



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

Volume 42, Number 02
February, 2010

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

Pastors

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Transfiguration of Our Lord February 14 at 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.

Put away your heavy coat and dig out your Hawaiian shirts and sun glasses! We will celebrate the brightness of Jesus' mountain top Transfiguration with music straight from the Caribbean. "Tropical Steel," a local steel drum band, will lead our praise this Sunday!



St. John's is digging into its talent chest

to come up with a Variety Extravaganza you won't want to miss! Plan to join us on Shrove Tuesday, February 16, beginning at 5:30 p.m. for a Pancake Dinner and Variety

Extravaganza. Pancakes will be served in Weertz Fellowship Hall from 5:30 p.m. through 7:00 p.m. with entertainment throughout. Desserts / coffee will follow with continued entertainment. This is open to the entire congregation, friends, neighbors, and relatives! You won't want to miss it!

Shrove Tuesday
February 16 at 5:30 p.m.

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St. John's Lutheran Church
In the City for Good!
Phone 515.243.7691

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Office Hours are:

Monday – Friday

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Next Eagle Call Deadline
February 15 at 12 pm



A Word from Our Pastors

Pastor Bob Speirs

"Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell them to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders he has done.

He established a decree in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach to their children; that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and rise up to tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments..."

Psalm 78:1-7

One of the recurring questions that were posed during my years in seminary was, "What is the church?" I think a couple of the professors asked this question to initiate serious dialogue and debate, while a few others, I believe, were just checking to see if their students had been studying the seventh article of the Augsburg Confessions that stated the Lutheran understanding of the church, "The Church is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel." As a community of Christian believers we experience and we're committed to being church through our participation in worship, prayer, praise, thanksgiving, education, witness and being generous in sharing the blessings and resources which we ourselves have received in service to our church and our neighbors. That is our call as a church, as a people of God.

As we begin this new year of 2010, St John's also enters our 145th year of ministry. During this time St. John's has faithfully responded to the call of preaching the Gospel, administering the sacraments, and serving the needs of our neighbors, generously and joyfully. We have a wonderful legacy to uphold. We also understand and are thankful that God has been a very present source of strength, encouragement and blessing during this time, providing all that we need to sustain our mission in this city and world. We have been blessed. What is it going to take for us as a community of believers to, faithfully continue to be about the work that God has called us to in 2010? And what are we called to do, specifically, in this New Year? Are we open and prepared to take on new and challenging ministry possibilities that might come our way?

It seems to me, as I look through the various ministry cards that I have on my desk, that there is no lack of ministry opportunities with which to get involved, given the desire. As I think about and interact with the members of our congregation each week, I am continually amazed at the abilities and capacities that each of you brings to this church. The future is as bright as we want it to be, with God's guidance. Do we fully understand that what brings us together and unites us, is much greater and more powerful than those things that attempt to keep us apart? It is my hope and prayer that all of us as disciples of Christ, and members of this community of faith, will all prayerfully discern how we can continue to confidently participate and use our own exceptional gifts and resources to help sustain and grow God's mission to our community, city and world. Thanks be to God.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you of the many educational opportunities for Bible study and Book clubs, for all ages, offered here at St. John's each week.

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Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. we meet in room 8, to study scripture and have a lively and fun time with questions and answers that follow. This is open to all who are interested and have the time. Presently we are studying Early Church history. We will be tackling the book of Revelations, beginning in March.

Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. after our Beloved Community meal and devotions, we have a Bible study based on the lectionary for the following Sunday, led by Pastor Rachel in the Neumann Center. All are invited.

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 we also offer KIDZ at St John's, a program for 3 year old through kindergarten-aged children in room 5, led by Sheryl Reed.

Confirmation instruction is offered for all youth in 7th-9th grades during this time as well. We meet in room 307. There is Bible Study and then discussion time in small groups. Confirmation instruction is led by Pastor Bob, Megan Clausen and Adult Mentors.

Our high school young people also meet on Wednesday nights from 7:45-9:00 pm in the Do Drop In on the 3rd floor, for a range of programming, including Bible study to movies to discussions.

Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. is our Adult Forum in room 8. We have a wide range of topics and presenters during this time period, the February schedule is as follows:

February 7th "The use of 529 plans to fund college Education by Parents and Grandparents" Larry Hanson CLU, CFP

February 14th "Retirement income options in a low interest rate environment" Larry Hanson CLU, CFP

February 21st "Congregational meeting"

February 28th "Is there a war between Religion and Science" Mark Mattes, Professor of Religion, Grandview University

Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. we offer Sunday school classes for our pre-school and elementary-aged children. This program is directed by Sheryl Reed, Children's ministry director and her fine and dedicated volunteers.

Our middle school youth also come together again Sunday's at 10:00 a.m. in room 307, for "The Breakfast Club," a time for Bible study, reflection and food.

During the week we also offer a number of "In the Word" groups that engage in Bible study and book discussions. These meetings gather in different homes and other off-site locations. Please call the church office if interested in participating in one.

The opportunities to learn and grow in our faith are many; please take advantage as you are able.

Peace, Pastor Bob

WELCA Updates

DRAWERS FOR DRAWERS

The St. John's WELCA is continuing to highlight community needs and offering opportunities for the congregation to share. In January and February look for drawers around the church. They are for donations of new drawers (aka underwear) for men, women and children. The items collected will be given to Central Iowa Shelter Services, the Family Violence Center and New Directions shelter for distribution to their clients.

We also have learned Smouse School, that provides elementary education for special needs children, is in need of pull-up disposable underwear. If you would like to assist with this need please place the items in the drawers or the bins in the narthex and the office area.

Sarah Group

The Sarah Group will meet Thursday February 4th at 9:30 a.m. at Caribou Coffee on Ingersoll.

Lois Group

The Lois Group will meet Thursday February 4th at 12:30 p.m. in Neumann.

Mitten Tree Thank You

Thanks to all who contributed gloves, mittens, caps and scarves for the Mitten Tree. We gathered about 150 items which have been distributed to Harbor of Hope, Central Iowa Shelter, the Des Moines School System, and New Directions. The need is always great and the items much appreciated.

Cookie Walk Update

The Cookie Walk was a great success. Because everyone contributed generously we had plenty of cookies. WELCA earned \$815 from the Cookie Walk and \$761 from the Silent Auction. We wish to thank all who contributed and purchased items.



Prepare for Worship

Our worship in February will be as rich as it is diverse. We begin still in the Epiphany season, move through the festival of Transfiguration, the observance of Ash Wednesday, and into the season of Lent. During Epiphany the readings highlight unlikely instruments of God and miraculous circumstances appointed to reveal the glory of the Lord and the identity of Jesus in the salvation history.

Sunday, February 7

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

The readings are Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, and Luke 5:1-11. The hymns will be ELW 525, "You Are Holy," ELW 575, "In Christ Called to Baptize," and ELW 549, "Send Me, Jesus." At 8:45 Stephanie Stegeman will sing during communion. The 11:00 a.m. service will feature our Cathedral Choir, Chamber Orchestra and soloists in the beautiful "Mass in G" by Franz Schubert used liturgically throughout the service. This has always been a favorite of this congregation.

Sunday, February 14

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Put away your heavy coat and dig out your Hawaiian shirts and sun glasses! We will celebrate the brightness of Jesus' mountain top Transfiguration with music straight from the Caribbean. "Tropical Steel," a local steel drum band, leads us in some very festive music at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. The readings include Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; and Luke 9:28-43. The laying on of hands and anointing with oil for healing will not happen this Sunday but will be moved to February 21, First Sunday in Lent.

The music at 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. will be the same with choral leadership provided by Cantorei at the earlier service and Cathedral Choir at the later. The hymns will be ELW 531, "The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing," ELW 172, "Halle, halle, halle," ELW 889, "The Right Hand of God," ELW 674, "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ," and "Come to the Mountain." The choirs will sing music by Caribbean composer or the folk repertoire. Let All the Peoples Praise You, "Victor Pilgrim," "O Praise Ye the Lord" by Noel Dexter, and "Communion Hymn," an Island of St. Vincent folk melody.

Ash Wednesday

February 17th 12:05 and 7:00 p.m. services
Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. The readings for Ash Wednesday are Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; and Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. The central action of the rite is the Imposition of Ashes as a sign of repentance and a reminder that "from dust you were made and to dust you shall return."

The hymns will be ELW 328, "Restore in Us, O God," ELW 321, "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church," and ELW 319, "O Lord, Throughout these Forty Days." At 7:00 p.m. Cathedral Choir will sing "Out of the Deep," Psalm 130, John Rutter from Requiem for offering, and "These Forty Days," Zollene Reissner for Imposition of Ashes.

