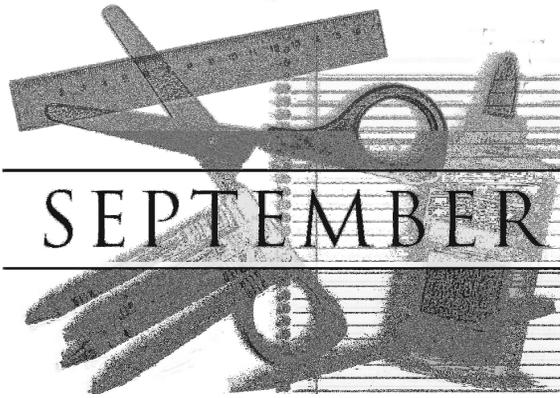


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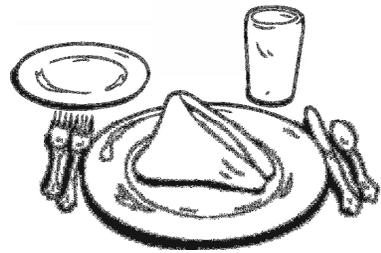


YOUR SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT
FOR YOUR SOUL THROUGH THE WORD

St. John Eagle



Rally Sunday
Please join us!!
September 28th
9:00 am - Kids Sing
During Church Service
11:15 am - Hot Diggity Dog
Roast



You're Invited
Sun. Sept. 7th
6:00 p.m.
Estate Planning Dinner

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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

Listen now to me and I will give you some advice, and may God be with you. You must be the people's representative before God and bring their disputes to him.

Exodus 18:19 (NIV)

I've had a lot of interesting conversations this week with various people having opinions as different as night and day. Disconcertingly, on the surface they ALL sounded very convincing, pulling me into their line of thinking. Some were good, some were far-fetched, some were liberal, some were conservative, but all were very persuasive.

We all have our own views on many topics, all of which can develop from a variety of things. We can get our opinions from books, TV, Internet, information from our friends and family, or things from school or work, church, etc. All these institutions and people influence us.

What influences you? Or should I ask, what do you let influence you?

I am sure that many of you have been seeing and hearing a lot about the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. It has been a wonderful success for the organization raising tens of millions of dollars. It has raised 50x more for the organization this year compared to all that was raised last year. Have you participated? I myself have been challenged more than once to take the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge. But as much as I hope for this awful degenerative disease to be cured, and as much as I felt bad for turning them down, I have turned down these challenges for what I believe is a good reason. Why? Well, let's just say that I don't agree with one of their methods of research in trying to find a cure for the disease. That reason would take another whole article to go into, but to read for yourself about the issue from a Lutheran perspective, search for "Should Lutherans Take Ice Bucket Challenge?" or go to <http://blogs.lcms.org/2014/als-challenge>.

The point I am trying to make with this example is that the advice we get (and give) and the opinions we form should be strained through a filter of sorts, that filter is God's Word. No matter how convincing and heartfelt the issue, no matter how much our "heartstrings" are pulled and tugged, we must strive to be true to our calling as believers in Christ, looking to God's Word for guidance in developing our opinions. And when we are called on to share those opinions we must do so with love and patience, letting the substance and wisdom of God's Word speak for us and through us.

In His grace,

Pastor Bruce Lesemann

Independence

By: Celeste Cummins

Our country has a whole day set aside to celebrate independence. On July 4th, across this whole nation, businesses are closed, grills are fired up, and parades reign. We become one big party as we celebrate the independence that freed us from Great Britain 238 years ago. As Americans, we pride ourselves on our independence and the freedoms we have gained. But, it's not just we as a country who like to be independent and yearn for more freedom.

Have you ever watched a toddler take their first steps? To them, it's odd at first, but soon they are driving their parents crazy by all their new found freedom! Or move forward a few years when that toddler has reached the age of starting school. Now, they have more independence and freedom from mom and dad. A few more years down the road that child discovers the freedom that putting the keys in the ignition gives them (I won't even go there since my kids haven't reached that age yet!). Whatever our stage in life, we yearn to be free, to be independent, and to do it ourselves.

I was reminded of this independence when I read Kristin Matasovsky's newsletter from July. It has been 20 months since she has been in America. Kristin wrote, "I have thought a lot about my dependency on others to help me. In America, I was one that strived to be independent and not burden others....But that has all changed. I need others and I don't have any other choice – which is a good thing for me! Most of my coworkers and friends tell me that dependency strengthens relationships and I shouldn't feel like I am a burden to them....The more friends help one another out, the more it strengthens the relationship."

