

2015



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT
FOR YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

St. John Eagle

Preparing FOR Easter

Palm Sunday Worship
March 29th 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday Wor-
ship with Holy Commun-
ion

April 2nd 7:00 pm

Good Friday Worship
April 3rd 7:00 pm



*Sunrise Worship
7:00 am*

Breakfast 8-9 am

*Worship with
Communion
9:00 am*

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ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, 402 Lake Ave, Storm Lake, IA.
Phone: 712-732-2400 Email: stjohnstormlake@gmail.com

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



MUSIC DIRECTOR:
Suzanne Winterhof

STAFF

SECRETARY:
Celeste Cummins

CUSTODIAN:
Renaë Norwood

MONTHLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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

SUNDAY MORNING— FAITHBUILDERS AND BIBLE CLASSES

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).

ST. JOHN EAGLE

Message from Pastor Lesemann

“But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.” Ephesians 2:4-6

I remember as a young child looking forward to Easter, to getting a chocolate Easter bunny and to the family Easter egg hunt we would have after returning from church. But did I know then what Easter was really about? I am sure I knew about Jesus’ love for me and that the cross was where He died, but how much more?

Our month of April will begin with those all important holy days that lead up to our remembering Jesus’ suffering, death and joyous resurrection on Easter. We hope you will join us as we worship and recall these important events.

Maundy Thursday is the night when we recount Jesus’ passing His saving power over death to life for us. We know that on that day He gave the humble example of service by washing the disciples’ feet. He went on to gather His disciples around that table to share with them His Supper where He gave of Himself and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. In our worship service on Maundy Thursday, we will share in that same supper. Then, in solemn remembrance of how Jesus was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and abandoned not only by His disciples but also by His heavenly Father, the altar and the chancel will be stripped of furnishings.

Good Friday may sound mis-named – it seems a bit ironic to call it “Good.” It’s not that it was good for Jesus but it was definitely good for us! In our worship this day we remember all the cruel treatment, pain and suffering He endured, His Words of compassion and mercy, even from the cross. It is on that day Jesus paid for our sins by dying in our place. It had to be terrible for His followers when He died. But in three days they would know the good news that His death meant victory!

Today the meaning hasn’t changed! The cross for us still means forgiveness, healing and salvation. Christ died so that we would live! On Easter Sunday we will begin worship with the wonderful acclamation “Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!” We will continue to worship with that acclamation every Sunday throughout the Great Fifty Days of the Easter Season, emphasizing the foundation of our faith: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

The apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 15:14 that if Christ has not been raised then our faith would be in vain...but Christ HAS risen! In this way Easter IS the most important season of the church year! Without it the rest of the church year means nothing! Without it there would be no reason to celebrate.

Thanks be to God! Even though we deserved death, God our Heavenly Father, out of His great abundant love and mercy, made us alive with Christ—by grace we have been saved!

In His grace,

Pastor Bruce H. Lesemann

CHURCH COUNCIL

Parish Planning Council

Sunday, March 22, 2015 A.D.

Executive Director Henry Hardt called the meeting to order at 11:20 A.M.

Pastor Lesemann's opening devotion, "Just a Farmer," was based on Galatians 3:26, 27. We may sometimes feel unimportant, and in our work too. But we were created in God's image, and after Jesus atoned for us—and after our baptism—his righteousness became our righteousness. We are very important in God's eyes. We must be the best we can be at whatever we do for the glory of God and rejoice and be glad because every day is a gift from Him.

Board of Parish Relations - Linda Zabloudil

Sub sandwiches to be served from 5-6:30 next Wednesday evening, the last Lenten service.

Treasurer - Karen Fletcher

Fletcher thanked Diane Overmohle for helping her pay bills and make deposits while she was vacationing in February and looks forward to her continued assistance and support.

All bills are paid through 3/15/15. The Home Fund balance as of the end of February was \$9,123.78. Thank you, St. John members!

Fletcher will submit a quarterly report at the end of March.

Board of Youth and **Board of Education** - Jerry Johnson

VBS will be at Grace this year, tentatively June 15-18, from 9 A.M. until noon. The "cross culture" theme is Thailand Trek. St. John will host summer Sunday school beginning June 14, the themes of which are Veggie Tales and What's in the Bible. May 24 will be the last day of Faithbuilders. The youth are trying to raise \$200, which will be matched by the St. John Christian Fellowship group, for the Akobo ministry in South Sudan.

