

2013

June



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT YOUR SOUL
THROUGH THE WORD

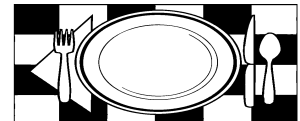
St. John Eagle



Get on board the Truth Train!!

It will be stopping at Grace Lutheran Church
for VBS from June 3—6, 2013
from 9:00—Noon each day.

Staff and Special Events	
Pastor Lesemann	
Parish Planning & Funeral Luncheon	
Ladies Aid & CFS	
Articles and Fun Stuff	7-9
News and Mission Spotlight	10-11
Worship Assistants and Flowers	12



BRUNCH

Ladies' Aid
Brunch at Church
June 12th

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, 402 Lake Ave, Storm Lake, IA.

Phone: 712-732-2400

Email: stjohnstormlake@gmail.com

PASTOR:

Rev. Bruce Lesemann

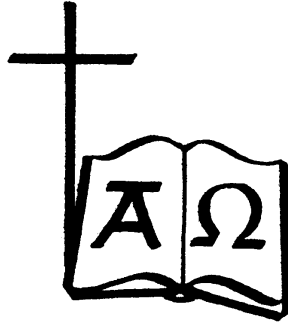
Home: 712-732-0161

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Suzanne Winterhof

SECRETARY:

Celeste Cummins



CUSTODIAN:

Renaë Norwood

STAFF

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.

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.

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).



Be in the Word

Message from Pastor Lesemann

Walking

Luke 24:17 *“What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?”* Those were Jesus’ words to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus shortly after His resurrection. Jesus walked with them, helping them understand why the Christ had to die. Of course, for most of the conversation they didn’t know it was Jesus they were talking to, but His words caused their “hearts to burn” within them with the excitement of learning the true reason Christ came into the world!

Walking is not something we do much of here, compared to other places in the world such as the mountains of southern Mindanao, Philippines, where my Amy and I walked a lot. There, walking is their main mode of transportation and they are healthier because of it. Here we simply get into a car and drive even if the destination is close. Yes, it is almost always quicker to drive, but quicker does not always mean better. On a health standpoint alone, walking just 30 minutes a day can do wonders in reducing anxiety, but it can even help us spiritually!

Let me explain...even though I have the option of driving, I try to walk as much as I can *and* to help with the monotony, I never walk alone. NEVER! You may wonder how I can always find someone to walk with, BUT the truth is: I never walk alone AND neither do YOU! I sometimes have to remind myself, but just like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus is always walking with us. And often I find it is one of the best times for me to have a conversation with Him.

What’s more, if you walk with purpose (someone described it as walking as if you were late for an appointment ☺), your heart will burn in you also for TWO reasons: not only aerobically, but also SPIRITUALLY, because talking with Jesus, praying for strength for the day, being assured of forgiveness, receiving peace for your troubles and guidance for your questions, is just plain good for you!

Of course, you don’t have to take a walk to talk to Jesus. But whether you walk or drive, stand in line or sit at your desk, remember that Jesus is there with you! And He loves it when you talk to Him!

In His grace,

Pastor Bruce H. Lesemann



Executive Director Henry Hardt called the meeting to order....

Pastor Lesemann's devotion was "Mutual Edification," based on Romans 114:19. We as the Body of Christ must, with the power of the Holy Spirit, work together in peace and harmony for His glory and for the benefit of others. Christ and His cross are our examples.

Board of Trustees—Dave Dose

Our Lutheran Trust property and casualty insurance carrier agent, Brian McCormick, met with the board to help assess St. John's risk management. The trustees are discussing raising our liability to \$6 million (see Executive Director's report).

The board has made no decision on the church carpet.

Renae has been released by her doctor to go back to work with some restrictions for four hours a day five days a week beginning May 20th.

Treasurer's Report—Karen Fletcher

After the April 30 deposit from the weekend of April 27 and 28, St. John had a balance in the checking account of \$6,024.09 (The average monthly balance this spring has been \$3500). The Capital Improvement account, which is the majority of our savings account, was \$67,324.52. Fletcher thanks the congregation for its much-needed and generous support.

