

2014



# MARCH

## LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Ash Wed. March 5th - 7:00 pm Worship with H.C.

Wed. March 12th, 19th, & 26th - 12:30 pm & 7:00

YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT  
FOR YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

# St. John Eagle

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

Phone: 712-732-2400

Email: stjohstormlake@gmail.com

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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).

## Message from Pastor Lesemann

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### The Lord's Prayer

*“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”* (Mark 1:35) How about you? Did you begin your day with prayer? Martin Luther once commented, “As it is the business of tailors to make clothes, so it is the business of Christians to pray...” and Jesus is our best example!

The disciples were not blind to His example. As it states in Luke 11:1, *“Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray...”* In response to the disciple's request He taught them how and for what to pray.

We have two accounts of what He taught them and interestingly the Lord's Prayer appears in two forms, the shorter version in Luke 11:2–4 and the longer version, part of the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 6:9–13. Either way, for the countless generations that have followed these, they have served as a guide for the proper model of prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is comprised of seven petitions, which are divided up very much like the Ten Commandments. The first three petitions deal with our relationship toward God—vertical—and the last four petitions deal with the horizontal relationships we have with others. Likewise, the first great commandment is to love the Lord, and the second great commandment is to love your neighbor. And logically God should come first in our prayers; His counsel and will should be the great priority in our lives. But we must also not neglect our relationships on earth, which is why Jesus' model includes those around us.

Now even though Jesus taught this prayer, most Christian theologians do point out that Jesus would have never used this prayer to apply to himself, for it specifically asks for forgiveness of sins or, more literally, for cancellation of debts, and as we know, Christ never sinned. However since it says "forgive us our sins", not "forgive me my sins", Christ might have prayed it by way of identifying himself with the common plight of man and of asking for the forgiveness of the sins of his disciples.

Would you like to know more about the Lord's Prayer? Join us for our upcoming Lenten Services which will focus on this wonderful prayer that our Lord has taught us!

In His grace,  
Pastor Lesemann

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# CHURCH COUNCIL

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Parish Planning Council Meeting

Sunday, February 16, 2014

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

Pastor Lesemann's devotion was based on Psalm 20:4 "In God We Trust..." for everything, in good times and bad, as we face the daily battles of life.

Board of Trustees - Dave Dose

- The mailboxes are too small and too numerous. They may be dismantled and reconstructed.
- Because of the exhaust fan above the stove, the kitchen is cold. The trustees are looking to resolve that issue.
- Les Grunig's memorial money will buy a new (and another) lawn mower. The trustees may sponsor a safety training for lawn-mowing volunteers.
- The trustees are reviewing the janitorial position of St. John.

Treasurer – Karen Fletcher

We are current on all of our bills and have about \$15,000.00 in the Home Fund and \$55,750.00 in the Capital Improvement Fund. I will combine and list the offerings for the months of December and January to various missions for your information.

Mission Central (which includes birthday offerings)	\$1,226.00
Missions (Iowa District West on offering envelopes)	\$1,054.00
Friendship Fund	\$ 666.00
Initial Offering (for 1 <sup>st</sup> Eng. Luth. School – Spencer)	\$ 302.00
Dennis Denow (Missionary who visited St. John)	\$ 172.00
Lutheran Family Service (Holiday offerings)	\$1,320.00

Your support of our home fund and special offerings are needed and very much appreciated. We ask God to continue to bless our finances and give HIM THANKS for our generous members who make all of the above possible.

Pastor Lesemann

As the senior counselor, Pastor will meet with the IDW LWML in Carroll during the late afternoon of February 21<sup>st</sup> through the early afternoon of February 22<sup>nd</sup>. He will attend the IDW pastoral conference in Sioux City on February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

The lay ministers are contacting delinquent members to certify their desire to continue membership at St. John.

Ash Wednesday service with Holy Communion will be at 7:00 pm on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Beginning March 12<sup>th</sup>, Lenten services will be held on Wednesdays from 12:30 – 1:00 and from 7:00 – 7:30. On a Wednesday to be announced, there will be a Lenten meal at 5:00 pm before the 7:00 service; no 12:30 service will be held that day.

