



the Eagle Call

Volume 51, Number 10 | October 2019

October Blessings

Worship

Saturday

5:00 pm

Sunday

8:00 am

10:00 am

Radio Broadcast

Praise 940 AM

Sunday Mornings

8:00 am

Scott LaBlanc

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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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stjohnsdsm.org

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



Every fall we take time in worship to pray for God's blessing on the quilts and kits made throughout the year for Lutheran World Relief. On the weekend of October 12 & 13, over 100 quilts will decorate the pews, and boxes filled with over 100 school kits and 150 personal care kits will be displayed in the narthex and sanctuary. (Come to worship a bit early to get a photo!) These items are tangible signs of God's love for refugees, victims of natural disasters and others in need no matter their gender, race or religion. Lutheran World Relief reports that in 2018, 323,610 quilts, 216,430 school kits and 119,865 personal care kits were distributed in 25 countries around the globe. We are grateful to have had a part in that ministry and will continue to faithfully support LWR in the years to come.

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A Word From Our Pastor

by Pastor Robert Speirs



"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'The one who is righteous will live by faith.'" Romans 1:16-17

So here we are in October, and the cooler days of fall are once again a welcome presence, after what seems to me was a long, very hot and humid summer. (Although I do concede that maybe our summer was just another regular Iowa summer, and I'm just feeling the effects of the heat that seems to go with my tender age!)

As we know, October is also the month that we observe and celebrate the anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. It was 502 years ago on October 31, 1517, that Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the doors of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. That, among other items, challenged the Roman church's practice of selling indulgences for the purpose of freeing oneself or a loved one from the bonds of purgatory. It's still important today to be reminded what the 16th century struggle was about, and why we can still be proud and grateful to be Lutheran Christians.

As we recall, at the heart and core of that conflict and our church, stands the Gospel, the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ, our church's only reason for existence and being. What the Lutheran church has offered down through the years and continues to offer in the present, and will into the future, is our absolute clarity on that which is essential to our understanding of the Gospel, our belief in, and proclamation of the gracious, forgiving, reconciling, life-affirming love of God poured out for sinners, of every shape, size, and variety in Jesus Christ. This persistent love of God for God's created humanity is expressed most clearly in the cross of Jesus. We are saved by God's grace through faith in and through Jesus Christ, in his life, death and resurrection.

Furthermore, all that God has to give, and wants to give is ours through faith in the promise of Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth and the life. And, faith for Lutherans is mainly a matter of trust...trusting that God keeps the promises that God makes, to you and to me, to all who believe. Faith, as we remember, comes to us as a gracious gift that is given to us freely from God through the Holy Spirit. As Luther explains in the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed, "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common and true faith." This is most certainly true!

On this coming Reformation Sunday, October 27, 18 of our young people, who have gone through a three-year period of instruction in our Wednesday night confirmation classes, will affirm the baptismal promises that their parents made for them at their baptisms. Not only have we spent much time together on Wednesday evenings in prayer and study, but many of our young people who will be confirmed have gone with us to Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Lakeside Bible Camp, shared time together on Handbell and Mission trips, and have had marvelous adventures on our excursions to the Boundary Waters of Northern Minnesota. We have enjoyed all the time we have spent together, and our young people have represented themselves and their church in a very fine way.

As part of their confirmation experience, our young people were asked to create capstone projects that represent not only what they have learned, but projects that give insight into the faith they profess in Christ Jesus and the ministry of the church. These projects will be presented by our students starting on Sunday, September 29, following "Coffee with the Council," and continue over the next three Sundays during our Sunday Education Forum. Please join us and help show your encouragement and support for the amazing projects our students have completed, and come offer them your prayers and best wishes as they continue to serve our church and our community.

Peace to you all!

Children's Ministry

By Ann Strom

And we're off! We kicked off our program year on Sunday, September 8 with Rally Day! The children participated in activities based on the Seasons of Creation which was the theme for the pastors' sermons. Beloved Community and Wednesday evening programming for children and youth began September 4. Sunday School classes began on September 15 and we shared in a special presentation of Bibles for our three year olds and third graders. We are grateful for our returning volunteers and several new volunteers for children's programming! A huge thank you to our families for sharing your children with us each week. We are so blessed to have them as part of our St. John's family.

Sunday School Service Project 2019-2020

FACT: In Tanzania, our brothers and sisters MUST have a government issued school uniform in order to attend school.

What are we doing to help?

Our Sunday School classes will continue to raise funds to provide uniforms for these children so that they may have the privilege of attending school... a privilege that is gifted to us without question.

Cost of a school uniform: \$30

- Shirt = \$5
- Pants or Skirt = \$5
- Shoes and socks = \$10
- Sweater = \$10

How Can You Help?