Sunday, February 21

First Sunday in Lent with Healing

The readings are Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-19; Romans 10:8b-13; and Luke 4:1-13. The hymns will be ELW 322, "Oh, Love, How Deep," ELW 320, "The Glory of These Forty Days," and ELW 618, "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer." At 8:45 a.m., Cantorei will sing "Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days," by Timothy Flynn and for communion Stephanie Stegeman will sing a setting of the Spiritual "Wade in the Water." Cathedral Choir will provide the music for the 11:00 a.m. liturgy. There will be the rite of Laying on of Hands and Anointing with Oil for Healing at all services this weekend.

Sunday, February 28,

Second Sunday in Lent

The readings are Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; and Luke 13:31-35. The hymns are ELW 831, "The God of Abraham Praise," ELW 727, "Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth," and ELW 722, "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate." At 8:45 a.m. Kisasa Choristers will present the offering music, and Cathedral Choir will sing during communion.

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Wednesday Midweek Services in Lent Each Wednesday during Lent (except Holy Week) there will be Midweek Lenten Services at 12:05 and 7:00 p.m. The noontime service will be simple and short (half an hour) to allow those who need to get back to work to do so. A lunch will be available in connection with this liturgy. The 7:00 p.m. evening service in the midst of "Beloved Community" will be about 40 minutes in length and will feature the familiar "Holden Evening Prayer" by Marty Haugen and a thematic message.

Thank You!

Please accept our sincere gratitude for the invitation to provide our Russian guests with the opportunity to share their gift of music during your Wednesday noon "music" specials.

As our Greater Des Moines Friendship club welcomes the shared sponsorship of showcasing special opportunities of our international guests, it was truly a cultural experience on Wednesday November 18, when our mother / daughter duo, Galina & Ann Ostalskyay, were offered the opportunity to express their wonderful gift of song to the audience of St. John's Lutheran. In the terms of Galina... "I felt like an angel singing from on high!" Our club members had heard her in other venues but none more profound than in the church with the most beautiful acoustics. Combined with the piano duet duo that followed, which was sensational and would love to hear again, we felt very privileged to be apart of the noontime venue.

Also, thank you for the opportunity to share a typical "church luncheon" with our guests. They welcomed the warm soup and sandwiches and good conversation with others in attendance. We do hope if, in the future, this opportunity should arise, we could call upon you to arrange another program.

In friendship,
Nancy Lundstrom, Exchange Director
Russian Cultural Exchange
Greater Des Moines Friendship Force

Interfaith Hospitality Network

On February 9th & 11th, St. John's will assist WDM Christian Church in hosting 3 homeless families in transition. Please consider volunteering for a shift. We need food preparers & servers, evening and overnight hosts. This is a great opportunity for youth, families or small groups to serve together. We hope to have all shifts covered before the end of January.

February 9th (Tuesday) & 11th (Thursday)	
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Serve supper & clean up
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Evening Hosts
8:00 p.m. - 6:00 a.m.	Overnight hosts (at least one male needed)
Food Needs - Deliver by 5:30 p.m.	
Main Dish	Enough for 25 people
Salad	
Vegetable / Starch	
Bread - two loaves	
Dessert	
Milk - two gallons	

Please see signup sheet just outside the Sanctuary. Contact Jennifer Early or Wanda Havard with questions, 274-6872

Stephen Ministry



During Advent, Pastor Mithelman spoke about being awake to God's call in your life. Have you had thoughts about becoming involved in Stephen Ministry but ignored that call? One person was aware and awoke and said YES!

"I was kind of sitting on the sidelines in our congregation. Oh, I came to church every Sunday, but the rest of the week I was focused on myself. Then Stephen Ministry came along. When I said yes to God's call to me for that ministry, I saw a lot of changes in my life. Now I'm committed to caring more about others than I do about myself. And you know what? I'm walking a lot closer with my Lord."

A Stephen Minister's class needs at least three more people to sign up before a class can be started. Is this a ministry opportunity for you? Is God calling you to be awake? For more information, contact Pastor Bob Speirs, Linda Rieck or Karen Zaabel about this opportunity to serve others.