Executive Director – Henry Hardt

Hardt has appointed Dave Dose the St. John delegate to the annual meeting of Camp Okoboji on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.

The next voters' meeting is July 6, 2014 at 11:15 am in the Sanctuary. The parish planning council is asking for six volunteers to serve on a nominating committee to prepare a slate of candidates for each 2015 board and board director to be voted on at said meeting. For that reason, Hardt has also asked each current board director to please provide a list of vacancies on his/her board.

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

## **LADIES AID NOTES**

St. John Ladies' Aid met on February 5th at 1:30 pm for its regular meeting. Janet Glasgow was the hostess serving lunch. President Donna Truelsen presided, and announced the birthdays for the months of January and February.

The opening devotion was led by Suzanne Winterhof who used the LWML devotion resource informing the group of the Mite project supporting Nord Est Lutheran School in Haiti. The group joined in a responsive prayer for its leaders and students.

Pastor Lesemann presented the topic. Keeping with February's "Love" theme, he presented the ten most popular Bible texts on the subject of love.

Twelve members answered roll call by reciting a Bible verse using the word "love." Three guests were also present.

Nyarok Chan, with the help of Paul Chuol, presented the need of a car for church work in Sudan as the cost of car rentals is extremely high. The Sudanese Lutheran Missionary League in America is supporting this project and asking each of its deaconesses to donate \$100 to the project. Nyarok asked the Ladies' Aid for the funds to make this donation which was approved by the group.

Marge Manteufel reported that she had contact with 20 shut-ins at Christmastime. Boxes have been packed for delivery to Orphan Grain Train when the weather permits.

## **CFS**

Christian Fellowship Society met on Sunday, February 23, with 17 members and 6 guests present. Jerry & Dianne Johnson led devotions reminding us that the principle of presenting offerings to God goes back to the time of Cain and Abel. The group resolved to purchase 20 stackable chairs for use in the library and Fireside rooms.

Harlan and Deb Matasovsky presented the program recounting their trip to South Africa at Christmastime in narration and pictures. We marveled at the beautiful scenery and the indigenous animals of the area. The disparity in living conditions was also noted. A display of native arts and crafts added interest to the program.

The evening concluded with refreshments served by Bob & Marleen Otto and Connie Stille.

## **FUNERAL SERVICES**

Funeral services for Hugh Sharp were held on February 14, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. Following the service, a luncheon was served. Group 1 was in charge. Scalloped potatoes and ham casserole and buns were catered by Hy-Vee. In addition, salads, bars, or cakes were provided by our members. Those furnishing or serving the food included Lois Sahl, Pat Boisen, Linda Falck, Patty Barnes, Carolyn Goecke, Deb Jesse, Judy Krebs, Jolene Davis, Claire Benna, Donna Bumann, Lori Dicks, Donna Dose, and Kyle Cejka. Thank you to everyone who helped or furnished food.

Funeral services for John Oatman, age 86, were held on February 19, 2014 at 10:30 am. Following the service, a luncheon was served. Group 2 was in charge. Scalloped potatoes and ham casserole and buns were catered by Hy-Vee. In addition, salads, bars, or cakes were provided by our members. Those furnishing or serving the food included Donna Truelsen, Karen Fletcher, Carolyn Goecke, Deb Jesse, Linda Falck, Suzanne Winterhof, Sheila Jesse, Mary Hansen, LaVerne Grigsby, Laura Bumann, Judy Krebs, Denise Ballou, Cindy Gillman, Barb Walters, Amanda Emery, Marilyn Mittelstadt, Delores Holliday, Kathy Jesse, Laurie Gaffney, Lisa Goodman, Lois Sahl, Cindy Hoffard, Lynn Hardt, Doris Gutz, and Lil Cornell. Additional workers were Ron Falck, Kevin Jesse, Bob Fletcher, Denise Betts, and Bob & Marleen Otto. Thank you to everyone who helped or furnished food.

