

2015

# June



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT  
FOR YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

## St. John Eagle



Cross Culture VBS: Thailand Trek  
will be held at Grace Lutheran Church  
June 15 - 18, 2015  
9:00 am - noon

Please plan to attend, help during the event, or donate  
needed supplies to this wonderful adventure!

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

Phone: 712-732-2400

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



**MUSIC DIRECTOR:**  
Suzanne Winterhof

**STAFF**

**SECRETARY:**  
Celeste Cummins

**CUSTODIAN:**  
Rena Norwood

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**MONTHLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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**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**

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**SUNDAY MORNING— FAITHBUILDERS AND BIBLE CLASSES**

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**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).

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ST. JOHN EAGLE

# Message from Pastor Lesemann

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## A Few of the Many Things a Pastor Needs Tell His Congregation

Have you ever wondered what a sermon would be like if a Pastor would simply not hold back and let a congregation have it? It reminds me of one of my former pastors and the sermon he gave. It was his last Sunday in the pulpit before leaving for another congregation. Knowing he would be out the door the next day, he used that last sermon to air ALL his grievances with our congregation! Needless to say it was a memorable sermon! Sadly, all of it should have been brought up long before then!

So, with that in mind, what would I like to tell all of YOU long before my last sermon?

**1.) PRAY!** For one, I as your pastor need your prayer. You don't have to look very far to see why. Pastors are people/sinners just like you, and Satan would like nothing better than ruin the church by having its pastor fall into some embarrassing sin and be publically exposed. So pray for protection for myself and my family. Pray also that God would give me wisdom to lead this congregation; that my teaching would be according to God's Word and that it would inspire others to give thanks and bring them closer to Christ. And while you are at it, pray for your fellow members whom you know are struggling.

**2.) TALK WITH YOUR PASTOR**, not about or around him. I've seen and experienced this first hand: if we complain about someone in the church instead of going to them, ESPECIALLY if the person we are complaining about is the pastor, it is corrosive for the entire church family. If you have a problem with a person, particularly me, it is best to talk directly to me and try to work it out or (if it is someone else) seek my help in working it out. If a resolution can't be found, then bring an elder (Lay Minister) or other church leader with you and seek resolution. And then (and only then) if a resolution is not found, bring together a larger group to dialog with the person that you are struggling with. "Challenge privately. Affirm publicly." (*Matthew 18: 15-17* and [www.bloggingleologically.com](http://www.bloggingleologically.com)) I want to continue to be a better pastor to each of you, but I can't read minds! So please tell *me* what I have done wrong or how I have offended so that I can try to make it right.

And finally **3.) DON'T JUST TAKE MY WORD FOR IT!** When I preach a sermon, I try very hard to speak plainly and according to scripture. Yet sometimes pastors can get carried away with a text and say something that can't be verified by scripture, or worse - contradicts scripture. A lot of times, because the congregation trusts their pastor, they think that whatever he said must be true because he would never speak against scripture. The problem is again that pastors are sinners and therefore it is possible that they could make a mistake.

So if you hear something from the pulpit that you question, go to God's Word and verify OR go to another pastor and get their opinion on what was said. Good pastors want their congregations to examine the Scriptures to see if what is spoken by the pastor is true! (see Acts 17:11).

There is more I could say but that will have to wait for another article. I pray that we would all take this advice to heart and in doing so continue to serve God in a manner that is pleasing to Him. May our words and actions point to Jesus and display to others His love in us!

In His grace,

Pastor Bruce Lesemann

## **Graduation**

By: Celeste Cummins

Over the past weekend, you may have attended a graduation ceremony. I was able to work during the graduation ceremonies at BVU on Saturday. Under their robes, the graduates are dressed in their finest. Their smiles beam brightly. They proudly walk across the stage to receive recognition for their hard years of studying. They have reached their goal! They are done...and yet, they are just beginning.

I was able to hear part of the address to the graduates at BVU. In the part that I heard, the speaker was telling the graduates that they have been given the skills they need to prepare them for their future jobs, although in our ever changing world, some of those jobs have not even been created yet. This reminded me of the twelfth chapter of 1 Corinthians, where God tells us that each of us has been given different skills. Whether you have graduated from college or not, you, too, have been given all the skills you need. Those skills prepare us for our job, our life, and our vocation here on earth.

At BVU, they have a tradition where the incoming freshman walk under the arch toward the campus in preparation to begin their learning. When they graduate, they walk through the arch the other direction, symbolizing their entrance into the world, their sign that they have been prepared to be placed into the work force in the areas they have chosen. For some of those graduates, the jobs they will receive after graduation will be exactly what they dreamed of. For others, it will be nothing like they'd planned. For all, it will be exactly where God wants them to be (Jeremiah 29:11).

