

2013



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

# St. John Eagle

## new Life

... just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ROMANS 6:4

This Easter season continue to celebrate the new life that is yours through Christ's resurrection.

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**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, 402 Lake Ave, Storm Lake, IA.**

Phone: 712-732-2400

Email: stjohstormlake@gmail.com

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**PASTOR:**  
Rev. Bruce Lesemann  
Home: 712-732-0161



**MUSIC DIRECTOR:**  
Suzanne Winterhof

**STAFF**

**SECRETARY:**  
Celeste Cummins

**CUSTODIAN:**  
Rena Norwood

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**MONTHLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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**Saturday Services**

**6:00 p.m.**

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*Holy Communion*

*1st and 3rd Weekend*

*of each month*

**Sunday Services**

**9:00 a.m.**

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**Radio Broadcasts...**

9:00 a.m. on 2nd Sunday

of each month

KAYL 101.7FM.

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**Lutheran Hour Ministries**

**KAYL 8:00 a.m.**

**Every Sunday**

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**SUNDAY MORNING— FAITHBUILDERS AND BIBLE CLASSES**

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**Faithbuilders**, for ages 3 years thru 8th grade, and the **High School Bible Class** both meet at 10:15 a.m. on the 2nd Floor.

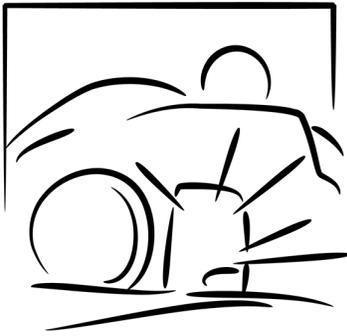


*Be in the Word*

**Adult Bible Classes** meet at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room (led by V. Winterhof) and in the Library (led by Pastor Lesemann).

## Message from Pastor Lesemann

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*Then they went away quickly from the tomb,  
fearful yet overjoyed... Matthew 28:8*

Have you ever been fearful, yet overjoyed? I imagine this to be something like those feelings associated with the thought of getting married, or hearing you are runner up to get that desperately needed job or promotion, or hearing that you might get the main part for a play! You can probably think of more, but along the same lines can you imagine how it was for those believers at the empty tomb of Jesus?

If they ever invent time travel, which actually I hope they don't, I would like to go back in time to witness this great event, to be there that morning of Christ's resurrection! Of course for us it would be a momentous event to see, yet it would be even more so for those who had had first-hand experience but didn't yet believe Jesus and His words about His rising from the dead!

It is not hard to imagine their sadness and what a horrific scene they must have witnessed just days earlier; the crucifixion of their "hoped to be" Messiah! Then they accompanied Joseph and Nicodemus as they took Jesus' body - hastily prepared Him - and buried Him. No doubt they were emotional wrecks, with all hope seemingly lost, all promises dashed with the death of their Rabbi. But even in their sadness, the minute the Passover was over they went to the tomb in devotion to their Teacher to finish the task of preparing His body. Of course there was no need to finish their task! They arrived to the empty tomb and were told that Jesus was not there; He had risen! They felt fear yet understandable joy!

There is one more situation that I did not mention about being fearful yet overjoyed. It deals with the knowledge of sin and the joy of forgiveness. When someone comes to the realization that they are a sinner in need of forgiveness there is true fear. But when they learn of the grace and mercy of God's forgiveness given through His Son Jesus Christ to all who believe, then there is true joy! That is the same joy that these believers felt on the morning of Jesus resurrection! They finally learned of God's faithfulness and His real plan for salvation. They learned the true joy that YOU and I still have today: Jesus has paid for our sins, conquered death and the grave, and risen triumphant so that one day we too will rise!

Christ has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Parish Planning Council Meeting  
11:15 a.m.



March 17, 2013  
Church Library

Pastor opened the meeting with devotions and prayer.

### Director Reports

1. Board of Evangelism - Audrey Gutz

The last winter social will be held Tuesday, March 19, 2013. The socials will resume in the fall.

2. Board of Lay Ministers - Harlan Matasovsky

Per his request, Matt Zabloudil has been removed from membership at St. John.

There are on-going discussions about the Sudanese ministry in Storm Lake.

3. Pastor's Report

The Norris family (Seth, Cheri, Mercedes, Abbygail, and Hunter) are new members of St. John.

