

**2017**



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT  
FOR YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

# St. John Eagle



9:00 a.m. — Noon  
May 30th — June 2nd  
at  
Grace Lutheran Church

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**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, 402 Lake Ave, Storm Lake, IA.**  
Phone: 712-732-2400 Email: stjohnstormlake@gmail.com

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



MUSIC DIRECTOR:  
Suzanne Winterhof

## STAFF

SECRETARY:  
Celeste Cummins

CUSTODIAN:  
Renae Norwood

## 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.**

+ + + +

*Radio Broadcasts...*  
9:00 a.m. on 2nd Sunday  
of each month

Lutheran Hour Ministries

KAYL 8:00 a.m.

**Every Sunday**

KAYL 101.7FM.

## SUNDAY MORNING— FAITHBUILDERS AND BIBLE CLASSES

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**Faithbuilders** will be held at St. John in the summer. 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 will meet on June 4th, 18th, & 25th at 10:30 am in the library.

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ST. JOHN EAGLE

# Pastor's Column

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.* John 14:16-17

The text above is from last Sunday's Gospel of John. It reminds us of the Helper that God has sent to all of us who have faith in Christ. I briefly touched on the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives in that sermon but I didn't get to talk about the very important work of how that Helper urges us to be God's instruments.

Through the years I have, as I know many of you have, been used by God as His instrument. The Helper is very active in our lives, teaching us through God's Word, moving, directing, guiding and sanctifying us to be more and more like Christ. As it says in 2 Thessalonians 2:13, "...brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth." And in 2 Corinthians 3:18 we read, "But we...are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." And Acts 5:32 tells us, "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Now it doesn't come out and directly say in these texts that we will be used by God through the Holy Spirit to be His "instruments," yet as believers God calls us and encourages us to do His work. As taught in Galatians 6:10, "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." So when the opportunity arises to do something good, we should pray about the work, seeking God's guidance in what we can do. Then in response, we can be like Isaiah in Isaiah 6:8, *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

Now you may think that you don't have the gifts to do the work that is needed. Yet we know we can trust in Him to provide what we need as it says in Philippians 4:13, "*I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*" So let us prayerfully seek God's guidance and look for ways that we can serve Him.

I want to end with this: recently we have sent out a questionnaire to parents with Sunday School age children as to whether we want to continue with Faith-Builders. The Board of Education has struggled for years now encouraging parents to bring their children and pleading for more volunteers to help with only limited success. Therefore with the help of the Holy Spirit we are seeking God's will as how to proceed and what we hear back from those parents will help us decide on how to proceed.

Thank you so much for your prayers and concern. May you be led by the Holy Spirit to do His work in gratitude for what through Christ He has done for you.

In His grace,  
Pastor Lesemann

# Ladies Aid

St. John Lutheran Ladies' Aid met at 1:30 pm on May 3, 2017 in the church meeting room. Hostess for the afternoon was Marge Manteufel. Marge's May birthday was also acknowledged.

Pastor Lesemann led the opening devotion based on thoughts he had gleaned at Pastor's conference: Do not cause someone to stumble, and as the body of Christ, we are to build up each other.

Suzanne Winterhof presented the topic. Based on thoughts presented by a person who had been on the TV reality show, "Survivor," we focused on tenets that are needed to play the "Christian Survivor" game.

Eleven members answered roll call by telling their favorite "fresh from the garden" item.

It was moved to donate \$100 to the Camp Okoboji Quilt Auction.

Marge Manteufel reported that she had delivered 1109 pounds of clothing and other goods to Orphan Grain Train. Donna Truelson had taken items to the Lutheran World Relief pick up in Sac City.

The offices of vice-president and treasurer were up for election. The nominees were Lois Lytle and Jan Magnussen, and a unanimous ballot was cast by motion.

Several members had attended the Spring Zone Rally and enjoyed the presentation by Ellie Menz on various ways each woman can serve in the Kingdom - regardless of age, time constraints, or physical ability.

# C. F. S.

The Christian Fellowship Society held its regular meeting on April 30, 2017 at 4:00 pm. We gathered at the home of Rev. Brad Ketcham to view his model train display. He also added comments on the history of railways.

Following the display tour, the group met at the Fireside Room of the church.

Harlan has secured an Action Team grant from Thrivent Financial to help defray the cost of flowers around the church.

