

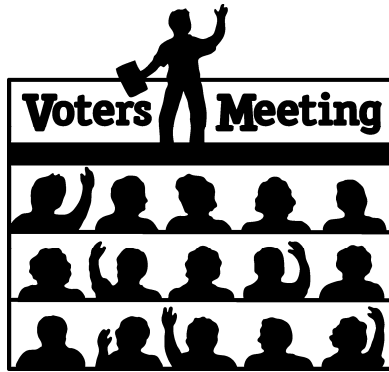
2013

JANUARY



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

St. John Eagle



St. John Voters'

Meeting

Sunday, January 6, 2013

Church Sanctuary

11:15 a.m.

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Ladies Aid, CFS, & South Africa	6-8
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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:
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, 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

*Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing,...*

We all know and love this hymn “Joy to the World,” but unlike most of the world we also believe it! These days, however, when you think of the unemployment, the rise of the cost of living, decline of moral values, economic turmoil, mass shootings, suicide, war, etc., there doesn’t seem be much joy in the world. These problems can affect even the most optimistic person!

With these in mind, how can we have true happiness? Well, maybe we should define happiness. Amy recently told me a quote from a friend of hers dealing with on what we base our happiness. She said, “Happiness is based on happenings, but joy comes from the Lord!” How true!

If there was anyone who sought to find happiness, it was King Solomon. He had more wisdom, riches, fame, fortune and prosperity than anyone, yet at some point in his life he still felt that missed the true point of life. After all of his accomplishments he had these words to say, “*A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness...*” The key to our happiness and joy is our Lord!

On what do you personally base your happiness? On whether or not you put on a few pounds over the holidays? On whether you can afford the latest gadgets or that new car? Is it your relationship with your spouse or your kids or a co-worker? How about whether or not you got a raise, or even if you found that job you’ve been searching for? Where do you find your joy?

My prayer is that even in the midst of less than perfect or even tragic circumstances, we would be able to find joy in the knowledge that Jesus is with us, that all of this temporary world along with all evil will pass away, but through faith we will live with Him forever. And may that joy be evident so that others may see it and seek to find its Source.

In His grace,
Pastor Lesemann



Executive Director Henry Hardt called the meeting to order at 11:24 a.m.

I. Pastor led a devotion and prayer.

II. A congregational budget information discussion about the proposed 2013 St. John budget was held.

III. Board of Lay Ministers - Harlan Matasovsky

Discussed a phone package to notify members if church will be cancelled due to weather or other factors.

IV. Board of Evangelism - Audrey Gutz

Socials will be the second (cards) and third (movie) Tuesdays in January 2013. Pens were passed out at church to encourage members to invite people to church.

V. Board of Stewardship - Karen Fletcher

Offering envelopes have been distributed. If you do not have your envelopes, please pick them up in the North office.

VI. Treasurer's Report - Karen Fletcher

As of December 16, 2012, the balance in checking was \$2,700.00.

All bills are paid.

There is approximately \$56,000 in the capital improvement account.

The HRA accounts for 2013 are pre-funded in the amount of \$8,000.00.

VII. Purchasing Agent - Bob Fletcher

All is well!

VIII. Board of Trustees - Dave Dose

Purchased five windows for the church, a window air conditioner for the North office, and a high rise stool for the bathroom in the basement. Items will be installed in January 2013.

The trustees are taking bids to possibly fix the "carpet bubbles" in the church.

The trustees are continuing their discussions on the furnace and other related matters.

IX. Pastor's Report

Friendship Fund reports will be provided at the January Voters' meeting.

Pastor will be gone December 26, 2012 - January 2, 2013. Pastor Kuhn will conduct services and serve as on-call Pastor.

X. Executive Director - Henry Hardt

Voters' meeting will be Sunday, January 6, 2013 at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Next Parish Planning meeting is Sunday, February 17, 2013 at 11:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

No January 2013 Parish Planning meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:14 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.



Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for all the lovely Christmas cards, your kinds words and gifts and prayers. You are a blessing to us every day, and we thank God for you! In His grace, Pastor Bruce and Amy.

I would like to thank everyone for all the Christmas cards, joy-filled wishes, food, and gifts that I have received this Christmas season. I wish you the joy of faith in Jesus and the peace of the Savior in the coming new year. Celeste Cummins



Christmas Potluck Held December 1st

The Christmas season and the month of December were ushered in with the annual Christmas Pot-luck sponsored by the Ladies' Aid on Saturday, December 1. Around 40 people gathered to enjoy the cooperative meal. Laura Bumann and Renae Norwood were hostesses for the event, and the guests were seated at tables decorated with decorated brandy snifters and glass canisters and lighted votive candles set on heirloom doilies. Lois Lytle was in charge of the program; although she was not able to attend due to her hospitalization, she had everything organized and arranged. The significance of the Advent wreath was explained in the opening devotions presented by Ladene Ponsor, Deb Matasovsky, Joanne Lussman, and Jan Magnussen. Marvel Rosdail's granddaughter, Shelby O'Bannon, sang "O Holy Night" and "The First Noel."

