

**2014**



# St. John Eagle

YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT  
FOR YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

Voters' Meeting

Sunday,  
January 5



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

Items for the 2013  
Annual Report  
will be due on  
Monday,  
January 20th.

Staff and Special Events	2
Pastor Lesemann	3
Parish Planning Minutes	4-6
CFS & Ladies Aid	7
Thank You and The Key	8-9
News, LW, and Mission Spotlight	10-11
Worship Assistants and Flowers	12



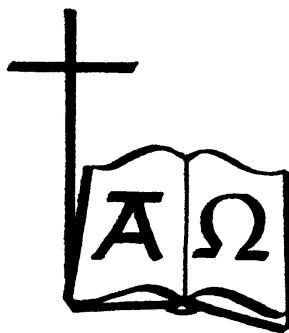
**january**



# 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**

**CUSTODIAN:**  
**Renae Norwood**

## STAFF

**SECRETARY:**  
**Celeste Cummins**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR:**  
**Suzanne Winterhof**

## MONTHLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Saturday Services

**6:00 p.m.**

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*Holy Communion*

*1st and 3rd Weekend  
of each month*

**9:00 a.m.**

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**Radio Broadcasts...**

9:00 a.m. on 2nd Sunday  
of each month  
KAYL 101.7FM.

KAYL 8:00 a.m.

Every Sunday

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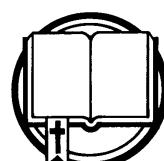
### Sunday Services

Lutheran Hour Ministries

**SUNDAY** **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.

**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).

### MORNING— FAITHBUILDERS AND BIBLE



*Be in the Word*



## New Year's Resolutions?

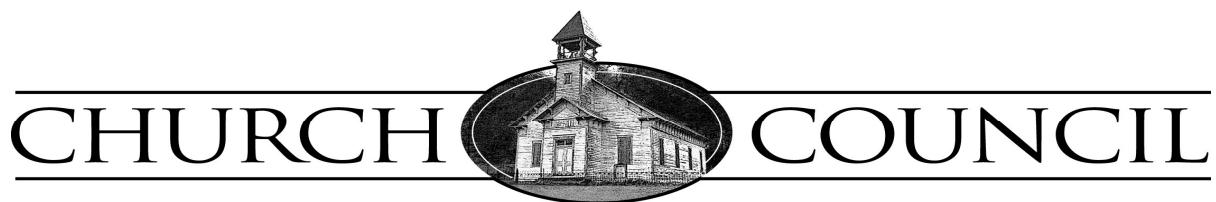
Did you make any? Traditionally by this time we have evaluated what we have done during this past year - the past 365 days - and made those resolutions to change! But did your resolutions deal with the work that reaps eternal results? Were they resolutions about making the most of your time, talent, experience and treasure?

To be honest, the Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. In fact, every day is a day the Lord has made, as it says in Psalm 118:24 states, and "we will rejoice and be glad in it." These New Year's resolutions can be helpful, but they can also make us think that it is the only time for change. The fact is, striving to serve God the best we can should be a daily part of our lives.

This need for daily reform might overwhelm us if our eternal life depended on it, but in a way it doesn't. Being "better" Christians, striving to do God's will, is simply a part of our faith, showing our appreciation for what God has done for us and in us. And in resolving to do better (the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification), as believers we can count on God's help and strength to succeed AND grace and forgiveness when we fail.

And how should we view those failures? Well, think of Thomas Edison. As the story goes, after months and months of tests to develop an electric light-bulb, Thomas Edison was interviewed by a reporter who asked Edison if he felt like a failure and if he thought he should just give up. Edison replied, "Young man, why would I feel like a failure? And why would I ever give up? I now know definitively over 9,000 ways that an electric light bulb will not work. Success is almost in my grasp." After over 10,000 attempts, Edison successfully invented the light bulb.

May our resolutions to serve our Lord and Savior also have the attitude of "not giving up" because God has not given up on us! As it says in Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV) *Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*



# CHURCH COUNCIL

Parish Planning Council Meeting

Sunday, December 15, 2013

Executive Director Henry Hardt called the meeting to order at 11:15 am.

Pastor Lesemann's devotion was "Grief to Joy" based on John 16:19-20 & 22. For us Christians, the storms of life (temptations, sorrows, despair) will ultimately give way to the eternal joy in our heavenly home.

A brief 2014 budget informational meeting was held first. All directors of St. John boards had submitted their proposals. This proposed budget had been printed and given to all St. John members the previous two weeks. The board directors and all other St. John members were now asked for their input, comments, and/or modifications.

Briefly, the proposed budget for 2014 is \$204,000; the 2013 budget is \$199,174. Our current home-giving stands at \$185,000. Some discussion ensued, and Hardt asked that further suggestions and questions be brought to him or at the January voters' meeting.

Guest members of St. John were invited to remain for the monthly council meeting which followed.

### Harlan Matasovsky – Board of Lay Ministers

The board is continuing to go over the lay ministers' shepherding list to keep track of St. John members.

It is also considering replacing the folding chairs in the library, perhaps to be provided by the Christian Fellowship group and/or by individual or family "adoptions."