- Encourage your children to contribute through offerings of their own money.
- You may share a donation with any child in Sunday School at St. John's to support this effort.
- You may make a tax deductible donation online at www.stjohnsdsm.org.

Our efforts toward our goal will be documented throughout the program year on the Children's Ministry bulletin board located on the 2nd floor in the main Sunday School classroom hallway. Thank you for your support!

Volunteers Needed!

We continue to need more volunteers to help our children grow in their faith. If you are interested in learning more about opportunities to teach or help with Sunday School, please contact Ann Strom at astrom@stjohnsdsm.org.

Photos from Rally Sunday



Prepare for Worship

By Michael Elsbernd

October 6 – Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 27

Readings: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 37:1-9; 2 Timothy 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10

Our faith is a precious gift from God. In Luke's Gospel, the Lord says to the apostles "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you" (Luke 17:6). Even faith the size of a tiny mustard seed has the potential to realize something larger than itself. Through God's Word and the means of grace, our faith is strengthened for lives of discipleship.

Hymns: "How Firm a Foundation" (796); "My God, How Wonderful Thou Art" (863); "Build Us Up, Lord" (670)

Cathedral Choir: "The Eyes of All," Jean Berger & "O Lord, Increase My Faith," Orlando Gibbons

October 13 – Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 28

Readings: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

God has the power to heal our afflictions of body and spirit. We hear the story of the Syrian general, Naaman, healed by Elisha, only after Naaman realized his need for humility. In the New Testament lesson, Paul urges Timothy to proclaim the liberating Word of God in his teaching and preaching. Cleansed by God's grace, we return to offer our thanksgiving before going out again into the world to share the good news.

Hymns: "Oh, Sing to the Lord" (822); "Voices Raised to You" (845); "Now Thank We All Our God" (840)

Cathedral Choir: "Everything You Do," Dietrich Buxtehude

October 20 – Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 29

Readings: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Persistence in prayer leads to divine blessings. Jacob wrestled all night with God and prevailed. The blessing Jacob asked for was granted. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's persistent pleas. Jesus' message is clear. Like the widow, we are called to persistently demand justice, knowing that our pleas are heard by God. If we are persistent in our own encounters with God through prayer, hearing God's Word, and coming to the Lord's Table, we will also find ourselves blessed.

Hymns: "Lead Me, Guide Me" (768); "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (742); "Let Streams of Living Justice" (710)

Cathedral Choir: "I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes," Leo Sowerby

October 27 – Reformation Sunday

Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

The gospel of Jesus Christ – the good news – is at the center of our faith. As we celebrate the good news of God's grace, we continue to pray for the unity of the church. We join our voices in prayer and praise as we bear witness to God's truth which liberates us from sin and death. In the waters of baptism we are joined to the death and resurrection of Christ. We are united as one body through baptism and we pray that one day all Christians will be one around the Lord's Table.

Hymns: "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" (504); "Listen, God is Calling" (513); "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (632)

Combined Choirs: "Let All the People Praise!" Craig Courtney

A Cabaret Evening Benefiting the Connection Café

John Zickefoose

sings

Songs I Taught My Mother

Satiric, Sentimental & Silly Selections

By Kurt Weill, Jerome Kern, the Gershwins, Cole Porter, Harold Arlen and Others

Musical Direction by Bruce Martin

Sunday October 20, 2019

4:30 pm

**St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral
815 High Street
Des Moines, IA**

**Silent Auction,
Refreshments &
light hors d'oeuvres**

Tickets: \$30

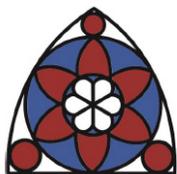
Table of 10: \$250

For tickets please contact:

Sally Bates - sallybat.38@mchsi.com

Sue Ging - sue.ging@yahoo.com

Marianne Meyer - dmscmeyer@gmail.com



Small Groups

By Amanda Landers-Each

Mah Jongg: Mah Jongg will be played Mondays, Oct. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 6 p.m. in Neumann at St. John's Lutheran.

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

Celebrating Katy: Oct. 3, Fox Brewing (103 S 11th St., WDM); Nov. 7, Uptown Garage Brewing Co. (305 SW Walnut St. Ankeny); Dec. 5, KRAMPUSNACHT, at Hessen Haus (101 SW 4th St., DSM). This group celebrates Katharina von Bora, wife of Martin Luther and a home brewer herself. All dates for are on Thursdays at local breweries at 7 p.m. With questions, contact Rod Snavely at celebratingkaty@gmail.com or 515-494-3178. It's okay to text.