Pastor will be gone for the LWML Convention June 27-30, 2013. Pastor's vacation will begin on July 8, 2013 for either two or three weeks. Pastor will also be on vacation December 27-30, 2013.

4. Board of Trustees

There will be a carpet information meeting after church on Sunday, March 24, 2013 during coffee hour.

5. Board of Stewardship - Karen Fletcher

For the 2014 offering envelopes, the word "other" will be removed and a blank line installed to permit members to designate their preference as to how their contribution is to be used. Loyalty Sunday will be held in November.

6. Treasurer's Report - Karen Fletcher

Bills are paid and up to date. Please see the attached report for more information.

7. Executive Director - Henry Hardt

Things are going well in the church. We have new members, a balanced budget due to a generous congregation, and are in an exciting time with capital improvements such as the new carpet. The Lord is indeed blessing St. John!

The next Parish Planning meeting will be Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 11:15 am in the Fireside Room.

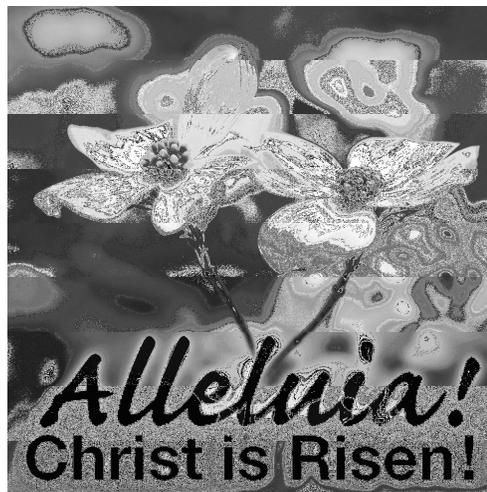
The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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February 28, 2013 Treasurer Report

**BALANCES:**

**Checking:**

Home Fund                    \$4,840.50  
Med Deductible Accts:    \$7,099.66

**Designated Savings:**

Memorial                    \$1,184.50  
Thrivent Funds             \$1,205.00  
Capital Improvement      \$61,151.92  
Snow Blower               \$1,305.25  
Sound System               \$1,343.30  
Organ Maintenance       \$1,000.00

**INCOME RECEIVED IN FEBRUARY**

Missions                    \$451.20  
Friendship                  \$443.00  
Birthday                    \$520.00  
Mission Central             \$100.00  
Capital Improvement       \$791.00  
Thrivent                    \$1,114.00  
Home, etc.                  \$14,879.70    **\$18,298.90 total**

**EXPENSES PAID IN FEBRUARY**

Church Properties         \$5,803.98  
Lay Ministers               \$9,115.98  
Missions                    \$2,024.20    **\$16,944.16 total**

This is a brief Balance and Income & Expense Summary.  
If you have questions or concerns fell free to contact me.

IN HIS AND YOUR SERVICE,  
Karen Fletcher, Treasurer

# Ladies Aid

St. John Ladies' Aid met on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. in the church assembly room. Lorna Lussman was the hostess. President Donna Truelsen presided.

Since the Lenten season focuses on the cross, the devotions led by Naomi Benna told the history of the cross, and she shared the meaning and origin of several shapes of the cross. Included were the Latin, Greek, St. Andrew, St. Anthony, anchor, and Celtic crosses and finally, the cross with the crown—depicting the final victory of life in heaven.

Jan Magnussen presented the topic. She told about the making of the rugs from plastic bags, how these rugs are used. She demonstrated how to cut the plastic bags to make the “plarn” and do the crochet stitch. Jan says it's a great activity while watching TV, and you are making something useful that involves no outlay of cash!

Thirteen members answered roll call by reading a Bible verse which mentions the Resurrection. Marge Manteufel reported on special ministries projects which included quilting progress, health kits, and visiting shut-in members. Ladies who are willing to help with various projects are always needed.

The District LWML PING event will be held at St. John on March 9, and our group will be helping to serve coffee and rolls in the morning and the catered noon meal. Our congregation will also host the District's ABLAZE mission grant event on March 17, and ladies will be needed to help serve the meal that evening.

