

2017



FEBRUARY 2017

YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT
FOR YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

St. John Eagle

Marital First Responders Workshop

8:00 am—Noon
Saturday,
February 4, 2017
St. John Lutheran Church

C. B. I.

The Circuit Bible Institute will be held at St. John this year on Sunday, February 19th from 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm.

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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 will be held
at St. John in February.
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 is taking a break
while he fills the Newell vacancy.

ST. JOHN EAGLE

Pastor's COLUMN

For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. John 13:15

We are now well into the season of Epiphany. We celebrated the birth of our savior Jesus and are rejoicing that our Savior, Jesus, has been revealed to us. Now we are learning again about his life on earth. Have you ever stopped to think about why Jesus lived on earth? We of course know that He died on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins and rose again so that we could have everlasting life with Him. But why did He live? Did He live just so He could die?

This question could probably be the subject of a whole book! (And it is - the Bible!) As you can imagine there are many reasons He lived on earth - to fulfill God's promises, to live a perfect life for us so He could be the perfect sacrifice, to show people what God is really like.. . . and many more. But one that's been on my mind lately is that He lived to show us how to live.

Jesus is God's Word lived out perfectly. He reached out to hurting people and offered healing. He spoke out against injustice. He sought out sinners and gave them mercy and forgiveness. He forgave those who hurt Him. He willingly offered Himself as a servant to all. And in doing all of this He became an example for us to follow.

So the question I pose is this, how can you emulate Jesus today? Can you offer kindness to someone who is hurting? Can you forgive someone who has wronged you? Can you be a servant to others? Ask God to open your eyes to the needs around you and to help you fill those needs.

Living this way has a greater purpose than just trying to be like Jesus. It won't get us to heaven - that work is already done for us by Jesus. We follow Jesus' example not for what we will receive from it but in gratitude for what Jesus has done for us. And God gives us these opportunities to point others to our heavenly Father. As it says in Matthew 5:16 **"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."** In so doing we will make inroads to share the Good News of Jesus with those around us!

Now, we aren't Jesus and we can't follow Him perfectly. Praise God for His forgiveness when we fail! But He does live in us and empower us to do the good things He has prepared for us to do!

May we look to Jesus' life as inspiration for how we should live, and look to Him for the strength and courage to do it! God bless all of you and keep you strong in your faith. Jesus loves you!

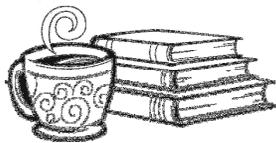
In His grace,

Bruce Lesemann



I'M BORED! GAME NIGHT - It's the middle of winter and you need to blow off some steam or mellow out under the glow of a good video game. Are you ready to play board games, enjoy treats, and relax a little? Then, the youth Game Night is just what you need! Game night will take place on Sunday, February 19th from 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the St. John youth room. If someone wants to bring a video console, please contact Jerry Johnson (732-2775 or Johnson@bvu.edu). All games must be approved before they can be played. Adults: we still need a host family to help organize treats and entertainment. Please contact Jerry if you are able to help!

YOUTH SERVANT EVENT - Mark your calendar! The youth will be traveling to Faith Lutheran in Sioux City to help pack meals for Mercy Meals of Siouxland on February 25th. We will leave Grace at 8:30 am. We are signed up to help pack meals at 10:30 am. Please RSVP on your participation for this wonderful mission. Mercy Meals of Siouxland is blessed with many supporters from all across the western half of Iowa and from some surrounding states as well. Our support through prayer, volunteering, and donating ensures that the starving children of the world receive nourishing food and hear about our Lord Jesus. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Johnson (712-732-2775). If any adults are able to drive, we would appreciate your help, too.



BOOK NOOK - Have you ever made a wish (but, then added *God willing*)? You will certainly want to look for a new book (*The Wish* by Beverly Lewis) in our church library. This is a Christian fiction but it is so current and answers so many questions about relationships that come up in everyday living within our families, our churches, and communities. It is a wonderful example of living a Christian life in today's chaotic environment. You can check this book - and many other great ones - out from our own church library!

If you have read a good book lately, submit a summary to Celeste to be included in the newsletter!

OUR FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES - Do you have a favorite Bible verse? Celeste would like to start a new section in the newsletter featuring the favorite Bible verses of St. John members. If you would like your favorite Bible verses featured, please email them to Celeste (stjohnstormlake@gmail.com) or drop them off in the mailbox outside of her office. Names are optional, but I'd like to include the Bible verse and the reason why you like it. You can submit as many verses as you like; there's no limit!



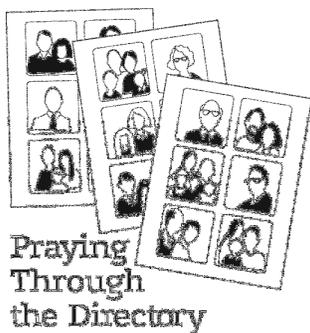
ORGAN RECITAL - On Sunday, March 5, St. John will have the privilege to hear David Lim play a program on our Dobson organ at 3 p.m. This is an opportunity for the members of our congregation—and the community—to hear a program of fine organ music. We are also supporting a young musician as he prepares for a career in church music.