How well do you know the Christmas story? A trivia game made many realize that what we think happened is really folk lore from carols or artist's impressions. Audrey Gutz presented two readings. While we may think that Christmas trees in church is an old custom, we learned that the author of the questions and answers in our catechism, German-born Dr. Schwan, erected the first one in a church in Ohio in the mid-1800's...and was severely criticized for his action at first! The custom quickly spread in America. For many years two trees were used representing the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden: one was decorated with red apples and one with white roses.

Christian Fellowship Christmas Dinner

Christian Fellowship Society held its annual Christmas dinner on the evening of December 9. Tables were decorated by Jerry and Dianne Johnson - and yes, Mickey Mouse was present! Each member brought a dish for the planned menu. Following the meal Vernon and Suzanne Winterhof led the group in devotions and carol singing in a program, "The Nativity Speaks." The nativity figures each explained their part in the Christmas story and challenged us to have the same trust in God's promises and devotion to worship as did they.

South Africa Facts

It's time to enjoy a few laughs (and a few tears) with Kristin Matasovsky's latest email! Kristin writes...

Hello!

Just wanted to send a quick update on what I have been learning here in Africa this week. I am currently in Hillcrest/Durban/Nshongweni area for part of my orientation in South Africa - about eight hours southeast of where I will be living. I did get to go to the Indian Ocean this weekend and ride in one of the oldest steam locomotives in South Africa - so great! Other than the occasional sight-seeing, I have been fully immersed into the black African culture - primarily Zulu. I still have many people asking to "shoot me" - take pictures with me, they pet my hair and continually want to listen to my accent - haha!

Fact #1: African women are "tough cookies." These women can be seen balancing items on their head, bags in both hands and a baby strapped to their back while walking up and down some pretty steep hills. Sometimes even barefoot. Mind you, the roads are full of bodily waste, trash and endless amounts of broken glass. Women are the primary caregiver, and most of the time, it is the grandmothers (called gogos) taking care of small grandchildren, as most of their children have died of AIDS. These women would give Olympians a run for their money, actually they would give anyone a run for their money...

Fact #2: Public transportation is much like racing in the Indy 500 with 20 other people in your tiny Matchbox race car. These drivers go at least 100-120 km/h (because of my seat of honor I describe below, I have watched the odometer to know for sure), around all these crazy twists and turns in the hills/mountains, weaving in and out of lanes. I am amazed at their skill as they do this and frequently want to put my hands in the air as if I am in a roller coaster. ☺

I used to love playing The Game of Life because I always wanted to see how many more kids I could stack in my, already full, car. That is a similar mindset here. Aside from walking, my main mode of travel is taking a public "taxi" called a combi. These 12-15 passenger vans typically carry 20+ adult passengers. On one occasion I actually tried to shift my hips in order to accommodate a larger woman sitting next to me, and in doing so she popped me up onto her lap. So I sat on her lap for a good 20 minute ride. I looked at her and she seemed like it was normal; for me it was...awkward. I also was given the seat of honor another time. My seat was the console up front by the driver, and I ended up blocking his line of view in his rearview mirror, not that he used it. I'm impressed that he even had a rearview mirror, most don't ☺ * *

*Read more from Kristin's adventures on p. 8 ***

Fact #3: Most Africans seek the help of a Mutu, or witch doctor, in times of sickness and difficulty. One family we visited last week at the hospital believed their son (12 years old) was bewitched, causing his bone cancer and tumor on his leg. He will eventually have his leg amputated, but they keep putting off the surgery in hopes the witch doctor will heal him. Words cannot describe the state of the hospital - I'm pretty sure I walked past a surgery being done in the hallway. This was such a heartbreaking experience because so many people need help, medicine, and genuine love. This is one example where the heartache of the people was so profound and real as you look into their eyes and pray over them. I was at a loss for words most of the time.

On a happier note...

Fact #4: Africans have a natural rhythm and soul. Last week I helped out with Bible camp, where I was put in charge of music and games. There were 150 kids and only 4 of us adults—MASS CHAOS. So I used my limited guitar skills and pulled out every random game I could come up with. At one point I was so exhausted, I sat in the shade and sang my best vocal rendition of that classic Bee Gees' hit, "Stayin' Alive" while they danced and jumped around me. I know it isn't a Bible song, but it has a great beat. They loved it and had moves I could never reenact for you - my body doesn't move like that. I want to throw a party and invited them all...however on the party note comes the next fact...

Fact #5: In Zulu tradition certain celebrations/parties require women to wear certain animal bladders. Yes, you read that right, BLADDERS. For most weddings, a goat bladder is pinned on the bride, just like a beautiful corsage. For certain birthdays, girls are to wear a cow bladder that is stretched around their neck and shoulders. And lucky me, my birthday just happens to be next week! I am praying 28 is NOT a special birthday in their culture. Lord help me, if I have to wear a bladder in front of Zulu natives and dance around!

There you have it. Five more facts for you. Aren't you glad I dragged you into this? ☺ You're welcome - just expanding your horizons a little further. Thanks for the prayers!

