

2013

# SEPTEMBER



YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

## St. John Eagle



**Sunday,  
September 29, 2013  
will be this year's**

**RALLY SUNDAY**

**Come join the fun  
after Faithbuilders**

Staff and Special Events	2
Pastor Lesemann	3
Hidden Things	4
News and Notes	5-7
Mission Spotlight	7
Worship Assistants and Flowers	8

### Special Days in September

Monday, 2nd  
Labor Day

Sunday, 8th  
Grandparent's Day

Sunday, 22nd  
Fall Begins

**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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### Is There Such a Thing As Coincidence?

*“Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (John 4:6-7 NIV)*

I remember Esther Linge telling me about a book she recommended to me, titled “When God Winks at You” by Squire Rushnell (I have yet to read it). I have found though that it is the author’s opinion that God speaks directly to us through the power of coincidence. He calls things that seem to be coincidences “Godwinks,” illustrating that God is very much a part of our every day lives. Nothing is a coincidence! Here is one of the example stories of that book.

*“In Anaheim, California, Mavis Jackson drove past the Crystal Cathedral. For twenty years, she said the same thing: “Someday I’m going to go there.” One Sunday morning, she did. Putting on her best outfit, she simply decided, “Today is the day.” Getting there early, Mavis took a seat in the middle and watched the huge three thousand-seat megachurch fill with people. She was awed as the majestic voices of the choir seemed to encircle her. She marveled at the manner in which a huge section of the glass ceiling slid open at the start of the worship as if to invite even the birds to worship. At the end of the service, Mavis stood up and waited for the aisle to clear. Trying not to sound too excited, she said to the young lady next to her, “I am so glad I came today. Wasn’t it wonderful?” The young woman nodded. “Are you from here?” asked Mavis. “No, I’m from the Midwest,” said the young woman adding, “I’m actually here on a mission. To find my birth mother.” There was a pause. “I know how you must feel,” said Mavis. “A long time ago, I had to give up a little girl for adoption. I didn’t want to...but...” Another pause. The young woman looked deeply into Mavis’s eyes. “Do you...remember her birthday?” “Yes,” said Mavis cautiously. “October 30th.” “That’s my birthday,” gasped the young woman. They sat down and shared with each other what had brought them to that moment.”*

Just like the Bible verse of the woman at the well, God is a part of every “coincidental” meeting. In truth, Jesus intentionally wanted to be there at that time and that place with that woman to intentionally show her that He cared for her deeply and wanted her to trust in Him and know His forgiveness given through the promised Messiah. It was NO coincidence.

The same goes for us! The next time something that seems to happen out of coincidence in your life, think of it as God’s winking at you to show you – in a unique and special way – that He is actively involved in every detail of your life.

In His grace,  
Pastor Lesemann

## Hidden Things

By: Celeste Cummins

Has anyone ever hidden something from you? Maybe one of your kids did something they knew you would not approve of, so they kept it a secret from you. Perhaps, you were betrayed by someone who concealed behaviors or lies from you. Or maybe someone had a surprise they were not ready to tell you about...

This last one was the case for my sister, Jodelle, and I on August 6, 1981. My mom had a tradition of putting a bow on the mailbox whenever a new grandchild was born: pink for a girl or blue for a boy. As mom searched in her dresser drawer for the bow, my sister and I repeatedly asked, "Is it a boy or a girl?" and "Which bow are you looking for?" The longer she took, the more anxious and frustrated we became. Why didn't she just answer our questions and tell us if it was a boy or a girl?? Finally, the pink bow emerged from the drawer. My sister and I started jumping up and down, screaming. It was a long-awaited niece (at 10 years old and after 3 nephews, you can imagine my excitement! Sookie remains my only niece, so I'm still pretty excited about her) ☺

The story of my mom concealing my niece's identity from my sister and I reminds me of God and how He often keeps things hidden from us, too. How often are we, like my sister and I, repeatedly asking God, "Why?" We often question Him for a reason or for an answer. But, just like my mom's behavior, God remains silent, never revealing His motives.

