

2015



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT  
FOR YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

# St. John Eagle



MAY GRACE AND PEACE  
BE YOURS IN ABUNDANCE.

2 PETER 1:2, NRSV

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

Phone: 712-732-2400

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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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**Sunday School and H.S. Bible**

**Class begin at 10:30 am.**

In October, the classes will meet at St. John.



*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 is taking a break while he fills the Newell vacancy.

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ST. JOHN EAGLE

## Message from Pastor Lesemann

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*“You knit me in my mother’s womb . . . nor was my frame unknown to you when I was made in secret” (Psalm 139:13, 15)*

Planned Parenthood has been in the news quite a bit lately with their horrible practices that have come to light. Because of this, I was hoping that congress would defund Planned Parenthood, but that didn’t happen. Yet, I still have hope. In a devotion I read recently from Pastor Scott Murray of Memorial Lutheran Church in Huston, TX, I found that there is more that can be done! The answer came from a question a member asked him, “Pastor, I am frustrated by the wickedness of abortion, but what I can I do about it?” Here is his answer:

“What can you do? Tell your friends to watch the videos showing Planned Parenthood's callous disregard for the children being dismembered for body parts.

“What can you do? Use social media to get the truth out into the public. The old line media won't do it. We have to. The old line media are just the publicity arm for Planned Parenthood and the greater sexual revolution that gives rise to the murder and dismemberment of babies in PP clinics. The old line media no longer think of themselves as objective reporters. However, the average American still vaguely believes that they are objective. So when the old line media don't report on the devastating videos of PP employees hawking baby parts, average people are ether in the dark, or if they are vaguely aware that "something is going on," the non-reporting of this genocide leads them to conclude that there is nothing going on. "Just move on, people, there is nothing to look at here!" Let's not let this culpable silence keep us ignorant and quiet. Speak for those who can't speak for themselves! Let's be sheep only to the Good Shepherd, not sheep for the media wolves!

“What can you do? Call or write your representative or senator. Tell him or her that you don't want your tax dollars supporting Planned Parenthood, but rather legitimate health clinics giving women real health care. If he is courageously supporting life, thank him or her.

“What can you do? Collect diapers and take them to the local Crisis Pregnancy Center.

“What can you do? Join a pro-life organization and volunteer to help their work. There are lots. Choose one: Lutherans for Life, National Right to Life, etc.” [or our local Cornerstone for Life here in Storm Lake.]

“What can you do? Tell your children and grandchildren and love them enough to tell them how valuable life is. Teach them how much God loves every person that He offered His only begotten Son into death on the cross to redeem them.

*The rest of Pastor’s article continues on p. 7*

# VOTERS' MEETING MINUTES

St. John Voters' Meeting

Sunday, August 30, 2015

Executive Director Henry Hardt called the meeting to order. Twenty-nine communicant members were present.

Pastor's opening devotion was based on Galatians 5:13 and reminded us that we are "called to freedom but that through love we serve one another."

## **Unfinished Business:**

At each voters' meeting, we are to allocate accumulated Thrivent money (\$2,769 as of now), and Treasurer Karen Fletcher added for our consideration the \$415 in undesignated memorial funds. After some voters' suggestions, Suzanne Winterhof made a motion to designate these monies thusly: \$1,000 for organ maintenance, \$415 for the capital improvement fund, and \$1,769 to our employees' health reimbursement account (HRA). Seconded by Harlan Matasovsky, it passed with a majority vote.

Hardt explained that he and the trustees and the lay ministers were working on the Child Safety Policy and the Management Risk issues and would hopefully have them ready in September.

## **Treasurer's Report** (printed and available upon request)

Karen Fletcher revealed that St. John is \$20,000 behind what is needed and what was budgeted for this time in 2015. Our expenses subtracted from our current income equal a negative balance of \$5,472.57.

## **Committee Reports:**

### Harlan Matasovsky – Lay Ministers

Pastor's vacancy service at St. Peter, Newell, begins September 6. A leader for his Sunday morning Bible class is needed and also several lay ministers for this board.