The meeting was adjourned with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

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**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** - As a change from previous years, funds will not be automatically sent to the organization that you choose; instead, you will have to periodically call Thrivent (1-800-847-4836) to have them disburse these funds. The beginning of a new quarter is a good time to do this. St. John can benefit greatly from the funds received as a result of this program. It costs you nothing, yet it's a wonderful way to practice good Stewardship!

**IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER** - As part of the fiscal cliff deal, the IRA Charitable Rollover, which last expired in 2011, has been resurrected for 2012-2013. The charitable rollover allows people 70½ and older to transfer as much as \$100,000 per year from their traditional IRAs to a charity of their choice while escaping income, gift, and estate taxes. The donation counts against the annual minimum required distribution so it is a good option for those seeking to help a good cause with their excess retirement funds. To take advantage of this transaction, call your financial planner, since you must work through the custodian of your IRA account rather than directly withdrawing the money and donating it yourself.

**CHRISTIAN ESTATE PLANNING** - One of the best tax-wise ways of leaving a gift to our congregation is to make a gift through the beneficiary designation on your tax deferred accounts like IRAs, 401Ks, TSAs, or annuities. For a gift planning meeting before you meet with your financial advisors, contact our congregation's Christian Estate Planning Counselor Jim Schroeder at 515-490-7371 or [jim.schroeder@idwlcms.org](mailto:jim.schroeder@idwlcms.org)

**THANK YOU** - The Office of Mission Advancement would like to thank your congregation on behalf of the \$620 gift you sent that was used in support of Rev. Carl and Chen-Hsi Hanson and Kristin Matasovsky.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** - Missionary Michelle Cagnin will be coming to St. John on Sunday, May 12th at 7:00 pm. Learn more about her by reading the "Mission Spotlight" on page 11.

**Show Me**  
By: Celeste Cummins

The slogan for the state of Missouri is “the Show Me State.” One legend states that this slogan originated as a result of a miner’s strike in the mid-1890’s during which time miners from the Joplin, Missouri area were sent out to Leadville, Colorado to take the place of the striking miners there. The Joplin miners were not familiar with the mining practices of the Colorado miners so they required frequent instructions. As a result, the pit bosses began saying, “That man is from Missouri. You’ll have to show him” (<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/history/slogan.asp>).

We live in a world that needs to see everything before they understand it and believe it. Some of that is good (like when you are buying a house or a car and you want to make sure everything is as it was stated), but in the area of religious matters, it’s not so good. We can’t see God. We can’t see faith. We weren’t around 2,000 years ago to see Jesus’ crucifixion. But, what if we had been? Would we just believe or would we be like the disciple known as “doubting Thomas” and need to be shown Jesus’ wounds before we believed?

Thomas was not present in the locked room when Jesus first appeared to His disciples following His resurrection (John 20:19-23). However, the disciples spread the exciting news to Thomas (John 20:24-25). What was Thomas’ reaction? He said, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it” (John 20:25). Sometimes, I get the feeling that Thomas’ descendants must have been the people who came up with the Missouri slogan! Wasn’t that just what Thomas was saying, “Show Me – or I won’t believe it!”

A week goes by and the disciples, including Thomas, were back in that locked room. Jesus again appeared to them. After greeting them, Jesus addresses Thomas, telling him, “Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe” (John 20:26-27). Thomas then believed. Then, Jesus told Thomas something very important for us, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:29).

Jesus addressed us as “blessed” because we are the followers who believe without having been shown visible proof of His resurrection! Does that mean we will never doubt our faith or our God? No. There will be times when we will gravitate toward the “Show Me State” and want proof of God’s love, proof of His existence, proof of Jesus’ resurrection. What do we do then? We realize those times will come and when we face those times, we pray to God that He would strengthen our faith, “Lord, I believe what You have said; help me when doubts assail me. Remember that I am but dust, and let my faith not fail me...” (Taken from “Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared,” *LSB* 622 v. 6).

# Know Your Church Family

**Willis and Lorna Lussman** are long time members of St. John's family. Willis was baptized at Zion Lutheran Storm Lake and confirmed at St. John. Lorna was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church and became a member at St. John after their marriage on September 8, 1952. After Willis was discharged from the U.S. Army, they moved to their farm, three miles from Storm Lake. They were grain farmers and also operated a Grade A dairy farm from 1952-1987 but continued farming until 1994 when Willis retired. He helped other farmers at harvest time. Lorna was employed at Walmart for twelve years.

