



the Eagle Call

Volume 51, Number 4 | April 2019

Preparing for the Three Days and Easter!



Worship

Saturday

5:00 pm

Sunday

8:00 am

10:00 am

Radio Broadcast

Praise 940 AM

Sunday Mornings

8:00 am

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Monday – Thursday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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

"Riding through the Three-Day Tunnel," is how the worship resource Sundays and Seasons encourages us to think about our preparation for the Easter feast. Just as the five Sundays in Lent prepare us for the Palm Sunday procession, the Triduum or the "three days" prepares us to meet the risen Christ, standing in awe with the women at the empty tomb.

Sundays and Seasons suggests that we think about the "three days" – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter as a ride through a three-day tunnel. As a faith community, we ride through this tunnel together – for as long as the journey takes. Along the journey, we experience together the stories of the incarnate Christ's final acts before his death and resurrection. We might ask, "Are we there yet?" Being fully present for one another – in community – during this sacred time of "there-and-not-yet-ness" of our Christian journey reveals the depths of God's love for the world. As we greet the brilliant light at the end of the Three-Day Tunnel, we are transformed by the journey – from death to life!

Once again this year, the Companion Parish Ministry Team cordially invites you to enjoy a hot breakfast on Easter morning, 8:30-10am, in Weertz Hall. Your free-will donation supports the children in the Most Vulnerable Children's Club, a partnership with our Companion Parish – Mramba Lutheran Parish – in the Pare Diocese, Tanzania.



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A Word From Our Pastor

by Pastor Robert Speirs



"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces towards the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.' (Luke 24:1-5)

As Luke tells the story, the women who went into the tomb, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother

of James and the other unnamed women with them, were mystified to find the tomb empty. Their confusion turned to fear as two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them and told them of the good news of Jesus rising to new life. After their initial shock, and remembering Jesus words about how he would be turned over to sinners to be killed, and on the third day rise again, the women quickly responded and excitedly ran to tell the other disciples of their great revelation. Yet, the disciples scoffed when they initially heard the women's report, dismissing it as an "idle" tale, and did not believe them. Yet Peter, as we read at the end of this account, did not totally reject the women's claim, and ran off to see for himself if the report was true. Arriving at the tomb Peter stooped and looked in, and seeing the linen cloths by themselves, he went home amazed at what had happened.

It's interesting the way that Luke portrays the actions and reactions by the varying people in this account. The women went to the tomb, and went into the tomb, to cover Jesus body with spices and ointments, as was the ritual. The men remained at home. The women received the testimony of the two men (angels) of Jesus resurrection in faith, then ran back to tell the others of the good news, yet their story was brushed aside as a matter of the women's grief and imagination. Of the disciples, it is only Peter who shows interest and goes to the tomb himself. But he doesn't go inside the tomb, but stoops and peers in. Peter goes home, but Luke does not say that he told the others of his finding, only that he went home, and was amazed at what had happened.

The story of Easter, of Jesus resurrection from death to life is no idle tale, nor is it a story that calls us to be idle, and keep the good news of Jesus Christ to ourselves, but it is a call to action, to understand and to proclaim that Christ's death and resurrection are God's decisive acts which changes everything. The cross and the empty tomb mark the beginning of a new age, and a turning point in history. That Jesus dies and is brought to new life through God's grace and power are God's final word about life and death, sin and righteousness, and God's deep and unconditional love for you and me. Like the women in Luke's account, we are called to faithfully testify and witness to this remarkable event.

"He is not here, but has risen." These are the amazing and life-changing words of Easter that we will hear in just a few weeks, as we gather in worship together celebrating God's victory over sin and death. They are words that deserve and need to be shared for the sake of the world and for the glory of God. I look forward to being in worship with you during these High Holy Days and beyond ... and remember to invite family, friends and neighbors to join us.

Peace, Pastor Bob

Have you Considered?

Volunteering at St. John's

by Katie Tippins

Few churches offer as many diverse opportunities for involvement, as does St. John's.

Ministry Teams: Adult Christian Education; Arts; Children's Ministry; Christian Involvement; Companion Parish; Global Missions; Hospitality & Outreach; Music; Property; Wellness; Worship and Youth Ministry.

Involvement in these areas encompasses a large range of talents and interests. Being church, of course, there are committees! People with ideas and enthusiasm are needed to plan and organize implementation. We also need many willing hands to make things happen.