YoPro Service Project: DMARC – Meals from the Market, Saturday, Oct. 12! Collect and load produce donations from Downtown Farmers' Market vendors to distribute through their Food Pantry Network. **The St. John's community is welcome to participate!** (Contact Amanda Landers-Each alanderseach@stjohnsdsm.org for further details as spots are limited and reservations and waivers are required.)

YoPro (Young Professionals of St. John's): Tuesday, Oct. 15, 5:50-7:30 p.m. Java Joe's, 214 4th St DSM. (3rd Tuesday of the month). "YoPro Meets" is an opportunity to share tea, coffee and libations with others interested in exploring and discussing the challenges, opportunities and issues of the 21st Century in a social setting. Beverages and food may be ordered and paid for by each participant.

What is YoPro? A group for Young Professionals both single and married who are interested in growing community among each other and our church. This group is for anyone that is interested in trying to maneuver life in faith, positively and constructively with like-minded individuals. This group is open to all genders, races and interests so bring ideas and open minds to respectfully engage with others. All professionals in all fields are welcome!

Lunch Bunch II: Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 12:30 p.m. Lunch Bunch II meets the third Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in this group or with questions, please contact Ann Moeller: akase1957@msn.com or 515-277-7339. All are welcome!

Lunch Bunch I: Thursday, Oct 17 at 11:30 a.m. Coordinator for October is Mitzie McCloskey, 515-277-0826. Lunch Bunch meets the third Thursday of the month. With questions, please contact Mary Liechty (hoganmary2@msn.com). All are welcome.

Photography: Sunday, Oct. 20 following the 10 a.m. service in Neumann. The theme for this meeting will be Create Still Life; Nov. 17, Fall Colors. No meeting in December. Check Sunday bulletins for additional details. With questions, contact Paul Meyer at paulmeyer1954@gmail.com.

Recreational Book Club: Wednesday, Oct. 23, *The Boys in the Bunkhouse* by Dan Barry. The group usually meets in Rose Holm at 4:30 on the fourth Wednesday of the month except during the holidays, when they usually meet a week earlier. All are welcome. Contact Carol MacDonald with any questions. Caroljomac@gmail.com.

EAGLES: Sunday, Nov. 3, 3 p.m., Veteran's Military Band Concert, at the DSM Civic Center. Meet at 2 p.m. in the north parking lot to carpool to the Civic Center. There are no reserved seats, and the concert is FREE! This is always a wonderful event to support.

Scrapbooking/Card Making: Saturday, Oct. 26, 10-2, Room 8. All are welcome to join a fun working group for whatever time they like on the 4th Saturday of the month. Bring your project, supplies, and ideas to share with the group. Contact Delaine Marker with any questions at gramsmkr@hotmail.com or 515-238-0094.

WIRED Fall Nature Retreat: Sunday, Oct. 6, 11:30-5:30 p.m. A day of reflection, renewal and growth while enjoying the beauty of God's creation in nature. Sandwiches and chips will be provided for lunch. Please bring a side or dessert to share and your beverage(s) of choice. Water will be provided. Where: Walnut Woods Lodge at Walnut Woods State Park 3155 SE Walnut Woods Dr., WDM. Cost: \$15

The day will include a speaker, crafts or pottery lead by Deb Anderson and hiking. The Speaker is Ed Slattery, an environmental engineer, who will talk about local water quality issues and some of the efforts currently underway to improve the quality of Iowa water bodies. As we know, water is essential for life and a frequent theme in the Bible.

REGISTER at stjohnsdsm.org/event/wired2019fallretreat. For further information and/or questions, please contact Amanda Landers-Each at alanderseach@stjohnsdsm.org.

All Church Board Game Night on Friday, Jan. 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Enjoy an evening for ALL ages at St. John's in Weertz! Get out of the winter chill and bond with family and friends while playing board games! Bring your favorite games, puzzles and snacks to share! More details to come! Organized by the Christian Involvement Team

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



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.

