

2013



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

St. John Eagle

Lent



Please join us on Wednesday, March 6, 13, & 20 for the final three **Lenten Services** at 12:30 and 7:00 pm.

Our **Maundy Thursday** worship service with Holy Communion will be on March 28th at 7:00 pm.

We will finish the passion story at our **Good Friday** worship service on March 29th at 7:00 pm.

No Saturday Evening Service

Please return for Jesus' triumphant Resurrection on **Easter morning**. There will be a 7:00 am Sunrise Service, followed by 8:00 breakfast, and a 9:00 am worship Service with Holy Communion on Sunday, March 31st.

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

Phone: 712-732-2400

Email: stjohstormlake@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

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us... 2 Corinthians 2:14

The other day I was in a hurry to get to an event about an hour away. I'd never been to this place before so I decided to use our Garmin (Global Positioning System (GPS) device that uses satellites to help you get where you are going) to help me get there. Everything was fine until I got within a mile of my destination. Then, with only minutes to spare, the Garmin directed me down a dead end street to tell me I was "arriving at [my] destination." Thankfully that Garmin error rarely happens!

I do have to admit though that there are other times when I have purposely gotten off the directions that this Garmin was telling me to go. Once that happens the almost-human like Garmin voice starts in with its loud warning "Recalculating . . . recalculating." These days, millions of drivers recognize those words, or others like them, as a sign they've gone off track or missed a turn. The Garmin not only recognizes when a driver is off course, but immediately begins plotting a new path to get them back on track.

Sometimes followers of Jesus need help to get back on track spiritually. We may intentionally veer off course because we think we know best, or drift away slowly, failing to notice we're moving further and further from the walk God wants with us.

God has not left us on our own, however. He has given all believers the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17; 1 Cor. 3:16), who convicts us of our sin (John 16:8,13). When we're going off course, He sounds the alarm and triggers our conscience (Gal. 5:16-25). We may try to ignore the warning, but we do so to our own detriment (Isa. 63:10; Gal. 6:8).

Are you drifting off course in your life? What comfort to know that God is at work in our lives through the convicting work of the Holy Spirit! (Rom. 8:26-27). With the Holy Spirit's prodding and guidance we are steered back to the path of faith (Ephesians 1:13-14) that will one day take us to our final destination, our heavenly home!

In His grace,
Pastor Bruce H. Lesemann



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

Pastor Lesemann's devotion was based on Ephesians 4:32: "Center of Forgiveness." God has forgiven us much. We must forgive others and work together.

Treasurer - Karen Fletcher

This is, verbatim, Karen's printed and submitted report:

"I have been busy doing the treasurer's duties and government reports and forms for 2013. Please refer to the annual for 2012 figures. Our January total income was \$19,457.00 and expenses were \$17,625.81.

"Our balance in the checkbook to pay bills is running very low. I fear a snowstorm and no church service could make us late with payroll. Your continued support is so much needed and **appreciated!**

"We are reminded it is necessary and important to direct your choice dollars this year if you are a Thrivent member. These funds have been very helpful, especially in getting our Capital Improvement fund going.

"Renaë Norwood had surgery to replace her shoulder the end of January. She will be off work for some time for recovery and rehab. Her salary is replaced with workman's comp funds during this time. We appreciate all those who labor in her absence.

"If you have any particular questions, feel free to call me anytime at 712-272-4611."

**** Minutes continue on the next page****

Board of Trustees - Kevin Jesse

The trustees and the carpet committee are getting colors and samples and finalizing options and estimates from carpet stores. No exact date has been set for the installation yet. The board will move as soon as details are finalized.

After a lengthy discussion with Gary Nepple and Christian Brothers Heating, the trustees are reweighing the need and the cost of replacing the roof furnace at this time.

Board of Lay Ministers - Harlan Matasovsky

The times for Holy Week and Easter services: Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm, with Holy Communion; Good Friday, 7:00 pm; no Saturday service on March 30; Easter sunrise service at 7:00 am, breakfast at 8:00 am, and worship with Holy Communion at 9:00 am.