With St. John's connection and reputation for Music the and Arts, we need people to serve as ushers at events, offer housing for visiting choirs and musicians; host occasional receptions; and assist with fundraising and patron development. New people are welcome to join vocal choirs, handbells and our orchestra for festival worship.

Children's Ministry invites and welcomes teachers, substitutes, and helpers. (The curriculum is provided, and easy to follow.) Vacation Bible School needs assistants for the Lutheran Lakeside teachers, and also people to help with food and snacks. The annual Children's Advent Program requires a director, assistant and instrumentalist.

Youth Ministry is grateful for parental involvement and other interested adults to serve as mentors. Support is needed for fundraising efforts for youth activities; leaders to accompany the students on service trips and help them connect with each other and the congregation. Confirmation is a pillar of Youth Ministry. Help is needed with the classes; instruction for leadership and empowering the students; and tutoring.

Wellness includes Faithful Friends who visit homebound members and take communion; have coordinated two flu shot clinics in the past couple years; participate in prayer ministry; and assist with the Grief Group.

Worship Assistants are always needed: Ushers (particular need); Communion Assistants; Lectors; Acolytes; Crucifiers; Healing Ministers; Worship Hosts and Altar Guild. These ministry areas are vital for our dynamic worship. Training is provided for all areas.

Hospitality and Outreach is a group of people who serve in a variety of areas: receptionist; help with mailings; process bulletins and the monthly newsletter; sponsor a new member to welcome them to our congregation; serve as host at Sunday morning coffee and donuts; and provide hospitality for receptions and events.

There are small groups for various activities: lunch groups; book discussions; educational forums, EAGLES (seniors who socialize and plan short excursions); and gardening tours.

Groups with specific areas of interest – SJLC's Faith Garden, photography group, scrapbook enthusiasts and quilters – welcome people from those just learning or accomplished participants.

This is merely an introduction. As long-winded as it is, it is only a brief synopsis of some of our activities, events and needs. With a congregation our size – blessed to be small enough to know one another; large enough to effect change – we do need people to get involved. Some of our volunteers have served for decades and would love to welcome new blood with new ideas.

This will hopefully pique your interest so you'll want to learn more. If a project or activity appeals to you and you'd like more information contact Katie at 243-7691 or katiel@stjohnsdsm.org.

It is true – you get more from volunteering than you get. *"Giving is the greatest act of grace."*



Dear Friends,

Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

We recently received your gift of \$615.00 to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you! I'd like to share with you one way your support is making a big difference.

In Mosul, Iraq the fighting may have stopped, but the scars of war remain - especially for the children. Eight year-old Zahraa saw her home destroyed and her sister killed during the violence. But the compassion of people like you has helped her.

Your gifts fund the "I am Safe" community center in West Mosul, where Zahraa and other children come to get help with their trauma. The first time she visited the center, was asked to color and drew pictures of death and destruction. With the help of supportive staff and programs designed to help her, now Zahraa is coloring scenes depicting life: birds, and flowers and sunshine. Her mother says she plays and smiles more now as well.

This is just one example of how your support alleviates suffering around the world. Please keep in touch so we can show you more of how you are making a difference. Be sure to visit our website, lwr.org, for stories and updates.

On behalf of LWR, our partners and those we serve, please accept my thanks for your generous support and partnership. May God bless you!

Warm regards,
Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief

Prepare for Worship

By Michael Elsbernd

April 7 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

Readings: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

God makes all things new. Throughout the first and second readings, we learn about God's power to transform God's people. In Isaiah 43, we are reminded that God delivered Israel from bondage in Egypt and will act again – to bring those in exile out of Babylon in a new exodus. In our second lesson, we recall the conversion of Saul, once a persecutor of the church, into Paul, the apostle. The gospel reading anticipates Jesus' death and burial as Mary anoints Jesus' feet with expensive perfume.

Hymns: "Be Thou My Vision" (637); "The Word of God Is Source and Seed" (506); "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (803)

Cathedral Choir: "Drop, Drop Slow Tears," Philip Stopford



April 14 – Sunday of the Passion – Palm Sunday

Readings: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56

Palm Sunday sets the scene for the remarkable story of our salvation through the events of the last days of Jesus' earthly life. The previous five Sundays in Lent have brought us to this poignant event: Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We open scripture to the third Servant Song in Isaiah, where the prophet speaks of obedience in the midst of persecution. Paul's words in the second lesson remind us that we should be of the same as Christ – to whom we are joined through baptism. Luke's account of the passion event reveals the contradiction of God's reign: the leader is servant, arrested, tried, executed, and laid in a tomb.