### **“My Father is with Me”**

By: Celeste Cummins

“I’m lonely.” Have you ever heard those words? Sometimes, people are afraid to admit it. Other times, we can understand why someone is lonely. Their spouse had died. Their kids are grown and moved away (or maybe they never had any kids). Their friends and neighbors have moved from the area. They moved to a nursing home and are no longer able to get out and socialize like they had. In some cases, a person may be surrounded by family, friends, and coworkers yet still be lonely.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines lonely as “being without company” or “cut off from others.” How many times during the Passion story does that definition fit Jesus? The three disciples He took with Him in the Garden while He prayed fell asleep (Matt 26:36-46); Judas, His friend and disciple, betrayed Him (Matt 26:47-50); all of the disciples fled during His arrest in the Garden (Matt 26:56b); Peter, another disciple and close friend, denied knowing Him three times (John 18:15-18 and 25-27); no one was mentioned as being with

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Him when He was on trial before Annas, Caiphas, and Pilate (John 18:12-14, 19-24, and 28 – 19:16); on the cross, He was mocked by the crowds (Luke 23:35-39); only one disciple and a few women witnessed His crucifixion (John 19:25-27); in His death, only Joseph and Nicodemus cared enough to bury Him (John 19:38-42).

How lonely and forsaken Jesus must have felt! Our Good Friday service at St. John for 2013, put it this way, “Is there a greater pain or wound in life than to have those whom you love turn on you, your friends betray you and disown you?”

Imagine your closest friends, your spouse, your business partner, your brother or sister betraying you, leaving you, forsaking you. It’s hard to imagine. Yet, it happened to Jesus – His closest friends all left Him.

Though you may feel lonely, sad, and sorrowful if something like that ever happens to you, Jesus words put it into perspective and offer us hope. Talking to His disciples, He said, “But a time is coming, and has already come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave Me all alone. Yet, I am not alone, for My Father is with Me” (John 16:32). Often, we look around and we do not see anyone beside us, anyone there with us, so we get the idea that we are alone, abandoned by everyone. That reminds me of the poem, “Footprints in the Sand.”

*One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the Lord.*

*When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.*

*This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."*

*The Lord replied, "My precious, precious child, I love you and would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."*

As the poem shows us, we are never alone. There is always Someone with us – our Heavenly Father. Just as He remained with Jesus during His betrayal, trial, and crucifixion, He has promised to remain with us, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5).



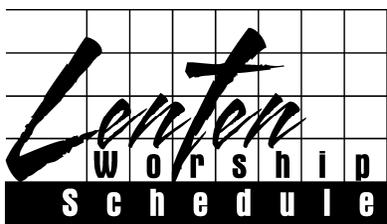
**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS** - March 9th is a very important date; Set your clocks ahead or you might be running late!

**THANK YOU** - The LCMS Office of Mission Advancement has sent St. John three thank you's for donations given to the following missionaries: Sean Harlow (\$854.00), Rev. Dale and Suzanne Kaster (\$250.00), and Dennis and Monta Denow (\$172.00).

**CORNERSTONE FOR LIFE BANQUET** - Storm Lake's new pregnancy resource center, Cornerstone for Life, will soon be holding our First Annual Banquet for Life! It will take place on April 14th at 6:00 pm at Bethel Baptist Church in Newell. Tickets may be purchased for \$15 each or you may sponsor a table of 8 for \$100 by contacting Alan Mitchell (213-0880).

**UNITY POINT HOSPICE** is offering a six part orientation and training course for volunteers beginning Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and continuing each Monday night through May 12<sup>th</sup>. Orientation will take place from 6:00 – 9:00 pm each week at the Kallmer Education Center of BVRMC. For more information, contact Cindy Smith (749-2741) or email her [Cynthia.Smith@unitypoint.org](mailto:Cynthia.Smith@unitypoint.org).

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** - Beginning Thursday, March 6, 2014, Brad Smith, local funeral director, will begin leading a seven week grief support group for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one or friend. For more information or to register, please contact Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home (732-1911), Sliefert Funeral Home (732-5010), Mahaney Funeral Home (288-4461), or UnityPoint Hospice (749-2741).



Our Lenten Worship schedule begins on Ash Wednesday evening, March 5th at 7:00 pm for a worship service with Holy Communion.