Willis served as a former Sunday school superintendent, taught Midweek, Catechism, and was a long time elder. Lorna taught Sunday school, Midweek, Catechism classes and is a member of the Ladies Aid. Together they belong to Christian Fellowship and Adult Bible class.

They enjoy traveling, especially to Germany to visit the original Lussman Farmstead. Willis also spent a lot of time and work restoring and collecting Oliver and Hart Paar tractors and machinery antiques from the years 1927-1958.

Willis and Lorna celebrated 50 years of married life and were blessed with three children, Wesley and Jean from Michigan, Wanda from Albert City, and Wayne and Rita from Fort Dodge, also three grandchildren, and two great grandsons.

All thanks to God for their many blessings.

## CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP NOTES

The Christian Fellowship Society met on March 24. Harlan Matasovsky opened with a thought-provocative devotion, "Battle of Balance." While our lives are busy with many worldly activities, it is important that we, like Mary, also "sit at Jesus' feet" and listen and study His Word. Plans were made for forthcoming meetings. The group will again organize a food booth at the Star Spangled Spectacular with proceeds used to fund congregational needs. The purchase of flowers for the planters on the east side of the church was authorized. The group enjoyed seeing and hearing activities from Kristin Matasovsky's class in South Africa.

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**Michelle Cagnin** will be coming to St. John on Sunday, May 12 at 7:00 pm to give a presentation about her work in Asia. Michelle is the facilitator for human care in Asia and the area facilitator for Southeast Asia. In that role, she works with missionaries and the local leaders to create new human care opportunities and to oversee the current human care ministries.

Michelle was born in Woodburn, Indiana and moved to Hong Kong with her family in 1990. She attended Hong Kong International School. Prior to her current duties, Michelle volunteered as an English teacher in China, worked at Hong Kong International School, and served as an education and humanitarian aid worker in southwest China. In June 2009, Michelle married Sandro Cagnin, a musician and teacher who is a native of Venice, Italy.

Michelle's birthday is September 5th and Sandro's is January 5th. Their anniversary is June 20th.

Please pray for Michelle and Sandro as they live and serve in Hong Kong, for health and safety as Michelle travels, and that God would bless the efforts of missionaries throughout the world.



**David and Radka Fiala** will be at Mission Central on Friday, April 12 at 1:30 pm to give a presentation about their work in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary. David's role is to coordinate and facilitate LCMS evangelism efforts in those countries. Prior to this role, David and Radka served for three years as long term missionaries in Tisovec, Slovakia.

David was born in Illinois and received his education at Concordia University in Seward, NE (where his dad was a history professor while Celeste was there). Radka was born in Slovakia and also received her education at Concordia in Seward. Radka is involved in a ministry to moms with young children. She and David have two children: a son, Vasek, and a daughter, Emma.

Their birthdays are December 15 (David), Feb. 8 (Radka), Nov. 2 (Vasek), and May 17 (Emma). David and Radka were married on January 20th.

Please pray that God would use His servants in a mighty way to reach the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



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MISSOURI SYNOD

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To God be all the Glory.

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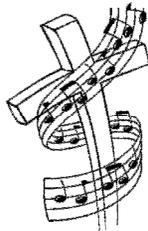
We're on the Web! Http:  
[//www.stjohstormlake.org](http://www.stjohstormlake.org)

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### **Special Music**

You are invited to share  
your musical talents in our  
worship services here at St.  
John.

The choir  
rehearses each  
Wednesday at  
8:00 pm. Please  
join us!



### **April Worship Assistants**

**Altar Guild:** Diane Krueger & Marleen Otto

**Greeters:** **Saturday**  
Still available

**Sunday**  
Harlan & Deb Matasovsky

**Bell Ringers:** **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**

Henry Hardt  
**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

Emily Johnson

**Acolytes:** **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**

Grace Jesse  
**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**  
Abigail Lesemann

The KAYL Broadcast for this month  
is sponsored by Harlan & Deb Matasovsky .

### **Altar Flowers**

7th - In memory of Tony & Jackie  
Mahn by Deb & Kevin Jesse.

14th - In memory of Mr. & Mrs. R.E.  
Darrow by Bill & Dee Phillips.

21st - Willis Lussman's 83rd birthday  
on the 24th.

28th - Still available

WE WELCOME YOU TO  
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!