Hymns: "Ride On, Jesus, Ride" (African-American Spiritual, reprinted); "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (351); "Go to Dark Gethsemane" (347)

Cathedral Choir: "Sing Hosana! Sannanina!" South African, arr. Nancy Grundahl

April 18 – Maundy Thursday

Readings: Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

As evening approaches and our Lenten season transitions into the "Three Days," or the "Triduum," Jesus calls us to a meal. Along with the gathered disciples, Jesus shares, and demonstrates, his new commandment. This new

commandment, or "Mandatum," which means "mandate," is that we love one another as Christ loves each of us. Washing the feet of his friends, Jesus shows us how we should love one another through acts of humble service. As we share in the meal, we are called to offer ourselves in humility for the life of the world.

Hymns: "Where Charity and Love Prevail" (359); "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love" (708); "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ" (402)

Cathedral Choir: "See What Love," Felix Mendelssohn

April 19 – Good Friday

Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42

The passion according to St. John is at the heart of our gathering on this day. Our triumphant king is the one who reigns from the cruel cross. Known in the early days of the church by the name "the triumph of the cross," we are called to observe the solemnity of this day. Christ's passion and death offer hope and strength through another seeming contradiction: the cross has become the tree of life for us. At the close of the Good Friday liturgy, the ancient bidding prayer offers petitions for the whole world, loved and redeemed by God.

Hymns: "Sing, My Tongue" (356); "Holy God, Holy and Glorious" (637); "Ah, Holy Jesus" (349)

Cathedral Choir: "Watch With Me," Daniel Gawthrop; "Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs," G.F. Handel; "Ave Verum Corpus," Philip Stopford; "Drop, Drop Slow Tears," Philip Stopford; "Agnus Dei," Maurice Duruflé

April 20 – Resurrection of Our Lord – Vigil of Easter

Readings: Selected readings and accompanying songs and hymns from the Old Testament; Romans 6:3-11; John 20:1-18

Gathered around the new light of the Easter flame, we hear the proclamation "This is the night!" We "pass-over" with Christ, through our baptism, from the darkness of the tombs of sin and death, to light and life. The resurrection is proclaimed in word and sign, gathered around the pillar of fire and ancient stories of our faith from the Old and New Testaments. Raised with Christ, we share this good news of the resurrection with the world.

April 21 – Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Day

Readings: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18

Psalm 118 sets the tone for the Easter celebration "This is the day that the LORD has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it!" (Ps. 118:24). The alleluias, put away on the last Sunday of Epiphany (Transfiguration Sunday), reverberate against the walls of the sanctuary and within our souls. After a confusing set of events at the tomb that first Easter morning,

we believe, by faith through the grace of God, that Jesus has been raised to new life. We are called to witness to this new life which we share through the gift of baptism!

Hymns: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today!" (365); "Thine Is the Glory" (376); "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (367)

Cathedral Choir: "He is Not Here!" Russell Nagy; "Thine Is the Glory!" arr. J. Marty Cope

April 28 – Second Sunday of Easter

Readings: Acts 5:22-32; Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

For the disciple Thomas, and ourselves, too, perhaps, the reality of Christ's resurrection is not always easy to believe. Over the next fifty days, or "week of weeks," our readings will take us further into the mysteries of Christ's glorious resurrection. In his appearance to Thomas, Jesus offers the assurance that the blessings of the resurrection are for all those who "have not seen and yet believe." Jesus continues to come to us, revealing himself through Holy Communion – his very presence of peace through bread and wine.

Hymns: "Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain" (363); "We Walk By Faith" (635); "That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright" (384)

Cathedral Choir: "Peace I Leave With You," Walter Pelz

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:



×1



×2 OR 3

One light-weight bath-size towel
(between 20"×40" & 52"×27"),
dark color recommended



×1

One adult-size toothbrush
in its original packaging*



Two or three bath-size bars of gentle soap
equaling 8-9 oz., any brand, in original
wrapping; no mini or hotel-size bars



×1

One sturdy comb,
remove packaging



×1

One metal nail clippers
(attached file optional),
remove packaging

*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual
toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap



The Journey Through Grief

Six-Session Educational Grief Group

Because Life After Loss Can Be Difficult.