Kristin's right about that! So often we are like a little two year old getting caught up in the "me do it!" mindset. We don't want to allow anyone to help us with anything. Recently, I had to go to Sioux City and I knew a friend of mine would be going there in a few days. I was conflicted because I wanted to ask if we could go together, yet I didn't want to be a burden to her either. Hesitantly, I asked her. She was so glad I did! Our relationship was strengthened by the chance to spend time together and talk to each other on our long drive that day.

Some independence is a good thing, but God didn't intend for us to do everything ourselves. In Ecclesiastes 4:9 the Bible tells us, "Two are better than one." Spending time with friends, neighbors, and other Christians is what God designed us to do. Sometimes part of that spending time with others is allowing them to use *their* skills to serve *us*. Next time someone calls you to come over, joyfully agree! You may be helping ease their loneliness and at the same time, they will be a blessing to you as well.

JUST A PLASTIC BAG

“I am just an ordinary plastic bag—the kind you get at the grocery store and the other shops you patronize. Maybe you take me home and gently fold me or stuff me into another bag planning to reuse me for lining the wastebasket or to carry items some other place.

“Many times, of late, I have been taken to the church and stuffed in a box of bags, where I wait for my “reincarnation.” One of the needs in the mission field is sleeping mats used where people sleep on the ground, and this is my new destiny. The mat provides a little cushion for comfort. It provides a barrier to the soil and even warmth.

“Yes! I get picked up, taken home, and I am carefully folded lengthwise into quarters. Here’s where we find out not all plastic bags are equal. Some bags (like Fareway) get cut into 5 strips, and others because of the mil of the plastic or their length get cut into 4 strips. (A few of the bags are large enough to cut as many as 12 strips.)

“The strips from my bag are then tied together into a long “rope” called *plarn* (plastic yarn). One lady likes to use around 30 of us to make a ball of *plarn*. Then the crocheting begins. After the beginning chain is made, it is just a single stitch crochet that completes the mat. The Orphan Grain Train site states that they like mats that are 28-36 inches wide and around 72 inches long.

“Wow! Just think that something as simple as a plastic bag can be used to the glory of God and help in spreading the Good News in the world. That’s a reminder to you that God can use even your most simple talents and abilities to spread the Word!

You might be interested to know that it takes nearly 400 bags to make one sleeping mat...or about 1000 yards of *plarn*. A completed mat will represent at least 30-35 hours of time....but it is a wonderful pastime as one watches TV or wants a sit-down break in the day.

We are grateful to the many people who regularly recycle their bags by bringing them to the church. To date, I have made 20 mats and also had the privilege to share the idea with people from other churches. ...Suzanne Winterhof



BANANA BUNCH PLANNING NEWS - The next meeting of the St. John Banana Bunch Youth Group is Sunday, Sept. 14 at 6:30pm in the youth room on second floor. We will be planning the year and also watch the locally produced video, Texas is Big But God is Bigger: A Journey to NYG 2013. It is about the St. John and Grace students traveling to the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX in summer 2013. It will help the kids get a good understanding of what they could experience at the 2016 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. And of course treats and sweets will be served.

THE JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING will take place on October 25th & 26th in West Des Moines for students in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade. The theme for the gathering is "Not Just Words." Jerry will send in the registrations together, but the deadline is fast approaching (on Sept. 13th). Youth will be responsible for your own \$70 registration fee, but the youth group will cover the remaining cost. If you would like to attend or have questions, please contact Jerry Johnson (732-2775).

BANANA BUNCH MINI NEWS — The St. John Banana Bunch Youth Group had a great Mini-Mini Party in August. We went to Pirate's Pointe to play mini-golf. Then we went back to the church and made our own personal mini-pizzas. We also did a mini-devotion from a mini-devotion booklet. Check out our mini-pictures below!



Aargh! I've met me match!



Ahoy, Mateys!

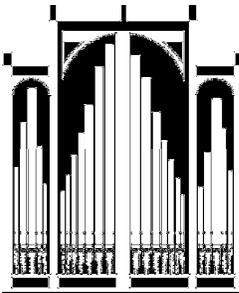


Who???? Me???? Yes, You!!!!

Summer vacation is over, and we “reload” our energies with new vigor and commitment. This is a time to assess our own individual involvement in furthering the work of God in our midst. Our God has given each of us special abilities. The least we can do is use them to His glory. Yes, He has called us to be His witnesses. At this time we are asking you to be a part of our church choir.

- ❖ Be a part of a group that has fun and fellowship; there is a special “esprit de corps” among the group.
- ❖ Improve your own musical skills.
- ❖ “He who sings prays twice.” Enrich your own spiritual life.

Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday evening at 7:30. We begin our new choir year on September 3rd. Join us in PRAISING THE LORD IN HARMONY!!



