Arts Updates

Midweek Music offerings for October

Soprano Katherine McDowell returns to the Midweek Music lineup Wednesday, Oct. 5. For those who are new to the "Midweek Music" series, these are free 25-minute musical programs, from 12:05 to 12:30 p.m. every Wednesday in the beautiful sanctuary of St. Johns. Open to the public and popular for a quarter of a century, these short concerts have presented the area's best classical, jazz, folk, blues, bluegrass, klezmer and ragtime musicians playing music they love and love to share. Each concert is followed by a home-cooked lunch for only \$6, served in Weertz Hall on the lower level of the church.

The rest of the lineup for the month includes the woodwind "Bruch Trio" on Oct. 12, Drake University senior and "St. John's String Scholar" Darrin Sellers playing both cello and piano solos on Oct. 19 and David Liljedahl and David Piersel, "The Two Davids," performing piano four-hand selections Oct. 26.

For the complete "Midweek Music" lineup and to check out the rest of the arts offerings at St. John's, go to our website at www.stjohnsdsm.org and select Fine Arts from the Ministries menu. Treat yourself to a mid-week respite, and invite a friend for a bite-size musical delight.

New Arts Brochure Available

St. John's multi-talented organist, Sarah Garner, has created a new and strikingly beautiful Performing Arts brochure that is now available. The brochure itself is a work of art, and we

want to get it out beyond our walls and our own members and into the community. Since mailing them is prohibitively expensive, we ask for your help giving them to friends and business associates.

This brochure announces a new series of benefit concerts, under the banner "For the Healing of the Nations," for victims of the earthquake two years ago in Haiti, the quake and tsunami in Japan last spring, and to support the work of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. In addition, St. John's will serve as the Des Moines venue for two unique and imaginative offerings by the Grinnell College music department.

Highlighted among the offerings is Sarah's own organ and harpsichord recital, Saturday, Nov. 12, at 7 p.m. The program will feature what was, at the time, a radically new innovation by way of J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5. Bach moved the harpsichord from its usual role of filling in harmonies and providing a gentle, rhythmic punch, to an out-front, virtuoso solo identity. Sometimes called the world's "first piano concerto," the Brandenburg No. 5 will also feature, in addition to Ms. Garner at the harpsichord, soloists Sandra Wacha, flute, and Julie Fox-Henson, violin, along with the St. John's Chamber Orchestra. This event is a benefit concert for Friends of the Arts at St. John's. Mark it on your calendar, and start to organize a party of friends to attend with you.

Arts Donors Appreciation Event set for Oct. 8

If you neglected to make a donation to Friends of the Arts at St. John's this past year, you still have time to become a donor and come to a special appreciation event that Friends of the Arts at St. John's is hosting on Saturday, Oct. 8, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Fourth Street Theater in the Court Avenue District. Donor/patron envelopes are available at the kiosks and at the visitors' center in the narthex, or you can mail your gift and note on the envelope labeled "Friends of the Arts at St. John's."

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.

Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

Octoberfest worship service and meal: Sunday, Oct. 2, Jester Park Lodge. Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; worship 10:30 a.m.; dinner and entertainment 11:45 a.m.

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

Saturday Morning Bible Study: Saturdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 8:30 a.m. Location to be announced. Contact Ellen Fisher, ellenfisher123@yahoo.com, or Rod Snavelly, rsnavely@aol.com.

Photography: Sunday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m., Neumann (rescheduled from September). Theme: "Seven days, seven photos."

St. John's Networking Group: Monday, Oct. 10, 5:30 p.m., Gateway Market.

Hardanger: Wednesdays, October 12 and 26, 9 a.m., Neumann.

EAGLES: Friday, Oct. 14, 5:30 p.m., Chef's Kitchen, then to Drake Observatory.

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

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

WIRED Yoga: Thursdays in October, 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge. Contact Yoga instructor Corinne Lambert, callingwisdom1@hotmail.com (556-3679).

Scrapbooking: Saturday, Oct. 22, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Room 8.