Just us to learn about grief,
discover tools for dealing with loss,
and develop a new support network.

Third Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm

March - August 2018

**St. John's Lutheran Church
600 6th Ave. in Des Moines**

**For Registration and Questions,
Contact Anne Alesch
anne.alesch@unitypoint.org
(515) 557-3169**



Learn.



Connect.



Grow.



UnityPoint Hospice

Small Groups

By Amanda Landers-Each

Mah Jongg: Mah Jongg will be played Mondays, Apr. 1, 8, 15, and 22 in Neumann Hall at 6 p.m. every Monday.

Quilting: All are welcome on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 308.

Celebrating Katy: Thursday, Apr. 4, Mistress Brewing Co., 1802 N. Ankeny Blvd., Suite 108, Ankeny. Upcoming venues: May 2, Court Avenue Brewing Co.; June, Barn Town Brewing, July, Fox Brewing; and August, Iowa State Fair! This group is in celebration of Katharina von Bora, wife of Martin Luther and a home brewer herself. All dates for Celebrating Katy are on Thursdays at local breweries; all times are 7 p.m. If you have questions, contact Rod Snively (celebratingkaty@gmail.com or 515-494-3178). It's okay to text.

St. John's Social Club: Friday, Apr. 12, 6 p.m. Sue and Art Wittmack will host an evening of food, drink and stories of their many month's long Great Loop journey by boat along the east coast and through inland waterways. A wonderful evening of adventure and fellowship. Please make reservations directly with the Wittmacks by email: swittmack@gmail.com or by phone at 515-360-3272. For more information contact Ed Slattery at edrslattery@gmail.com.

Lunch Bunch II: Newcomers are welcome. Join us Wednesday, Apr. 17 at 12:30 p.m. (Lunch Bunch II meets the third Wednesday of each month.) If you are interested in this group or require additional information please contact Anne Moeller (akase1957@msn.com or 515-274-7339).

Lunch Bunch I: This lunch group will meet Thursday, Apr. 18 at 11:30 a.m. (Lunch Bunch I meets the third Thursday of each month). If you have questions regarding this group please contact Mary Liechty (hoganmary2@msn.com). All are welcome!

EAGLES: Friday, Apr. 12, at 10 a.m. On With Life Tour, 715 SW Ankeny Rd., Ankeny. Lunch to follow. Meet at St. John's at 9:30 a.m. if you wish to car pool. For additional questions contact Barb John at 515-279-5089 or baanjo@msn.com.

EAGLES looking ahead to May: Thursday, May 9, Kansas City World War I Museum Trip. The group will leave at 8 a.m. on the 9th and have an early lunch in Kansas City followed by the WWI Museum. A nice dinner will be planned and a hotel stay in the Power and Light area that same evening. On the morning of May 10, a visit to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art will be enjoyed prior to heading home. For information regarding this group please contact Amanda at alanderseach@stjohnsdsm.org and/or 515-243-7691 ext. 335.

Scrapbooking/Card Making: Saturday, Apr. 20, 10-2, Room 8. All are welcome to join a fun working group for whatever time they like. Bring project, supplies, and ideas to share with the group. Contact Delaine Marker with any questions at gramsmkr@hotmail.com or 515-238-0094.

Photography: The next meeting will be held Sunday Apr. 28 following the 10 a.m. service. The theme for this meeting is "Upside down or Downside up". Check your bulletins for additional details. With questions, contact Paul Meyer at paulmeyer1954@gmail.com.

Recreational Book Club: Meets on Wednesday, April 24th and will discuss, *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones. All meetings are the 4th Wednesday of the month. Meet at Rose Holm at 4:30 unless other plans are made.

WIRED Yoga: Session 2: Apr. 4 – May 30; \$10 per class or \$60 for 7 sessions. Some yoga mats are available as well as chairs for those who don't want to use a mat on the floor. Those who have not attended a class may try it once at no cost. Scholarships are available. If you can attend or have questions, contact Corrine Lambert at callingwisdom1@hotmail.com. Dates not meeting: 2/14, 3/14, 4/18, 5/2).

As Christian Involvement Coordinator, I am available to discuss all our small group opportunities and look forward to connecting and hearing your ideas! Contact Amanda (alanderseach@stjohnsdsm.org) or 243-7691.