Proverbs 25:2a tells us, "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter..." The footnote in *The Lutheran Study Bible* (p. 1038) for this verse reads, "God's glory is manifested in many ways, e.g., creation, intervention in history, and, specifically, human redemption through His Son. Yet His ways and will are often hidden from human comprehension." Often, God conceals things (or hides things) from us. We cannot explain how He created the world, the miracle of conception and birth, or how we will rise from the dead (or thousands of other questions we ponder each day). God has chosen not to reveal those answers to us. It is a surprise that still awaits us, much like that long-awaited pink bow was for Jodelle and I.



**FUNERAL SERVICES** for Russell Tillman, age 85, were held on Sat., August 3, 2013 at 1:00 pm at St. John Lutheran Church. The Saturday group was in charge. Following the service, a luncheon was served. Hy-Vee catered roast beef and turkey sandwiches. The ladies of the congregation furnished bars and cakes. Those furnishing or serving the food included Jan Magnussen, Linda Zabloudil, Denise Betts, Deb Matasovsky, Barb Hogrefe, and Barb Haynes.

**ENJOY SINGING?? We have a place for you in the choir!!!** God gives each of us special gifts to be used for His glory. If you enjoy singing, we invite you to sing in the choir. Rehearsals are at 8:00 pm on Wednesday evenings. ALL voices add to the fullness and richness of the sound, but right now we are in need of additional MEN'S voices. We especially encourage the young people of the congregation who participate in school music groups to participate. It is an opportunity to increase your music reading and vocal abilities.

**THANK YOU!** The congregation is grateful to the "REGULAR" CHOIR MEMBERS who contribute to sing for services and to all those who provided special music at the summer services. While members of the congregation may think "that's the usual," guests frequently commented on how nice it was to have special music at a summer service.

**LADIES: TAKE NOTE** - Wednesday, September 4th at 1:30 pm Ladies' Aid meeting; Saturday, September 21st—LWML District Fall Retreat at Mission Central, Mapleton (Registration Deadline is September 10); Sunday, September 22nd at 2:00 pm LWML Zone Rally at St. Paul, Alta. ALL women are welcome!

**THANK YOU**—We wish to thank relatives, friends, and all our families at St. John's that came to coffee hour on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your many nice cards and blessings. God has so richly blessed us both for 60 years together August 30<sup>th</sup>. Yours in Christ, Marvin and Laura Bumann

**ANNIVERSARY GIFT** - \$60.00 has been given to Mission Central for Kristin Matasovsky in remembrance of our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary by Marvin & Laura Bumann.

**AN OPERATION BARNABAS CONFERENCE** is scheduled for Saturday, September 28th from 9:30 am—3:30 pm at the Carroll County Conservation Center. More details are available on a flyer posted on the bulletin board.

**MISSION SERVICE** - We delivered 1,032 pounds of clothing to Orphan Grain Train. Thanks to Marv Bumann, Cliff Glasgow, Pastor Lesemann, and Bob Otto for loading both trucks. We had 56 quilts at 257 pounds, along with 42 pairs of shoes. Mary-Martha completed 8 "plarn" mats at 41 pounds. The rest was clothing. We now have an empty closet, so we are ready for more clothing. Many thanks for all the donations, the many helpers, our committee, Marleen Otto, Naomi Benna, and Marge Manteufel.

**RUMMAGELAND AND BAKE SALE** – The Youth contributed almost \$600 profit from their bake and pie sales (Thank you! Thank you!). So many folks donated and worked to make the event a success. The final proceeds were \$2,270.63. The committee indicated the funds would be given to Mission Central and the Capital Improvement Fund. We wanted to share the funds at Mission Central with our member, Kristin Matasovsky, but Gary Thies indicated she was funded for a full two years. That is wonderful news! He said he has a new missionary family who is currently desperate for funds to take them to mainland China, where they will go to remote areas to teach lay people how to share the message of salvation. The missionary's name is Pastor Charles St. Onge and his wife, Deb. They have two little girls, Olivia and Sophia who will be home schooled by their mother. They are originally from the Houston, Texas area. We will be sending Mission Central a check of \$1,000.00 to help these folks to serve. Please pray that these funds will be put to good use and this family will be safe during their stay in China. I will transfer the balance of \$1,270.63 to the Capital Improvement Fund this week where we are continuing to save for future needed improvements. Please know that your contributions of all kinds are certainly appreciated by St. John. **THANK YOU GENEROUS MEMBERS.**

**IN APPRECIATION** - Thank you for your gifts of \$163.00 for the support of missionary Rev. Michael Parris and for the \$31.90 given in support of Kristin Matasovsky.

