

2015



# March

YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT  
FOR YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

## St. John Eagle



Come Worship at  
St. John during Lent

### LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays (March 4, 11, 18, & 25) 12:30 & 7:00 pm

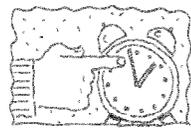
Palm Sunday (March 29) 9:00 am

Maundy Thur. (April 2) 7:00 pm with Holy Communion

Good Friday (April 3) 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday (April 5) 7:00 am Sunrise Service  
9:00 am Worship with H.C.

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SET YOUR CLOCKS  
**Ahead!**

For Sunday  
morning,  
March 8th

**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).

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ST. JOHN EAGLE

## Message from Pastor Lesemann

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### Spring is Right Around the Corner

*"Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth."* Hosea 6:3

It's almost March 20<sup>th</sup>...Spring is just around the corner! Looking outside though, that is kind of hard to believe. It's cold and there's a half a foot of snow on the ground. Spring does NOT seem right around the corner!

Many times in our lives we experience the cold of trouble, tragedy and sorrow. As we experience these troubles it is hard for us to feel the warmth of God's love around us. It may cause us to wonder, "Will the troubles never end?" And when things go "bad" in our lives, it is easy to forget that God IS near and that we are in His loving care. It's hard to be joyful when what we are going through is all BUT joyful.

But God does promise that if we acknowledge Him, He will take care of us as it says in Isaiah 41:10, "***So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.***" And Jesus promises that he is with us always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20). We are not alone in our struggles – Jesus is with us!

Sometimes all that gets us through a difficult situation is knowing that it will at some point get better. And it will! God promises to be with us in our troubles and to bring us out of them. Although His timing might not be what we would choose, we can trust that He is faithful and will do it, whether it gets better here on earth, or not until we get to heaven.

Are you going through a "winter" of sorts in your life? Does the storm going on around you make it hard to see an end to the struggle? Take heart! Jesus is with you, and He will pull you through. And one day He will take us to the everlasting Spring of heaven.

In His grace,  
Pastor Lesemann

## **News from Organizations**

### CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SOCIETY

Do you find it difficult to confess your Christian faith when those around you think otherwise? Is it easier to keep quiet and go along with the crowd? Those were issues that surfaced as the Christian Fellowship Society viewed the movie, "God's Not Dead," at its meeting January 25. It also made us realize the impact that just one willing to speak up for the faith can have.

Harlan Matasovsky led opening devotions, and refreshments were served by Donna Truelsen and Lois Lytle. We were happy to have three guests join us for the evening.

### LADIES' AID

Beautifully decorated Valentine cookies were served by Barb Haynes when the Ladies' Aid met on February 4. Pastor Lesemann led the opening devotions and presented the topic based on information he had received at a recent district mission workshop. He shared statistics that while a majority of Americans consider themselves Christians, many are "unchurched." One survey considered an "unchurched" person as someone who had not attended a worship service in the last six months, and it showed 38% of people living in Buena Vista County are "unchurched." He outlined these actions that can be taken by every member:

Pray that the Holy Spirit will work faith in the hearts of the unchurched

Pray for the pastors and church leaders

Pray for laborers who are willing to "work in the harvest"

Pray that you yourself will have a passion for the lost

Pray for a vision on how to best reach these people

Twelve members answered roll call by relating their favorite indoor winter activity which ranged from reading, needlework, watching sports TV, and when desperate, house-cleaning!

Human Care Chair Marge Manteufel reported that over 2000 pounds of clothing, quilts, and mats had been delivered to Orphan Grain Train. The group resolved to give \$50 toward the Biblesticks for Military collection. We are working to provide items needed at the 2015 National Convention for the Service Projects. Our closing meditation focused on the National LWML Grant to Lutheran Public Radio.

### MORE CFS NEWS

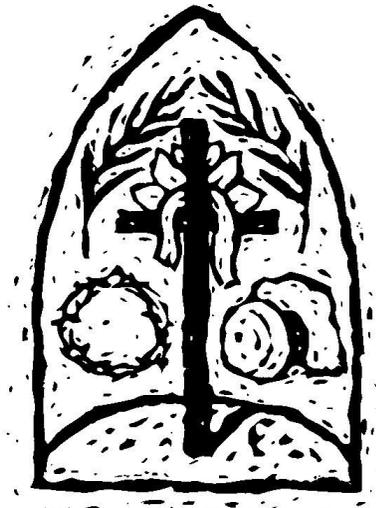
Nineteen members were present at the February meeting of CFS. Ray Mittelstadt's opening devotion asked the question, "What is Lent?" He reminded us that the Christian religion is the only one where God suffers for His people; most religions try to appease their gods and demand work-righteousness. That is why the Cross is at the center of our worship. We need the time of Lent to fully experience Easter joy.

