



St. John's Lutheran Church

The EAGLE CALL

Volume 43, Number 7
July, 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 Eagle Call is published monthly by St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA 600 6th Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50309-1606.

In a Matter of Minutes

This spring, the members of St. John's "adopted" the 50 children and three teachers of the new Children's Club in our companion parish, the Mramba Lutheran Parish, in the Pare Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The first six months of income for the club was wired to Tanzania at the end of May.



In recent years, the government of TZ has asked each village to identify the Most Vulnerable Children (MVC) in the community, i.e. children without adequate nutrition, children in homes where parents are ill or have died, children with disabilities, etc. With your support, 50 of the MVC in Mramba now gather at Vuje Primary School (a short walk from the church) every Saturday to participate in the Children's Club. While there, they receive three nutritious meals and instruction in social skills; they play together and work in the club garden. The children all recently received school uniforms and shoes – thanks to our partner Empower Tanzania, Inc. – so children in the Club who were not able to attend primary school for lack of a uniform can now enroll in primary school as well. And the three women who serve as the teachers and cooks of the club will also receive continuing education through your gifts.

Thank you for your support of the Children's Club. Look for more information about your particular student or teacher this fall. Work has begun on the next tier of scholarships for secondary and vocational school.



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St. John's Lutheran Church
In the City for Good!
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Summer Office Hours:

Monday – Friday
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Saturday

9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Next Eagle Call Deadline
July 18th at 12 p.m.



A Word from Our Pastors
 Pastor Ramon Runkel

I came across an article in the May newsletter for our sister church, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, on S.W. Ninth. Sarah Downs is a pastoral assistant for that church. Her article reminded me that we all need to be helpers for the young and those who need help in many and various ways.

The saying, "It takes a village to raise a child," is true, so just one day a year to celebrate mothers and fathers is not enough. We need them and many others to help the rest of us.

"Notes from Sara" is reprinted below with the permission of Sara Downs.

Most of us who have computers and use the internet sometimes find it to be a very useful tool in gleaning needed or wanted information. However, we also have some e-mail pals who send us everything they receive, and we can find a lot of it useless, unnecessarily time-consuming or just plain boring. Once in a while, however, a gem or two will pop up. This past month I received what I thought were a couple of gems.

The first was a short video showing a blind man bundled in a fraying coat, sitting on a piece of cardboard on a fairly busy urban sidewalk. At his side were a large tin can and a sign scrawled on a piece of cardboard from a box, which said, "I'M BLIND. PLEASE HELP." For the most part, people were just passing him by and only once in a while did you hear a coin clinking into the can. Then along came a young woman quite fashionably dressed. She slowed her pace and went on a few feet but turned and came back. She reached down to the sign, turned it over, took a marker out of her purse and wrote something on the sign. She set it back beside the man and put her own contribution in the can. The video then showed not only coins plunking but bills being placed into the can and finally a close-up of the sign the woman had written, "IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, AND I CAN'T SEE IT!"

Within a day or so I received another e-mail and soon recognized it as one I had gotten before but worth the repeat. It concerned a school class of (according to pictures) probably middle school aged children. They had been asked by their teacher to list what they thought were now the seven wonders of the world. It didn't take most of them very long to come up with a list, and many of them contained things like the pyramids in Egypt, the Taj Mahal in India, the Great Wall of China and even the Empire State Building in New York City. But one girl seemed to be having a little difficulty with her list, so the teacher asked if there was a problem, to which the girl replied, "There are so many." Eventually her list of the Seven Wonders were: 1. To see, 2. To hear, 3. To touch, 4. To taste, 5. To feel, 6. To laugh, 7. To love.

These two e-mails jogged me a little. As of late, I have been doing a lot of complaining, especially about the weather and particularly the lack of much sunshine, but then I thought if I had been blind and could suddenly see, sun or no sun, it would be a beautiful day, because I still had the day.

Then the next one— could I have picked better "wonders?" I don't think so. If we have all of our God-given senses and have loved ones, family and friends around us with whom we can

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share things, especially laughter, aren't we very blessed? I guess every once in a while, no matter what is going on in our lives, as someone said one time, "We need to stop and smell the roses." Translated: Maybe there aren't any roses, but there are blessings all around us.