Board of Youth - Jerry Johnson

Thank you for supporting the pie sales. The board is planning meetings for the Youth Gathering this summer.

Pastor Lesemann

Pastors Lesemann and Ketcham are meeting with Iowa District West officials and two groups of Sudanese to help them get together to pick a leader and a place to worship.

One of the two district PING meetings (Promote—Inspire—Nurture—Go) for LWML ladies is March 9th.

The Iowa District West meeting dealing with Ablaze grants will be March 16th.

**** The minutes continue on the next page****

Executive Director - Henry Hardt

The trustees are working on coordinating our Concordia disability policy with workers' compensation for Renae. Henry has asked the trustees to look at our insurance policy and assess the risks to accidents happening in the church and to the youth at the Youth Gathering (we will be using Grace Lutheran's van).

On February 2 Hardt filed the biennial report required by the Iowa Secretary of State. It is good for two years.

The next parish planning meeting is March 17. The next voters' meeting is July 7 at 11:15 am.

Hardt adjourned the meeting at 11:47. We closed by praying the Lord's Prayer.

Ladies' Aid

The Ladies' Aid met on February 6 with Marilyn Mittelstadt as the hostess. Pastor Lesemann led the opening devotion which focused on two Bible texts: "Go ye into all the world" and "There is no other name under heaven whereby we can be saved." Pastor also led the topic based on the book, *You Lost Me*. This prompted a lively discussion on societal issues which relate to the younger "Mosaic" generation and its attitudes towards religion.

Roll call was answered by relating a Christian service one has found meaningful.

Our church—and our church ladies—will be busy assisting in food service for various meetings being held at the church. The group was asked to provide cookies for the coffee break during the Circuit Bible Institute on February 10th. The District will hold its Ablaze Winter Dinner at the church on March 17th; ladies will be needed to help serve the catered meal. The District LWML will hold one of its PING workshops on March 9th at St. John, and again help is needed in serving that day.

It was announced that the boxed cards currently in the church office are now available at \$4.50 per box.

The group voted to assist the congregation by paying for the new blinds that were hung in the replaced windows on the north side of the education building.

Here He Comes - Again

By: Celeste Cummins

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

To kids, aren't the years spent leading up to Confirmation pretty much summed up as get through the books, get Confirmed, so we'll know it all, and then we'll never have to study the Bible again?? I think that's what my class thought (and as much as our Pastor made us memorize, we were pretty sure it *had* to be true, too. There was no way we'd ever be able to discover any more from the Bible)! Yet, it amazes me that each time I read a verse or section in the Bible, I learn something new from it. Such was the case again tonight in church when Pastor read the Scripture lesson for this second Wednesday of Lent. Verse 31 of Luke 22 caught my attention, "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat."

Did you hear what I did when Pastor read those words? Three simple words: "Satan has asked." I thought, 'This is the second time it states that the devil has asked for God's permission to destroy someone.' My mind immediately went back to the story of Job (Job 1:6-13). Satan had been roaming the earth and came before God. During the discussion, Satan says the only reason Job trusts in God is because he's been so blessed. Then, Satan basically asks permission from God to see if he can destroy Job's faith. We know Satan was not successful. Job maintained his faith and was blessed by God even more than he had been.

Here Satan appears again seeking permission to destroy a faithful follower. Peter is the devil's sought after victim this time. The devil fairs a little better with Peter, since he is successful at getting him to deny Jesus three times. However, Peter immediately realized what he'd done so he "went outside and wept bitterly" (Luke 22:62). But, Peter's story does not end there. In Luke 22:32, Jesus continued telling him, "I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." Was Peter able to strengthen his fellow believers? Yes! Who do you think wrote the books 1 and 2 Peter?

This "seek and destroy" attitude of Satan should not surprise us. Later, in his sermon, Pastor even mentioned 1 Peter 5:8, "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." These words from *the very disciple* who Satan sought to devour!