WIRED Luncheon and Joyce Rupp Retreat: Sunday, Oct. 23, 12:30 p.m., Weertz Fellowship Hall. Cost \$30; preregistration required.

Recreational Reading: Wednesday, Oct. 26, 4:30 p.m., Rose Holm.

Couples/Singles: Saturday, Oct. 29, 5:30 p.m., progressive dinner starting at Jacques Warming's house and ending at Judy and Phil Latessa's home.

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

A special **OCTOBERFEST** service will be held Sunday, Oct. 2, at Jester Park Lodge. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the lodge, worship begins at 10:30 a.m., and a meal will be offered around 11:45 a.m. Jester Park Lodge is adjacent to Saylorville Lake north of Johnston. (Maps will be available in the lounge at St. John's.) Food is provided, but a free-will offering will help offset the cost of the meal. Entertainment will be Asphalt and Stained Glass. This is such an inspiring morning that you won't want to miss it! Octoberfest is held in place of the regular 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. The 5 p.m. Saturday and 7:45 a.m. Sunday worship services will be held at St. John's as usual.

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

Saturday Morning Bible Study will continue to meet on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. Contact one of the facilitators for the location: Ellen Fisher, ellenfisher123@yahoo.com (250-9916), or Rod Snavelly, rsnavely@aol.com.

Photography will meet Sunday, Oct. 9, at 10 a.m. in Neumann. This has been rescheduled from September, so the theme is still "seven days, seven photos." If you have questions about the St. John's photography small group, contact Rod Snavelly, rsnavely@aol.com.

The St. John's Networking Group will meet Monday, Oct. 10, at 5:30 p.m. at Gateway Market. Contact Ellen Fisher, ellenfisher123@yahoo.com (274-5236).

Hardanger will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, Oct. 12 and 26, at 9 a.m. at the church in Neumann.

EAGLES will go to the Drake Municipal Observatory on Friday, Oct. 14. The group will first meet at Chef's Kitchen on Beaver and Franklin for dinner at 5:30 p.m. They then will go to the observatory on Polk Boulevard for a program entitled "The Summer Sky," a lecture on constellations and other visual objects. Telescope viewing follows the lecture, weather permitting. RSVP to Bob Lutz, rwlutz@mchsi.com (270-6507). Lunch Bunch II will meet Wednesday, Oct. 19, at 12:30 a.m. If interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg (279-6326).

Lunch Bunch I will meet Thursday, Oct. 20, at 11:30 a.m. New members are most welcome! To reserve a space or to ask for details about joining the group, call Margaret Roby (288-6304).

Scrapbooking will meet Saturday, Oct. 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Room 8 at the church. Bring pictures and materials to work. This group is open to anyone who enjoys scrapbooking. Questions? Contact Darla Stiles, darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

Recreational Reading will meet Wednesday, Oct. 26, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm. Check the announcements sheet, found on tables outside the Sanctuary, for the current book the group has chosen to read and discuss. For more details, contact facilitator Carol MacDonald, macpac00@mchsi.com.

The Couples/Singles Group will have a progressive dinner Saturday, Oct. 29, starting at 5:30 p.m. with

appetizers at Jacque Warming's house and continuing with the main course at Judy and Phil Latessa's home. RSVP to Jacque, jrwarming@msn.com, or Judy and Phil, philjudy4209@gmail.com.

St. John's Moms, a group of young moms with children who are 3 years old and younger, is looking for a couple of people interested in facilitating this group. If interested, call or e-mail Darla Stiles, darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.