Small Groups

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

CALENDAR

Quilting, Tuesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 308;

Restaurant Visitation (Christian Involvement Team), Tuesday, February 2, 6:00 p.m., Chef's Kitchen on Beaver Avenue;

3D, Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, 24 at 10:00 a.m.;

In the Word—Saturday am Bible Study, Saturdays, February 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 8:30 a.m. —switching back to Caribou on Ingersoll;

The Reader's Club, Sunday, February 7, 10:00 a.m. in West Lounge to select a book, (then meet Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m. in Neumann to begin discussion;)

Hardanger, Mondays, February 8 and 22, 9:00 a.m.;

St. John's Job Networking Group, Monday, February 8, 5:30 p.m. at Gateway on Martin Luther King Parkway and Woodland;

EAGLES, game day at St. John's, watch bulletin for more details;

Prayer Shawl, Monday afternoon group, Monday, February 15, 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge;

Couples Club, Tuesday, February 16, at St. John's,

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Variety Extravaganza. Pancakes from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Various musical talent throughout the evening.

Lunch Bunch II, will meet Wednesday, February 17, 11:30 a.m.;

Lunch Bunch I, will meet Thursday, February 18, 11:30 a.m.;

In the Word—Marker Group, Monday, February 22, 9:30 a.m. at Starbucks on Fleur;

Prayer Shawl, Tuesday evening group, Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge;

Recreational Book Club, Wednesday, February 24, 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm;

The Readers Club, Wednesday, February 24, 7:30 p.m. in Neumann;

Scrapbooking, Saturday, February 27, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Room 8;

Digital Photography, Sunday, February 28, 10:00 a.m. in Neumann.

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

More information on upcoming events

Quilting Group: This group meets every Tuesday morning from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The quilting group invites others to join them. If you are interested in quilting or tying quilts, please talk to Dorothy Parry, 255-6049, or Lu Saf, 277-4101. They are in need of crochet thread (especially colors) to tie the quilts. There is also a Quilters Fund if you would like to donate for the cost of materials.

The Hardanger Group meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in this needlework, please contact Arlene Field, 964-3363, or Barb Hyler, 262-5261.

Love to read? The Readers Club would like you to join them for discussion! They meet about 3 sessions a year for 3 or 4 weeks each, so it is not a large commitment. The group will start their next session (winter session) with a short gathering on Sunday, February 7, 10:00 a.m. in the West Lounge (closest to the chapel) to select their next book. Meeting dates to discuss it will be Wednesday evenings, February 24, March 10, and March 24, after Lenten church service, around 7:30 p.m. in Neumann for an hour each. Please come and join in the discussion!

St. John's Job Networking Group: If you are looking for a way to connect with others who are job hunting, please join in some great fellowship and share ideas at the St. John's Job Networking Group. The next meeting is Monday, February 8, 5:30 p.m. at Gateway on Martin Luther King and Woodland in the Sherman Hill district;

Prayer Shawl Gatherings: Monday afternoon group will meet on Monday, February 15, 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge; Tuesday evening group will meet on Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge. Anyone wishing to learn how to knit is welcome.

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Variety Extravaganza:

People often remark on how many talented folks are part of the St. John's family. We will have an opportunity to show off just a bit of that treasure chest of talent when the Arts Ministry teams up with Christian Involvement and the Youth Team for this year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and Variety Extravaganza! Pancakes will be served in Weertz Fellowship Hall on **Tuesday, February 16, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** The youth will serve desserts and coffee; during that time diners will be treated to some acoustic guitar blues, piano/vocal popular music, jazz, and selections from the Broadway songbook. It will be a feast for the ears as well as the stomach. So save the date, and invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives.

Couples Club will meet on Tuesday, February 16, at St. John's along with the congregation for the Shrove Tuesday event. A fun evening of food and music is planned for all. Pancakes are served from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Various musical talent will perform throughout the evening. Join us.

Lunch Bunch I will continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the restaurant of the host's choice (next gathering, February 18). Anyone interested in joining this group please call Margaret Roby at 288-6304 to reserve a space. New members are most welcome! Current members will receive a phone call for their reservation.

In the Word—Marker Group is meeting on Friday, February 22, 9:30 a.m. at the Starbucks on Fleur. The group is adding new people and is still open. Call Delaine Marker, 285-2605, if you are interested in joining them.

Recreational Reading will meet Wednesday, February 24, at 4:30 p.m. in Rose Holm. The book to discuss is *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner.