We are not exempt from Satan, either. He seeks after Christians who are strong in their faith hoping to lead them astray and snatch them for himself. So often, we feel like we are the only one who is suffering, who is undergoing emotional conflict, who struggles with the decisions of the past. But, we are not alone. Others struggle, too, although we may not

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realize it as we are so self-absorbed, focusing our attention only on our problems. It is Peter himself who gives us the advice to follow in situations when we are attacked by Satan and feeling alone or forsaken, “Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings” (1 Peter 5:9).

Yes, God did turn Peter’s situation around. He took Peter’s weakest moment and turned it into a situation where he learned and was able to strengthen others. Just as God cared for Peter and used him (despite his flaws), God cares for each of us and will use us, despite our flaws!



The Minutes of the January Voters’ Meeting will be posted on the bulletin board.

A 90th Birthday Celebration for Doris Gutz will be held on Sunday, March 3rd during Coffee Hour. Please come to wish Doris a happy birthday and enjoy some cake.

Thank you for supporting the mission work of Rev. Carl and Chen-Hsi Hanson and Kathryn Ziegler through your gift of \$120.

Lutheran Family Service would like to thank the members of St. John for the \$110 it received as a result of our Christmas Eve 2012 offering. “We will use it to serve those who come to us for help in this New Year who don’t have the ability to pay for the full cost of the help that they need. Your partnership with us in this ministry to families throughout Iowa is needed, valued and appreciated.”

Christian Estate Planning - Have you included a gift to our congregation in your will or trust? By doing so you can continue your support for our mission even after you have gone to be with the Lord. For a gift planning meeting before you meet with your attorney, contact our congregation’s Christian Estate Planning Counselor Jim Schroeder at 515-490-7371 or jim.schroeder@idwlcms.org.

Annual Report - The annual report is in progress. It is my goal to have it finished and ready on March 1st or 8th. Thank you for your patience ☺



Your donation of Easter lilies for the Easter services will be very much appreciated. Your Easter lily will be purchased and delivered to the church for a cost of \$10.00 each or you may bring your own. If you decide to supply your own, please have it wrapped in gold or purple paper, bring it to church by Maundy Thursday, and (if you would like it returned to you) please write your name on the bottom of the pot. You may give them in memory or in honor of someone, or in honor of a particular occasion. Please fill in the form below so the names and occasions are accurately listed (please print).

INSTRUCTIONS...

Please return this form by Monday, March 25, 2013 by one of several options

- Mailing it to the church office or dropping it off in the secretary's mailbox
- Emailing it to stjohnstormlake@gmail.com
- Calling the church office with the necessary information (732-2400)

JESUS LIVES! THE VICTORY IS WON! ALLELUIA!

The Easter lilies are beautiful expressions of praise during our Festival Services of Celebration on Easter Sunday.

ON THIS MOST HOLY DAY OF DAYS
BE LAUD AND JUBILEE AND PRAISE.
TO GOD YOUR HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE.
ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

Easter lily given in memory of _____
(Name)

By _____
(Name)

Easter lily given in honor of _____
(Occasion or Name)

By _____
(Name)

Easter lily may also be given in joyful celebration for Jesus' triumphant resurrection from the dead by _____
(Simply state your name)

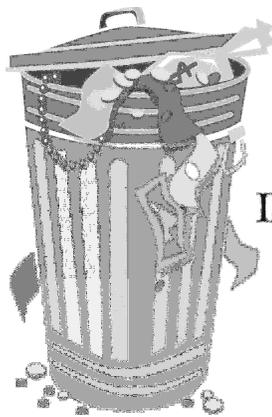
It's all Rubbish!

By: Celeste Cummins

What's important to you? The flat screen TV on your wall? The SUV in your garage? Your money in the bank? The impressive string of letters following your name from all the degrees you have earned? At one point the apostle Paul may have thought those things were all important and impressive, too, because he wrote, "If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more" and he goes on to list his qualifications (Philippians 3:4). But, after doing so, he concludes, "But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ...I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ" (Philippians 3:7-8).