WIRED Luncheon and Joyce Rupp Retreat will be held Sunday, Oct. 23, from 12:30 to 4 p.m. in Weertz Fellowship Hall. This retreat, based on internationally known author Joyce Rupp's latest book, *Open the Door*, will offer inspiration and encouragement for personal growth. Although the number of participants for this retreat is limited, it is open to women in the community as well as St. John's members. Cost is \$30 for lunch and the retreat. You may send your check, made out to St. John's Lutheran Church with Joyce Rupp WIRED Retreat in the memo line, to St. John's Lutheran Church, attention Darla Stiles, 600 Sixth Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309. If you have not already signed up and wish to attend, sign up at our website, www.stjohnsdsm.org, or e-mail Darla, darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

WIRED is planning a book discussion that is open to everyone on *Open the Door* by Joyce Rupp — the book the author will discuss at her retreat on Sunday, Oct. 23, at St. John's. We will have three discussions prior to the retreat on Mondays, Oct. 3, 10 and 17, at 6 p.m. and three more discussions after the retreat on Mondays, Nov. 7, 14 and 21, also at 6 p.m. All these book discussions will be held in Neumann and will last about 90 minutes. These meetings will acquaint you with the book before Joyce's retreat and give you food for thought after her presentation. You may bring dinner in a bag or bring food to share, whichever works best. Even if you have not been part of the WIRED Book Discussion group in the past, feel free to join us for this discussion. Mary Ritchie, our book discussion facilitator, will lead on Oct. 3. If

interested in attending these discussions, contact Mary, ritchie82@gmail.com, or Karen Zaabel, kzaabel@msn.com (225-8476).

WIRED Yoga will continue on Thursdays through Oct. 27 from 5:45 to 6:45 in the Fireside Lounge at church. It is designed for both those new to yoga and the experienced. If you would like to attend, contact Yoga instructor Corinne Lambert, callingwisdom1@hotmail.com (556-3679).

Are you interested in participating in a Wired Wii Fitness class at church? If so, Delaine Marker would like feedback on whether you could meet on a weekday morning or a weekday evening as well as how often you would like to meet (weekly, twice a month, monthly). She will get back to you with details if there is enough interest. Contact Delaine, gramsmkr@hotmail.com (238-0094).

42nd Hunger Hike



Join us Sunday, Oct. 9, as we take part once again in the 42nd annual Hunger Hike of Des Moines. The Des Moines Hunger Hike is a 100 percent volunteer organization whose board of directors represents various aspects

of the community. They serve without salary, out of a commitment to help alleviate hunger and its causes, both locally and globally.

Hikers will meet Sunday, Oct. 9, at 1:30 p.m. on the west side of the State Capitol Building for announcements and a greeting from Ambassador Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation, and brief messages from other notable persons concerned about hunger.

The hike begins at 2 p.m. After the approximately 5-mile hike there will be snacks, drinks and music by a local band at the State Historical Building. If you are unable to walk or have other plans for the day, you can still participate by making a generous donation to support the St. John's walkers. Make a check out to St. John's and write Hunger Hike 2011 in the memo line. All monies collected will be forwarded to the Hunger Hike organization.

Fewer than 4 percent of receipts are used for promotional purposes. The rest is distributed to agencies and programs that directly provide free food to needy people.

Nearly 60 congregations and organizations participated in last year's hike.

If you have any questions, contact Pastor Bob Speirs at church.

Children's Ministries

October Sunday School Schedule:

Oct. 2 – Worship and Sunday School at Jester Park
 Sunday School is at 9:30. All kids meet Sheryl Reed at 9:30 on the deck of the lodge.

Oct. 9 – Paul's Letters (Romans 1:1-17)

Talk about these questions with your child:

- Have you ever written a letter to someone? What was it about?
- How do you decide if something you read is true?
- How do you share good news with other people?

Oct. 16 – Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:22-40)

Talk about these questions with your child:

- Why is it so hard to wait for something special or exciting to happen?
- How do you think Simeon and Anna knew that Baby Jesus was the one they had been waiting for in the temple for so long?
- What is something that God has helped you to wait for?

Oct. 23 – The Boy at the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)

Talk about these questions with your child:

- What is your favorite Bible story?
- How does reading and studying the Bible help us know more about God and how God wants us to live?
- What do you think we can learn from this story about Jesus?

Oct. 30 – John the Baptist (Luke 3:1-18)

Talk about these questions with your child:

- You ran through two mazes today. Given the choice, would you rather take the straight path or the windy path? Why did you answer the way you did?
- Have you ever wandered around in the wilderness? What did it feel like?
- What is the most interesting or disgusting thing you have ever eaten?