During Lent, especially, we were opening our services with "Open Our Eyes Lord." I have to admit I know the words, so I sometimes sing automatically, but then when I really put them into my heart when singing, really using them as a prayer, (the hymn) becomes more meaningful and comforting.

(The month of) May means so many things, the winding down of church things and school things, planning for summer, hoping for good weather and good times, but it is also the month of Mother's Day. My own mother has been in heaven for almost 18 years, and I still miss her. But I can tie her into my opening theme of God's most precious gifts to us (besides his Son) in that she was the one who taught me to appreciate the little things in life – to be able to see, hear, taste, feel, smell, touch, love and laugh – that if we have and keep all these things, we can prosper in many ways and enhance our personal talents. She taught me that — always – it was God who is in charge.

So, my friends, I will let you ponder the story of the blind man and the seven wonders and how they fit into your life. I wager (Is it okay in this instance?) many of you will say some of the same things I have – that it was Mom who, along with her faith, had the big part in molding me.

"When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, when you are discouraged thinking all is lost, count your many blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

"Many, O Lord my God, are Thy wonderful works which Thou has done." Psalm 40:5, King James version.

Happy Mother's Day to all Moms, Grandmas and Great-Grandmas.

So, I hope you take seriously your role – as a Mother, Father, Grandmother, Grandfather, aunt, uncle, relative, friend or teacher – as you affirm, support and care for those around you. For, as Christ said it best, "As you have done to the least of these you have done it to me."

Pastor Ramon Runkel

Artist of the Month



With his father a painter and college professor of art, **Scott Kaven**, our June Artist of the Month, grew up in the Des Moines area with art all around him. Scott went to Grand View University, graduating with a major in Fine Arts and Design. Today, his days are spent working on commercials, music videos, and movies. His nights are for creating works of art on a more classical level. The overlapping of the technical and fine arts is blended every day and night. Each multimedia painting tells a story and has a reason. Every show is inspired by the people he meets and deals with everyday, many times painting a stylized portrait of the very person who commissions the piece or requests a show. "Art is our candy, says Scott, "eat a lot of it." See his work in Weertz Fellowship Hall.

Financials

A statement of our financial position can now be obtained in the weekly bulletin or by contacting the church office.

NOTICE: All who give stock or other types of investments to St. John's, please be advised that St. John's has moved its investment portfolio from Ameritrade to Morgan Stanley Smith Barney (MSSB). When gifting please use the following information to make transfers to MSSB: MSSB's DTC number is: 0418. MSSB's account number is: 461-00524-1-9-013. **The name on the MSSB account is: St. John's 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 do not allow brokers to identify donors without prior approval from the donor.

Thank you for your generous and continued support of the ministries of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Prepare for Worship

Sunday, July 3
Independence Day Weekend
Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 14

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with the lovely and outcast. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water and meal, we find rest for our souls.

The readings are Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Romans 7:15-25a; and Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. The hymns will be ELW 888, "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies," ELW 633, "We've Come This Far by Faith." For offertory, ELW 523, "Let Us Go Now to the Banquet." Lastly, we will sing ELW 893, "Before You, Lord, We Bow." We will continue with ELW Setting 8.

Sunday, July 10
Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 15

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. At the Lord's table, we are fed with the bread of life that we may bear fruit in the world.

The readings are Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Romans 8:1-11; and Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23. The hymns will be ELW 524, "What Is This Place," ELW 679, "For the Fruit of All Creation," and ELW 547, "Sent Forth by God's Blessing." For Psalm 119:105, we will sing Amy Grant's "Thy Word," for the gospel acclamation ELW 512, "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil," and for offertory, "As the Grains of Wheat," verse 1. The offering music at 8:45 and 11 a.m. will be ELW 506, "The Word of God is Source and Seed." At 11 a.m. Katy McDowell will sing during communion. The liturgical setting for the remainder of July and August will be creation-based hymns and songs. The healing rite of laying on of hands and anointing with oil will be available at all services.