Easter egg hunt after the Palm Sunday service. High schoolers will be the hiders. Banana Bunch tonight will be an indoor snowball fight, and the next meeting will be, tentatively, April 26.

The high school kids are already making plans for funding the 2016 Youth Gathering.

Kids and families are needed to help on Saturday morning, April 4, to set up for the continental Easter breakfast the next morning. The money raised will be used for the Youth Gathering.

Board of Lay Ministers - Harlan Matasovsky

Three baptisms last night at the Saturday worship service.

The council approved the appointments of Josh Norwood and Jim Zabloudil as lay ministers.

Board of Trustees - Dave Dose

Henry Hardt's BVU Enterprise Risk Management class will be writing a sexual misconduct policy, and the trustees will decide what to do about it.

No tents may be set up on church property, including the parking lot, during RAGBRAI.

Mid-American Energy has determined that, because in the past the voltage supplied into St. John has been too low, they will sustain most of the costs to make its energy more consistent. More details about St. John's cost and liability will be forthcoming.

Modern Heating of Cherokee has supported the trustees' decision to move the St. John Furnaces from the roof to an available unused storage room on the second floor. The company will put together prices, and reported that the work could possibly be done in stages. This would mean that there might be sufficient money in the Capital Improvement Fund to finance the project. The trustees will present their "game plan" to the voters at the July Meeting.

Pastor Lesemann

The \$350 membership dues for the Sudanese Lutheran Mission Society and the Sudanese LWML have been provided.

Vernon Winterhof and Jim Zabloudil attended President Sieveking's elders' workshop last Saturday.

Pastor has been nominated to be the chairman of IDW's missions committee; this will be voted on at next summer's district convention. Today he is attending the IDW mission banquet in Denison.

There have been 4 baptisms in March; 6 adults are in instruction class; 4 (youth) are to be confirmed on May 17 (questioning on the evening of May 16).

Pastor has applied for a grant to be used to finance Para el Camino, a Spanish version of the Lutheran Hour, on the Storm Lake AM and FM radio stations.

Hardt adjourned the meeting at 11:50, and we closed by praying the Lord's Prayer. The next Parish Planning Council meeting is June 14th or 28th.

Treasurer Notes

Diane Overmohle helped me pay the bills and make the deposits while I was on vacation during the month of February. Upon returning, I did the end of the month balancing and transfers. We thank Diane for helping with the treasurer work and look forward to her support in the future.

All of the bills are currently paid through 3/15/15.

Our Home Fund (checking to pay bills) account balance at the end of February was \$9,123.78.

We are very grateful we have been able to pay our bills without borrowing funds .

Thank you to all our supporting members. You are appreciated!!

I will do a 2015 first quarter report, reporting all current balances after March 31. If you should have any questions, please feel free to call me.

In His Service,
Karen Fletcher

Ladies' Aid

St. John Ladies' Aid met on March 4. Renae Norwood was the hostess. Florence Goldsmith opened the meeting with devotions. "Gone Fishing" was the topic presented by Audrey Gutz. The waters are full of fish (unchurched people) and she gave pointers on the best lures (ways to reach out to them). Discussion on witnessing to those around us was created as we caught fish with her fishing pole and addressed the situation presented.



Fifteen members answered roll call by telling their favorite Lenten hymn. Several requests for fund raisers at Camp Okoboji were announced, and the group voted to donate \$50 to the quilt auction in lieu of a quilt. The need for supplies for World Relief kits was discussed; the group decided to ask for a Thrivent grant to help provide the funds to buy needed items. The LWML grant to assist elementary schools in India was explained and included in our closing prayer.

C. F. S.

Christian Fellowship Society held a Spring Fling dinner at 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 22. Sixteen invited guests joined us for a catered meal. Jerry Johnson presented an interesting program about Phil Vischer, the creator of "Veggie Tales" and "The Bible with Buck Denver" series. (Jerry even had a chance meeting with him in Disneyland.) The evening was closed as Vernon and Suzanne Winterhof led the group in the singing of several Lenten hymns allowing us to reflect on the great love of God in the sacrifice of His Son.