After School Arts Program

We've Come So Far

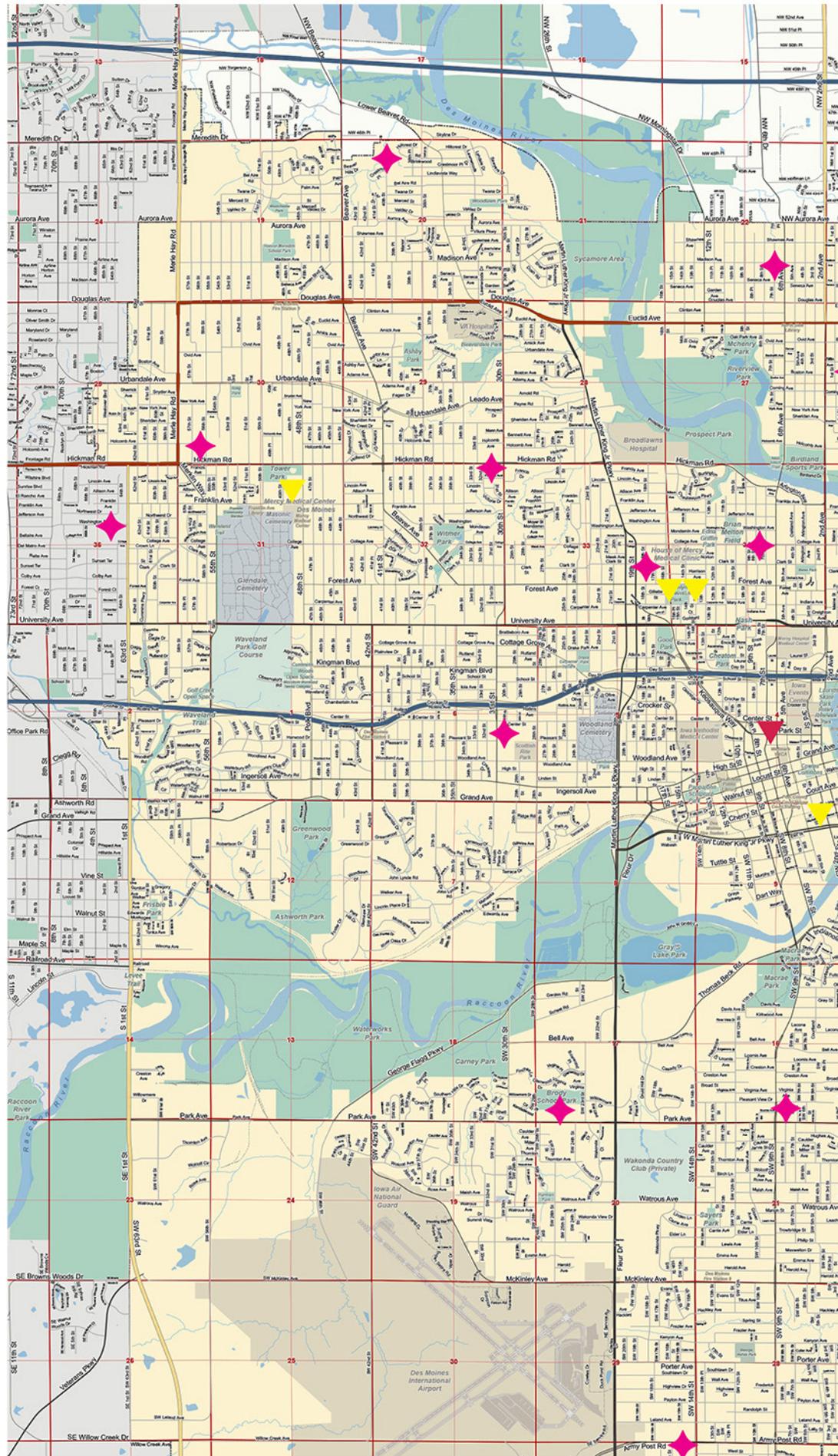
by Michelle Bolton King

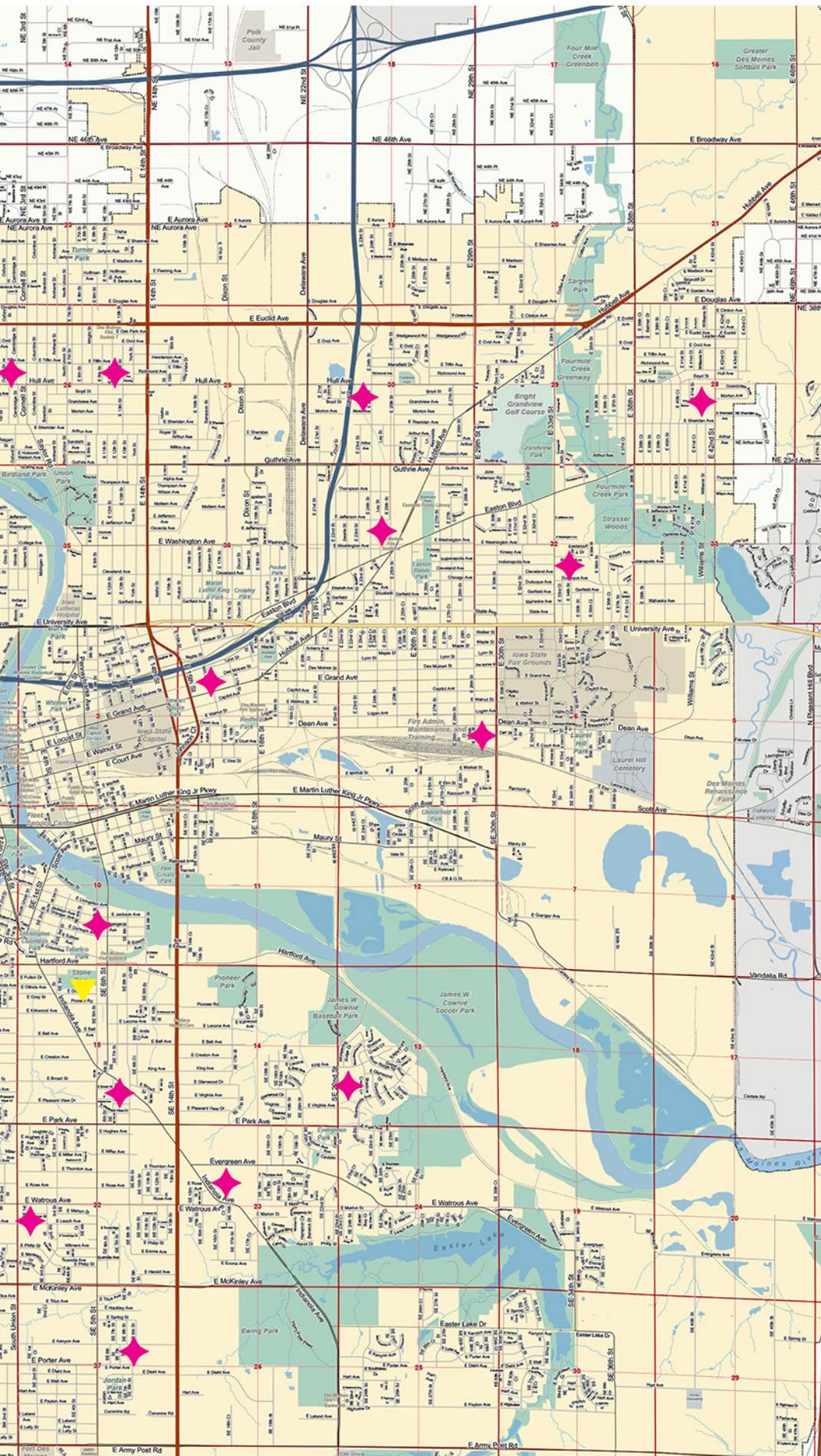
The After School Arts Program (ASAP) began in 2007 as an outreach ministry for underserved urban children. The program took place once a week at St. John's and welcomed selected students from King, Moulton, and Edmunds Elementary schools. Program administration and studio art classes were led by volunteers, most from the congregation. In its first year, ASAP offered fifteen 7-week-long classes and served nearly 150 student enrollments. In 2009, ASAP founders formed a 501c3 nonprofit organization (Arts for the City, Inc.) to manage ASAP's growth. Since that time, ASAP has expanded programming to 30 different sites around the city, operating nearly 150 studios serving around 2,500 enrollments per year, totaling thousands upon thousands of hours of human creativity and connection with children in our community. Just look at what you started, St. John's!

ASAP's Savor Fundraiser

ASAP's annual fundraiser, Savor, will take place Monday, October 21, 5:30-8 p.m. at the Windsor Heights Community Center. This lively evening features a happy hour, dinner, and brief program—always with a fun surprise or two—with all proceeds supporting ASAP's enriching arts programs for young people in our community.