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**.

Youth Ministries



A note from Megan

The year is off to a GREAT start! Confirmation classes are going wonderfully. JIF (high-school youth group) is going to be AWESOME this year, and the volunteers we have working with the young people are spectacular! I think the 2011-2012 program year is going to be full of learning, growing and lots of FUN!

Upcoming Events

Confirmation 7/8/9: Don't forget to sign up for the Fall Retreat at the Y-Camp in Boone on Friday through Sunday, Nov. 4-6. See Megan for all of the details.

Any student in grades 8-12: Be sure to save room on your calendar for the weekend of October 7-9! There are lots of activities planned for the youth of the Southeast Iowa Synod that will pertain to the ELCA National Youth Gathering (NYG) 2012. Events will be held at St. John's and at Faith Lutheran Church. If you are interested in going, please contact Megan at 243-7691 or meganc@stjohnsdsm.org. We MUST register our group on Sunday, Oct.9!

2011 Affirmation of Baptism: On Sunday, Oct. 30, seven 10th-grade students will be confirmed at the 8:45 a.m. service. Please be sure to come and support them! The students in this year's class are: Kat Lunde, Elizabeth Macro, Bryan Morrissey, Caleb Runkel, Olivia Simpson, Amanda Speirs and Daniel Stromgren.

Your Help is Needed

A request from Lutheran Lakeside Camp

Several of the cabins used for Summer Youth Camp are in need of repair, due to age, weather and general wear and tear. The board of directors, along with the year-round staff, is asking member churches to supply them with the necessary materials and labor to make the required renovations before next summer's camping season. Listed below are the items they need:

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- Roofing shingles, 8 squares, 24 bundles
- Nails
- Rope to open and close windows
- Lumber to repair the ramp
- Stain and paint
- Volunteers for the labor

If you can make a donation of cash or materials, it would be greatly appreciated. Make checks out to St. John's with "Lutheran Lakeside cabin repair" in the memo line. For more information, contact Pastor Bob Speirs at 243-7691 or Paul Stromgren, our representative on the camp's board of directors, at 360-6917.

All Call for Classic Cars

COMING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9TH...
The Runkel Classic Car Review!!

Pastor Ray Runkel is bringing his Model A & his Checker automobiles for all to see on Sunday, October 9th - **and invites all classic car owners to do the same!!** To "register" for the Runkel Classic Car Review simply call the church office - 243-7691 - to let us know how many cars you will be bringing for display. (Worship that day, however, will be in the sanctuary - not the parking lot!)



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.



Cover Story Continued

At age 98, Virginia is still sharing her message and teaching our church in a relevant, thought-provoking way. She is a personal example of disciplined faith.

Elizabeth Reed



At 15 years old, Elizabeth Reed is already doing the math. It takes money to make the cell phone work or to pay for movies with friends.

"I prayed for a way to make money," Elizabeth shares. "But I personally think God doesn't give you what you want when you pray. He gives you opportunities to answer your own prayers. I was given an opportunity to work at the Iowa State Fair. So I gave 10 percent of my paycheck to the church because God has answered my prayers."

God has given Elizabeth other gifts to share. She joined the church orchestra to contribute her talent to the music of the liturgy. Elizabeth believes "that if God gives you the talent it's not your responsibility, but more a privilege to share it, *"I made good friends by doing that, friends I might not have discovered otherwise."*

For Elizabeth, God truly does give and she gladly shares. *"When I'm at church I'm surrounded by people of faith who are examples to me. I learn from them, take away the good things I see and use them to improve myself. Blending their qualities with my own, I then become an example to others whether it is on purpose or not,"* Elizabeth says adding that when we share, we as a church are thanking the God who loves us.

Find these stories and others in the God Gives, We Share brochure found in your stewardship packet.



Hospitality & Outreach

God Is, Was and Always Will Be ...God



We recently observed one of the most tragic anniversaries in our nation's history. The date of 9/11 is forever branded in the minds and hearts of Americans.