St. John's Faith Garden Ministry

by Pastor Robert Speirs

After a long, cold and very snowy winter, the sun is shining, the air is warming, the ground is finally thawing out, and the birds are singing their songs of spring and new life...it's a great time to plan and prepare for another gardening season!

Our St. John's Faith Garden ministry team is up and running. We had our initial planning meeting and we're looking forward to another productive season of growing produce that will be distributed to the DMARC Food Pantry system. As always, I extend an open invitation to all of you who enjoy gardening, or who would like to learn to garden, to join one of our teams. We could always use the help ... that is to say, no previous experience is necessary, whatever your skill level is, you're invited to join us, meet new people, enjoy getting your hands a little dirty and wet, and have fun. If you are interested please contact me at church, by phone or e-mail: pastorbob@stjohnsdsm.org, or just see me after worship on Sundays.

We look forward to another great planting season.

Children's Ministry

By Alicia Karwal

Calendar for Children's Ministries

- **April 7:** Regular Sunday School classes
- **April 14:** Palm Sunday; Regular Sunday School classes
- **April 21:** Easter Sunday; No Sunday School classes
- **April 28:** Registration opens for VBS at St. John's; Regular Sunday School classes
- **May 5:** Last day of regular Sunday School classes
- **May 12:** Sunday School End of the Year Celebration (all ages meet together)

Project HOPE Update

"Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." John 13:34

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:39:

This is what we teach our children. Thank you to all who donated to Project HOPE! A small but mighty team of fifth-graders gathered over spring break to sort donations and shop for additional items. In addition to bringing to light to this need at St. John's, donations were also collected at ADM - DeSoto Intermediate, where Isabelle attends school. Between the generosity of families at both locations, over 619 items were collected as well as over \$250 in cash. Donations were distributed to Central Iowa Shelter, St. Joseph Emergency Family Shelter and Adel Food Pantry. Additionally, a donation was made to The Connection Café. Blessing bags were made to give to people in the downtown community as well. Thank you again for your support of this important work!



Vacation Bible School Registration

Registration for VBS at St. John's will be available beginning April 28th! A Lutheran Lakeside VBS Day Camp will be held at St. John's Monday, July 29 – Thursday, August 1 from 8:30-2:30. All children entering kindergarten through sixth grade are invited to participate. Friends are welcome! There is a \$15 registration fee per child, not to exceed \$30 per family. Scholarships are also available. Volunteers from St. John's are needed and vital to this programming! Youth are invited and encouraged to volunteer as well! If you can commit to helping on any of the dates, please contact Alicia Karwal. As always, it promises to be a fun filled adventure in faith and fellowship! We also need families to host one or more of the camp counselors Sunday evening, July 28 through Thursday, August 1. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Alicia at akarwal@stjohnsdsm.org.



Palm Sunday Procession for Peace

Sunday, April 14, 2019

"To Love and Defend our Sacred Earth"

- **By 2:45 P.M.** - Gather on the south patio & lawn at Central Presbyterian Church 3829 Grand Ave.
- **3:00 P.M.** - Proceed to Plymouth Congregational UCC, 4126 Ingersoll Ave.
- **3:30 P.M.** - Worship at Plymouth Congregational UCC, 4126 Ingersoll Ave.

We will be walking "To Love and Defend our Sacred Earth" in a Procession led by a donkey, followed by a Prayer Service for Peace. We will raise our prayers and strengthen our resolve to express a vision of peace and justice, a position against war and support for the well-being of the sacred earth. Our speaker is Matt Russell, Executive Director of Iowa Interfaith Power and Light. Participants are invited to carry placards with their commitments to love and defend the sacred earth.

Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace





Our Tanzanian Story

By Carol Fisher

Several years ago the Tanzanian Government decided each Village was to have a Vulnerable Children's Committee made up of Church and Village leaders. All vulnerable children were to be identified based on the following criteria:

- One or both parents with HIV/Aids
- One or both parents deceased
- Child being raised by family member
- Child has HIV/Aids
- Destitute conditions in the home

And, so begins the Saturday morning Mramba Most Vulnerable Children's Club (Club) a program designed by Todd Byerly, an Iowa missionary living in Tanzania, paid for by a grant from the Rotary Club secured by Dr. Doug Dorner, and administered by Empowered Tanzania, Phil Latessa. The Club officially was opened January, 2011. In June, 2011, St. John's took over the funding of the program with Empower Tanzania's administrative help. Three teachers were trained to administer the program and each are paid \$9 per week to prepare lessons, cook lunch and two snacks, make regular home visits and extra visits if a child is in critical need or, with the help of "jungle communication," a teacher may hear of child or family needing extra help. In 2016, St. John's took over management of the Companion Parish relationship and Children's Club on our own and hired a local resident who teaches English at secondary school level and is our interpreter while in Mramba. Ched Daniel is our Project Manager for all Mramba projects.