Tickets are \$65 per person. Sponsorships are available at three levels: \$250 (includes 2 tickets), \$500 (includes 4 tickets), and \$1,000 (includes 10 tickets). Tickets are on sale now at www.midwestix.com or at 515-770-3380; contact Michelle Bolton King at michelle@asap-dsm.org with questions.





◆ Partner Schools

New in 2019–20

- ◆ Cowles
- ◆ Jackson
- ◆ Park Avenue
- ◆ South Union

Likely Continuing Active in 2019–20

- ◆ Capitol View
- ◆ Cattell
- ◆ Garton
- ◆ Howe
- ◆ Lovejoy
- ◆ Monroe
- ◆ Oak Park
- ◆ Stowe
- ◆ Findley
- ◆ Hillis
- ◆ King
- ◆ McKinley
- ◆ Moulton
- ◆ River Woods
- ◆ Willard

Hope to Find Funding for 2019–20

- ◆ Callanan
- ◆ Phillips
- ◆ Samuelson

No Programs Anticipated for 2019–20

- ◆ Brody
- ◆ Brubaker
- ◆ Morris

▼ Other Program Sites

New in 2019–20

- ▼ Franklin Library

Likely Continuing Active in 2019–20

- ▼ EK Davis Park
- ▼ Forest Avenue Library
- ▼ Pioneer Columbus Community Ctr
- ▼ Science Center of Iowa

Hospitality & Outreach

by Katie Tippins

On August 25, we had a new member class and are happy to introduce you to the newest members of the St. John's family. For the first time, ALL are Des Moines proper residents!