The Fellowship Society was given a gift designated for mission work. The group decided to use this gift as a matching fund challenge to the youth who are gathering funds for an African mission: The Fellowship Society will match the youth's gift dollar for dollar up to \$200. The group also voted to help finance the Sudanese Mission Society dues.

The program for the evening was presented by David and Donna Dose who showed pictures and talked of their experience as Petal Pushers a year ago. They detailed the tedious labor that goes into building a float for the Rose Bowl Parade, but also the joy of knowing that your labor was recognized by producing a trophy winner. Their trip to the Los Angeles area included mission work at a homeless shelter on Skid Row.

Refreshments were served by Milt Swain (the Norwegian chef) and Lloyd Bumann.

During Lent,  
Thank God  
that Christ  
*gave up*  
everything...



so that you  
could *gain*  
everything!

## Our Failure, His Success

By: Celeste Cummins

The winner of the World Series. America's most handsome man. The multi-million dollar lottery winner. We remember those names because they are successful. But, what about the team that lost the World Series? Or the second most handsome man? Who were they? Chances are no one remembers (unless it was you or your favorite team)! In a word, they were failures. Nobody cares about the underdog...or do they?

In *The Message* translation of the Bible, Isaiah 53:2-5a reads, "The servant grew up before God – a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum. But the fact is, it was *our* pains he carried – *our* disfigurements, all the things wrong with *us*. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him – *our sins!*"

It *was* our failures that brought Jesus into the world. It was because of all the times we failed to do what we should have done or did what we should not have done that Jesus came into the world (Romans 7:19). God cared enough about our failures to send Jesus to erase them and clean us up. It reminds me of when kids draw on a dry erase board (a white board like the one on my office door). No matter what kind of a mess they have made or how many colors they have blended together, when they are done, you just erase it and it's clean again. Those drawings are like the failures (mistakes, sins) we have committed. Our white board was full of errors and a big mess, but God sent Jesus to wipe it all clean. Our multitude of failures and mistakes became His success. Because we could never get it "right," God sent Jesus to be successful for us.

"God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Corinthians 5:21). Praise God that He cared about us underdogs and covered our failures with Jesus' success!

# NEWS & Notes

**THE PARISH PLANNING MEETING** for March will be on March 22nd at 11:15 am in the Fireside Room. If you cannot attend, please submit your reports to Henry Hardt prior to the meeting.

**LENTEN SUPPER** - Parish Relations will be hosting a Lenten Supper before the final Lenten Service on Wednesday, March 25th. They will be serving subs with the fixings from 5:00 - 6:30 pm. Proceeds will go to the Capital Improvement Fund. Mark your calendars now to attend!

**March to the HEARTLAND!!** Have you decided on your mode of transportation to the LWML Convention? Check out the possibilities and begin planning. Your convention fund should be about complete. If not, it's time to pick up the pace and march. Convention Logo Polo Shirt mail orders need to be postmarked no later than May 15. The postmark deadline is June 1, to be able to pick up your shirt at the convention. Be looking for your worker assignment packet around the middle of April. Then register per the instructions provided. Pray for all plans to come together, that coordination of events is on schedule, and that our focus is on our best service to the One who offers nourishment. Please go to the host websites to view the Host Committee Convention Newsletter Bountiful Blessings. The websites are <http://idwlcms.org/lwmlnews.php> or <http://www.lwml-ied.org/>. "This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones" (Proverbs 3:8).

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** for the Representative Payee Program. This program assists older and disabled people of low income with money management matters such as writing checks, budgeting, and keeping track of financial matters. Newly retired people are ideal for this service. If you are able to help someone with their finances, please contact Sandra Kuhn (284-2282). You may also call Pam Bogue with questions about the program (749-2548).



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
MISSOURI SYNOD

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NOURISHMENT FOR YOUR SOUL  
THROUGH THE WORD.**

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Storm Lake, Iowa 50588  
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**To God be all the Glory.**

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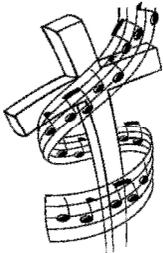
We're on the Web! Http:  
[//www.stjohnstormlake.org](http://www.stjohnstormlake.org)

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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 at 7:30 pm on Wednesday evenings.



### **March Worship Assistants**

**Altar Guild:** Diane Krueger & Lisa Goodman

**Greeters:** **Saturday**  
Ron & Jerene Neir

**Sunday**  
Jim & Renee Phillips

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

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

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

**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**  
Abigail Lesemann

The KAYL Broadcast for this month has been sponsored anonymously.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

1 - In honor of Lowell & Joy Peters by Doug & Sharen Peters

8 - Bill & Randy Tutt Birthdays

15 - In memory of our parents by Ron & Linda Falck

22 - Harlan & Deb Matasovsky (32nd anniversary)

29 - Still available - Palm Sunday Branches

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