Scrapbooking will be meeting on their usual 4th Saturday, February 27, 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Anyone who enjoys scrapbooking is invited to attend—bring your pictures and pages and materials to work with. People come and leave whatever time fits their Saturday schedule. If you are interested in attending, please call or email Darla at 243-7691 or darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org

Digital Photography is meeting on Sunday, February 28, at 10:00 a.m. in Neumann. Anyone interested in digital photography is welcome to join them.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY INFORMATION: We will be sending in the roster and all pictures for the activity pages very soon. We will not be publishing emails but will publish telephone numbers unless you request not to have yours published. (Please contact the office by February 1st if you do not wish it published.) Names, addresses and home phone numbers will be in a roster in the back of the directory. Members of our congregation will receive a free directory if you had your picture taken and selected a pose for the directory. There will be extra directories for those who wish to purchase one if you did not have your picture taken. If you have moved recently, changed phone numbers, etc. please contact the church office, 243-7691 with new information so it will be as accurate as possible.

Nine to Dine? There have been several suggestions to revisit the Nine-to-Dine events that were organized in years past. The Christian Involvement Team has decided to do just that with one tweak: It will be called **Seven @ Seven** (so that those who don't have room for nine people around their table might be able to squeeze seven!) For those new to this concept, we had signups in the lounge for a few weeks—people could sign up to go to the home of a member for a potluck dinner for the sole purpose of getting to know others in our congregation better. (There was also a place on the signup sheet to offer to host the dinner at your house). There are about four dates suggested and each person interested can select a date that fits his/her schedule. The dates we have chosen for this winter/spring are: Saturday, March 27, Sunday, March 28, Saturday, April 10, Sunday, April 11. East host/hostess will be notified of seven people in their group and they will call those people to give specifics. We hope this sounds like a fun idea and you will start thinking about which date may work for you. Signups will appear in the lounge toward the end of February.

Did you know?
St. John's now offers Wi-Fi internet access from Weertz to DDI. Just look for the STJOHNS wireless network and use 'inthecity' for the passcode.



Youth Ministries

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL YOUTH & THEIR FAMILIES!!!



SHROVE TUESDAY! The youth (middle school and high school) will be serving dessert and coffee at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper @ St. John's on **February 15th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.** Please mark

your calendars and plan to attend.

On Saturday, **February 13th** we will be making the desserts for Shrove Tuesday from **9:00 a.m. - Noon** in Weertz. Please email Megan if you or your child is able to help out.

DMARC FUNDRAISER! We have also been asked to help with the DMARC Soup Supper Fundraiser on Sunday, February 21st. There are two shifts available to work- 3:30-5:30 p.m. and 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tasks are simple and the event is being held at St. John's in Weertz. Volunteers for this may be adults or Confirmation students—OR whole families (what a great thing to do with your family!). Email Megan to sign up for shifts!

Middle School

CONFIRMATION CAMP @ Lutheran Lakeside!!!

We will be going to Confirmation Camp the week of June 20th-25th this year due to snow days and schedules! We will also be taking the bus this year, so be sure to register to take the bus! If you register by February 1st you receive a \$30 discount on your camp week! As always, if money is an issue for you please contact Megan or Pastor Bob because scholarships are available!

Breakfast Club Schedule for February (Sundays 9:55 - 10:55 a.m. in room 307)

February 7: Planning and Practices for Holy Week Services-STUDENTS NEED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.

February 14: Planning and Practices for Holy Week Services-STUDENTS NEED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.

February 21: Planning and Practices for Holy Week Services-STUDENTS NEED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.

February 28: Planning and Practices for Holy Week Services-STUDENTS NEED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.

Wednesday Night Confirmation Schedule (Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. in MPR)

February 3 - The Sending of the 70 and The Good Samaritan

February 10 - Healing the Bent-Over Woman

February 17 - Parables of the Lost and Found

February 24 - The Rich Man and Lazarus

High School

SPEND YOUR SPRING BREAK MAKING A DIFFERENCE! Do you want to go to Denver, Colorado over spring break? You will get to serve others, worship with new communities, and ski/snowboard! If so, please give Megan a \$100 deposit by February 1st! Call or email Megan with any questions.

St. John's Youth Ministries has a BLOG!!!! Be sure to check it out! If you or your student would like to write for it or have pictures to add just contact Megan and she will give you the login info!