**FOR SALE** - One cemetery lot for sale at BV Memorial in the Veteran's area (Lot #50, Space #4). If interested, call Clint Tillman (573-528-7288).

**GRIEF SUPPORT SESSIONS** will be starting on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at Fratzke and Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake. The meeting times are from 7:00 – 9:00 pm each Thursday through October 17<sup>th</sup>. There is a flyer on the bulletin board with more information or you may call 732-1911, 732-5010, 288-4461, or 749-2741.

**RALLY SUNDAY** is coming up on September 29, 2013 and you're invited to celebrate Rally Sunday with the Faithbuilders! The children will sing at the 9:00 service on Sunday morning and the *What's in the Bible Journey with Jesus* exhibit will be on display for everyone to experience. *Journey with Jesus* was created by the children during Summer Sunday School. There will also be a Rally Sunday hot dog feed after Faithbuilders at 11:15 am. Hot dogs and drinks will be provided. You are asked to bring a side dish. There will be a sign up sheet for people to RSVP. We want to make sure we have enough hot dogs and drinks. Please support Christian education and our children at St. John by attending this annual event!

**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS** - A reminder that the Thrivent Choice recurring direction is no longer available. It is still easy to use this program, however it is no longer automatic. Simply call 800-847-4836 and state "Thrivent Choice." A representative will help you direct your dollars where you would have them go. This can also be done online at [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice). Thrivent currently has an online initiative in which \$25 Choice Dollars will be designated to eligible members who choose to direct Choice Dollars online through October 31. This is a great opportunity to grow your gift and it doesn't cost you anything. Thank you to all who support St. John through your Thrivent Choice Dollars!

**CHURCH COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP** - For the best stewardship of time and financial resources, many churches are re-evaluating how they communicate with members, guests, and the community. How should the church best approach social media? How effective is email communication? What pages are viewed most often on websites? What messages get the attention of people and cause them to respond? Scott Vaughan, a 20 year church communication consultant with Scott Vaughan Communications, will lead a three hour church communication workshop answering these questions and many more. This workshop will take place on Thursday, September 19th from 9:00 am—Noon at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, 1701 8th St. SW in Altoona. The cost is \$35 per person. For more information or to RSVP, contact Laurel Swanson - [laurel@lccaltoona.org](mailto:laurel@lccaltoona.org) by Monday, September 16th.

**ST. MARK** Lutheran Church (1614 West Fifth Street) will be hosting a Sanctuary Dedication and Community Open House on Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 – 4:30 pm with a brief program beginning at 3:15 pm. The public is invited to attend.

This month, we will learn more about Matt and Kim Myers who serve the Lord in Macau, China. Matt provides leadership for and manages the Concordia English Center in Macau as well as providing English-as-a-Foreign-Language (EFL) expertise and consulting. The Myers previously served with LCMS World Mission in Vietnam from 1998 to 2006 and at the Universitas Pelita Harapan in Indonesia from 2006 to 2009. Matt was a director of Christian outreach (DCO) in Baltimore, MD, where the Myers' home congregation is Emmanuel Lutheran Church. He enjoys playing the guitar. Kim is from Tampa, FL. She enjoys reading. They have two children, John Mark and Emily. The Myers will be at Mission Central on September 21st, along with Rev. James Baumgartner of China.

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LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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To God be all the Glory.

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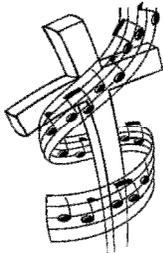
We're on the Web! Http:  
//www.stjohstormlake.org

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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  
at 8:00 pm.



### **September Worship Assistants**

**Altar Guild:** Deb Matasovsky & Londa Stille

**Greeters:** **Saturday**  
Still available

**Sunday**  
Ron & Linda Falck

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

**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 sponsored by Ron & Cindy Gillman.

### **Altar Flowers**

1 - Ron & Jerene Neir—Anniversary

8 - In memory of Marie Mack

15 - For "G.G.," "Gram," Mom (Naomi Benna)

22 - In memory of our loved ones by Bill & Vee  
Tutt

29 - Barb & Derek Hogrefe - 10th Anniversary on  
October 4th

WE WELCOME YOU TO  
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!