Pastor Lesemann

The lay ministers have asked him to consider the need for the hymn supplement. He has also been asked by the district to be involved in TCN (Transforming Churches' Network), which he will train for and work with after his tenure as LWML senior counselor. ***continued***

Executive Director—Henry Hardt

There will be no Parish Planning meeting in June. The mid-year voters' meeting will be Sunday, July 7, at 11:15 am.

Hardt opines that St. John is "going well." He strongly encouraged the Parish Planning members to visit www.safechurch.com and review the risk policies and procedures recommended by our insurance company, especially in the areas of money, counseling, and youth activities and education. Hardt will ask voters at the July meeting whether or not to adopt them or to find a compromise which would still be sufficient and safe. *Church Safety Made Simple* can, additionally, be found in the church library. We must know what can and should be done about these possible legal issues.

Hardt adjourned the meeting and we closed by praying the Lord's Prayer.



Funeral services for Donald Schramm, age 89, were held on Tuesday, May 7 at 10:30. Following the service a luncheon was served. Group 3 was in charge. Scalloped potatoes and ham casserole and rolls were catered by Hy-Vee. In addition, salads, bars, and cakes were provided by our members. Those furnishing and serving the food included Linda Falck, Laura Bumann, Janet Glasgow, Eileen Mander-nach, Deb Jesse, Judy Krebs, Donna Truelsen, Amy Lesemann, Peg Johnson, Diane Krueger, and Linda Kay. Additional workers included Marvin Bumann, Ron Falck, Lorna & Willis Lussman, Florence Goldsmith, Pastor Lesemann, and Renae Nor-wood. Thank you to everyone who helped.

LADIES AID

The Ladies' Aid met May 1 with Barb Hogrefe as hostess. Laura Bumann based her opening devotion on Proverbs 8:33 reminding us when everything else fails, we can always rely on God.

A slide presentation by Pastor Lesemann on his recent work in the Philippines was our mission topic. He told of his work in assisting with the training of native pastors for the Tagakaulo people.

Nine members braved the weather and answered roll call by relating memories of their grandmothers. (How often do we have blizzard conditions on the first of May and evening activities at the church are canceled!)

Donna Truelsen reported that over \$26,000 has been raised by collecting recyclable electronics and print cartridges. This money is being used to help fund the 2015 National LWML Convention which will be held in Des Moines.

Next meeting: Please note the next meeting will not be on the first Wednesday but rather on Wednesday, June 12, because of VBS. This is a 9:30 am pot-luck brunch. A special program is planned!

Fellowship Club Plans Outing to Okoboji Summer Theater

The Christian Fellowship Society plans an outing to the Okoboji Summer Theater on Sunday, July 14. The group plans to see the musical, "My Way: A Tribute to Frank Sinatra." The songs Sinatra made famous are included in the program. Plans are to attend the 6 pm performance as tickets for this time are two for the price of one for Senior Citizens (\$18 for both). Each person must order his own tickets as you cannot get the 2 for 1 discount on group orders. Order blanks are on the table in the narthex. The Fellowship Society invites all members of the congregation to join them on this outing.

Gentle, but Mighty

By: Celeste Cummins

Elijah was discouraged, not to mention, a little afraid. Queen Jezebel had just told him she was going to kill him by that same time tomorrow (1 Kings 19:1-2). Naturally, Elijah did what anyone would do in that situation: he “ran for his life” (v. 3)! During a stop in the desert, Elijah spent the night in a cave (v. 9). That’s when God started talking to him. God asked him what he was doing. Elijah recounted what he’d done and ended by saying he was the only one left who was witnessing about God, and now they were after him, too (v. 10). God told him to go stand on the mountain because He was going to pass by. Elijah did what God told him. The things Elijah witnessed next must have been amazing!

First, “a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks” (v. 11). But, that was not God appearing to Elijah.

Next, there was an earthquake. But, that was not God appearing to Elijah.

Then, a fire came. But, that was not God appearing to Elijah.

Finally, there was a gentle whisper. *That* was God appearing to Elijah. God told him to go back where he came from and He would raise helpers for Elijah (1 Kings 19:15-21).

So often, we search for God in the great and mighty events around us. We interpret those large scale items as God’s way of giving us a sign or of letting His presence be made known to us. Yet, three times in this story, God was not appearing to Elijah through the great and powerful events. Instead, God chose to appear to Elijah as a “gentle whisper” (v. 12).