#### Jerry Johnson – Young People and Christian Education

Due to a lack of volunteers at both churches, St. John and Grace will partner for Sunday School, pre-K through high school, the latter to have Sundays in September and November and the former in October and December. Grace will hold Rally Sunday on September 27, and St. John will have the Christmas Eve children's program.

Four Grace and St. John kids and their leaders will attend the national youth gathering next summer; plans are being made for the junior high gathering in October and the senior high one in November. Banana Bunch continues to meet monthly.

#### Dave Dose – Church Properties

Jim Zabloudil audited the books; they are in order.

Upon advice from electricians that our current service is adequate, the board decided that no update or transformer pad is needed from Mid-America.

Modern Heating will begin working on the new furnaces soon. Todd Felton had been contracted to replace the concrete in the northeast corner of the church at a cost of \$5,200. The board will be receiving and discussing estimates to replace the church's west door and the education building door.

#### **Executive Director:**

Because St. John is experiencing negative cash flow and because 70% of our budget is for wages and fringe benefits (a one week's offering each month), and because there will be a 4.82% increase in the Concordia health insurance plan (a \$1,644 increase from \$33,816 in 2015 to \$35,460), decisions must be made concerning our employees' health reimbursement accounts. Given many options, the trustees and lay ministers had recommended that these be reduced, not only to save St. John money but to balance this with a less impactful change for our employees.

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

After much discussion, Ray Mittelstadt made a motion to accept their recommendation: \$3,000 (down from \$4,000) for Pastor's HRA and \$1,500 (down from \$2,000) for Renae's and Celeste's. An amendment suggested and made by Karen Fletcher revised the motion to be \$2,000 for Pastor and \$1,000 for Renae and Celeste. This "friendly amendment" was seconded by Kevin Jesse. A secret vote was carried out (eyes closed, hands raised). Thirteen ayes and nine nays passed the motion. Note: This means that the HRA contribution by the congregation to Pastor and his family in 2016 is \$2,000 and that the HRA contribution by the congregation for Renae and Celeste is \$1,000 each. These changes do not affect the employees' Concordia health insurance plan for 2016.

**Administrative Boards:**

Harlan Matasovsky – Endowment Fund (printed and available upon request)

The fund was audited and was good. The report was printed on the two back pages of the voters' handout and is available upon request from Hardt. The board continues to need new members.

Jim Schroeder will hold an estate planning meeting here on September 27.

**New Business:**

Hardt asked for a volunteer to be the "Wellness Champion" of St. John and to encourage and model health and well-being among the members. As an incentive, Concordia Health Plan will hold the rate of their insurance increase in 2017 to 4.9%.

**Pastor Lesemann's State of the Parish Report**

Pastor thanked the lay ministers for allowing him to be the chairman of the Iowa District West missions committee.

The Newell St. Peter confirmands will join the St. John ones here for confirmation instruction. He will visit St. Peter's shut-ins and attend some of their meetings as well as hold their 10:45 Sunday morning services.

Some interest has been shown in having a big screen TV or two projectors and screens to be used during St. John worship services. Either would cost around \$6,000.

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

*...The continuation of Pastor's article from p. 3...*

“What can you do? Direct a woman who is pregnant, alone, and afraid, to resources so that she can safely have her baby in a loving environment and give the child up for adoption, if she should so choose. Tell her that her life is precious and so is the life of the child. Help her keep the child God has given her.

“What can you do? Tell your children and grandchildren that sex is a gift that God has granted to a husband and wife alone in holy marriage.

“What can you do? Don't despair. But live and act like you know the end of the story. Christ promises us that He will triumph in the end. The story ends with Christ as victor. We can go to war against the powers of darkness, because we know how it will come out. Job says it so well: *"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted"* (Job 42:2).

“What can you do? Pray! Job prayed and the Lord heard his cry. He still called him to repentance, as He does us. But those who repent also have the gift of Christ's blood-bought mercy. Let's repent, joyously, hopefully, confidently, knowing that the Lord Jesus will have mercy.”

