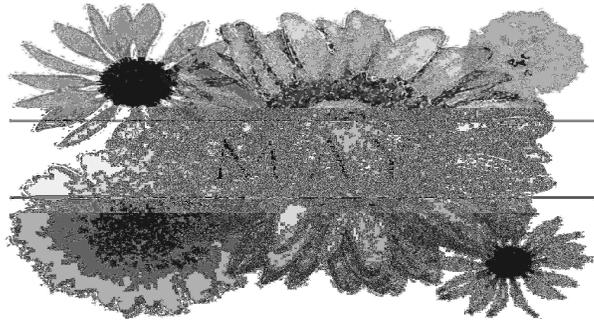


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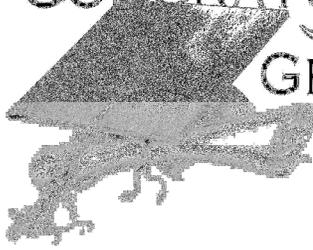


YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

St. John Eagle



CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR
GRADUATES!



We will honor our graduates during the 9:00 am service on Sunday, May 19, 2013.

Please come and worship with us that day and take the time to congratulate those young members of St. John who are finishing their high school education.

| | |
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In honor of Memorial Day, the office will be closed on May 27th.

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.

++++

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

KAYL 101.7FM.

++++++

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

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

(2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

In Bible class the other day as a part of the “Baptized for This Moment:” Bible study, we ran across these verses above from 2 Corinthians. It is one of those sections of scripture that make you stop and think “Is this text talking to me?”

The basic application of the text conveys that whatever we do for God, if we can’t do it cheerfully, we shouldn’t do it at all. This begs the question though, if we seriously applied this to all our giving of ourselves and our blessings, would anything get done in the church? Because the truth is we have all offered something or helped in some way because we were “guilted” into doing it!

So what is the problem here? The problem is in us. We sometimes downplay the enormous gift that we have been given. What God has given us in Christ is a priceless, incalculably valuable gift, that is, our forgiveness and eternal life. Nothing of ourselves could ever begin to pay for what we have in Christ. Yet sometimes that is what we subconsciously think we are doing when we give to the church, in our offerings, or in volunteering our time. We often think, “I’ve done enough,” or “I’ve done my time,” or “I’ve done way more than most people have done, and that should be enough.” But whatever we do for God He wants us to do instead out of gratitude for the enormous gift He has given us in Jesus.

That joy of what we received, that gratitude for what has been done, is not to be contrived but sincere. Let me put it this way...if someone would ask you, “Are you happy Jesus paid the price for your sin?” I have no doubt that you would respond with an absolute YES! And if someone asked you, “Do you want others to know about what Jesus has done?” you again would respond with an absolute YES! Yet that verbal “yes” answer can also be answered by our actions...as in our cheerful giving of ourselves. Are you always joyful in the giving of your time? Thanks be to God that He forgives us when the gift of our time or money is not so cheerfully given.

I am pleased to tell you that the St. John offering plate has been a good example of cheerful giving! May God give us all (myself included) the strength to be cheerful also in the giving of ourselves to His work.

In His grace,
Pastor Lesemann



Executive Director Henry Hardt called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Pastor Lesemann's devotion was based on 1 Cor. 8:1, "Love Builds Up." Knowledge is good, but self seeking. Love builds up and is not self seeking. It's the oil of relationships. The greatest love of all is Jesus', and it was revealed on the cross. We are called to put the same kind of love to work every day.

Dave Dose - Board of Trustees

The carpet sample "Spam" was picked by the congregation and by Kathy Sorbe. Two larger samples are available outside Pastor's office, and the congregation is invited to take them into the sanctuary for a better look. There is some discussion on this board concerning moving the Communion rail forward two feet and also using a portable baptismal font.

The furnace is still a wide-open issue with many options being weighed, some of which hinge on the \$50,000 necessary to install a new electrical system in the church.

Otis Elevator will inspect our elevator, as per the law, for \$350.

Seth Norris will help us rent heavy equipment from the rental company in town as the church may require.

Renae remains on workman's compensation and disability. If this continues past May 1, Concordia will waive her fringe benefit costs to the congregation (approximately \$600 per month).

Bob Fletcher will fertilize and apply weed control for St. John's lawn this year. Lloyd Bumann will continue to do the majority of the mowing.

At the impetus of Dave's LERT training (Lutheran Emergency Response) and at the request of Hardt, the trustees will meet with our insurance agent and assess and, if necessary, make recommendations for St. John's risk management.

Jerry Johnson - Boards of Youth and Education

VBS will be hosted by Grace Lutheran this year (June 3-6). Volunteers are requested for Truth Train, the VBS theme. St. John will hold summer Sunday School (pre-K through 8th grade) beginning June 2. The program will be a continuation of "What's in the Bible with Buck Denver" focusing on the New Testament, specifically the journeys of Jesus.

The Youth Gathering will be in San Antonio, Texas, from July 1 -5. Our kids will leave June 28 and return July 7.

The Banana Bunch continues successfully every third Sunday of the month.