Always Be Prepared

By: Celeste Cummins

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you
to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15a).*

This verse reminds me of my Confirmation days, or more specifically, the times we were questioned in front of the congregation. Our questioning was split into six different times – one for each of the six chief parts of the Catechism. You may be thinking, “That sounds easy! I wish we only had to concentrate on one part at a time.” Well, that’s not entirely how it worked. Even though we were being questioned on *one* particular part of the Catechism, we could not forget the previous sections we had learned because for our Pastor, any question, verse, or writing between those two blue covers was fair game and could be recalled at any time! He would simply ask the question and point to who he wanted to answer it. One by one the kids shook their heads to indicate they were not going to answer. Some were brave enough to try, but were not successful to finish the whole answer. That’s when Pastor would nod to one of two kids because he knew they would “always be prepared to give an answer” (one of those two is now a Pastor; the other is writing this).

Back then, being prepared was easy for me, just rattle off the correct verse and reference and all was fine. Now, it’s a different story. Oh, I still remember the words of the verses, but now the questions require that I *apply* those verses to solve dilemmas. That’s where I fail; thinking on my feet is not my specialty.

I’m not alone in feeling this way. In fact, I think most people tend to worry about what they’d say if someone asks them about their faith (imagine that Jehovah’s Witness standing at your door)! When you feel this way, recall the story of the prophet Jeremiah. When God called him, Jeremiah replied, “I do not know how to speak.” But the Lord told him, “You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.” God even reached down and touched Jeremiah’s mouth and said to him, “Now, I have put my words in your mouth” (see Jeremiah 1:1-9). When you are afraid, recall that God will intervene at that moment and provide the words that you need.

Even though you may not be eloquent, “always be prepared” at any age to confess the faith that you were given at your Baptism and that you yourself affirmed at your Confirmation. As the hymn “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Crying” tells us:

*If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
(LSB 826 v. 2)*

Congratulations on your Confirmation to my daughter, Kristine Cummins (who will be Confirmed this weekend in Alta), and to the 2015 Confirmation class at St. John (who will be Confirmed on May 17th). May you “Always be prepared to give an answer to anyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15a).

NEWS & Notes

IT'S HOLY WEEK! Palm Sunday ushers in Holy Week, and Christians all over the world begin their Holy Week journey and remember the events that purchased and redeemed their souls. Just as the people did on that first Palm Sunday, we hail Jesus as our King. Helping to set that festive note is the trumpet playing of Jacob Luedtke. The closing hymn, while majestic in nature, reminds us of the coming events of the week.

We gather again on Maundy Thursday when we commemorate the institution of the Lord's Supper. That evening you will have an opportunity to be in the Upper Room with the disciples and Jesus as a group from the congregation does a dramatic presentation. In times past this was a "must" service and every church member made an effort to be present to receive Christ's body and blood "in, with, and under the bread and wine."

One of the most reflective services is the Tenebrae (service of darkness) that will be done on Good Friday. Relive the moments of the crucifixion and join in the singing of favorite Lenten hymns that tell the Passion story.

At 7 a.m. Easter Sunday join the three women who made that early morning trip to the tomb, only to find it empty. The drama, the special music, and the message will give Easter greater meaning. Following the Easter breakfast, our Festival Easter Service with Communion will be held.

You won't want to miss any of these services as each one helps the worshipper in his Lenten journey to the celebration of Easter!

THE LUTHERAN LECTURE SERIES this year is titled, "Lonely But Never Alone." Adriane Dorr Heins, managing editor of *The Lutheran Witness*, will address a topic often overlooked in the church on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Marcus. If registration is received by April 11th, the cost is free (how Lutheran!). Registration, check-in, coffee, and donuts will begin at 9:00 am with formal activities beginning at 9:45 am. The youth of Trinity will serve a meal beginning at 11:45 am for a free will donation. The day is scheduled to conclude by 4:00 pm. If you would like to register or obtain more information, please contact Pastor Don Meyer (712-376-2666 or 712-261-1774 or tlcrev.meyer@gmail.com).

DISPOSABLE CONTAINERS - We appreciate all the disposable containers (ie: margarine, Cool Whip, etc) that have been donated for the basement kitchen, however, presently we do not need any more. Thank you.

St. John's Youth Flowers and Vegetables: Again this year St. John's Youth is selling flowers and vegetables. Take home the convenient sign up sheet and place your order in the envelope in the Narthex or write your order on the tablet provided. Also, if you wish to buy a present for Mother's Day, a hanging basket is available (baskets need to be ordered early for best selection). Please write down what you want in it or contact Steve Frank at 732-5297. Pickup will be before Mothers Day in the Grace Lutheran Church basement as in the past.