A college degree, garbage? A flat screen TV, garbage? Money and an SUV, garbage? Well, yes, in a way, because when you think back on your life, what will be the most important thing that you want your loved ones to remember about you? Your bank account? Your big house? Your fancy car? That's not how Paul wanted to be remembered. He gladly gave up everything in life just to know Jesus.

How many of us would give up everything we owned to be faithful to Jesus and follow Him? It was a concept that Jesus posed to the rich young man in Matthew 19:16-22, but "he went away sad, because he had great wealth." It's also a reality for people in foreign countries. Many are forced to give up their possessions and be disowned by their family after they become Christians. It reminds me of Jesus' words in Matthew 10:35, "I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother," etc. Family members may reject you. Often possessions and relationships have to be sacrificed in order to follow Jesus. Despite what we lose in this life, Jesus' words remain true, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).



Everything else is
WORTHLESS when
compared with the
INFINITE VALUE
of knowing
Christ Jesus
my Lord.
Philippians 3:8, NLT

M i s s i o n s p o t l i g h t

As room permits in the newsletter, we will take an opportunity to feature some of the LCMS missionaries that St John has supported and some who you may not have heard about yet. In last month's newsletter, one of the missionaries we met was John Rodewald. Do you know that his brother, Mike, is also a missionary? **Mike and Cindy Rodewald**, along with their three sons, are missionaries in South Africa, where Mike serves as the regional director of Africa (hmmm...maybe Kristin will meet him while she's there). He also directs the work of the missionaries in Ghana, Guinea, Kenya and South Africa, as well as supervising the LCMS projects throughout the region. Cindy helps out as the volunteer coordinator for South Africa. Their home congregation is St. Paul's Lutheran in Concordia, MO. Both Mike and Cindy have prior mission work experience. Mike was a missionary in Liberia with Lutheran Bible Translators from 1981-1987. Following their marriage, Mike and Cindy served with LBT in Liberia and Botswana from 1990-2007.

Carl and Chen-Hsi Hanson, along with their 3 daughters, continue to receive financial support from St. John. The Hanson family lives in Hong Kong, where Carl has served as the area facilitator since 2004. In November, their family attended a Grace Place retreat for LCMS missionary families serving in Asia. Because of budget constraints, missionaries in that area have not gathered since 2004, making this the first time that many of those families have met each other. Carl said, in part, "to be together as families was a real blessing and one we will soon not forget." Emma, the Hanson's 12 year old daughter, said she liked "swimming in the pool, eating yummy Thai food, and being with Dad, who travels to other countries for work." But best of all Emma thought was spending time with other children who "understood what it is like being a missionary kid." (www.lcmsworldmission.org)

We who have never gone to a foreign country to tell others about God do not understand the challenges these families face as they live among a different culture, a different language, and far away from their families. Thank God for these families who are willing to travel and experience a new life so that others can learn about Jesus, their Savior.



LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

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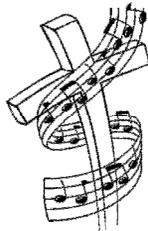
To God be all the Glory.

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

Special Music

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

The choir
rehearses each
Wednesday
during Lent at
7:45 pm. Please
join us!



WE WELCOME YOU TO
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

March Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Naomi Benna, Denise Betts, Lloyd Bumann

Greeters: **Saturday**
Still available

Sunday
Willis & Lorna Lussman

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

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Lloyd Bumann

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

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Still available

The KAYL Broadcast for this month
is sponsored by Doug & Sharen Peters.

Altar Flowers

3 - In memory of Lowell and Joy Peters
by Doug and Sharen Peters.

10 - Russ Tillman's birthday

17 - In honor of our 29th anniversary
by Dave and Lona Stille.

24 - Harlan and Deb Matasovsky's 30th
anniversary.

31 - Still available