A gentle whisper. In our age of electronic gadgets and gizmos, would we even *hear* a gentle whisper? A loud, powerful alarm or blaring rock song seems to be a more fitting way to catch our attention. How often has God tried to reach out to us through His gentle whisper in the voice of our child, the encouragement from our Pastor, or the words of a hymn, but we weren’t tuned in to hear it? When the loud noise and chaos of the world are closing in around us, maybe we need to take a moment to turn that all out so we can hear the gentle, but mighty, whisper of God.

A Step Back in Time

By: Celeste Cummins

Can you recall what happened here on June 11, 1967? How about on June 30, 1968? The answer to the first question is final services were held at “old” St. John and groundbreaking ceremonies for the “new” church took place. Perhaps that will help you remember that just a year and 19 days later, on Sunday, June 30, 1968, our present church was dedicated and services began in this building. That was 45 years ago this month (coincidentally, June 30th will also be on a Sunday this year).

I came upon this information as I was looking through an old issue of the Pilot-Tribune (dated: June 27, 1968) and some old St. John newsletters that were brought in recently by a member as she was cleaning. The newspaper featured a whole section about the dedication of St. John’s new church, describing the building and the sanctuary in great detail. Newsletter publication became a bi-monthly event so that members could be kept informed and the progress of the new church could be documented.

As I read the O.T. lesson for this Sunday (June 2, 2013), I wondered if those in attendance at the dedication service 45 years ago had the same thoughts as Solomon did in 1 Kings 8:22-24, 27-29, and 41-43? This section of Scripture records Solomon’s prayer of dedication. He marvels that “heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built!” (v. 27). He prays for God’s blessing on the building and asks that God would hear the prayers offered there, so that “the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you” (v. 43).

The Pilot-Tribune article mentioned that in June 1968, St. John numbered 926 baptized members with 672 communicant members. The Sunday School enrollment was 221. While we look at these numbers and lament about the current lack of membership, the more important question to ask is where are these members? The answer to that question is simple: all of them are right where they were destined to be in order to fulfill the task God gave them. A good share of those 926 have joined Him in Heaven. Many others have moved away and are able to share His love with new people their lives have touched, as Solomon mentioned in v. 43. While some have stayed to continue the mission of St. John, right here on “church corner.”

The section of the Pilot-Tribune that featured St. John was full of ads by businesses. My favorite was the one by the Garnett Church Furniture & Mfg Co. It said, “Long after the memory of our labor contribution has expired, St. John’s will stand as testimony to the desire of all people for the things that are beautiful and enduring” (Pilot-Tribune, June 27, 1968, p. 6). Yes, the church building is beautiful, but the enduring part is not the structure, but its Foundation. St. John has been built on the Word of God which abides forever (1 Peter 1:25), thereby giving it its enduring quality!

Find the Books of the Bible in the Following Reading:

*** Note: This was the only page the answers would fit on, so cover up the bottom of the page before you have a chance to peek! ***

Can you find the names of 25 books of the Bible in this paragraph? This is a most remarkable puzzle. Some one found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu. Keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Roy Clark studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot...that's a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The truth is, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Some thing in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help. Books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers, and punctuation or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete. Remember there are 25 books of the Bible lurking some where in this paragraph.

*** And the answers are... ***

- | | | |
|------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1. Mark | 10. Genesis | 19. Amos |
| 2. Luke | 11. Lamentations | 20. Romans |
| 3. John | 12. Revelation | 21. Hosea |
| 4. Joel | 13. Timothy | 22. Esther |
| 5. Judges | 14. Samuel | 23. Matthew |
| 6. Job | 15. Numbers | 24. Peter |
| 7. Hebrews | 16. Kings | 25. Malachi |
| 8. James | 17. Acts | |



WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE WITH BUCK DENVER: JOURNEY WITH JESUS – Summer Sunday School begins at St. John on Sunday, June 2nd at 10:15 am. The journey continues through September 1st. Your kids are invited to learn more about the word. Each Sunday we will study about Jesus from Baptism to Ascension. Come for the Bible study and stay for the fun. Questions, call Jerry Johnson 732-2775.