THE ROAD TO THE CROSS – Bethlehem Lutheran (ELCA) church in Cherokee would like to invite the public to a special presentation entitled, “The Road to the Cross In Music and Meditation.” The event will take place on Good Friday, April 3rd at a 7:00 pm service. It will feature Dr. Linda Sharp as the guest organist (she is the daughter of Hugh Sharp, who had been a member at St. John. Hugh passed away last year). A flyer is on the bulletin board with additional information about the event and Dr. Sharp.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for the Representative Payee Program. This program assists older and disabled people of low income with money management matters such as writing checks, budgeting, and keeping track of financial matters. Newly retired people are ideal for this service. If you are able to help someone with their finances, please contact Sandra Kuhn (284-2282). You may also call Pam Bogue with questions about the program (749-2548).

MOVING – The time has finally come! Celeste will be moving into one of the new townhouses by HyVee, but she would like some help. She has to be out of her current duplex by the evening of Saturday, May 2nd. If anyone is available (with trucks or trailers) on the morning of May 2nd that would be able to help, please call the office. More details and a specific time will be available closer to that date.

GARAGE SALE – Is anyone planning to have a garage sale this spring or summer? I would like to sell some of the items that I am discovering while preparing to move. If I could join you, please call Celeste.

Sow the Seed! Hallelujah, Christ has Risen!! Praise and thank God for the sacrifice of His Son. We ask His blessing on all our plans as we pray for our convention to be **Bountiful** bringing more to His harvest fields. Convention Logo Polo Shirt mail orders need to be postmarked no later than May 15th. Postmark deadline is June 1, to be able to pick up your shirt at the convention. It's time to get your convention registration in. You should be receiving your worker assignment soon. Be sure to follow the instructions given on how to register for convention. Do NOT complete the registration form in the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly. Only complete the registration form that is in your worker assignment packet attaching your worker discount coupon that is worth \$65. Please go to the host websites to view the Host Committee Convention Newsletter Bountiful Blessings. The websites are <http://idwlcms.org/lwmlnews.php> or <http://www.lwml-ied.org/>. *"And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy" (Mark 4:16).*

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

Haley Redenbaugh and Grace Jesse were Confirmed on Palm Sunday 2014. In previous issues of the newsletter, the answers to some of their essay questions have appeared. Here are their answers to their fourth question: "I wish to (and believe that I am ready to) receive the Lord's Supper because..."

"...Through Christ's body and blood given in the bread and wine we receive forgiveness of sins. Also with forgiveness, God gives all other blessings as well that is, life and salvation. Christ also gives victory over sin and hell and strength for a new life in him. Forgiveness, life, and salvation are truly offered to all who partake of the Lord's body and blood. But only through faith can we receive the blessings. Matthew 26:28 states, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." For these reasons, I am ready to receive the Lord's Supper."

"...I want to remember His saving death and all of His blessings. Also for the forgiveness of sins it provides for me. But as it says in the Catechism Question 296 answer B: Even though the Lord's Supper gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation, you have to have faith. And I have faith. Through faith you are ready to receive the Lord's Supper! Through faith you receive forgiveness, life, and salvation."



Holy Communion



LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

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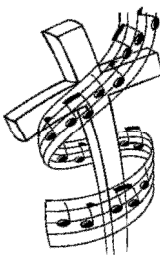
To God be all the Glory.

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

Special Music

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

The choir
rehearses at
7:30 pm on
Wednesday
evenings.



**WE WELCOME YOU TO
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!**

April Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Naomi B, Denise B, & Lloyd B.

Greeters: **Saturday**
Richard & Tounh Zwemke
Sunday

Bell Ringers: **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**
Rena Norwood
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Emily Johnson

Acolytes: **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**
Brady Mack
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Hannah Norwood

The KAYL Broadcast for this month
has been sponsored anonymously.

ALTAR FLOWERS

5th - Easter Lilies

12th - In memory of Tony &
Jackie Mahn by Kevin & Deb
Jesse

19th - Naomi Benna—
Anniversaries of Dana & Clair
and Dewey & Denise

26th - Willis Lussman 85th
Birthday