Yet, graduation has another side. Following the graduation ceremony, BVU has a cookie reception on the lawn for the graduates, faculty, and family members. As I talked to the first graduate who came through my line, I got a little sad as I realized it would be the last time I would talk to him, the last time that I would see his smile. In that sense, graduation is also an end of a chapter in your life. It marks the end of being in the dorms with your friends every day, the end of going to classes, and the end of being able to stop by your favorite professor's office to chat.

When I saw Steve's smile for the last time, it reminded me that one day people will see our smile for the last time, too. At that time, we will partake of our final "graduation." Among the things that we've been prepared for in life is our eternity in Heaven. God has given us the skills of faith in Christ which will open the doors of Heaven where we will be a part of the eternal graduation reception that never ends!

Congratulations to all the 2015 graduates!

## LADIES' AID NOTES

The Ladies' Aid met on May 6 with Lorna Lussman as the hostess. Opening devotions were led by Suzanne Winterhof with thoughts on the influence of a Christian mother. Pastor Lesemann presented the topic; he paid tribute to mothers using thoughts found on Mother's Day cards posted on Pinterest. Sixteen members answered roll call telling some way in which they were similar to their mothers.

Donna Truelsen reported that she had delivered Lutheran World Relief boxes at Sac City the previous Monday; these included health and school kits. Election of officers was held with Lois Lytle elected vice-president and Jan Magnussen, treasurer, for two-year terms.

*A Special Invitation for Women of the Congregation* – Do you have an item you cherish that was given to you by your parents, grandparents, or other ancestor? Share its story at the LADIES' AID BRUNCH to be held Wednesday, June 3, at 9:30 a.m. in the church meeting room. A presentation on "Heirlooms and Their Preservation" will be made. Roll call: A Bible verse I want to remember as I "travel" this summer.

## NEWS & Notes

### What is God's Purpose for Your Life?

Do you know Karen Kingsbury, Beverly Lewis, Jan Karon, Roxanne Henke, Francine Rivers? These are just a few of the Christian authors found among the many books in our church library. They are just waiting for you to volunteer to carry on the wonderful job Joanne Lussman did for many years in providing both fiction and non-fiction books for all of us to enjoy.

If you have never been a librarian, there is help available to get you started. We just need someone who feels motivated to continue this calling. Funds are available to purchase additional new books. Your commitment to reorganize and catalog the materials already in the church library is needed. This can be accomplished on your own time schedule. Let this project be God's Purpose in Your Life.

## MUSIC NOTES

During the summer months, the choir will sing on the first and second Sunday of the month; rehearsal will be held on the Wednesday before the first Sunday: July 1 and July 29.

We know we have many talented voices and instrumentalists in the congregation, and you are asked to volunteer to share special music through the summer months. Make arrangements with Suzanne Winterhof.



**COMING - THE STAR SPANGLED SPECTACULAR** — The Christian Fellowship Society will once again organize the St. John food booth for the occasion, but we need the help of the entire congregation to make it a success. Perhaps you are willing to donate some food items, grill burgers, help with the serving, serve as cashier, or help with the set-up and take-down. In the month of June you will find a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Help St. John to be a witness in the community with good food and friendly service.

**WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE WITH BUCK DENVER: WONDER BLIMP OF KNOWLEDGE AND VINTAGE VEGGIES** - Summer Sunday School begins at St. John on Sunday, June 14 at 10:15 am. Clive and Ian's Wonder Blimp of Knowledge journey continues through September 6th. Families are invited to learn more about the Word. Each Sunday we will study about Jesus and the power of your faith. Come for the Bible Study and stay for the fun. Questions, call Jerry Johnson 732-2775. Also, looking for volunteers to help, too

**MISSION SEWING** - Our closet was overflowing, so we were able to send another load to Ida Grove for Orphan Grain Train. Bob Fletcher delivered a full trailer load of 51 boxes with a total of 851 pounds. We had 9 plarn bed mats, 77 pairs of shoes, 35 quilts, and lots of clothing.

Many thanks to our workers for sorting, packing, loading, collecting boxes, & delivering! Many thanks for the wonderful donations. Several needy people will be able to get a helping hand. OGT is always on call to go wherever people are in need.

So far this year, Mission Sewing has completed 42 more quilts, which means we have used 126 sheets, mattress covers, & light weight blankets. We still have a need for lots of flat sheets for the backs. The mattress pads make nice warm fillers. Many thanks for all your help. I am gradually getting the pieces cut into squares.

Many thanks  
Marge

**THANK YOU** from missionaries Rev. Mark & Sue Moss (\$200) and from Rev. Adam and Christine Lehman (\$380) for the monetary gifts they received to support their mission work.