Sunday, July 17
Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 16

It is an age-old question: Why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds, Jesus suggests that both grow together until harvest. With Paul, we long for the day

that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord's table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

The readings are Genesis 28:10-19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Romans 8:12-25; and Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. The hymns are ELW 693, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come," ELW 516, "Almighty God, Your Word is Cast" and ELW 550, "On What Has Now Been Sown." For Psalm 139, we will do "O God, You Search Me," by Bernadette Farrell and for offertory, "As the Grains of Wheat," verse 1. At 8:45 a.m. we will try a mid-summer stretch with a choir. For offering they will sing "Changed Mah Name," by Larry Christensen, and for communion, "Neither Death, Nor Life," by Marty Haugen. At 11 a.m. Rachel Almlie will perform both offering and communion selections.

Sunday, July 24
Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 17

In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

The readings are Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans 8:26-39; and Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52. The hymns will be ELW 533, "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty," ELW 775, "Jesus, Priceless Treasure," and ELW 705, "God of Grace and God of Glory." For the offertory, we will sing "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God." Susan Odem will present oboe selections for both offering and communion at 8:45 and 11 a.m.

Sunday, July 31
Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 18

In this Sunday's gospel Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the Eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

The readings are Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7,15; Romans 9:1-5; and Matthew 14:13-21. The hymns will be ELW 461, "All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly," ELW 712, "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service." For offertory we will sing, ELW 661, "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God" and ELW ???, "I Love to Tell the Story." At 8:45 a.m. offering and communion music will be by Jennifer and Erik Horak-Hult.

Faith Garden

Growing Salsa and Eggplant Parmesan in Pastor Bob's Back Yard



Pastor Bob and Terri are generously hosting the St. John's Faith Garden in their back yard this summer. Here's what they're growing for DMARC food pantries:

- tomatoes, including heirloom varieties and cherry tomatoes
- peppers, most of them HOT
- eggplant

They're starting small--4 feet by 50 feet--as they establish a working plan for St. John's volunteer gardeners. If everyone works, it grows! Not only do the vegetables grow, but the size of the garden may grow next year if we're successful this summer. Pastor Bob and Terri have a huge back yard, and they're ready to devote more space to the Faith Garden.

How can you contribute to St. John's Faith Garden to grow fresh vegetables for hungry children and their families?

You can:

- work in the garden.
- donate extra garden tools and supplies.
- designate monetary contributions for St. John's Faith Garden.

Thank you to:

- Linda Christensen, Brenda Couch, Wanda Havard, Diana and Phil Sickles and Margaret Townsend for volunteering to water the garden throughout the summer.
- Jennifer and Richard Early for donating seven tomato cages.
- Dick and Bonnie Ekse and Wanda Havard for donating soaker hoses.
- The Speirs family for hosting the garden.

Current needs are:

- a scale to weigh the garden produce before it's donated to DMARC.
- more garden stakes and cages for tomato and pepper plants.
- dollars for fertilizer, insect spray, and the water bill.

Please contact Diana Sickles, garden coordinator, and tell her how you'll help grow the St. John's Faith Garden: 255-5055 or dsickles@mindspring.com.

Find out what's going on in our garden at
stjohnsfaithgarden.blogspot.com

The Faithful Artist

This summer we are trying something new with the faithful artist. We are going to have 3 sessions and they are going to be in the evenings so that moms & dads, grandmas & grandpas, aunts & uncles, brothers & sisters, cousins & neighbors can come! There will be one to two projects each session and the projects will be suitable for all ages. The cost per person will be \$5 per session and no more than \$15 per family per session. Must be 8 years old or older to attend without a parent or adult. There will also be snacks and drinks! So, be sure to sign up for the dates you want to come so there will be supplies available for you! You can sign-up on the board in the narthex or by emailing Megan (megan@stjohnsdsm.org).

The remaining sessions are:

- **July 25th 6 - 8 p.m.**
Project: Embroidery Hoop Art
- **August 15th 6 - 8 p.m.**
Project: Balsa Foam Carving to Ceramic Dishes
Taught by Deb Anderson



A lot happening in June

Baseball & Apple Pie



Couples and Singles Group



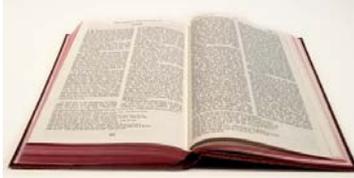
St. John's at the Pride Parade



Children's Ministries

Youth Lectors

Youth who are in 4th grade and up are invited to be youth lectors. They would be asked to serve every second Sunday of the month for the 8:45 and 11 a.m. worship services. The readings would be sent to them far in advance so they would have ample time to practice.