We started with 50 of the "most" vulnerable children in the Village. We estimate they ranged in age from 7 to 11, although some could be younger or some a year or two older. Most belonged to the Pare Tribe. These children were illiterate with parents who did not value education. They had no money for school uniforms (a requirement to attend school), and no hope of any education or life other than a minimal existence. So continues the cycle of poverty.

The Club taught the children the very basics of reading, writing and the basics of life, how to keep themselves clean, how to garden to create a food supply and a chicken project to teach the children how to raise chickens. They started out with ten chickens. Eventually the chickens grew and each child was given a chicken to take home to supply eggs for the family.

We also provided uniforms for the Club members, this appealed to their tribal instincts. They all now belonged to an identifiable group or tribe. Also, each child was provided a school uniform so they could attend government school either at Vuje, Mgumbo or Giriana Primary School. The children excelled and passed the Tanzanian Government mandatory examinations. The children continued to grow and excel. They were now fed on a daily basis and were learning six days a week. The children were flourishing and it showed as they were passing tests at school and outgrowing their uniforms quickly. Getting a new uniform turned into a mandatory annual event; each child desperately needed a new uniform for the school year beginning in January of each year.

The teachers began a Children's Club garden just down the hill from the Club's location at Vuje Primary School. The children learned how to clear the land, prepare a spot to plant corn and beans (we provided the seeds), the boys were taught irrigation and were in charge of re-directing water from a small stream between the school and the garden. The garden and the children both grew. With two rainy seasons and two growing seasons annually, they raised enough food to feed the children on Saturday and send any extra produce home with the children and teachers. Eventually they grew enough food to contribute to the newly formed hot-lunch program at primary school. The children shared their gardening knowledge at home and family gardens began popping up on the mountainside. It was very clear to the Vulnerable Children's Committee, this was helping the entire village of Mramba.

In 2012, three students passed their Form 7 primary school government tests and moved on to Bombo Secondary School. We supported these children by paying school fees and providing new uniforms. Each year since then, we have had more students enter secondary school. In 2018, all of the original children in the Club had passed their government exams to enter either Bombo or Ntenga Secondary School.

We have added vulnerable children to the Saturday Children's Club a couple times since the beginning. We have educated a total of 87 children. Secondary school children take their exams in English; if they are not proficient, they don't pass Form 4 and are out of school with no opportunity to re-take the test. However, they can move on to a vocational training program.

Our breakdown is:

- Four children have or are attending Vocational School learning motorcycle repair, cooking, sewing and computer training.
- Forty-nine children are attending secondary school
- Thirty-three children are in primary school
- One child has died due to AIDS

Because of your love, kindness and support of these, they have a chance at a better life beyond poverty, illiteracy and marriage at a very young age.

We also thank you for your support of the breakfast on Easter Sunday and Tanzanian Auctions we hold periodically, and the financial support just given out of generosity for Mramba. Some of the projects we have been able to support are:

- **Mramba Church** – windows, tile flooring and altar railing.
- **Mgambo Church** – expansion including a retaining wall.
- **Latrines for Vuje, Mgambo and Giriana Primary Schools** – They typically have 360 students per school with one toilet for girls, one for boys and one for teachers, if the teachers are so lucky. We send money and the villagers provide the labor. Typically the schools construct five toilets for girls, five for boys and the teachers get one as well.
- **Medical funding for emergency surgeries typically appendectomies** – four surgeries to date.
- **General HIV/Aids hospital stays for the children** – The medication comes through the Clinton Foundation and are administered by Gonja Hospital near Mramba.
- **Renovation of Bombo Secondary School chemistry lab and class room** – trees fell on the building destroying everything during one exceptional rainy season.
- **Latrines for Ntenga Secondary School** – they will build 10 toilets for the kids and one for the teachers which will include an upgrade to installing a septic tank.