Garrison Copeland: Garrison works in special education at North High School. He is currently applying to graduate programs in speech language pathology. He is interested in cooking, (already helping with Beloved Community), Ukraine, foreign languages, history, and his sports teams: Atlanta United (Go As!) and UGA football (Go Dawgs!). Garrison came to St John's a few times when he visited his fiancé, Kalevi Chen, and connected to the community and worship. He and Kalevi will be married here next year.



Andrew & Stephanie Jensen: The Jensen family has been attending and participating at St. John's since February of this year. Andrew is a student at Grand View University. He enjoys art, woodworking, metalwork and theater. Stephanie is a registered nurse at Mercy West Lakes. Her interests include knitting and yarn crafts. She enjoys helping with food pantries and assisting those less fortunate. They were attracted to St. John's by the openness of the members, willingness to accept all people, and our community action. They have two children.



Colleen Knight: Some of you may already know or recognize Colleen who has been attending St. John's for some time. She has two adult children and is retired. Colleen is interested in quilting, volunteering, Bible Study and organizing. She is working with our quilting group and helping with quilts for Lutheran World Relief. She lives close to St. John's and attends Beloved Community. Colleen tries to do at least one act of kindness every day.



Maggie Langlois & Austin Abbas: Maggie and Austin will be married here in November. Maggie is a pharmacist at UnityPoint. She enjoys cooking and working out. They have two cats, Jax and Sol, (people after my own heart) who take up most of their free time. Austin is an IT Auditor at Ernst & Young, and enjoys video games and golf. They were attracted to St. John's because of our community, tradition and acceptance.



Elizabeth Williams: Elizabeth has three children, ranging in age from five to 16. She is a Writer/Editor for the Communications Department of Iowa Public Television. She enjoys reading, singing and cooking. Elizabeth grew up in northeast Iowa and moved to DSM in 1996. She was attracted to St. John's because of our "welcoming atmosphere."

As coordinator of hospitality and outreach, I am available to discuss joining St. John's, volunteer opportunities and connecting you with like-minded people who have shared interests – whether they be service, social and/or spiritual. Contact Katie (katiet@stjohnsdsm.org or 243-7691).

LSI Update

by the Staff at Lutheran Service in Iowa

Warming Hearts with God's Love & a Pair of Mittens

Far too often, children arrive at LSI's Beloit and Bremwood Residential Treatment Centers with very little in their possession.



We give thanks for Iowa congregations who faithfully respond to these needs, year after year! As winter approaches, LSI relies on your loving support to meet the demands for winter apparel for children and youth at Beloit and Bremwood. Children in residential treatment have little control over their lives, so it's important for us to give children the opportunity, when possible, to shop for their new coat or mittens. Because of this, we ask that you please not donate articles of clothing. With your generous financial donation, many children will have the simple joy of choosing their new coat, knowing that they are loved and cherished.

If you would like more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563.676.2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSI (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

"Thank You, God"

Every week, when 8-year-old Chase met with LSI's Pastor Dennis Bauer, he would ask to pray for "the same old thing: to find a good, loving forever family."

Chase is in third grade. But in his young life, he has already experienced trauma most of us cannot fathom. When Chase

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was 6, he was removed from his home and his mother's parental rights were terminated. He felt confused, terrified, and shocked. Chase struggled to cope with his anger and emotions. He acted out and became physically aggressive. Chase needed help, and LSI's Beloit Residential Treatment Center in Ames offered that help.

After arriving at Beloit, Chase quickly became involved in LSI's voluntary Spiritual Life program, where he participates in faith-based activities like art and music. Through regular meetings with Pastor Dennis, Chase says he is focusing on his faith and "trusting in God and saying prayers."

Outside of Spiritual Life, Chase is also learning healthy skills through group therapy to help him cope on the difficult days.

Now, Chase is thriving. His confidence is building every day, and he has big plans for his future. He wants to be a surgeon when he grows up, and he dreams of learning to bake and do woodworking. And the immediate future is looking pretty bright, too: Chase is in the process of being adopted.

During a recent visit with Pastor Dennis, Chase prayed a different prayer: "Thank you, God, for giving me a family."