Midweek will wrap up in May. (Teachers for fall are needed). The last day of Faithbuilders is May 26. The youth will help with the St. John garage sale August 2, selling more "my pies."

The price of a new sound system is contained within the budget; therefore, Johnson will proceed with the same.

Karen Fletcher - Treasurer

All bills have been paid. For more information, see the printed report which accompanies these minutes. *(It is on page 7 of the newsletter).*

Bob Fletcher - Purchasing Agent

Fletcher believes this office helps to control spending.

*** Parish Planning Minutes continue on the next page***

Pastor Lesemann

The lay ministers approved Carmen Nikoley's transfer request.

Pastor's vacation schedule: June 22-23, June 27-30 (the LWML convention in Pittsburgh), Pastor Kuhn will be the speaker for these dates; and July 15-29.

St. John high school graduates will be honored during the May 19 worship service.

Henry Hardt - Executive Director

Hardt thanks the congregation for their timely contributions and reports all is well.

The next Parish Planning meeting will be May 19 at 11:15 am.

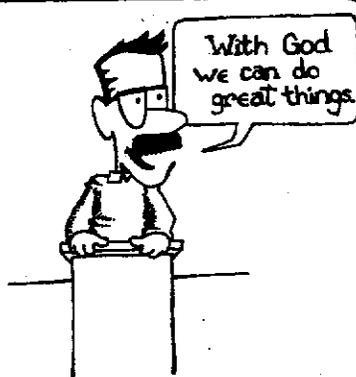
The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.

We closed by praying the Lord's Prayer.



**God equips us to do whatever
He calls us to do.**

**"I can do all things through Him
Who gives me strength."
(Philippians 4:13).**



Treasurer Report March 31, 2013 (1st Quarter)

Balances:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Home Checking Account | \$2,775.31 |
| Medical Deductible – set aside | <u>\$6,901.76</u> |
| Total Checking | \$9,677.07 |
| Designated Accounts – Savings | |
| Memorial | \$1,204.50 |
| Thrivent Fund | \$1,302.00 |
| Cap Improvement | \$63,689.52 |
| Snow Blower | \$1,305.25 |
| Organ Maintenance | \$1,000.00 |
| Sound System | <u>\$1,124.91</u> |
| Total Savings | \$69,626.18 |

FYI: During Holy Week, \$3,174 was added to Capital Improvement, making the total \$66,863.52 after Easter. These additional funds are added in the month of April.

Total income at St. John was \$56,544.97 and Expenses were \$53,387.16 for net income of \$3,157.81 at the quarter end.

Points of Interest:

Mission Offerings to Mission Central, Lutheran Family Service, and IDW totaled \$2,883.20

Friendship offerings (Ash Wednesday) were \$443.00

Capital Improvement receipts were \$3,752.60 (see note above)

Birthday offerings \$735.00

Memorials \$80.00

Your continued support is so much appreciated by St. John Lutheran Church.

Dear members: **THANK YOU ONE AND ALL, LARGE AND SMALL**

If there are any budget figures not mentioned above you are interested in, please contact me. I try to make my reports simple and easy to understand for your convenience.

In His Service,
Karen D. Fletcher

Ladies' Aid

St. John Ladies' Aid met on April 3, 2013, in the Church Assembly Room at 1:30 pm with Marvel Rosdail as the hostess. Donna Truelsen called the meeting to order and recognized the birthdays of Dee Phillips, Gladys Wilde, and Phyllis Southwick.

Donna led the opening devotions.

Phyllis Southwick presented the topic, "A Time to Mourn." With various members reading Bible selections, we were reminded how people of the Old and New Testament grieved and compared that to customs today.

Thirteen members answered roll call by relating their favorite pastime (hobby). These ranged from sewing to coupon clipping, but the overwhelming favorite seemed to be reading.

President Donna announced that the Zone LWML Rally would be at St. John, Alta, on April 22 with the theme "A Well Watered Garden." The in-gathering is to be items for the "Gifts from the Heart" at the national LWML Convention. Since transportation space is limited and everything must be hand-carried into the convention center, each society was asked to bring one item. We decided to donate a bath kit buying the necessary items out of the treasury. She also made the group aware of the assessment to each society to cover cost of printing the LWML portion of the district's HARVEST magazine.

Hostess for the May 1 meeting is Barb Hogrefe with topic by Pastor Lesemann. Laura Bumann will lead devotions. Roll call will be a memory of my grandmother. The nominating committee of Phyllis Southwick and Marleen Otto is scheduled to report.

The meeting was adjourned with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Winterhof,
Secretary

The Heavenly Vending Machine

By: Celeste Cummins

Don't you just love vending machines? You shove your dollar bill into the slot, push a button, and out pops whatever your heart desires. Magical. Instant gratification.

Kids think parents are like vending machines, too. "Daddy, I want an American Girl doll." Voila! The next day one magically appears on the little girl's bed. "Mommy, why can't I have a Wii like my friend has." Voila! When the kid comes home from school, a Wii is hooked up to the TV in the living room.