Lucas Weis – Vuje Kindergarten is the newest school to be constructed. Dennis and Kim Weis contributed funds to build a kindergarten on the Vuje Primary School to honor their son Lucas who died in December, 2014. A family friend also contributed funds to purchase desks, a chalk board and teacher supplies.

Quilting group members always seem to have time to make quilts for the little ones who are lucky enough to be born at Gonja Hospital. The parents travel home with great pride when their new bundle of joy has a blanket from St. John's.



Knitters from the congregation have also created the wonderful little hats for newborns. Gonja Hospital has just learned this concept within the past few years. The newborn hats arrived just in time. The mothers are so proud to be a part of this new medical concept.

Thank You for your support from Mramba Village, Children's Club members and their parents. Because of you all Children's Club members have been sponsored for another year!

Overall, 100% of your money given to Companion Parish or to the Children's Club goes directly to Mramba. We take nothing out for administrative expenses and all trips to Tanzania are self-funded.

The Arts at St. John's

By Beth Ann Edwards

Midweek Music Series Resumes Wednesday, April 24

The Midweek Music Series continues after Easter with a variety of musical talent. A performance by the Ballyhoo Foxtrot Hotshots, who were not able to perform in January because of weather complications, has been added to the season. They will perform on Wednesday, May 15. Performances begin at 12:05 in the Sanctuary, and are free and open to all. A light lunch, priced at \$6 per person, is available in Weertz Hall at 12:35, following the performance.

A 2019 summer Midweek Music Series has been scheduled for three weeks: June 26, July 10, and July 24. This mini-series is presented in cooperation with the Simpson College summer Master of Music curriculum.

Midweek Music Series Schedule Spring 2019

- Apr 24 - Roosevelt High School Da Capo Choir
- May 1 - Amadeus Trio (Joyce Wheeler, clarinet; Janean Schaefer Denhart, bassoon; Sue Odem, oboe)
- May 8 - Cristina Deeds, French horn; Michael Elsbernd, piano
- May 15 - John Benoit and the Ballyhoo Foxtrot Hotshots



April Artist of the Month: Chelsea Bredeson Hayes

Many artists' work embodies a style that is thematic or shows strong commonalities. I have always considered myself a generalist, not a specialist, in that I love far too many different media to stick with just one. There are things I want to say, that just simply do not work in a single media. My love of the mixed media was encouraged by my parents, who helped start me on my personal artmaking and career as an art teacher.

This current selection spans several years of work and shows my perhaps only common theme - the holiness of everyday life. Friends, family, pets, and special locations are my sparks for the creative fire. From the simple joy of a classic sandwich to an abstracted diagram of skin, I draw my inspiration from moments in my daily life that give me awe.

Chelsea will share the exhibit space with her father, Larry Bredeson, who is also an artist.

Save the Dates!

Sunday, March 5, String Scholars Pop-Up Concert

The String Scholars will close out their 2018-19 Season with a pop-up concert at 11:15 am, following the 10:00 worship service. The four string musicians are seniors at Drake University, and will graduate in May. A reception in the Fireside Lounge will follow the performance.

Friday, June 7, 7:00 pm, Des Moines Concert Handbells in concert at St. John's

The DMCH ringers will present a concert of "Suites and Fantasies" at their second annual spring concert. Included are Gustav Holst's Second Suite in F, Sondra Tucker's arrangement of English Folk Song Suite, and original and transcribed fantasies arranged for handbells and additional instruments. For more information about DMCH and this concert, please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).

Sunday, August 18, 4:00 – 6:00 pm Arts Patron Party

Please join the Arts Visioning Team as we show our appreciation of the St. John's Arts patrons, supporters, and musicians and artists. More details to follow!

Plant Sale Fund-Raiser for Youth Activities

The annual plant sale has been an important component of fund-raising for youth summer trips and events. All proceeds provide assistance that helps to keep costs affordable for travelers and chaperones. Thank you for your continued support! If you have questions about the plant sale, please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org) or Carol Lunde (carolmlunde@q.com).

Bedding Plant Flowers Available for Pick-up May 4

Traditional bedding plant order forms were due March 31, and plants will be delivered and available for pick-up on Saturday, May 4, from 8:30 am until noon, in the north parking lot. Extra plants have been ordered and can be purchased on Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5.