Check it out: <http://sjlcyouth.wordpress.com>

This is another great way to stay up to date on things happening at church!

Children's Ministries

Sunday, February 28-Our Lutheran Heritage Family Event-Fireside Lounge-10:00

Families of all ages are invited to Our Lutheran Heritage Family Event in the Fireside Lounge on February 28 at 10:00. This event will offer a series of interactive stations with activities for families to do together to learn and celebrate what makes us Lutheran. Come toss a tonsure at the MONK TOSS, make a Luther Seal out of colored paper, nail your own beliefs to the church door, dare to enter our mysterious booth and receive a special gift, see how Luther's ideas spread as you create your own art project that spreads.

February Sunday School Schedule on Page 9



DMARC Soup Supper

Save the Date!!
For the DMARC 4th Annual Soup Supper

The 4th Annual Food Pantry Soup Supper is Sunday, February 21st at St. John's Lutheran Church, 600 - 6th Avenue downtown. The supper is from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. and will feature chili, chicken noodle and vegan garden vegetable soups. Cost is \$10.00 per person. In addition to soup, you will receive bread, cookies and a free ceramic bowl, created by local artists, while supplies last. See Nancy Gooding or Deb Anderson for tickets. Questions can be directed to Nancy Gooding at 418.8898.

Lenten Lunches

LCW will be serving lunch before and after the noon service on Wednesdays during Lent. Lunch will be served in Neumann again this year starting at 11:00 a.m. on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. The cost will be \$6.00 for beefburger or choice of cold sandwich, soup, salad, and a cookie or bar for \$6.00.

Lost and Found



Please help to find the owners of.....

A lady's London Fog coat and a lovely lady's ring.

The coat was worn home by mistake last season and the error wasn't realized until recently when it was needed for our stretch of cold weather. The lady in question would like to make an exchange back to her original coat; the one she has is a bit small. So, if you have a coat that seems large for you, a trade can be made!

We also have a lady's ring that was found in Weertz in mid-November. We will ask that anyone who is missing a ring to please identify it.

To connect with any of your missing items, please call the church office at 243-7691.

February Sunday School Schedule

Age 3 - 4th Grade

	Bible Stories	Faith Traits	Big Idea
February 7	Parable of the good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37	Compassion	Jesus wants us to help everyone.
February 14	Parable of the prodigal son Luke 15:11-32	Forgiveness	God loves and forgives us, no matter what.
February 21	Jesus in the temple Luke 2:41-52	Wisdom	Even the wisest people can learn from Jesus.

5th & 6th Grade

	Bible Stories	Faith Traits	Big Idea
February 7	Parable of the good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37	Compassion	Jesus wants us to help everyone.
February 14	Parable of the sower Luke 8:4-8	Forgiveness	God loves and forgives us, no matter what.
February 21	Mary and Martha Luke 10:38-42	Kindness	Jesus teaches us how to welcome guests.



Hospitality & Outreach



Bridging the Gap

Devotions are always part of our staff meetings. Recently we were fortunate to hear part of an article written by a Luther

Seminary professor. One of the thoughts shared was a commentary of what is called the "Tragic Gap."

Simply stated, the author shared that no matter how much we try, there is a gap between the way the world operates and the way it should operate. And, by saying "world," I mean us humans.

I don't know about you, but every day I plan to live "better" than the day before. My thoughts are geared that way during morning devotions, and always –always! – when reviewing my day during evening prayer time. I intend to be kinder, more generous with time and money, reach out more to people in need. Whether it's simply a listening ear to someone who needs it, donating to worthy causes, or offering my hands on a project – the intent is good; the result usually leaves something to be desired.

I know that true fulfillment only comes through our relationship with God. But by being the humans that we are, there will always have a missing element, until we are joined with Him in everlasting peace.

In the meantime, however, I believe we have a responsibility. God did put us here for a reason. And, I believe that reason is to spread the gospel – the good news – to others.

I continue to be amazed at the number of opportunities available through St. John's to provide community and congregational outreach. It is pretty much assured that if you have an interest in ministering to others, we have the venue. And, please, don't be misled by the word "ministry." That doesn't mean a degree or formalized training when used in this setting. It simply means a willing heart and willing hand to be the face of Christ to someone who needs it.

If I am the only one out there who has a "gap" in my life, hallelujah! But, if in your heart and mind, you see some room for improvement, think about bridging your gap. We have ways to help you do just that.

