

2017



April

YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT
FOR YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

St. John Eagle

Holy Week Worship

- Maundy Thursday, April 13th
7:00 pm with H.C.
- Good Friday, April 14th
7:00 pm
- Saturday, April 15th
No Worship Service

Easter Day Worship April 16th

- 7:00 am Sunrise
- 9:00 am with H.C.



Join Us For
Breakfast

Easter Morning
St. John Basement
7:45 - 8:45 am
Egg Bake
Fresh Fruit
Baked Goods

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

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



MUSIC DIRECTOR:
Suzanne Winterhof

STAFF

SECRETARY:
Celeste Cummins

CUSTODIAN:
Rena 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 will be held
at Grace in April. Classes
begin at 10:15 am.



Be in the Word

Adult Bible Class meets at 10:30
a.m. in the Fireside Room (led by
V. Winterhof). Pastor Lesemann's
Bible Study will meet on April 9th
and 23rd at 10:30 am in the library.

ST. JOHN EAGLE

Pastor's COLUMN

Why Easter Matters

The message of the resurrection is the ever-new! The good news is about Jesus Christ who conquered sin and death rising from the grave for all for us. And everyone who believes in Him becomes instantly and eternally new! Therefore, as it says in Philippians 3:10, "**My goal is to know Him and the power of His resurrection.**" So here are some thoughts and encouraging verses about the uniqueness of Easter and why His resurrection matters.

1.) Because Jesus kept His word. "**And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.**" (Mark 8:31) Jesus told His disciples many times that He would do this. And Jesus always does what He says!

2.) Because it means that the cross, where Jesus died, is not the end of the story. "**The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name.**" (Luke 24:46-47) After Jesus' resurrection His message continues to this day and will continue till His return. Nothing can stop it!

3.) The resurrection makes Jesus a standout. "**that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...**" (1 Corinthians 15:4) No other religious leader can claim this! No other religious leader has such literary proof as the Bible.

4.) Because we cannot fix our own sin problem, without Christ we are spiritually dead. No matter how hard we try deep down we know we can never be perfect by our good works. That's why what Jesus did matters and what we have done does not! "**If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**" (Romans 10:9)

5.) And Jesus' resurrection provides the true hope we need. "**He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.**" (Romans 4:25) Faith in Christ moves us from the tomb created by our sin to eternal life. We can understand this picture because Jesus rose from a physical tomb. And one day we will also rise.

6.) Because one day we will follow Jesus' example and literally rise from the dead. "**For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.**" (Romans 6:5) And again, "**I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?**" (John 11:25-26)

Easter is Christ's victory but also our victory. Christ shares that with us through faith in Him! May this Easter victory always matter to you!

In His grace,

Pastor Lesemann

LADIES' AID NOTES

The Ladies' Aid met on March 1 with Barb Haynes as the hostess for the meeting. Donna Truelsen led the opening devotions with readings on the subjects of joy and prayer.

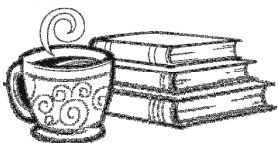
Audrey Gutz presented the topic. Since this was Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent and spring is approaching, she said this was a time for housecleaning and HEARTCLEANING. With touches of humor, she reminded us how the two tasks parallel each other.

Ten members answered roll call sharing their favorite part of the Lenten//Holy Week events.

A new 100 cup coffee pot has been ordered to replace the one in the basement that no longer works. A letter from the National LWML organization was read asking for donations to the National Endowment Fund in honor of the 75th Anniversary of the organization. The group moved to send \$75. A brief story about the National Mission grant to the Lutheran Youth Corps was read followed by prayer for the group.

Funeral Service

A funeral service for Esther Lamb, 95 years old, was held February 21, 2017 at 10:30 am. Group three was in charge. Thank you to everyone who furnished or served the food and helped clean up.