### Dave Dose – Board of Trustees

The trustees resolved an issue concerning the number of copies made on the office copy machine.

A request for a shelf above the stove in the small Fireside Room Kitchen was denied; however, the trustees are exploring a safer alternative for same.

### Bob Fletcher – Purchasing Agent

Everything is good; everyone is cooperating.

### Karen Fletcher – Treasurer

The checking account balance (the money used to pay bills) as of December 6, 2013 is \$10,000+. All bills are paid. There is no outstanding debt. Some very generous offerings have come in. A full report will be given at the voters' meeting.

### Karen Fletcher – Board of Stewardship

The board is grateful to the many volunteer workers of St. John and invites all members to participate in and pray for it.

Fletcher briefly went over some of the designations for 2014 special offerings, all to be presented and approved at the voters' meeting.

## Executive Director Hardt

Hardt wants the congregation to be aware of the following issues to be discussed and voted on at the January 5, 2014 voters' meeting:

- whether or not to reimburse the \$750 worth of Renae's medical bills not covered by her disability, her health insurance, or HRA;
- the appointment of an audit committee (interested persons please contact Henry Hardt);
- whether to review the 1982 St. John constitution;
- whether to make a 2014 mission commitment of \$6,000 to Iowa District West; and
- whether to pass a proposed constitutional amendment synod-wide to change the position and title from the current "circuit counselor" to "circuit visitor," who would assist the district president in carrying out his visits to every congregation once a year.

Hardt adjourned the meeting at 12:04 pm and we prayed the Lord's Prayer together.

## **Important Dates**



**Voters'  
Meeting  
  
Sunday,  
January 5**



ITEMS FOR THE ANNUAL  
REPORT ARE DUE ON

**The Christian Fellowship Society** held its Annual Christmas Dinner in the Fireside Room on Sunday, December 15. Candlelit tables decorated in red and green gave a festive note to the gathering. Each member contributed a portion of the meal. A brief business meeting was held. It was decided to give \$1,000 from the Pancake Supper proceeds to Camp Okoboji to be used toward the renovation of the Ginny DeWall Dining Hall and also allow up to \$500 toward the purchase of a new flat screen TV for use upstairs with the Faithbuilders and youth. The Fellowship Society also funded the Christmas sacks for the children on Christmas Eve.

Vernon and Suzanne Winterhof led the closing devotion which focused on the tree, candy canes, gifts, and the crèche associated with Christmas. The historical significance of each thing was revealed as well as how the symbol leads one to a greater understanding of the true meaning of Christmas. The singing of several Christmas carols was interspersed as well as a unison reading of the Christmas Gospel.

Around 60 members and guests gathered for the Ladies' Aid Advent/Christmas Luncheon held Saturday noon, December 7. Loretta Rehnstrom chaired the arrangements committee with help from Jan Magnussen and Donna Truelson. Small poinsettias and other Christmas ornaments decorated the tables. The pot-luck meal provided a great selection of food for the meal.

Jan Magnussen was in charge of the program which featured a speaker from the Algona POW museum. He told how many Italian, Japanese, and German POW's were brought to the USA during World War II to fill the labor shortage caused by the draft. Algona had been a "base camp," which was government supported. Each base camp had "branch camps" which were supported by the ones needing the labor. Laborers were paid fifty cents an hour (the going rate!) but the laborer got to keep only ten cents, and that was paid in script. A legacy of the Algona camp is a nativity scene built by the prisoners and given to the city of Algona on the premise that the viewing of it should be free to the public.



To our dear family at St. John's,

Thank you so much for all the beautiful cards, words of encouragement, homemade goodies, generous and lovely gifts. You make us feel so loved and appreciated.

Thanks also for all your prayers and kind words in our loss. It's hard to understand

God's will in all this, but we know He's right here with us through it all, and works through you all to help support and sustain us. God bless you all!

With Joy in Jesus, Pastor and Amy

Dear Friends at St. John,

I appreciate all the help, encouragement, friendship, and kindness that I receive all year long here at St. John. It is so meaningful to me knowing that someone is available to help me when I need it and that many of you stop in my office to check on me when you are around. At Christmas time, I would like to send an extra thank you to everyone for all of the Christmas cookies, cards, gifts, love, and joy that my kids and I received. Thank you for your help, support, gifts, and encouragement all year through! I hope all of you have a wonderful new year. Celeste ☺

Dear Members of St John:

I would like to thank you all for the support, prayers, and friendship that I have received these last years with my shoulder replacement and for all the cards and gifts I received for Christmas.

I wish you all a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

Sister in Christ, Renae

## The Key

By: Celeste Cummins

It's scary and a bit puzzling when you are locked out of your own house, especially when you have the key inside the door's lock! When my kids and I arrived home one night, Kristine, Matthew, and I all tried to unlock the back door, but no matter what we did, the key would not turn in the lock. Fortunately, Matthew was able to get us in the front door. Still, we had to solve the mystery of why the back door wouldn't unlock. Sarah and I went to the back door to figure it out. I went outside with the key while she locked the door. Still the key would not work after several tries, so she had to let me in. She looked at the keys before I put them away and told me the key was bent. Is that what caused us to be locked out? I straightened the key and tried it again. That time it unlocked the door right away!