With joy,
Kristin <><



Remembering Your Baptism

By: Celeste Cummins

"I have called you by name; you are Mine." (Isaiah 43:1)

Do you remember your Baptism? Silly question isn't it. For most of us Lutherans our Baptism took place when we were just a few weeks old, so there is no way we can recall the events of that day. But, do you *remember* your Baptism? Do you think about it each year on your Baptism Birthday?

I was Baptized on December 6, 1970. As I was growing up, each year in early December, my sponsor, Ricky, would come over with a gift. My mom told me it was a Christmas present, so I had to put it under the tree, but at some time, it occurred to me that he wasn't just an early shopper, bringing over my "Christmas present" at the beginning of December; he was bringing me a Baptism present to remind me of the day when he witnessed my Baptism. Ricky died 9 months ago, unexpectedly. After he died, I wrote a letter to his wife telling her about those presents that he faithfully brought over each year and how I still have some of them.

Maybe it was because Ricky brought me a present each year for my Baptism birthday, but I continued the same tradition with my kids. Each year on their Baptism birthday, I would give them some kind of religious present to remind them of their Baptism. When I was teaching, I would have a special section of the bulletin board designated for Baptism birthdays, too. Isaiah 43:1 was always featured on it.

In a few weeks, on January 13th, we will be celebrating the Baptism of Jesus. When Jesus came to John to be Baptized, John protested. He knew Jesus was sinless, so He did not *need* to be Baptized. However, Jesus *wanted* John to Baptize Him "to fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:15). As we hear about Jesus being Baptized by John, may we stop and think about our own Baptisms and give thanks for our parents and sponsors who brought us to be Baptized.



CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2012: LCMS has advised us that to receive credit for contributions for the current tax year of 2012 all donations must be received by 12-31-12. Anything postmarked or dropped off after the 31st must be credited to 2013. Thank you for your blessed support this past year.

VACATION - Pastor Lesemann will be on vacation from December 26, 2012 through January 2, 2013. If you need to speak to a Pastor during that time, please contact Pastor Henry Kuhn (284-2282).

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

2013 OFFERING ENVELOPES – If you have not picked up your 2013 offering envelopes, they are in the North office.

VOTERS' MEETING - St. John voters' meeting will be held Sunday, January 6, 2013 at 11:15 a.m. in the sanctuary.

CAN YOU HELP? - St. John's still needs greeters for the month of January and altar flowers for the first three Sunday's in January. If you would like to fill any of these openings, please call the office and let Celeste know. Flowers cost \$17.12 and are payable to St John Ladies Aid. Jo Lussman is the Ladies' Aid treasurer.

KNOW YOUR CHURCH FAMILY - There are still many families and individuals who have not been the focus of the Know Your Church Family section. I find each one that I read very fascinating and informative as I get to know the members of St. John and connect how some people are related to each other. We all have a unique and special story to tell. Your stories have helped me grow as a person and gain confidence. After reading about the Grigsby's (featured on p. 11), I had the courage to talk to their grandson Ian, who is a student at BVU. You never know how God can use your story to inspire someone! If you would like to be featured, please contact me (Celeste) in the office and I will get you in the bulletin and the newsletter, so everyone can know you better!



Know Your Church Family

Lanny and LaVerne grew up in the farming communities of Aurelia and Alta. Lanny graduating from Aurelia and LaVerne from Alta. Lanny and LaVerne were married at St. John Lutheran Church, Hanover, in 1963. They joined St. John Lutheran Church in Storm Lake in 1965, as Lanny taught mathematics at Buena Vista College.

Lanny coached football for thirty years, baseball for twenty-nine years, and basketball for eight years at Buena Vista, and in the summer time, he coached the Storm Lake Tornado baseball team for 24 years. Outside of work, he enjoyed officiating basketball and football, working several state championship games in football. He is a member of the Hall of Fame at Buena Vista and the Iowa Official's Hall of Fame. Lanny is teaching his 53rd year at Buena Vista and plans on teaching mathematics one more year.

LaVerne was administrative assistant at Storm Lake High School for 33 years. She is now retired and they enjoy watching the grandchildren in all of their activities, going on bicycle trips, being members of the Civic Center in Des Moines and Lanny enjoys a round or two of golf.

They have three children, Lance, Angela, and Amy. Lance married Letha Davis and they have three children, Elizabeth, Ian, and Jennifer. They live in Gretna, Nebraska, where Lance is vice president at Mutual of Omaha in the actuary department. Angela married Brian Bos. They have two children, Brady and Ashley. Angela is County Recorder in Pipestone, Minnesota. Amy, also, lives in Pipestone where she teaches mathematics at the high school. She married Jerry Thompson and their children are Cody and Braxton.



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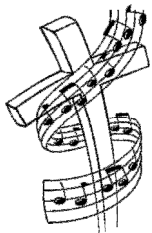
To God be all the Glory.

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



January Worship Assistants

Altar Guild:

Greeters: Saturday

Sunday

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

Renaë Norwood

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Dave Dose

Acolytes: Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

Still available

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Cham Deng

The KAYL Broadcast for this month is given to the glory of God.

Altar Flowers

6 - Still available

13 - Still available

20 - Still available

27 - In memory of Marvin Goldsmith by Florence Goldsmith.

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