Lim is presently in his second year of graduate studies at the University of Iowa pursuing a Master of Arts degree in organ performance studying under Gregory Hand. He is the teaching assistant in the Department of Organ and currently serves as the organist at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Iowa City and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Riverside. In 2014 he was the winner of the Evanston, Illinois, Immanuel Lutheran Church Organ Competition. Lim received his bachelor's degree at Gustavus Adolphus College where he majored in music and biology.

He serves as the chair for the North Central Region of the American Guild of Organists Young Organists and has previously served the Sioux Trails and Twin Cities AGO chapters in Minnesota.

THANK YOU from Rev. Thomas and Mary Aadlund for the \$200.00 in financial support given to help them in their missionary endeavors.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS - We're excited to share that in 2016 over 335,000 Thrivent members chose to direct Choice Dollars to more than 32,000 churches, schools, and other non-profits. St. John received \$4,912.00 from the Thrivent Choice program in 2016. If you have not designated your 2016 Thrivent Choice Dollars, it is not too late! You can call 1-800-847-4836 before March 31, 2017 to designate them.



PRAYERS FOR PEOPLE - It's a new year, so I'd like to include a few new sections in the newsletter. In other church newsletters, I've seen a section where they feature a few families from the congregation and ask that members pray for those families during the current month. That is a good way to reach out to others in our midst. Ephesians 6:18 states, "be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." With that verse in mind, I hope to go through the directory (alphabetically) and feature four

families 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 first members on our prayer list are Ron, Julie, and Jeremiah Anderson, Scott Anderson, and April and Savannah Auten.

MARITAL FIRST RESPONDERS - Since love is in the air, we invite you to participate in the Marital First Responders Workshop on Saturday, February 4th from 8:00 am - Noon at St. John. Often when a person's marriage is in trouble, they turn to friends for advice. Do you know what to say if someone would talk to you about their marriage? If you attend this workshop on February 4th you will! Rev. Michael Wolfram and Karen Gotto from Lutheran Family Service will share information, videos, and examples that will enable you to respond to your friend's situation. To register, please call the church (732-2400) or email us (stjohnstormlake@gmail.com). So that we can gather the necessary supplies, it would be helpful if you could register by January 31st.

C. B. I. - The 7th annual Circuit Bible Institute will be held at St. John on Sunday, February 19th. Registration begins at 1:30 pm. The day will conclude at 5:00 pm. During the two sessions, you will be able choose from one of four topics that our S.L. circuit Pastors will present that afternoon. (Flyers are available on the front table).

LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS - The cold winter month of February means it's time to renew (or begin) your subscription to *The Lutheran Witness*. The cost for a one year subscription is \$22.67. Though the subscription covers a full 12 months, the June/July issue is a combined edition. Subscriptions will be due in the office on or before Friday, February 24, 2017. Checks can be made out to "St. John Lutheran Church." To be sure that funds are properly distributed, please note "Lutheran Witness" on the memo line. An order form is included below.

Please fill out this form and return it to the church office on or before **Friday, February 24, 2017.**

Yes, I want to receive *The Lutheran Witness* in 2017.

No, I do not wish to continue my subscription.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

The cost for a 1 year subscription is \$22.67.

Please make checks out to "St. John Lutheran Church."

TIME IS RUNNING OUT to get your group's or committees summaries in for the 2016 Annual Report. Also, if you have a phone number or address to update, please submit those as well. All items are due on Friday, February 3, 2017.

LOOKING AHEAD - Ash Wednesday is on March 1st this year. We will have one service at 7:00 pm that day. During the following Wednesdays in Lent, we will have a service at 12:30 pm and another at 7:00 pm. Please mark these times on your calendar!

“What’s My Purpose?”

By: Celeste Cummins

Do you ever wonder that? Why *are* you here on earth? What *is* your purpose in life? I ask myself that. Even at 40 some years old, I wonder what I’m supposed to be when I “grow up.” ☺ However, the question doesn’t stop when you get old. When Fred Krueger was alive, he would stop in my office and tell me people he had visited in the nursing homes would comment, “Why am I still here?” or “Why hasn’t God taken me Home?” Those are just other ways of asking the same question. We all want to know why we are here on this earth.

No matter what you buy now, you get an owner’s manual with it. It could be a TV, radio, a car, can opener, even something as simple as a toy! The owner’s manual is a handy device because it will tell you the purpose of the object, how to use it correctly, how to take care of it, etc.

Kristine, my oldest, loves to write just like I do, so one day several years ago, I told her to “Write me an owner’s manual about how to take care of a Kristine. Since I’ve never had one of those before, I don’t know what I’m doing.” She looked at me with a quizzical expression. I shrugged and said, “When you were born, the doctor didn’t give me an instruction manual for how to take care of you!” Ah, wouldn’t it be nice if babies came with owner’s manuals! ☺ If they did, that would solve our problem of “What’s My Purpose?” It would all be clearly written in there for us.