Larry Christensen is available to help student lectors understand how to be lectors. It's a very rewarding way to serve as it helps children understand the text at a deeper level. The entire congregation truly appreciates the efforts of our youth!!! Contact Sheryl Reed at 243-7691 if your child is interested.

Growing in Faith at Home

Sunday School may be in recess, but let's keep learning! This month one of the gospel lessons is from Matt. 13:1-9 and 18-23 (the parable of the sower).



It might be fun to act out this Bible story at home. You'll need family members to act as the sower, hungry birds, the bright sun, tough thorns, and some seeds. Use a big blanket for the good soil.

Tell your child that this is a story that Jesus told to a huge crowd of people. Many of the people in the crowd listening to Jesus were farmers. They knew a lot about seeds and soil and planting, so they were very interested in this story. Tell this story and allow your family to act it out at the same time. Start by saying, "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path."

Continue with the story, guiding your family in acting it out. After acting out the story, explain to your family that the seeds are the good news about Jesus Christ.

Some people hear the good news, but before they get around to really thinking about it and understanding it, their thoughts are snatched away like a big hungry bird. Others may hear about Jesus and get really excited. But if trouble comes along, like a blazing hot sun, they may decide that they really don't believe in Jesus after all, and their faith seeds just wither away. Then there are some people who want to give their lives to Jesus, but so many other things spring up around them like choking thorns: things like money, new clothes, cool toys and

expensive cars. Those things, like the thorns, take over until there's no room left for the seeds of Jesus to grow. And, thankfully, there are the seeds that fall on the good soil. Those are the folks who hear the good news and believe in Jesus with all their heart, and they love the Lord for the rest of their lives.

Make this a daily prayer for July...*Lord help us to be good soil and to love and serve you all of our lives. Amen*

Youth Ministries

The summer is off to a busy, yet great start! However, we have lots of things left to do!

Upcoming Youth Events

July 10-15:

Middle School Mission Trip to Duluth, Minnesota.

Tuesday, July 19:

High School/College Book Club, 7 p.m., Smokey Row Coffee House.

Sunday, July 24th:

Middle School Fun Night, 5 to 8 p.m., Pastor Bob's pool (families welcome).

Monday, July 25th:

Faithful Artist Night, 6 p.m., St. John's.

July 31-August 7th:

High School Mission Trip to Booneville, Arkansas.

Monday, August 15th: Faithful Artist Night, 6 p.m., St. John's.

Tuesday, August 16th: High School/College Book Club, 7 p.m., Smokey Row Coffee House.

If you have questions about any of these events, please contact Megan Clausen, meganc@stjohnsdsm.org (243-7691).

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

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

WIRED Yoga: Thursdays, July 7, 14 and 21, 5:45-6:45 p.m., Fireside Lounge at church.

St. John's Moms: Saturday, July 10, 10 a.m. in the Nursery at church. Contact Kirsten LaBlanc, k.lablanc@gmail.com (491-0907) or Rachel Corron, rccorron@gmail.com (313-6645).

Gardening: Wednesday, July 13, 6:30 p.m., tour at home of Darla and Bill Stiles, 3812 Greenbranch Dr., West Des Moines.

Saturday Morning Bible Study: Taking a break for summer.

Hardanger: Taking a break for summer.

St. John's Networking Group: Taking a break for summer.

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, July 20, 12:30 p.m.

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, July 21, 11:30 a.m.

Couples/Singles Group: Thursday, July 21, 6-9 p.m. at Jasper Winery.

EAGLES: Friday, July 22, trip to Boone; leaving St. John's at 9:30 a.m. RSVP to Jim Hanson, gymfil56@q.com (255-6148).

Scrapbooking: Taking a break for summer.

Photography: Sunday, July 24, 10 a.m. in Neumann. Theme: animal pictures.

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

More information on upcoming events

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

Saturday Morning Bible Study: Taking a break for summer; start again in the fall. Contact Ellen Fisher ellenfisher123@yahoo.com (250-9916) or Rod Snavelly, rsnavely@aol.com.

St. John's Moms: Saturday, July 10, 10 a.m. in the nursery at church. Facilitators are Kirsten LaBlanc, k.lablanc@gmail.com (491-0907) and Rachel Corron, rccorron@gmail.com (313-6645).