In the City (and World) for Good!

by Pastor Rachel Thorson Mithelman

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

Translation of Talmudic texts

The moment that we have is this moment. The day that we have is this day. And God calls us to love and serve in word and deed now. I think that is what the wise words above are about, and there are opportunities through St. John's and in partnership with other organizations to be engaged with the needs of our neighbors every day.

There are two fundraising events coming up in October that will benefit the partnerships we have both downtown and in the greater Des Moines community.

Elsewhere in this newsletter please note the invitation to support the Connection Café through a fun, Sunday afternoon musical program at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral on October 20. And also note the annual fundraising dinner – "Savor" – in support of the After School Arts Program on the evening of October 21. Both are partnerships in which justice and mercy are happening now.

St. John's YOPRO (Young Professionals) small group invites you to assist with a project on October 12. The group has committed to collecting the produce donations from the Downtown Farmer's Market that day for the sake of the DMARC Food Pantry Network. The time commitment is not huge, but many hands are needed. Contact Amanda Landers-Each for details. alanderseach@stjohnsdsm.org

Thank you for furnishing the evening meals on the 18th & 19th of September at Central Iowa Shelter & Services. In October, those dates fall on a Friday and Saturday, allowing folks who can't help mid-week because of work or family commitments to enjoy this opportunity on a weekend! Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

How has the garden been growing? Very well, indeed! We'll have an account of total pounds donated to the DMARC Food Pantry from the St. John's Faith Garden in a few weeks, but the harvest of cabbage, kale, carrots, radishes, onions, beans, summer squash and sweet potatoes has been abundant. Thanks to all the folks who tend the garden and the Speirs' household for hosting it.

Do justice, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

Handing out Bibles on Sept. 15



The Arts at St. John's

By Beth Ann Edwards



Abbie Evans and Joe Bruner Are Featured Artists of the Month in October

Confirmants Abbie Evans and Joe Bruner have chosen as their Confirmation Capstone Project an art exhibit depicting their St. John's experiences, including youth trips. The exhibit will be on display throughout the month of October.

Artist's Reception Abbie and Joe will present their artwork at an artist's reception on Saturday, October 12, at 6:00 pm, following the Saturday evening worship service. Please join them at this reception, and please take time to view their exhibit during the month of October.

Small Group Dinners

A few openings are available for small group dinners, sponsored by the Arts Visioning Team. These dinners were organized for several reasons: build community at St. John's, inform people about the Arts at St. John's and its place in worship and as an outreach; provide people with an opportunity to share the art of cooking, hosting an event, and being a guest. Everyone who attends is an artist!

Two family-focused events are scheduled, one on October 4 and one on October 5. Children are invited and encouraged to attend these events. Single people, who often have no opportunity to dine with other singles, are encouraged to attend a dinner scheduled for October 5.

There is no charge for these dinners. A free-will donation will support the Arts at St. John's. Please contact Beth Ann Edwards (bethann@stjohnsdms.org) for more information.

Save the Date: Choral Festival and Concert Nov. 4

Waukee High School A Cappella Choir, directed by Jeff Knutson, and Urbandale High School Singers, directed by Ted Brimeyer, will present a choral concert in the St. John's sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 4. Urbandale Singers and Waukee A Cappella, the premier choirs at their

respective schools, perform solo sets with both choirs joining forces for two final combined choir numbers. Dr. Andrew Crane, Director of Choral Activities at Brigham Young University of Provo Utah, and conductor of the renowned BYU Singers, will be the festival conductor. Admission is free; a free-will offering will be taken.

Midweek Music Series Begins Wednesday, October 2, at 12:05 p.m.

The 2019-20 Series begins with The Des Moines Tango Ensemble (*pictured below*), comprised of musicians Bruce Martin (piano), Robert Espe (violin), Patrick Riley (cello), and Norman Sue (bandoneon). The ensemble, formed in 2007, primarily explores a wide range of music associated with, but not limited to, 20th-century Argentine forms of tango.



Please join us each Wednesday, beginning October 2, for performances by world-class vocal and instrumental musicians. A variety of classical, folk, pop, and jazz concerts will be presented throughout the season. Each 30-minute concert begins at 12:05 p.m. in the Sanctuary and all performances are free and open to all. A light lunch, priced at \$6 each, is available in Weertz Hall, following the concert. The full season's schedule may be found on the Arts page on the St. John's website, and the fall schedule is listed below.