**JOY IN MINISTRY BANQUET** - The Iowa District West “Joy in Ministry” initiative celebrates ministry careers and encourages financial assistance for students preparing to be Pastors, DCEs, deaconesses, and other ministry professionals. The annual Joy in Ministry Banquet is scheduled for Sunday evening, June 14th at Boulders Conference Center in Denison. Dr. Mark Blanke, Concordia University, Seward, will be the keynote speaker. The event is open to everyone. On the bulletin board is a flyer with more information. Contact the District office to make a reservation (515-576-7666 or [sue.light@idwlcms.org](mailto:sue.light@idwlcms.org)).

**BOUNTIFUL! SOW, NOURISH, REAP** - The Iowa East and West Districts invite you to attend the 36th biennial LWML convention Communion Service on Thursday, June 25th. All are welcome and registration for the conference is not required to attend). Pre-service music begins at 6:45 pm with worship at 7:00 pm. Rev. Greg Seltz, Lutheran Hour speaker, will be the proclaimer for the service. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board if you are interested.



**TEE UP 4 MITES** - The third LWML “Tee Up 4 Mites” charity golf outing will be held on Wednesday, June 24 at Copper Creek Golf Club in Pleasant Hill. The event is open to both men and women. Tee time begins at 8:00 am. Additional information is available on a flyer on the bulletin board.

**PRIMTE TIME 2015** is an adult enrichment opportunity for people 55 and older. They meet at the Storm Lake Middle School on Thursday, June 11th. The \$10 cost includes continental breakfast, breakout sessions, lunch, and volunteer of the year. Pre-registration and payment are required by June 8th. They can be sent to CommUNITY Education, 930 E 5th St (portable #3), PO Box 638, Storm Lake, IA 50588. For additional information, please call 732-5711.

**THE BRIDGE’S RUN FOR OUR FUTURE** Summer 10K Run/Walk/Relay will be held at 8:00 am on June 20th from Lakeside Marina to Casino Beach Marina. For additional details, log on to [www.thebridgeofstormlake.myevent.com](http://www.thebridgeofstormlake.myevent.com)

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING** - A conference on Human Trafficking in our communities will be held at BVU Anderson Auditorium on Thursday, June 18th from 1:00—4:00 pm. The event is free, but to ensure adequate materials are available, registrations are due by June 11th. For additional details, see the flyer on the bulletin board or log on to [www.scdiocese.org/humantrafficking](http://www.scdioocese.org/humantrafficking) or call (712) 233-7524. You may call or access the web to register, also.

**RULING ON MARRIAGE** - In June the Supreme Court is set to rule on the legality of same-sex marriage in America. LCMS President Matthew Harrison has addressed this issue in a letter to Pastors. For more information on President Harrison's letter, go to [www.lcms.org/president](http://www.lcms.org/president). There you can view both a partial and complete copy of the letter to clergy, as well as other ways this may impact the LCMS and marriage as we know it.

**Cross- Culture VBS – Thailand Trek** is officially a Thrivent Action Team. The funds provided through this program will help us cover some of the cost. June 15 – 18 will be here before we know it!! It takes many volunteers to make VBS happen. We want to say “THANK YOU” to everyone who has already volunteered. However, there are still volunteer positions that need to be filled. If you're interested in volunteering, either sign up in the Narthex or reach out to Mindy Stoltzfus.

**Volunteers still needed:**

Crew Leaders – 5<sup>th</sup> grade and older. We need many volunteers to help as a Crew Leader.

Registration – someone to help the week of VBS

Decorations – will be few unless someone volunteers to coordinate decorations.

**Mark your calendars for the next meetings:**

Sunday, June 7 @ 6:30 for Station Leaders/Adult Leaders

Sunday, June 14 @ 2:00 p.m. for set up and Crew Leader training (Our goal is to be done by 4 p.m. so everyone can still enjoy Father's Day)

**Registration forms are available!** 4 year olds – 4<sup>th</sup> graders (2014-2015 school year) are welcome to participate in this year's VBS. Invite your friends and neighbors to come and learn about Jesus Christ. 5<sup>th</sup> graders on up are encouraged to invite their friends to come and help, too. Contact Mindy Stoltzfus (732-0991 or [jdsmoose@iw.net](mailto:jdsmoose@iw.net)) or Melinda Tudor (299-4530 or [mrtudor20@yahoo.com](mailto:mrtudor20@yahoo.com)) for more details.

**VBS SNACK DONATIONS** - If you can't make it to the VBS sessions, but you would like to donate snack items, there is a sign up sheet on the table in the narthex for the various snack items that are needed. Or, if you would like to give a monetary donation and let us do the shopping, we have left envelopes on the table for that purpose (just return your donation to the church office). More details on sheet or contact Laurie Gaffney (299-2747).