There was One Person who knew His purpose in life. He was Our Savior, Jesus. “Your salvation was His number one priority, and He moved obediently, single-mindedly, straightforwardly to accomplish it. Everything he did advanced that purpose” (*Grace Notes – Devotions for Women* by Ruth N. Koch, p. 8. Hebrews three:13 Christian Gifts 1-800-325-3040). Yes, all Jesus did from His humble birth in the stable of Bethlehem, to His 30 years of ministry in the mountains, hills, and lakes of the Holy Land, to His death on the cross of Calvary was all part of His purpose to gain salvation for us.

Some of us may not ever be able to figure out our earthly purpose, but thanks be to Jesus, who knew **His** purpose in life was to obtain our salvation, so that we could reach **our** ultimate purpose, eternal life with Him in Heaven!

Stop Being So Critical – Part 1

“and he said to Moses, “Please, my lord, do not hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed.” Numbers 12:11

When Miriam criticized her brother Moses because of the wife he chose, the Lord heard and she was smitten with leprosy. Maybe you grew up in a family that was forever finding fault, and now you hear the same tone in how you talk to your children. You can't enjoy God's blessings because you've been programmed to inspect, nitpick, and form opinions – usually negative ones. The Bible says, *‘If you want to enjoy life and see...happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil’ (1 Peter 3:10)*. The definition of the word ‘criticism’ (dwelling upon the perceived faults of another with no view to their good) should cause you to pause and think. First, there's the word perceived. Often your perceptions aren't accurate; there are always circumstances you don't understand. Next we come to the words dwelling upon. We're inclined to walk through life saying, ‘That's not right,’ or ‘I wouldn't do it that way.’ You say, ‘I'm an analytical person, it's how God made me.’ That's fine, but the problem comes when you choose to dwell on your observations – when you can't set them aside. You say, ‘But how can I help somebody if I don't dwell on what they're doing?’ That's why the last part of the definition – with no view to their good – is so important. It's not wrong to dwell upon somebody's faults, provided you do it in a non-judgmental way with a view to helping them find a solution. Does that mean its okay to discuss it with a third party? Only if you can end the conversation by saying, ‘Let's pray about it, keep it in confidence, and try to help.’

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to be a person that builds others up to Your Glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen

*Written by Tim Hetzner, President of Lutheran Church Charities, November 21, 2016
devotion@lutheranchurchcharties.org*



The most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that Luther himself designed to represent his theology. By the early 1520s, this seal begins to appear on the title page of Luther's works.

Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17). The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12). This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal.

(From: Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530 [WA Br 5:445]; tr. P. T. McCain)

The seal above was used in Luther's writings in the 1520s for the first time, and was in black and white, with Luther's initials.

Terms

Host – The individual Communion wafers. It is from the Latin meaning “sacrifice, victim.”

Icon – A style of sacred art often associated with Eastern Orthodox churches. These are two dimensional in nature and painted according to strict guidelines.

Incense – Incense symbolized prayer rising up before God in Heaven (Psalm 141:2). This word comes from the Latin word “to set on fire.”

Lectern – The lectern is the place where the Word of God is read.

Lectionary – A schedule of readings from Holy Scripture for use in the weekly liturgy. There is a historic one year lectionary series with readings that have been used for centuries and a more widely used three year series. The use of the lectionary provides the congregation the opportunity to hear carefully chosen passages from the entire Bible.

Narthex – The narthex is the entryway that leads into the church. The word is Greek for “enclosure.”

Nave – The nave is the main section of a church where the worshippers gather. Historically, this portion of the church was built to resemble the nave of a ship. The word comes from the Latin word navis, which means ship.

Paraments – This is the general term given to all of the liturgical cloths that are placed on the altar, pulpit, and lectern. The paraments come in various colors for use during specific seasons and days of the church year.

Paschal Candle (PASS-kel) – A large candle that is ordinarily located near the Baptismal font. During the fifty days of Easter (Easter through Pentecost) it is placed near the altar and during funerals it stands near the casket. Paschal comes from the Greek word for Passover and refers to the celebration of Christ’s resurrection. Sometimes it is also called the Christ candle.

Paten (PATT-en) – Latin for “dish.” A paten is a plate, usually made of a precious metal like silver, from which the body of Christ is distributed.



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

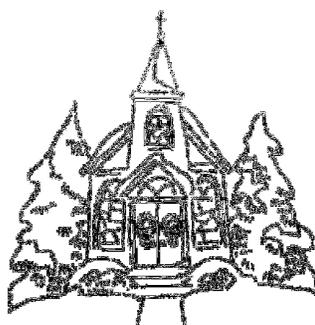
**WE WELCOME YOU TO
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!**

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.



For God so loVed the world
thAt He gave His
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN Him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.
(John 3:16, NKJV)

February Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Lori Dicks & Renae Norwood

Greeters: Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Laura Bumann

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

Henry Hardt
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Dave Stille

Acolytes: Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

Summer Wendt
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Taylor Robertson

The KAYL Broadcast for this month has been sponsored by Doug & Sharen Peters.

Altar Flowers

5th - In memory of Marie Mack

12th - Richard & Tounh Zwemke

19th - In memory of Don B by Donna B

26th -