BOOK NOOK - New Books! New Author! New Items in Our Library! Amy has chosen to bring some new Christian fiction by Kathleen Fuller to help everyone meet the interesting lives of the Amish culture in our country. Following the untimely deaths of their parents, the three Schrock sisters (Sarah, Abigail, and Joanne) are left to carry on the legacy of their parents as well as meet the challenges of developing their personal lives. There are three books in the series, starting with *A Reluctant Bride*, then *An Unbroken Heart*, and finally *A Love Made New*. These books are easy reading, but be sure to start with book #1 (they're marked accordingly).



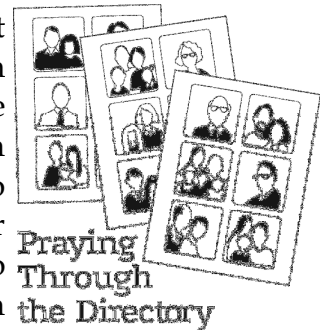
YOU'RE INVITED - Please join us to celebrate Gabriel's Confirmation! We'll have an open house on Sunday, May 7, from 2-4 p.m. at our home, 215 Cayuga St. Thank you! Pastor Bruce and Amy

THANK YOU - Missionary Georgia Witt would like to thank the members of St. John for the \$485.00 gift given to support her mission work.



EASTER LILY ORDERS ARE DUE THIS COMING THURSDAY, APRIL 6TH!!! Since space in this month's newsletter is limited, order forms are available in the bulletins from the last two weeks and also in the church office. Each lily costs \$10.00 again this year and will be delivered to the church for you. Checks are payable to "St. John Lutheran Church." If you prefer, you may purchase your own; please have it wrapped in gold paper and write your name on the bottom if you would like it returned to you. If you bring your own and would like your name listed in the bulletin, a form will still need to be filled out. Thanks for making the chancel area look beautiful on Easter morning!

PRAYERS FOR PEOPLE - Ephesians 6:18 states, "be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." With that verse in mind, we are praying our way through the directory (alphabetically). Families will be featured in each newsletter that everyone can pray for. Some items to include in your prayers might be if they are sick, ask for healing and patience; if they are active members, ask God to keep their faith strong; if they have not been in church recently, ask God to help them reestablish connections with their faith; if they are near death, pray for God's blessings and assurance of their faith. The next members on our prayer list are Michaelene Barker, Patty Barnes, Dana & Clair Benna, Naomi Benna, and T.R. Benna.



Sing Praises

By: Celeste Cummins

"Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!" (Psalm 47:6)

Did you count how many times that *one* Bible verse tells us to "sing praises?" If you didn't, the answer is four. Four times in one verse! If God mentions it that much in just one verse, it must be pretty important. But, why does God want us to sing so much? Why is our singing important to God? Does singing benefit us?

The website <http://unlockingthebible.org/why-singing-matters/> gives seven Biblical reasons why singing matters. I'm going to take a few of the ones that have had an impact on my life and use them as examples to answer the questions previously stated.

First, singing is a command of God. This verse and many others illustrate this point. Colossians 3:16 tells us, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, *singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs*, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." When we sing, we are doing what God asks us to do.

Second, besides preaching, singing is the second way that the word of Christ is able to dwell in us richly (see Colossians 3:16). When we sing, we learn and we remember. I was blessed to be able to attend a Lutheran school while I was growing up where memorization was a large part of our religious training. I praise God that He blessed me with a good memory, which is still intact. Even today, while we are singing in church, my kids like to cover up the words to the hymn, but I keep right on singing. They will even go so far as to close the hymnal, but that doesn't stop me either. (So if you ever hear someone singing slightly different words to a song, it's because I'm singing the *TLH* version that I memorized when I was growing up).

The third reason I'd like to mention is "when you sing, you are spiritually strengthened for trial." Again, I am so blessed that God has given me this amazing memory. When my dad had his first heart attack and was airlifted to North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale, MN, my mom, my brother, and I had just a few minutes to pack suitcases and make the three hour drive to the hospital, unsure if my dad would be alive or not when we arrived. We didn't know what trial would await us when we arrived, but as I sat in the back seat of my brother's Jeep and cried, I also silently prayed, repeated Bible verses, and sang hymns to myself for comfort and assurance.