There was a definite turn of the history page on that date; some facets of America will never return. What we now accept as necessary was unthinkable on Sept. 10, 2001. Our lives changed because of fear – a fear such as had never been felt in our country before. The innocence of those killed took our terror and panic to a higher level. It could have been any one of us – on a normal work day that ended in a totally unimaginable, unfathomable way. It could have been my kids, my brother, my friends; I couldn't wrap my mind around it, and my heart broke for those who had to come to terms with that reality. In watching the flashbacks from 10 years ago, the feelings came flooding back. It didn't seem like 10 years ago; it was NOW. The tears fell again, and the sick feeling felt like a heavy coat that couldn't be shaken off.

In talking with friends and family, sad questions kept coming: "Where was God in all this? Why didn't God just zap the terrorists? God can do anything; why didn't God just stop it all?"

And, in my reading, studying and praying, I have some thoughts to offer on those questions. To answer the first question: God WAS there! God knew this was coming even before the terrorists conceived their plot. God knew that Sept. 10 was the last night on this earth for those people. And I have no doubt that God wept.

God was with the two gentlemen from Floor 88 who saved the lives of people trapped in the floors above them. They were on their way out and went back to look for survivors. They rescued 77 out of 79 individuals; two didn't make it out of the lobby and neither did the two who went to help. A Catholic priest who was a chaplain to one of the firehouses was victim #0001. When the first firefighters found him on the ground outside the lobby, they carried him down the street to a church and laid him on the altar. And we all know of the passengers that fought back on Flight 93 that ultimately crashed in Shanksville, Penn. Their action saved countless lives. One reporter stated that he wouldn't now be alive and with his family, if those people hadn't acted. "Greater love has no one than this ..." – you know the rest.

God was present in the response of firefighters, police, EMTs and first responders who ran toward the destruction; the average citizens who opened their homes to displaced families; the millions of Americans who went to churches that night to pray for the souls of those departed and the strength for those who still had to keep living the horror. God was present to and IN all people.

I'm sure you all have your stories and memories, your own heroes and heroines. And while we reflect on this, let's remember that all those "special" people didn't see themselves as special. Most would say they were just doing their job; others would say what they did wasn't anything that anyone else wouldn't have done. So let's remember that when we're given the opportunity – God is present to us, God is present IN us. After such incredible examples, can we do anything less? Let us be the presence of God to those in need. It needn't be a disaster of international magnitude. Let's be thankful for where we are and work on our corner of the community, our corner of the world.

To get connected and volunteer at St. John's, please contact Katie Tippins, Hospitality and Outreach, at 243-7691.

Faith Garden

Green Tomatoes and White Eggplants



The "Little Garden that Could" is winding down for the season. The small team of faithful volunteers has planted, fertilized, staked, weeded, watered and worried – especially when nothing seemed to be ripening. Turns out that Pastor Bob and Terri Speirs have been harvesting the garden in the morning, weighing the produce and delivering it to the

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Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC). Terri has kept careful records of the garden output. Thank you, Terri and Pastor Bob! In the November Eagle Call, we'll report the total pounds of vegetables donated to DMARC. In the meantime, we'll puzzle over what to do with green tomatoes and white eggplants – who knew eggplants aren't always purple?

Monetary donations for the garden are welcome; we're planning to install a rain barrel. Mark your offering "for St. John's Faith Garden" in the memo line. If you wish to donate tools or supplies for the garden, contact Diana Sickles at 255-5055 or dsickles@mindspring.com.

In the City (and the World) for Good!

Stewardship helps us recognize that both the ordinary experiences of daily living and the most profound moments of our life and death are gifts from God to be cherished and shared with others. Since God never stops giving, our opportunities to respond from the heart are truly endless...Daniel Conway

Thank you for consistently and generously sharing your lives with the city and the world through the ministry and mission of St. John's. The opportunities are "truly endless." Please take note of the information and opportunities below:

Whether you pick up your fall stewardship packet – God Gives, We Share – at church or receive it in the mail, please note the special offering envelope enclosed in the packet in support of Central Iowa Shelter & Services. Construction on a new shelter for those who are homeless has begun, and we want to support this project as generously as possible. St. John's was one of the seven founding congregations of the shelter in 1992, and we continue to be involved by providing meals and hygiene kits. Supporting the construction of the new shelter is "neighborhood ministry," to be sure. Please be generous!