GARAGE SALE – St. John will be having a garage/pie/bake sale on Friday, August 2, 2013. Please start thinking about items that you would like to donate for the sale. Funds will be distributed to Capital Improvement and Mission Central. More details will be shared as the information becomes available.

THANK YOU for the gift of \$137.00 in support of the mission work of Sean Harlow.

A CLASS ON ISAIAH 56-66 will be presented at St. John Lutheran Church in Waverly, IA from June 17-19 (beginning Monday at 1:00 through noon on Wednesday). It will be taught by Dr. Reed Lessing, Professor of O.T. at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The cost is \$100 per participant, which does not include lodging and meals. For more information, contact Rev. Matt Verseemann at 319-352-2314 or 319-352-1742.

MUSIC NOTES—We are grateful to the members of St. John Choir for their faithful service throughout the year. During the summer months the group will rehearse on the Wednesday before the first Sunday of the month (May 29, July 3, and July 31) and sing on the first and second Sundays. If you play an instrument or sing, you are invited to assist in providing special music for other services. Those interested may contact Suzanne Winterhof. *We use the gifts that God has given us to His honor and glory and to benefit those around us.*

THE FOURTH OF JULY will come faster than we realize. Again this year the Christian Fellowship Society is organizing a food booth for the Star-Spangled Spectacular. Pork burgers and hot dogs will be served along with Rice Krispy bars, caramel corn, and cinnamon rolls, and beverages. The entire congregation benefits from the proceeds of the booth

Mission Spotlight

Missionary Joel Scheiwe (that's pronounced shy-vee) is located in the Asia Pacific Region, based out of Hong Kong. Joel is a strategic mission developer, engaging in local leadership training and connecting North American churches and volunteers with local Asian churches. Joel's wife, Iantha, serves as the executive director of the Concordia Welfare & Education Foundation (CWEF), a Hong Kong-based non-profit organization that works to alleviate poverty through education and service. The Scheiwes are the parents of two daughters, Eliada and Talia, and a son, Taran.

Rev. Stephen and Maggie Oliver serve as career missionaries in the Asia Pacific region, where Stephen is the Asia Pacific theological education facilitator and New Testament professor at China Lutheran Seminary in Hsinchu, Taiwan. Stephen grew up in Japan and in the southern and western United States. Prior to becoming a career missionary, Stephen served as pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Carlisle, Iowa. Stephen and Maggie have three children: Isaac, Gary, and Virginia.

Rick and Marla Steenbock are based in Frankfurt, Germany, with other members of their regional team, but they serve the Lord as LCMS missionaries throughout Eurasia. Rick coordinates more than 100 projects that the LCMS supports in Eurasian countries. This also includes managing the communication flow between these projects and the missionaries and national churches that administer them. Rick's hobbies include playing guitar, golf, bicycling, motorcycling and traveling. Previous to serving in Eurasia, Marla worked as a MRI technologist and enjoys reading, singing, cross-stitching, gardening and traveling.

Elliot and Serena Derricks serve the Lord in Macau, a special administrative region of China. Serena serves as a GEO missionary at the Concordia English Center. She also helps to lead Bible studies and outreach activities. Elliot is currently teaching as a local school in Macau and helping with the outreach at the Concordia English Center. Elliot is from Denmark – uh, Denmark, WI, that is! Serena's hometown is Buckley, WA. In their free time, they enjoy learning to speak Chinese, eating Serena's cooking and watching American football games.

These missionaries will all be at Mission Central during June. The Derricks and



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To God be all the Glory.

June Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Deb Jesse and Lyle & Karen Morenz

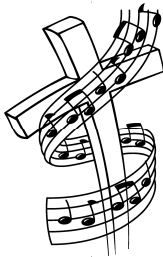
Greeters: **Saturday**
Still available
Sunday
Still available

Bell Ringers: **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**
Open
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Dave Stille

Acolytes: **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**
Still available
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Special Music

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



This summer, the choir will rehearse on May 29, July 3,



Altar Flowers

2nd—In honor of the 100th birthday of Henry's Grandma, Harriet Anderson, by the Hardts

9th—In honor of Jay & Ladene Ponsor's 34th anniversary

16th—Vee Tutt's birthday (June 10) and Bill & Vee's anniversary (June 21st)

23rd—For "Great," "Grampa," and Dad (Vincent Benna)

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