In His grace,

Pastor Bruce H. Lesemann



**WELLNESS CHAMPION** - Jan Magnussen has agreed to be St. John's Wellness Champion to help us reduce our health insurance costs for 2017. Thanks, Jan, for helping us out and volunteering for this role.

**THANK YOU** from Alyssa Anders for the \$350.00 received to support her mission work. Alyssa's personal thank you note is on the bulletin board.

## **ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LADIES' AID**

### **September 2, 2015**

St. John Lutheran Ladies' Aid met on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. in the church meeting room. Barbara Hogrefe furnished the refreshments which were served by Renae Norwood. President Donna Truelsen presided; she announced the birthdays in the months of July, August, and September as we had not met during the summer months.

Devotion leader Naomi Benna reminded us of God's "seasoning gifts:" Joy, Prayer, and Thankfulness. Just as herbs and spices add zest to the foods we eat, God's gifts enhance our lives.

Jan Magnussen led the topic detailing the history of the LWML. The Oklahoma District was the first to organize the various church "ladies' aids" in 1928. The national group was officially organized at a meeting July 7-8, 1942, in Chicago. At that time it was voted to keep 75% of mites gathered in the district organizations and 25% would be sent to the national one. That practice is maintained today. The pledge was introduced in 1955; the first convention live-streamed was the 2015 convention in Des Moines. She closed the presentation with a responsive reading based on the LWML Mission Statement.

Roll call was "Penny Memories." The thirteen members present each drew a penny from the bag and recalled something that happened in their lives at that time.

Marge Manteufel reported that she had applied and received a Thrivent Action Team grant with which to purchase supplies for school and health kits.

Plans were made for the Zone Rally which St. John will host on September 28. The theme is "The Harvest is Plentiful..." to coordinate with the theme of the past national convention.

## **ST. JOHN LUTHERAN LADIES' AID NEWS**

Our St. John Ladies' Aid and Mary and Martha Circle hosted the Fall LWML Zone Rally on September 28. Sixty-two people registered for the event. Women who had attended the National Convention last summer shared their experiences including Deb Matasovsky and Jan Magnussen from our church.

As hosts several ladies helped "behind the scenes" to make a successful event. Marilyn Mittelstadt furnished the table decorations, and the Mary and Martha members had made decorative "tents" for each place setting. Chocolate favors were provided by Joann Oatman. The pulled pork for the sandwiches was prepared by Diane Krueger. Furnishing desserts were Jan Magnussen, Naomi Benna, Donna Truelsen, Audrey Gutz, and Suzanne Winterhof. Donna Truelsen, Barb Walters, and Audrey Gutz greeted and registered the guests.

## **CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

A beautiful fall afternoon was perfect for the Christian Fellowship Society's Outing to the Cole Museum. Ten members enjoyed the tour of Cole family memorabilia, restored cars, and machinery along with the landscaping at Storm Lake's newest museum.

Prior to the drive to the museum the group had a brief meeting. The group approved paying the 2016 dues for the Sudanese Mission Society which are needed by November 1. The pancake supper will be held on the traditional second Sunday in November—the 8<sup>th</sup> this year. Jerry Johnson suggested the some of the profit be designated for next summer's youth trip dependent upon the youth's active participation in the project.

## Faith

By: Celeste Cummins

*“We continually remember before our God your work produced by **faith**,  
your labor prompted by **love**,  
and your endurance inspired by **hope** in our Lord Jesus Christ”  
(1 Thessalonians 1:3).*

The verse above is the Stewardship theme for this year. We will be celebrating Stewardship Sunday in November. Beginning this month and continuing through the end of the year, my newsletter articles will focus on the three attributes in this verse: faith, love, and hope.



As a parent, do you get proud of your child when they use their skills and knowledge to help another person? Sure, you do! Regardless of your child’s age (whether they are 2 or 63), you feel joy and satisfaction knowing that they have developed into a “good” human. Did you ever stop to think that God is the same way? He is pleased with us when He sees the works we do that help others. Where do those good works come from?