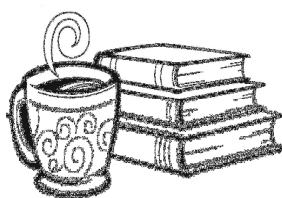
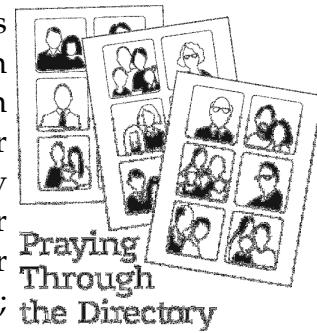
The CFS will again organize the congregation's food booth for the Star Spangled Spectacular, and the *entire congregation* will be asked to assist.

The next meeting will be the annual picnic at the church on June 18th at 6:00 pm.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**PRAYERS FOR PEOPLE** - Ephesians 6:18 states, "be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people." With that verse in mind, we are praying our way through the directory

(alphabetically). Families will be featured 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 next members on our prayer list are Loren, Crystal, Kelsey, Kaitlin, & Cole Brake; Carlton & Renee Brent; Darci Brown; and Jim & Joyce Buckendahl.



**BOOK NOOK** - Did you love Jan Karon's At Home in Mitford series? Then check out the new series by Katie Schuermann. I have really enjoyed the first two, and the third is coming out this year. It's kind of like a Lutheran version of the Jan Karon books. Here is an overview of the first book, House of Living Stones, from the CPH website.

In the small Illinois town of Bradbury, change doesn't come often, and it certainly doesn't come easily. So when Pastor Fletcher hires Emily Duke as the new choir director at Zion Lutheran Church, he unknowingly sets in motion a chain of events that turns the life of his congregation upside down.

The crusty church secretary, Mrs. Scheinberg, must learn to adjust her curmudgeonly ways. Zion's talented but pompous organist, Evan Ebner, must recognize his shortcomings. Emily must come to terms with her past. Even Pastor Fletcher must face reality when his world is shaken by the baggage Emily brings and by the handsome Zachary Brandt who pursues her.

With its host of lovable and relatable characters, *House of Living Stones* will find a special place on your bookshelf and in your heart.

**FOSTER CARE BACKPACK DONATIONS** – *Update:* We collected a few items for this mission. One of the students from BVU stopped by this past week and picked up the items so they can distribute what they have already collected before the classes end at BV for the summer. She was very appreciative of what we had collected. Most of the items were small toiletries and hygiene items, which she said they really needed. Now that your kids are wrapping up another school year, consider donating their used backpacks. St. John is collecting gently used backpacks (these can be traditional backpacks, a 4 string bag, or any bag with a zipper), child and young adult reading books (including coloring books, word searches, cross-word puzzles, etc), and new hygiene items for kids who are going into foster care situations. Items will be collected through this Fall, so you have all summer to shop and donate. Please leave your donations in the box in the front entryway.

**OUR FAVORITE BIBLE VERSES** - One of the members submitted Revelation 2:10 as her favorite Bible verse because it was her Confirmation verse. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." — Does anyone else want to submit their favorite Bible verse and the reason why you like it?

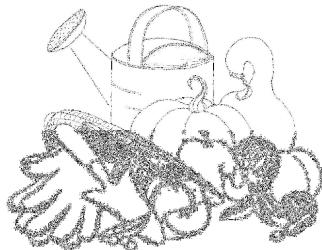
**ST. JOHN TREASURER POSITION** – Karen Fletcher, after many faithful and distinguished years of service as St. John's Treasurer, has informed me of her intention to step down as Treasurer in the very near future. Please extend her our collective gratitude for her service.

As a result, I am soliciting nominations and/or applications for the Treasurer position at St. John. Karen has informed me she is willing to do what is necessary to make the transition for the new Treasurer as easy and seamless as possible.