Gardening: Wednesday, July 13, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Darla and Bill Stiles, 3812 Greenbranch Dr., West Des Moines. (This is a change from the original schedule for July. The Dittmers cannot have the tour this year.) Plan to enjoy a beverage and listen to the water trickle down the water feature in their back yard. View the Zen garden, stroll the brick pathway to take in the variety of hostas (generously given by several members of the garden group) in the terraced gardens, and the yard art created by the Stiles as well as pieces from Deb Anderson and Diane Mattern. Contact Darla Stiles, darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org.

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

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, July 20, at 12:30 p.m. If interested in joining this group, contact Janet Figg (279-6326).

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, July 21, at 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in joining the group, call Margaret Roby (288-6304) to reserve a space. New members are most welcome!

Couples/Singles Group: Thursday, July 21, 6 to 9 p.m. at the Jasper Winery. Listen to the music of "Flipside." Bring lawn chairs. Beverages may be purchased there as well as brats and burgers.

EAGLES July event: Thursday, July 21, Boone Railway trip. The group plans to leave St. John's around 9:30 a.m., stop at the Tick Tock Inn in Boone for an early lunch and board the train by 1:30 p.m. Diners will choose lunch from the menu. Cost of the train trip is \$16 per person. Contact Jim Hanson, gymfil56@q.com (255-6148), if you can attend.

Recreational Reading: Taking a break until fall.

Scrapbooking: Taking a break until fall.

Photography: Sunday, July 24, at 10 a.m. in Neumann. The theme this month is animals. Bring a couple photographs of animals or just attend to see other members' pictures. If you have questions about the St. John's photography small group, contact Rod Snavelly, rsnavely@aol.com.



WIRED Yoga: Thursdays through July 21, 5:45-6:45 p.m. Fireside Lounge at church. Contact yoga instructor Corinne Lambert, callingwisdom1@hotmail.com (515-556-3679).

Hospitality & Outreach



The Arts and God

“Art is the collaboration between God and the artist, and the less the artist does the better.”

Andre Gide (French writer, humanist and moralist, Nobel Prize for literature, 1869-1951)

We are resuming our adventurous trek into the world of opportunities here at St. John's. This month we take a look at **Arts Ministry**.

The ARTS at ST. JOHN'S

St. John's is known throughout the city for providing and supporting quality and varied artistic programs. Some may ask: What is Arts Ministry, and what does art have to do with church? Well, there is a perfect connection. As stated by the Ministry Team: “The arts allow God to touch our hearts and souls in ways that doctrine and theology alone cannot. The arts allow us to be co-creators with God and part of a creative community.”

Here are some of the Arts Ministry Team activities and opportunities for involvement:

- **Midweek Music** is presented from autumn through spring. Each week musicians and/or vocalists give a welcome respite with a half-hour concert in the Sanctuary, followed by a home-made lunch in Weertz Hall. The concert is free; the lunch reasonably priced at \$6. You are encouraged to share your culinary skills by helping to prepare these traditional meals.
- **Creating in Community** is held on a mid-winter Saturday and provides instruction on a wide variety of artistic endeavors. Last year's offerings included cooking, wearable art, working with social media, quilting, creative writing and block printing, just to name a few. Instructors are skilled and qualified. Offer your talents as a teacher or simply enjoy being a participant.
- **The Performing Arts Series** invites the Des Moines community to attend events at our church, which is

downtown “in the city for good.” Over the past year, we welcomed university choral groups and Hurley and Dancers, plus hosted fund-raising and social events.

- **Visual Arts** enables the “Artist of the Month” to showcase his or her talents in Weertz. Exhibits have featured, among many other artists, selections from St. John's Photography Group participants and members of the congregation and staff.
- **Streetscape** does not magically appear around our church home. Persons from St. John's are actively involved in planting and caring for flowers and greenery that beautify our church and make it feel welcoming.

For those of you who are fans of the arts, yet have not one speck of artistic talent (such as the author of this piece!), there are other ways to be part of the fun while contributing to this mission.