Sunday, June 14th is Father's Day. Our Heavenly Father has blessed us with earthly fathers to love us and care for us. In honor of all the fathers out there, here's a little poem...

There are little eyes upon you,  
and they're watching night and day.  
There are little ears that quickly  
take in every word you say;  
There are little hands all eager  
to do everything you do,  
And a little boy who's dreaming of the day  
he'll be like you.

You're the little fellow's idol,  
you're the wisest of the wise;  
In his little mind about you  
no suspicions ever rise;  
He believes in you devoutly,  
holds that all you say and do  
He will say and do in your way  
when he's grown up like you.

There's a wide-eyed little fellow  
who believes you're always right,  
And his ears are always open,  
and he watches day and night.  
You are setting an example  
every day in all you do,

# Profession of FAITH

On Sunday, May 17th Cham Deng, Abigail Lesemann, Georgea Luedtke, and Loggan Norwood were Confirmed at St. John. In preparation for their questioning and Confirmation, each year the eighth graders have to finish five statements. As space permits, their answers will be shared, anonymously, in the coming newsletters. The first statement they had to answer is “Jesus Christ is the most important person in my life because...”

“...He died on the cross to take away the punishment of my sins. I also know that He is with me no matter where I am, and no matter what circumstance I’m in. As it says in Matthew 28:20, ‘*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*’ I hope that in some way, I can be used to spread the Word of God to all people, and share with them the love of Jesus.

“...as the Catechism says, since Christ was our substitute before God, our Savior’s perfect keeping of the law is part of His saving work for us. And because of Him we are considered righteous before God. What’s more, I knew He is always with me, and that He will be there for all my problems, and He will be there to be that person I can talk to.”

“...He has died on the cross for us so we can have eternal life. All who believe will go with Him to Heaven as it said in Romans 3:22-23, ‘*This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*’ He was the ultimate sacrifice for our sins so one day we can be with Him.

“...He died on the cross to save me from my sins. Without Him, there wouldn’t be any chance of going to Heaven. As it says in Romans, ‘*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*’ He took our place on the cross and saved us. He never sinned, which is something we could never do. We were a lost cause, but God sent Jesus to save us.”

The second statement the eighth graders finished was “The most comforting and encouraging thing I’ve learned throughout my Confirmation experience is...”

“...that I will have eternal life because God sent His only Son to die for us and that He will always love and be with us. An example of His caring for us is (described) in Romans 5:8, *‘But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.’*”

“...God has forgiven me. I don’t have to worry about things I’ve done that were wrong, because He doesn’t see them anymore. There are many things in my life that I wish I hadn’t done, and God looks past all that and sees that I believe in Jesus, and that’s enough for Him, as it says in Ephesians 2:8-9, *‘For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.’*”

“...The forgiveness I have through faith in Jesus. Forgiveness of our sins is offered to us by God only in the Gospel message of Jesus. It is the good news, where we are freed from the guilt, the punishment, and the power of sin, saved by HIS keeping the Law and suffering for us. As John 3:16 states, *‘For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.’* And Romans 1:16 states, *‘I am not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.’* Jesus led a perfect life, obeying the Law’s demands. Christians are no longer ‘under the law’ since Christ has freed us by dying on the cross and taken all the guilt and sin away. Christ gives to everyone who believes eternal Life, and therefore I believe Jesus cares for me and I will be with Him one day in Heaven.”

“...that I can do all things through God as it says in Philippians 4:13, which states, *‘I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.’* And that if I believe God, I will never die, but have eternal life with Him as it says in John 3:16, *‘For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.’*”



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

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**To God be all the Glory.**

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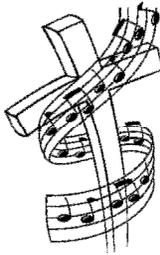
We're on the Web! Http:  
[//www.stjohnstormlake.org](http://www.stjohnstormlake.org)

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### **Special Music**

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

In summer, the choir will sing during the first two Sundays of the month. There will be no rehearsals in June.



### **June Worship Assistants**

**Altar Guild:** Denise Ballou and Lyle & Karen Morenz

**Greeters:** Saturday

Sunday

Ron & Linda Falck

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

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Dave Stille

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

Loggan Norwood

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

The KAYL Broadcast for this month has been sponsored anonymously.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

7 - In honor of the birth and Baptism of my great granddaughter, Olivia Ellison Robb by Lois Lytle

14 - Vee & Bill Tutt Birthdays and Anniversary by Jan & Harold Redenbaugh

21 - Dad, Grampa, Great from Vincent Benna's family

28 - In memory of Cheryl Bruns, sister of Barb Phillips, by Dean, Barb, & family

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