If interested in serving as Treasurer at St. John, please contact Henry Hardt at 732-7998 or [hardt@bvu.edu](mailto:hardt@bvu.edu). Thank you for your prayerful consideration. Henry Hardt, Executive Director

**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.** As a member of St. John, your help is needed to make the food booth at the Star-Spangled Spectacular successful. We need YOU to help with serving, grilling meat, setting up, and taking down the tent. Also needed are donations of caramel corn, cinnamon rolls, and rice krispy bars. In the coming weeks a "Volunteer Sheet" will be in the entry way, so you can sign up. This year the net proceeds are designated for the "Door Project." You might be interested to know that each volunteer hour is the equivalent of a \$20-plus donation to the church! The Christian Fellowship Society has taken the responsibility to organize the booth; the whole congregation benefits from this endeavor, so we ask ALL members (including youth) to get involved.

**THANK YOU** for the \$200.00 given to support our mission work. We appreciate your generosity. George and Margot Fretz



**PLANTING A GARDEN** - It may be getting a little late in the season to plant a vegetable garden, but this kind of garden is always in season! You will need...

- ◆ Three rows of Squash
  - 1. Squash gossip
  - 2. Squash criticism
  - 3. Squash indifference
- ◆ Six rows of Peas
  - 1. Prayer
  - 2. Perseverance
  - 3. Politeness
  - 4. Preparedness
  - 5. Purity
  - 6. Patience
- ◆ Seven heads of Lettuce
  - 1. Let us be unselfish and loyal
  - 2. Let us be charitable
  - 3. Let us search the Scriptures
  - 4. Let us not be weary in doing well
  - 5. Let us be obedient
  - 6. Let us be truthful
  - 7. Let us love one another
- ◆ No garden is complete without Turnips
  - 1. Turn up for worship
  - 2. Turn up for Bible study
  - 3. Turn up with a smile when things are difficult
  - 4. Turn up with determination to do your best in God's service
- ◆ Conclude with Thyme
  - 1. Thyme with God
  - 2. Thyme for fun
  - 3. Thyme for rest
  - 4. Thyme for others
- ◆ Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. Then, there will be much fruit in the garden because you reap what you sow.

**SHORT TERM MISSION TRIPS** - LCMS missionaries in West Africa are planning week long medical clinics in four countries. These clinics will provide urgently needed medical care to people who don't have access to local care for even basic illnesses or conditions. Anyone can be a part of the team, even if you don't have medical experience, but they also need doctors, nurses, and pharmacists. The clinics are planned for September, November, February, and March. Would you or anyone you know be interested in going to Africa to help with these mission projects? If you would like more information, go to [www.lcms.org/mercyteams](http://www.lcms.org/mercyteams).

**LOOKING BACK** - On June 11, 1967, the last services in the old church were held and members attending came to the full realization that their place of worship for 47 years would soon be demolished. Precious memories were recalled, sad times and happy occasions, and many eyes were misty as a result of the remembrances (from the St. John website - [www.stjohnstormlake.org](http://www.stjohnstormlake.org)). It has been 50 years since that event. For 50 years God has blessed the members of St. John with the current church building (although the education wing is older than that). The cornerstone across from my office (secretary's office) that proclaims 1967 is older than I am, although many of you can recall when it was installed. Many of you were there the day that old St. John held its last service. You watched as our current church building took shape. Here's a bit of St. John history - according to the record book, these were the last official acts that took place in old St. John:

- ◆ Baptism - Carla Jane Schmidt (June 4, 1967)
- ◆ Confirmation (the class of May 14, 1967) - Wade Eugene Carlson, Denise Wanda Dierenfeld, Bette Kay Dornsbach, Cynthia Rose Fellows, Gregory George Hansen, Mary Beth Hermanson, Thomas Jackson, Kathy Marie Johnson, Diane Kay Lalone, Jack Willard Luepke, Wesley Alan Lussman, Sheldon Gene Mack, John Elmer Miller, Lewis John Moldovan, and Richard Erwin Phillips.
- ◆ Marriage - Ronald Peters and Coelet Mack (June 2, 1967)
- ◆ Funeral - Mrs. Marie Iversen (June 8, 1967)

**BV COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY** is hosting a national group called RV Care-A-Vanners that will assist in the remodeling process of two homes in Storm Lake. This will allow families to take ownership of their homes much faster. This group of 10 volunteers will be coming to Storm Lake on July 16-30 and our congregation has been asked to consider signing up to provide meals for a day or two. This would include taking lunch to the job site and providing suppers to them at the camp-ground. Please call the church office (732-2400) if you would be willing to help with this in any way. For more information on this group visit their website at <https://www.habitat.org/volunteer/travel-and-build/rv-care-a-vanners>.