- **Oct. 2** - The Des Moines Tango Ensemble
- **Oct. 9** - Ray Songayllo, pianist
- **Oct. 16** - Ashley Sidon String Studio from Drake University
- **Oct. 23** - Party of Four vocal quartet w/Joel Gettys
- **Oct. 30** - Lyric Winds (Kimberly Bachelder Helton, flute; Sue Odem, oboe; Kariann Voigts, clarinet)
- **Nov. 6** - Anne Stein, flute, and Aaron Powell, guitar
- **Nov. 13** - Hurley & Dancers
- **Nov. 20** - Paul Virgilio, cello
- **Nov. 27** - Bruch Trio (Susan Odem, oboe and English horn; Dan Stevenson, clarinet; Bruce Martin, piano)
- **Dec. 4** - Grand View Choir
- **Dec. 11** - Scott Davis Brass Quintet
- **Dec. 18** - Christmas at St. John's



News for Tanzania

by Carol Fisher

This summer we received wonderful news concerning the Most Vulnerable Children's Club (Children's Club). The children all completed their government testing to move on to the next academic level. This year three of our Children's Club students passed their Form 4 Secondary School Government tests and are now in advanced secondary schools for Form 5 and Form 6 levels. Amoni Benedict, has been selected by the Tanzanian Government to attend Tabora Boys Secondary School in the Tabora Region. Napenda Ombeni and Rukia Salimu were selected to attend Korogwe Girls Secondary School in the Tanga Region in Tanzania.

The greatest news of all!!! We have our first Children's Club University Student, Adelina Mrutu. She has passed her Form 6 Advanced Secondary School Government test to begin her Advanced Level Higher Education learning. Adelina expects to be a secondary school teacher and has decided to take the Education Course for three years; academically it is called a Bachelor of Education Degree. The good news is the Tanzanian Government through the Higher Education Student Loan Body (HESLB) will pay for school fees for her to attend Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE) in Dar es Salaam, TZ. The amount of financial aid the Tanzanian Government will give her is based on her test scores. Adelina is a very bright young woman and excelled at the highest academic level while in secondary school. This course costs four million Tsh shillings (approximately \$1,750 USD) for three academic years.

The Government does not pay housing accommodation funds or stationary funds. Her academic year is eight months at University and three months of Block Teaching Programme where she will be working in different secondary schools for teaching practice and will be assessed by their lecturers. Adelina will immediately report to the University to begin her studies in early October 2019.

These four young people were the most vulnerable of the vulnerable children in the Village, lived in houses with dirt floors, possibly cared for an ailing parent, assist with siblings, and would have never been able to attend primary school until the Most Vulnerable Children's Club was created. It is because of your continued support these children have an opportunity for a better life and will, in turn, be able to financially help their families. Thank you one and all for your support over the years.

Youth Ministry

By Maggie Evans

Confirmation is off to a great start!

Thanks to all the kids for being so great! I am excited to see what this year holds and am looking forward to some great discussions this year!

Remember: Confirmation Class is every Wednesday night from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Confirmation Schedule for October:

- **Wednesday, October 2**
Mosaic Night (Weertz)
- **Wednesday, Oct. 9**
Classroom (DDI)
- **Wednesday, Oct. 16**
Classroom (DDI)
- **Wednesday, Oct. 23**
Off site – Meals from the Heartland 6 – 8 p.m.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 30**
Help with Children's Trick or Treat night (DDI)

Affirmation of Baptism

At the 10 a.m. service on Sunday Oct. 27 we will confirm 18 of our young people. On this Reformation Sunday we invite the whole congregation to celebrate the promises made in our baptism as we recognize this year's confirmation class. Please join us as we remember and affirm our baptisms. A cake and lemonade reception will follow.

High School Night

The 2019/2020 High School Night Schedule kicks off on Oct. 13! All High School students are invited to join us in DDI at 6 p.m. for snacks and a creepy movie. Please enter at the northwest alley door.

Summer 2020 Youth Trips

\$100 deposits due by December 1st

Confirmation Camp

Grades (3 – 8)

\$240

Sunday, June 14-Friday, June 19 OR Sunday, July 26 – Friday, July 31

YouthWorks Service Learning – Lake Traverse, SD

Limited Spots Available

Grades 6–12

\$ 280

Sunday, July 5 – Friday, July 10

Wilderness Canoe Base

Grades 6 – 12

\$350

Friday, July 24 – Friday, July 31

Youth Ministry Team meets on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 11:15 in Neumann. If you are interested in joining the team please join us.

St. John's Lutheran Church
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Serving at Central Iowa Shelter & Services

On the 18th and 19th of each month St. John's prepares and serves meals at the shelter. If you would like to help prepare, serve or donate to this wonderful ministry located in the heart of downtown Des Moines, please call 243.7691 or e-mail Katie at katiet@stjohnsdsm.org.



EAGLE CALL DEADLINE

The next deadline for all *Eagle Call* content is **noon on October 21**. 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!