The last reason that I'd like to mention why we should sing praises is because it brings us joy. James 5:13 states, "Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise." One of my favorite things to do each week as I prepare the bulletin is to sing the hymns that we will be singing in church the following Sunday. I thought I was doing this really quietly, but one day Pastor came into my office and asked if I was humming. I replied, "No, I'm singing." (He has good hearing, so be careful what you say around him!) © Even though I was home-bound this week preparing the bulletin, I still sang (and I didn't have to worry if Pastor would hear me)!

***This article concludes on the top of the next page.*

I encourage you to read the full article which contains the seven Biblical reasons why singing matters at the link listed above. The purpose of singing hymns in church isn't just to occupy time and or serve as a "filler" so Pastor has more time to think about his sermon. ☺ God created songs, hymns, and Psalms so we have a way to praise Him, thank Him, and serve Him, but also so we can learn about Him and share that message with others through these songs.

"Sing praises to God, sing praises!" (Psalm 47:6)

Stop Being So Critical - Part 3

This is the third and final article in this series.

Part 1 was featured in Feb 2017 and part 2 appeared in the March 2017 issue.

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves" (Romans 12:10).

Having a critical attitude may not destroy your relationship with God, but it'll definitely hurt your capacity to experience His love, His presence, and His blessing. Notice, it was God who smote Miriam with leprosy. She started out by criticizing her brother Moses, and ended up feeling the consequences in her relationship with the Lord? Why? Because God pays attention to the way we treat each other! Maybe you're wondering, 'Why would God make such a big deal out of this?' Because when you choose to sin, you choose to suffer. Everything God classifies as sin is hurtful to you - everything. When God says, 'Don't,' what He really means is, 'Don't hurt yourself.' And when He says, 'Don't criticize,' He's not trying to deprive you of satisfaction. He's saying that having a critical attitude goes against who He made you to be, and what you're called to do. Just as fish were made to swim and birds were made to fly, you were made to live in fellowship with God - and a critical spirit hinders that fellowship. Even people who don't claim to be particularly religious are cognizant of the negative effects of criticism. Dr. David Fink, author of *Release from Nervous Tension*, studied thousands of mentally and emotionally disturbed people. He worked with two groups: a stressed-out group and a stress-free one. Eventually one fact emerged: the stressed-out group was composed of habitual fault-finders and constant critics of people and things around them. On the other hand, the stress-free group was loving and accepting of others. There's no doubt about it, the habit of criticizing is a self-destructive way to live. Don't go there.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for caring about my wellbeing which also includes the wellbeing of others. Help me build others up. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

*Written by Tim Hetzner, President of Lutheran Church Charities, November 22, 2016
devotion@lutheranchurchcharities.org*



St. John is a member of
the Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod (LCMS)

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

Saturday Evening—6:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning—9:00 a.m.

402 Lake Ave
Storm Lake, Iowa 50588
Phone: 712-732-2400

Email: stjohnstormlake@gmail.com
Web: www.stjohnstormlake.org
www.facebook.com/stjohnstormlake



Musicians are encouraged to share their talents during our worship services throughout the year. If you play an instrument or would like to join the choir, please contact our music director, Suzanne Winterhof. The choir rehearses each Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm. New members are always welcome.



April Worship Assistants

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

Greeters: Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

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

Renae Norwood
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Emily Johnson

Acolytes: Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

Bradyn Mack
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Ellie Bacon

The KAYL Broadcast for this month has been sponsored by Donna Jean Truelsen.

Altar Flowers

2nd - Anniversaries of Dana & Clair Benna and Dewey & Denise Bets

9th - Tounh, Abbie, & Annie

16th - Easter Lilies

23rd - In memory of Tony & Jackie Mahn by Kevin & Deb Jesse

30th -

*I AM THE Resurrection
AND THE Life,
Believeth HE THAT
IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD,
YET SHALL HE
Live.*
~JOHN 11:25