That bent key reminded me of our sins. We each have our "pet" sins, the ones that we do over and over and over, even though we've planned to stop doing them. We try, and try, and try to stop sinning, but we always fail, just that like bent key failed to open the door time after time. This is exactly what Paul wrote about in Romans 7:19, "For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing."

On our own, we are like that bent key. We cannot ever get it right. There's no way we can stop sinning. Our bent key cannot open the doors and let us into Heaven. We would be locked out forever if God had not sent Jesus. At Christmas time, we heard that Jesus is referred to as the Key of David ("O Come O Come Emmanuel" LSB 357 v. 5). It is He Who straightened our key to Heaven through His death and resurrection. This causes us to rejoice with the words of the last verse of the hymn "Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men" (TLH 105 v. 8):

"He opened us again the door  
Of paradise today;  
The angel guards the gate no more.  
To God our thanks we pay.  
To God our thanks we pay."



There will be a **VOTERS' MEETING** on **Sunday, January 5, 2014** at **11:15 am** in the church sanctuary. The agenda for the meeting is posted on the bulletin board; if you'd like your own copy, you'll have to come to the meeting ☺

**GREETERS** are still needed for several months. There is a sign up sheet on the table in the front entry way.

If you would like to sponsor **ALTAR FLOWERS** for a weekend, there are still many dates that are open. Some dates that are coming up quickly include January 19th, February 2, 16, and 23. There is a chart on the bulletin board by the secretary's office. Checks should be made out to the Ladies Aid and can be given to Jan Magnussen or put in the secretary's mailbox outside of the church office.

**Contributions, articles, and reports for the 2013 ANNUAL REPORT** will be due on Monday, January 20th. If you have a new address, a new cell phone number, a different home phone, or other personal information to update, please inform the office of those changes prior to January 20th as well. If all goes as planned, we will assemble the annual report on Friday, January 31st at 9:15 am.

Thrivent members, begin the new year by designating your **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** to St. John. It's as easy as a phone call to 1-800-847-4836.



If you missed the **JANUARY CALENDAR** in the bulletin last weekend, it has also been included in this newsletter.

**Rev. Joshua and Amanda Gale** are thankful for the \$250 that St. John sent to support their mission work in Lima, Peru. A thank you letter from them is posted on the bulletin board.

The **DARTBALL TOURNAMENT** in Schaller has been postponed to March 9th. The next dart ball game is scheduled for Monday, January 6th. St. John will be hosting Zion.

## LUTHERAN WITNESS SIGN UP SHEET

If you already receive *The Lutheran Witness*, now is the time to renew your subscription. If you do not receive it and would like to begin a subscription, you may do so at this time.

Please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>.

Yes, I want to receive the Lutheran Witness in 2014.

No, I do not want to receive the Lutheran Witness in 2014.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**The cost for a 1 year subscription is \$21.65.**

**Please make the check out to St. John Lutheran Church  
and write "Lutheran Witness" in the memo line.**

**M**ission **s**pot**i**ght **t** Rev. Joshua and Amanda Gale serve as missionaries in Lima, Peru, where Joshua plants new churches and mission centers by forming and developing groups of believers into mature, self-sustaining congregations through the use of Word and Sacrament. In addition to his M.Div, he has a bachelor's degree in philosophy.

Before becoming a career missionary, Joshua served as a missionary pastor with Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries (2011-2013). In his free time, Joshua loves to read, while Amanda enjoys reading and cooking. They both love spending time with their two children, Katharina and Zechariah.

Please pray for them as their family transitions to life in the mission field, as well as adjusts to the new culture and new language. Pray that the Holy Spirit will bless their work to create faith in the hearts of those hearing their message. Give thanks that Joshua and Amanda have the desire to serve their Lord as missionaries in Peru.

On each of their birthdays and Joshua and Amanda's anniversary, say a special prayer that God would bless them and give them peace to carry out His plans as they minister to the people of Lima.

Joshua – April 1                      Wedding Anniversary - May 13

Amanda – June 28

Katharina – Feb. 6

Zechariah – July 13

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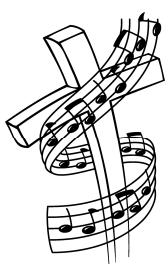
402 Lake Ave  
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Email: stjohnstormlake@gmail.com

To God be all the Glory.

### Special Music

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

The choir rehearses each Wednesday



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

### January Worship Assistants

**Altar Guild:** Lori Dicks and Renae Norwood

**Greeters:** **Saturday**

Still available

**Sunday**

Dave & Donna Dose

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

Renae Norwood

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

Dave Dose

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

Still available

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

Hannah Norwood

The KAYL Broadcast for this month is sponsored by Ron & Cindy Gillman.

### Altar Flowers

5th - In memory of loved ones by Donna Truelsen



12th - In memory of Virginia Burhop by Duane & Karen Ploeger

19th -