**RISEFEST** - For the youth: we won 10 tickets to Risefest 2017 plus chairs and coolers. Who wants to go? Mercy Me will be performing Friday, June 16th. The gates open at 4:00 pm so we should leave Storm Lake by 3:00 pm (Risefest is near Sheldon). Besides the concert, there are also seminars, youth areas, tween sights, and (every teens' favorite) - FOOD! Chaperones are also needed! If you would like to go, contact Jerry Johnson ([Johnson@bvu.edu](mailto:Johnson@bvu.edu)).

**ADVENTURELAND** - Lutheran Day at Adventureland is Wednesday, June 21st. We will leave bright and early for a day full of fun. The cost is \$29.00. Please RSVP to Jerry Johnson (johnson @bvu.edu) by June 1st if you'd like to go.

**THE LWML NATIONAL CONVENTION** will be held June 22 - 25, 2017 in Albuquerque, NM. Dave and Donna Dose, Deb Matasovsky, and Jan Magnussen will be attending. The following is a list of ingathering items ("Gifts from the Heart") that will be collected. We have lots of room on the bus, so please contribute what you can. A collection box will be by the table near the front door or contact one of us for pickup. Thank you!

**Gifts from the Heart** [www.lwml.org/2017-convention](http://www.lwml.org/2017-convention) You may check that website for information about these gifts. Recipients include Lutheran Family Services, Lutheran World Relief, Ysleta Lutheran Mission, Care Net Pregnancy Centers of Albuquerque, and the Albuquerque Christian Children's Home.

- Twin size sheets (new and in package)
- Quilts (60 x 80)
- Children's underwear (new and in package)
- Gift Cards (Walmart, Kmart, Kohl's, or JCPenny in \$10 or \$25 amounts)
- School kits (either complete or individual items for the kit)
  - Spiral notebooks or lined paper
  - Six pencils
  - Three pens, blue or black
  - Ruler
  - Blunt scissors
  - Washable markers or crayons
  - Glue Sticks
  - Two Folders
  - Eraser
  - Children's Bible
- New Baby Kits (either complete or individual items for the kit)
  - 8-12 disposable diapers
  - 2-3 pairs of socks
  - Two sleepers (Size 0-3 or 3-6 months)
  - Two daytime outfits (Size 0-3 or 3-6 months)
  - Baby wash, baby lotion, and baby washcloth
  - Gift for mom (toiletry or personal; Christian tract or book)
  - Wet wipes
  - Baby toy
  - Fleece blanket
- Health Kits
  - Washcloth
  - Full size bar of soap
  - Shampoo and comb
  - Christian tract or book
  - Toothbrush and toothpaste

**VBS 2017** - There's still time to register and volunteer. Our theme this year is "It's All About Jesus - Reformation 500." VBS will be held at Grace Lutheran Church on May 30th - June 2nd from 9:00 am - Noon each day. Please contact Pastor Ketcham at [bishopbk@mchsi.com](mailto:bishopbk@mchsi.com) or Jerry Johnson at [johnson@bvu.edu](mailto:johnson@bvu.edu) to register or volunteer. Celebrate the Reformation and make VBS a special experience for our children and families.

**SHOULD WE END FAITH-BUILDERS/SUNDAY SCHOOL?** – FYI last week we, the Board of Education, sent out a letter to the parents of our Sunday School age children. In that letter we asked various questions about Faith-Builders, Summer Sunday School, attendance, volunteers, and how we should go from here. What is happening is that we have had such a low attendance for Faith-Builders that we are questioning the validity of continuing Faith-Builders. Added to this is also the fact that there is a great difficulty in finding members who want to help with Faith-Builders. So please keep this situation in your prayers that God would give us the wisdom as to what to do next. And while you are at it, pray for wisdom as to how you can help as well. In His grace, Pastor Lesemann

#### **THE SNEEZE** (I received this via email)

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-two students filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as grown up as they felt. Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and Moms freely brushed away tears. This class would NOT pray during the commencements, not by choice, but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it.

The principal and several students were careful to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling. They gave inspirational and challenging speeches, but no one mentioned divine guidance and no one asked for blessings on the graduates or their families. The speeches were nice, but they were routine until the final speech received a standing ovation.