- **Hospitality.** Help host community members at art events.
- **Marketing and Publicity.** Invite and inform members and the public about upcoming events.
- **Scholarship Programs.** Financial donations to prepare future generations of St. John's students for artistic lives.
- **Sound and Video Recording/Editing.** These skills help us share the arts with others and to preserve them for posterity.
- **Grant Research and Writing.** If you can share this type of knowledge, it would allow more offerings and participation in support of the arts.
- **Fundraising and Patron Development.** This makes it all possible.

So, if you're looking for an artistic outlet, a place to try new things and let creativity flow, be a part of the St. John's Arts Ministry Team. For more information, contact Katie Tippins at katietippins@stjohnsdsm.org (243-7691).

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.





Open the Door: A Journey to the True Self

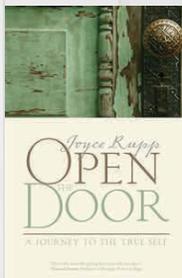


Women's Retreat
St. John's Lutheran Church
Sunday, October 23, 2011
Lunch: 12:30, Retreat: 1:30 to 4 p.m.

This retreat, based on Joyce Rupp's latest book, offers inspiration and encouragement for personal growth. Opening the "door" is a way of speaking about an invisible passageway through which we enter the endless territory of beauty and truth secluded in our interior world. This symbolic door of the heart bears a similarity to physical doors in that it, too, opens and closes. Our heart-door opens inward to the deepest, truest part of who we are. There we find the inherent goodness seeded in us at our birth. The door then opens outward to the world where we bring this giftedness and share it with others. The retreat will include a conference, guided meditation, small group dialogue, and creative prayer experience.

Review of Joyce's latest work:

Joyce Rupp brings new life to the ageless spiritual image of the door, weaving insights from East and West with the wisdom of contemporary spiritual writers, poets, and novelists in a practical format that is just right for contemporary readers. Structured as a daily prayer guide for everyday use over six weeks, each day offers a thematic reflection, a guided meditation, an original prayer, a thoughtful question, and a related scripture quote.



For more information about Joyce Rupp, please visit <http://www.joycerupp.com/index.htm>.

To register, contact Darla Stiles at 243-7691 or darlastiles@stjohnsdsm.org. Registration is \$30 and includes lunch. Sponsored by WIRED at St. John's Lutheran Church.

In the City (and the World) for Good!

...and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple – truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward. Mt. 10:42

Beginning with thanks...

Summertime is the most difficult time for us to "fill the lines" on the sign-up sheets for serving at Central Iowa Shelter & Services, as well as the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

But you stepped up to the plate again in June, and we are grateful for your generous commitment of time, resources, and the gracious manner in which you serve that "cup of cold water" to our neighbors in need.

Baseball fans, unite!

Unite against hunger, that is. If you find yourself taking in an I-Cubs game at Principal Park on any of the following days, please take a generous bag of non-perishable food items with you for the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry:

July 17
August 21

August 7
September 4

Donation sites at the ballpark are clearly marked. And thanks to the I-Cubs for their partnership in fighting hunger in our community!

Sewing not your "thing"?

Sorry, but this does NOT disqualify you from putting together Lutheran World Relief quilts on the next **LWR quilting day, Saturday, July 9, 9 a.m. - noon**. Gather in Weertz Hall and follow directions. It's that easy, and all ages can participate. Working on quilts together is great fun, as well as a way to teach our children about being the hands of Christ in this world.

Our downtown neighbors depend on us.

There are several days this summer and fall that food and servers are needed at the Connection Café, our noon-meal ministry through the churches of The Bridge. The open dates are toward the end of the month in July, August, and September. Gather some friends, a group from your workplace, or the kids & grandkids when they are in town for a visit and join this crucial ministry to those who are homeless and the working poor. Please call or e-mail the Connection Café Coordinator, Rob Hoover, to see where help is most needed: 515-771-1481 or theconnectioncafe@hotmail.com

Looking ahead...

Watch for a list of items needed for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Our goal is 100 kits by the end of September. More info coming...

And ending with thanks...

for your generous ministry "in the city for good." A special thanks this month to the 30+ people who marched behind St. John's banner in the 2011 Pride Parade on June 12. We drummed, cheered, waved, and high-fived our way down the route as a "church for all people" in the heart of the city. It was grand!

Return Service Requested

July 2011
Volume 43, No. 7



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

AUGUST EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The deadline for all Eagle Call information is **Monday, July 18, 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!