On each of the following Wednesdays, we will have a worship service at 12:30 pm, as well as an evening service at 7:00 pm.

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

This month's Mission Spotlight will focus on a missionary right here in Storm Lake: you! Have you ever seen how Gary Thies at Mission Central addresses the letters to us? He calls us "The Honorable Missionaries at St. John Lutheran Church." Have you ever thought of yourself as a missionary? Probably not. Most people think of a missionary as someone who puts all their belongings in storage and heads off to a foreign country for a number of years to tell others about Jesus. That is certainly the most obvious form of a missionary, but is there more to being a missionary than that? There must be, if you consider the way Gary addresses us. Why would Gary call us missionaries? There are a number of reasons.

The most obvious way to be a missionary without ever leaving your home is to pray. It is through prayer and our requests that people who are hearing the Word become receptive to it. We can follow those prayers with specific petitions for protection, safety, guidance, and wisdom for the missionaries and their families who are currently serving in foreign countries.

The second way is by financially supporting those who are abroad. That is the whole idea behind Gary Thies and his work at Mission Central. The missionaries who have been sent overseas rely on financial support from people back in the US so that they can remain where they are and do their work.

The next way is by attending the presentations of current missionaries at Mission Central or at St. John when they come back on furlough. It is a good way to keep in touch with them and the specific work they do. Plus, through their pictures, you are able to take a "mini vacation" to the land they are serving without the hassle of actually traveling there ☺

*\*\* This article continues on the next page. \*\**

The final way is something you are already doing, but you can carry it a step farther. Many of you have already brought in plastic shopping bags that will be used to create mats for people in foreign countries, but you can proceed to the next step and learn how to crochet these bags into mats. There are several women in the congregation who are already making these mats. I've spoken to some of them and received directions for the different stages that the project involves. For those of you who would like to try making a mat on your own, just follow the steps below. If you get stuck or need further help, I'm sure any of these ladies would be happy to assist you, give you personal lessons, or show you step by step how to make the mats, just call the office and I can contact one of them for you.

First, unwrinkle the bag and fold it three times with the bottom at one end and the handles on the other. Cut off and discard the bottom section and the handles.

Then, cut the remaining part of the bag into 2" strips.

Next, unfold the strips and loop/string them together. Make sure to pull them together tightly to make a good knot. After you have a bunch looped together, you can roll them into a ball to make "plarn" (plastic yarn).

The next step is to use a basic single crochet and begin turning the "plarn" into a mat. Adult mats measure 3 feet wide by 6 feet long.

A bit of trivia: the ladies estimated it takes 400-500 shopping bags to create one mat. That's a lot of trips to Walmart!

The ladies who have been making these tell me it's a relaxing project that they like to do while they are watching TV, which makes the time pass quickly and soon they are done. There must be several relaxed ladies at St. John because we have sent 14 mats overseas with Orphan Grain Train since we began this project! It's not too late for you to start your own relaxing project!



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

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**To God be all the Glory.**

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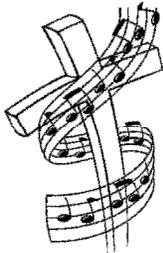
We're on the Web! Http:  
[//www.stjohnstormlake.org](http://www.stjohnstormlake.org)

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### **Special Music**

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

The choir rehearses each Wednesday during Lent at 7:45 pm.



### **March Worship Assistants**

**Altar Guild:** Diane Krueger & Marleen Otto

**Greeters:** **Saturday**  
Bob & Karen Fletcher  
**Sunday**  
Denise & Dewey Betts

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

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

**Acolytes:** **Saturday, 6:00 p.m.**  
Haley Redenbaugh  
**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**  
Bradyn Mack

The KAYL Broadcast for this month is sponsored by Lois Lytle.

### **Altar Flowers**

2nd - In memory of Les & Ione Millard by Ron & Linda Falck

9th - Bill & Randy Tutt's Birthdays

16th - 80th Birthday of Lorna Lussman

23rd - Harlan & Deb Matasovsky Anniversary

30th - In memory of Lowell & Joy Peters by Doug & Sharen Peters

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