Seed Saver Vegetables and Herbs — An Addition to the Plant Sale Fund-Raiser

Seedlings have been sprouting in Mike Elsbernd's office for the past few weeks! Heirloom, organic seeds from Seed Saver were ordered and planted, and the seedlings will be ready for purchase beginning May 4. When you pick up your bedding plants, please take a look at the vegetables and herbs and plan to purchase your garden veggies at St. John's. Order forms are available throughout the narthex and office area. Please pay for vegetables and herbs when you pick them up. All veggie and herb plants are \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00.

Vegetables Japanese Climbing Cucumber, Listada de Gandia Eggplant, Spicy Greens Lettuce Mix, Arugula, Jalapeno (Traveler Strain), Ralph Thompson's Squash, King of the

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Continued from Page 10

North Sweet Pepper, America Spinach, Black Beauty Zucchini, Igleheart Yellow Cherry Tomato, Martino's Roma Tomato, Brandywine Sudduth's Strain Tomato

Herbs and Flowers Genovese Basil, Cilantro, Rosemary, Parsley, Greek Oregano, Green Culinary Sage, Starfire Signet Marigold, Benary's Giant Zinnia, Red Milkweed

Sacred Harp Iowa All-Day Singing

Saturday, April 6, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Sacred Harp Iowa's 18th annual all-day singing will take place in the St. John's Chapel on Saturday, April 6. Registration begins at 9:30 am. Singing begins around 10 am, with a break at noon for a pot-luck lunch, referred to as "dinner on the grounds." Afternoon singing begins at 1 pm and will finish up around 3:15 or 3:30. Participants and observers are encouraged to stay for the day, but are welcome to come and go as schedules permit.

All are welcome to participate. Bring the voice you were born with—no special training is needed to sing, although an acquaintance with music reading is a plus! Loaner copies of the Sacred Harp book will be available if Sacred Harp (shaped-note) singing is new to you. An "observation gallery" (in the Fireside Lounge) will also be available; however, singing participation is the best way to experience this event.

A pot-luck lunch, an important part of an all-day singing, will take place in Weertz Hall at noon. All are encouraged to stay, and plenty of food will be available, whether or not you bring a dish to share.

This event is free and open to the public. A free-will offering will take place to cover expenses. For more information, please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org).



Youth Ministry

By Maggie Evans

Fundraiser Follow-up

Thank you so very much for the financial, physical and emotional support for our March fundraiser! I hope everyone had a great time! After deducting the cost for the event, which was significantly lower thanks to the free venue and donated food, over \$7500 will be going directly to youth trips and programming for the summer and throughout the year. The support that this congregation gives to our youth is incredible and greatly appreciated.

Holy Week Schedule

Confirmation students will again participate in the Maundy Thursday Service on April 18th and the Vigil of Easter service on April 20th. We will prepare for these two services on Wednesday, April 17th from 6:15 – 8 p.m.

High School Night

Join us Sunday, April 14th from 5 – 8 p.m. The night will include dinner, service work (preparing plants for the plant sale) and games. Hope to see all of our High School students there.

Milwaukee Trip

Registration is open for the Middle School/High School handbell and service trip in June. Cost is only \$150! We will leave Des Moines on Friday, June 21st and return Wednesday, June 26th. All current 5th – 12th graders are invited to join us. Please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdsm.org) or Maggie Evans (mevans@stjohnsdsm.org) for more information.

Confirmation Lock-In

We will be holding a Confirmation lock in/retreat on Friday May, 3rd for all 6th – 9th grade Confirmation students. We will be doing a variety of things including, starting a mural in DDI, going on a peace walk, games and Confirmation lessons. Drop-off at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 3rd and pickup at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 4th.



Insert Picture

Every person connected to St. John's has a unique perspective and experience. As you find yourself at St. John's events or when you're with other members of St. John's consider sharing your perspective and your experience. Take a picture, capture the moment and send the image to photos@stjohnsdsm.org.

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Holy Week & Easter at St. John's

Palm Sunday, April 14

5:00 P.M. (Sat), 8:00 & 10:00 A.M.

Maundy Thursday, April 18
7:30 P.M.

Good Friday, April 19
12:05 & 7:30 P.M.

Easter Vigil, April 20
7:30 P.M.

Resurrection of Our Lord, April 21
8:00 & 10:00 A.M.

find out more at stjohnsdsm.org/prepareforworship

EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

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

Thank you!