A solitary student walked up to the microphone. He stood still and silent for just a moment, and then, it happened...All 92 students, every single one of them, suddenly SNEEZED!! The student on stage simply looked at the audience and said, 'GOD BLESS YOU!'

As he walked off the stage, the audience exploded into applause. This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke God's blessing on their future with or without the court's approval.

This is a true story; it happened at Eastern Shore District High School in Musquodoboit Harbour, Nova Scotia.

## Psalm 90:10

By: Celeste Cummins

I was able to spend Easter weekend with my mom and dad. On Easter Sunday evening, my dad and I were alone in the living room. He was reading some kind of a book about the Psalms. As he turned the pages in the book, he told me, “I was reading in here the other day and it said, ‘The length of our days is seventy years — or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away’” (Psalm 90:10). As he was reading it, his voice cracked a little. I could sense he was choking up and it almost looked like he was getting tears in his eyes.

I knew he was thinking about himself and his own mortality. Dad is 82 years old and his health is not good. Nearly 23 years ago, he had a massive heart attack, which he should not have lived through. Miraculously, he did. Years later, he suffered another heart attack. Now, he is on oxygen 24/7, along with many other health complications. I could just tell he was looking back at his life and realizing how quickly it had passed.

I also think he was contemplating what his doctor had told him not long ago. He had said that 80 was a good, long life. I think he had meant it to be a source of encouragement, but looking at 80 as a good, long life depends on your perspective. To a child, 80 is ancient, like as old as Methuselah! If you are reading the obituaries of people you do not know, 80 seems like a pretty old age. However, when that 80 year old is someone you love — or even yourself — then, 80 seems quite young. You want more time!

While my dad is a strong believer, none of us want to face death, especially our own. Of course, we all know it’s coming because we all have sinned and “deserve nothing but punishment.”<sup>1</sup> Death, of course, is God’s ultimate form of punishment. But, we do not want to leave our loved ones behind. We are afraid of the unknown — and death is unknown to us. We do not know what to expect in Heaven. We want to hold onto the familiarity of this life.

How can we overcome this fear? Honestly, because of our sin, there is no way to be able to totally overcome it. We will have fears and doubts in this life. However, we can keep in mind that when we die, we will be reunited with those we love who have already died. We will also be with our Savior where nothing will be able to harm us again. And, we can be comforted knowing that “Because I live, you also will live” (John 14:19) and “I am the Resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die” (John 11:25-26a). Jesus told us those words because just as He rose from the dead, we, too, will rise.

Some people never have the opportunity to contemplate their own death. They die without even realizing it through a fatal heart attack, a quick stroke, or instantly in a car accident. But, for those of us who have the opportunity to “ponder” our own death, perhaps the best thing we can do (besides, believe that Jesus died for us so we can go to Heaven) is to pray to God that He would, “Grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this vale of tears to Himself in Heaven.”<sup>2</sup>

*This devotion was written on April 10, 2012. Two months and five days later, my dad died. I’ve included it in this newsletter in memory of my dad because June 15th will mark the fifth anniversary of his death.*

<sup>1</sup>Luther’s Small Catechism, Explanation of the 5th Petition, p. 162, 1943 edition, copyright renewed 1971

<sup>2</sup>Luther’s Small Catechism, Explanation of the 7th Petition, p. 166, 1943 edition, copyright renewed 1971



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

## MUSIC NOTES

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 will rehearse on Wednesday evening, June 28th at 7:30 pm. New members are always welcome.



IT WAS YOU WHO SET  
ALL THE BOUNDARIES OF  
THE EARTH; YOU MADE  
BOTH SUMMER AND WINTER.

PSALM 74:17, NIV

## June Worship Assistants

**Altar Guild:** Laura Bumann & Jerene Neir

**Greeters:** **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**  
Ron & Jerene Neir  
**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

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

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

**Acolytes:** **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**  
Emanuel Gach  
**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**  
Mercedes Norris

The KAYL Broadcast for this month  
has been sponsored anonymously .

## Altar Flowers

4th - In thankfulness to God  
and in memory of loved ones.

11th - Vee Tutt's birthday and  
Harold & Jan Redenbaugh's  
Anniversary

18th - Grampa, "Great," Dad—  
Vincent Benna from his family

25th - Kevin & Deb Jesse  
Anniversary