Got shoes? Take a Hunger Hike! The 42nd (!) Annual Des Moines Area Hunger Hike is Sunday, October 9th. Funds raised by the Hike support both local AND global anti-hunger efforts – including our own Connection Café! Find some sponsors, then gather with other hikers on the west side of the State Capitol at 1:30pm and start walking at 2pm. Walk all or part of the approx. 5-mile route, and enjoy refreshments at the State Historical Building when you are done. For more info, please call 279-1106 or go to www.dsmhungerhike.org

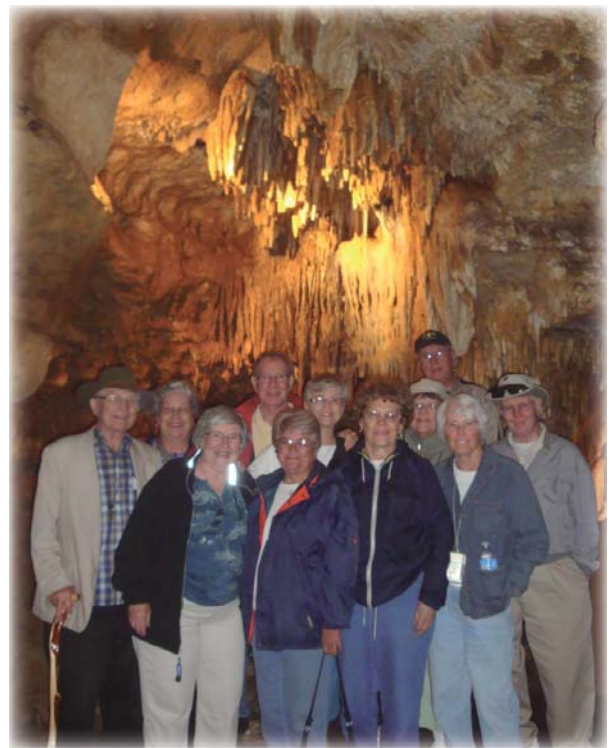
If you signed up to sponsor one of the children in the Children's Club in Mramba Lutheran Parish (our Companion Parish in Tanzania) – or want to know more about the Club – mark October 16th on your calendar. Eli Kisimbo, the in-country

coordinator of projects for Empower Tanzania, Inc. (our partner in the Children's Club) will be our guest for worship and education that day. Eli visits the Club often and will be able to tell us about the progress of educating and empowering the 50 children involved.

Did you participate in our ministry as a support congregation to West Des Moines Christian Church in the Interfaith Hospitality Network? If so, we would appreciate your attendance at our next Social Ministry Team meeting, October 6th, 6pm, at Pastor Mithelman's home. WDSM Christian Church is no longer participating in the IHN program, and we need to discern our future role with IHN, as well. The team would like to hear your reflections/evaluation of this ministry. Please contact Pastor Mithelman or Jennifer Early regarding your attendance on the 6th. And thank you for your dedication to homeless families through IHN!


Stewardship is a way of life – it is the way of life for individuals and communities who belong to God! Thanks for your generous and compassionate stewardship of the heart!

Photo of the Month



The EAGLES during their visit to Wisconsin this summer.

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Join us on Sunday, October 2, at 10:30 a.m. for an inspiring service at Jester Park Lodge, then enjoy dinner (free will offering). The 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services will be combined into this one service to be held at Jester Park Lodge. Sunday School begins at 9:30.

The Saturday evening service at 5:00 p.m. and the 7:45 a.m. Sunday service will still be held at St. John's.

We hope you will enjoy worshipping in a beautiful fall setting.

NOVEMBER EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, October 17, 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!