Those works have been produced by the faith that God has equipped us with. Faith is the foundation of everything spiritual. Hebrews 11:6 tells us, “Without faith, it is impossible to please God.” Faith is necessary for salvation. Faith also makes it possible to be a good steward, for our faithful stewardship is also evidence of our faith.

Faith is a gift that God has given us. A popular phrase today encourages people to “pay it forward.” That means if we’ve received help, a gift, or something from another person, we are to return that favor and show someone else some type of kindness. For the Christian, this is not a new concept. For God has given us the faith and the desire to do those good works to praise Him for His kindness to us and also to share His love with others. James 2:20 tells us, “Faith without works is dead.” Our works do not save us, as some believe, but they express our faith. It’s the Christian’s way of “paying it forward.”



In our bulletin, we continue to explain the parts of the liturgy. In each newsletter, we will provide a deeper explanation of each of these sections.

**Word of God** - Most congregations in the LCMS use a rotating series of Scripture readings called a three year pericope (per-IK-o-pee), which is from the Greek, meaning “to cut around.” Different readings are appointed for each Sunday or festival throughout the church year (in the three year series, these readings will repeat every three years). Most often, these three readings will begin with a passage from the Old Testament, followed by a portion from an Epistle (the Greek word for “letter;” there are 22 epistles in the New Testament), and conclude with a Gospel reading.

In some congregations, the Gospel is read from the center of the nave, symbolizing when “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). The movement to and from this location is known as the Gospel Procession.

**Gradual** - A selection of Psalm verses traditionally sung between the Epistle and Gospel (*LSB*, p. 156). With the regular use of the Old Testament reading, the Gradual now appears after that reading in most churches. At St. John, the Gradual is replaced by a choir selection. The word Gradual is from the Latin for “step,” which refers to the step of the lectern from which the Gradual is traditionally sung.

**Alleluia and Verse** - Alleluia or Hallelujah?? Are Lutherans just confused or why is this word spelled differently? To answer that, we need to look at the words in their Hebrew and Greek forms. Hallelujah comes from two Hebrew words: *hallal* and *jah*. *Hallal* is a Hebrew verb; an exhortation to praise which was addressed to several people. *Jah* (or *yah*) is the Hebrew name for God (a shortened form of Yahweh). In English, we would translate this as “praise ye, the Lord.” Alleluia is the Greek spelling of the Hebrew word. In Greek, there is no letter “h,” so when the Hebrew word was translated to Greek, it was spelled, “Alleluia.” When the word appears in its Greek spelling (Alleluia), it is “an expression of praise rather than an exhortation to praise.” When the word Hallelujah occurs in the Psalms, it is a request for a congregation to join in praise toward God, while the Greek spelling (Alleluia) is a great song of praise to God (see Rev. 19:1-6). Either spelling is correct. In the liturgy, the Alleluia refers to a traditional chant, combining the words with verses from the Psalms or other Scripture. In many Protestant churches, the Alleluia and Gloria in Excelsis Deo are omitted during Lent, but return for the joyful Easter season. (Sources: [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) and [www.pastorsherill.blogspot.com](http://www.pastorsherill.blogspot.com))



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MISSOURI SYNOD

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**To God be all the Glory.**

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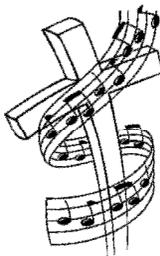
**We're on the Web! Http:  
//www.stjohnstormlake.org**

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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 night at 7:30 pm.



### **October Worship Assistants**

**Altar Guild:** Lyle & Karen Morenz, Marleen Otto, and Donna Truelsen

**Greeters:** **Saturday**

**Sunday**  
Marilyn Mittelstadt

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

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

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

Bradyn Mack  
**Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**  
Gabriel Lesemann

The KAYL Broadcast for this month has been sponsored by Lois Lytle.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

4 - In memory of Mike Redenbaugh by H & J Redenbaugh

11 - In memory of Russell Biggins and Marlys Faber by family

18 - Henry, Lynn, and Marie Hardt in memory of Lynn's dad, C. M. Updegraff

25 - Dan & Laurie Gaffney

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