People think God is the ultimate vending machine, too. "Dear God, I'd love a bigger house. Amen." "Dear God, I need a good looking girl friend. Amen." "Dear God, a convertible would be great now that summer is coming. Amen." You just sit back and wait for those dreams to appear on your doorstep. That's how it works, right? God's the great genie in the sky whose every moment is spent thinking, "Your wish is my command." Uh, right???

If you spend too much time listening to those TV preachers, you may get that kind of an idea. So, just where do *they* get that idea from? Perhaps from verses like John 16:23b, which says, "My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name." Voila! The "vending machine" verse! Insert wish, dispense happiness. God is waiting to grant you whatever you request of Him.

To be honest, I have to confess when I was little if I wanted something really badly, I would add, "In Jesus Name, I pray. Amen" to my prayer. By praying that way, I was sure God would grant my request. After all, isn't that what this verse says? While "every good and perfect gift" comes down from above (James 1:17), God is not a genie who grants our every request just as we ask Him. Often His answer goes against our desires and leaves us terribly disappointed. Sometimes, in our humanness, we think God has to grant our request, but in His love, He does not. He knows what we are asking for is not in our best interest and may even be harmful to us. How do we come to grips with God's "no" and God's "not yet?" That is one of the hardest situations we will face – hearing "no" from a God who loves us so much and could do anything for us. My answer is a concept I am still trying to lean on. It is God's words to us in Isaiah 55:8, "For my thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are your ways my ways."

God's "no" may disappoint us, but His "yes" will be way better than anything we could imagine!



GRADUATION RECOGNITION - During the Sunday worship service on May 19th at 9:00 am, we will be honoring our high school graduates: Zachary Dicks, Rachael Jesse, Emily Johnson, Jesse Luedtke, Brent Mack, Megan Miller, and Matthew Statz. If we have overlooked anyone, please let Pastor or Celeste know.

PAID OFF - Concordia School Board President, Dave Friedrich, announced that all the debts from Concordia Lutheran School have been paid off!! What a wonderful blessing. Thank you to all who have contributed to eliminating this debt.

THANK YOU from the LCMS Office of Mission Advancement for the gift of \$235 that was received. It was used to support the mission work of Sean Harlow and Kristin Matasovsky.

CHRISTIAN ESTATE PLANNING - An easy way of leaving a gift to our congregation is through your life insurance beneficiary designation. You can include a percentage gift which comes directly to the congregation at your death and does not go through probate. For a gift planning meeting before you meet with your life insurance professional, contact our church's Christian Estate Planning Counselor Jim Schroeder at (515) 490-7371 or jim.schroeder@idwlcms.org.



THE TRUTH TRAIN (VBS) is coming to town! It will arrive June 3-6 from 9:00 am—noon at Grace Lutheran Church for children in Pre-Kindergarten through 4th grade, but help will

be needed before that. If you would like to donate food or money, help set up or tear down, teach, lead activities, or just “fill in” as needed, there’s a spot for you on the sign up sheets in the entryway. If you have questions, contact Jerry Johnson (732-2775) or johnson@bvuu.edu.

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Judy Newhouse will be at Mission Central at 1:30 pm on Saturday, May 25th. She is active as a GEO missionary in Hong Kong where she teaches English classes. 85% of the students in the school are not Christian. Judy shares the Gospel with her students and their families as she builds relationships with them inside and outside of the classroom. Judy's home congregation is Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Omaha, NE.



Also giving a presentation at Mission Central at 1:30 pm on May 25th will be **Jim and Ardith Vandercook**. Following their retirement from teaching for 40 years in parochial schools, the Vandercooks decided to try a new type of teaching experience. This one would lead them across the globe to teach English as Second Language (ESL) classes at Baoshan College in China. Their decision to go into mission work was prompted by their travels to Kenya in 2004 when they visited friends and did some humanitarian work while there.



Carol Halter is a veteran missionary who has been serving in Hong Kong since 1981. By the time you receive this newsletter, her presentation at Mission Central will be over (it is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 at 1:30 pm), however if you are interested in hearing about it, Gary would be glad to share more about what she is doing. In Hong Kong, Carol does humanitarian, evangelistic, and educational work among Chinese people of every age. Her desire is that all Chinese people will hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Since she is fluent in Cantonese, Carol is able to reach the people in their "heart language." She reaches out to the Chinese population by holding seminars, Bible classes, and counseling individuals. Carol's home district is California-Nevada-Hawaii and her birthday is December 29th.



LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

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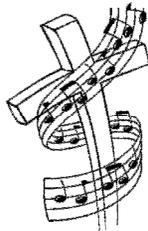
To God be all the Glory.

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 at
8:00 pm. Please
join us!



Altar Flowers

5th - In memory of Margaret Bumann
by Lloyd.

12th - In memory of Maurice &
Dorothy Hansen by Doug & Sharen
Peters.

19th - In memory of Nate Phillips.

26th - In memory of Min Lalone by
Donna Bumann.

WE WELCOME YOU TO
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

May Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Jan Magnussen & Linda Zabloudil

Greeters: **Saturday**
Still available

Sunday
Harlan & Deb Matasovsky

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

Henry Hardt
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Dave Dose

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

Still available

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Still available

The KAYL Broadcast for this month
is given to the Glory of God.