In the City (and the World) for Good!

St. John's is a center for mission in the heart of Des Moines. We seek to serve Christ, in word and deed, both in our immediate, downtown neighborhood, and around the world. Below are updates on current ministries, as well as new opportunities for you to reach out to sisters and brothers in Christ through your particular passions. Questions may be directed to Katie Tippins or Pastor Mithelman at 243-7691.

- **We reached our goal by the end of 2009: 300 Hospice Kits for our friends in the Pare Diocese!** Thank you for your dedication to this project! Every kit is an expression of our friendship in Christ with those who are struggling with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other terminal illnesses in Pare. The kits will go to the Minneapolis warehouse of Global Health Ministries and on to TZ from there.
- **We have the privilege of helping our friends at West Des Moines Christian Church host homeless families the week of February 7th.** Specifically, St. John's needs to provide food & servers, evening and overnight hosts on February 9th and 11th. There is an article with more information elsewhere in the Eagle Call and sign-up sheets in the narthex where you can indicate how you will help.
- **For the second year in a row, St. John's will host the DMARC Soup Supper – a major fundraiser for various DMARC ministries – on February 21st.** Please plan to attend, choose a hand-made bowl made by a local potter, and enjoy supper with a table-full of friends. Some of the youth of St. John's will be assisting with the supper this year.
- **The drawers are open!** It's time to shop for underwear and socks for men, women, and children in the ever-popular "Drawers for Drawers" project of the Women of the ELCA. You may leave newly purchased "drawers" in the dresser drawers scattered around the building. The items all go to various shelters for the homeless members of our community.
- **Requests for emergency assistance continue to grow, and donations to the Good Samaritan Fund are always needed.** People struggling to provide for their families, as well as folks needing fuel or bus tokens/tickets, continue to contact us. While our fund is not large, we seek to verify



needs and help as many people as possible. Thanks for continuing to support this fund.

• **Do you like to cook and/or bake?** In February we will organize a team with a passion for ministry through food to be "on call" for a meal (or meals) when a household in our congregation experiences a life-altering change such as a birth, death, hospitalization, tragedy, etc. Please contact Katie Tippins at 243-7691 or katietippins@stjohnsdsm.org soon!

"These are the most important three parts of the Christian life: faith, hope, and love. The first two look to God and belong above, the third looks to the neighbor and belongs down here." Martin Luther, 1527

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 Citigroup Global Markets, Inc/Smith Barney to Ameritrade. When gifting please use the following information to make transfers to Ameritrade: **Ameritrade's DTC number is: 0188. Ameritrade's account number is: 788-285389. The name on the Ameritrade 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.



Would you like to receive an electronic version of the Eagle Call? Email 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**.

Online Contributions

Currently in the testing phase, making a contribution through our website is just around the corner.

Remember that some of the features include:

- Give a one-time donation.
- Create an account for reoccurring donations.
- Assign a memorial designation to a gift.
- Give using your credit card, checking, or savings account.
- Hosted by Simply Giving all data is stored securely and properly. None of your credit card or banking information will be stored by St. John's.
- Integration with our current church management software.
- If you create an account you will be able to track your own giving history.
- Eventually we will use this service for event registrations and for special offerings.

Watch the website for a **donate** button. Once the service is live, I will host training sessions between services.

Thank you for your support and help as we move forward with this exciting new way of giving.

Scott LaBlanc
Director of Parish Operations

Photo of the Month



The Baby Jesus Alumni Club reunite to welcome its newest member, Isla Corron.

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HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

The ELCA and Lutheran World Relief are both trustworthy organizations that supply immediate emergency assistance, but also stay in communities for “the long haul.”

You may donate in the follow ways:

ELCA Disaster Response

39330 Treasury Center

Chicago, IL 60694

Credit card by phone call 800-638-3522

www.elca.org

Lutheran World Relief / Haiti Earthquake Fund

P.O. Box 17061

Baltimore, MD 21298-9832

www.lwr.org

Gifts given to St. John's will go to the ELCA Disaster Response

FEBRUARY EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all January Eagle Call information is **Monday, February 15, 2010**. Please send information or articles, in digital format if possible, to Scott LaBlanc. At scottl@stjohnsdsm.org. If you cannot send it by email, drop it off at the church office. Thank you!