CHURCH MUSICIAN WORKSHOP - St. John has been asked by the Iowa District West to host a Church Musician Workshop on Saturday, October 4th. Dr. J. Gordon Christiansen, Council Bluffs, will be the clinician. Also scheduled to appear on the program is the Rev. Stephen Starke who has written the text to many of the hymns in our hymnal. A specially commissioned work by Kevin Hildebrand is to be heard at the closing service.

FAITHBUILDERS will sing in Church on Rally Sunday, September 28th at 9:00 am. Please be here by 8:45 am so we can practice our song. Please come up to the Chapel on the Second floor when you arrive at 8:45 am.

RALLY SUNDAY PARTY at 11:15 am (11:30 am) after Faithbuilders September 28th. We will be having a **Hot Diggity Dog Roast** during Rally Sunday on Sunday, September 28th!! The Rally Sunday Party will be held in the St. John basement. We will be serving hot dogs and lemon-aid. The entire congregation is invited to attend. **Please bring either a side dish or dessert.** If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Johnson (732-2775) or Deb Matasovsky (732-5486).

NATIONAL LUTHERAN YOUTH WORKERS CONFERENCE - A great way for congregations to prepare for the 2016 LCMS Youth Gathering is by attending the 2015 National Lutheran Youth Workers Conference. National is a conference at which professional church workers and volunteers who work with youth are affirmed, connected, equipped, and enriched in their vocations. Youth under the age of 18 are also invited to attend and participate in a special youth leadership track. National will take place July 12-15, 2015 at the Astor Crowne Plaza in New Orleans. Registration is open now for the early rate of \$275 per adult or \$250 per adult student or youth. Please visit the National website for more details www.nlywc.com.

MISSIONARY PRESENTATION - On Sunday, October 5th, Missionary and Deaconess Gail Ludvigson will give a presentation at Emmanuel in Lake View about her call to serve as a career missionary to the Dominican Republic. She has several dates open to give presentations to other congregations or groups. If you would like to contact her about speaking, please email her gail.ludvigson@lcmsintl.org.

FREE CATERED MEAL - There are still spots open if you would like to attend a free catered meal that will be served here at St. John on September 7th at 6:00 pm (compliments of Iowa District West Christian Estate Planning).

THANK YOU for supporting the mission work of Rev. James and Angela Sharp with the donations of \$409.00 and \$220.00 recently.

BACK TO FALL — Fall is a busy season for everyone. The slowness of summer is over. Leaves change color and drop from the trees. Crops begin to be harvested. School begins. And, things pick up once again at St. John. For that reason, now is a good time to add something new to your life. Consider all St. John has to offer you — and what you have to offer back to the Lord by joining Ladies Aid, Mary Martha, teaching Midweek or Faithbuilders classes, singing in the choir, sewing some stitches on a few quilts for Mission Sewing, attending a Bible class on Sunday morning or during the noon Potluck Bible Study (3rd Wednesday of each month). Come and bless the Lord since He has blessed you!

BIBLES AND HYMNALS WANTED – If you have any Bibles or “old” hymnals laying around your house that you are no longer using, now is your chance to put them to good use! A couple from Trinity Lutheran in Jefferson is going on a mission trip and are asking for used Bibles and Hymnals. If you have any that you would like to donate, they can be dropped off at Trinity Lutheran Church, 801 West Lincoln Way in Jefferson, IA. If you have any questions, please contact Trinity (515) 386-3517.



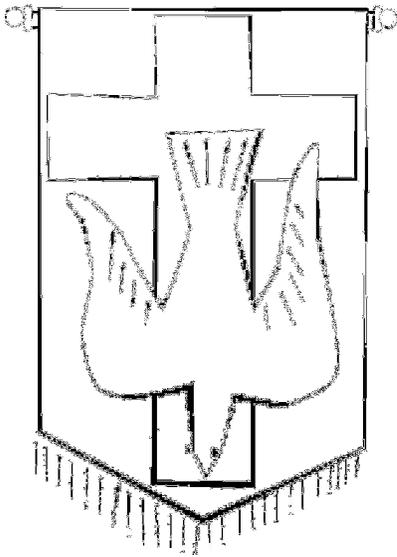
FAMILY MEAL TIME provides the natural environment to talk with your kids, as you nourish the body as well as the soul by interacting with one another. Benefits of family meals include better communication skills, stronger family bonds, shared family values, improved nutrition, and healthy life choices. Meals can be simple and easy. Everyone can be involved from planning, to preparation, to clean up. To make it a more enjoyable event

for everyone, focus on the positive during your meal together and turn off electronic devices. (Ideas provided by Compass Pointe Behavioral Health Services, 824 Flindt Dr, Suite 104, Storm Lake, IA).

SCHOOL DAYS - Although we no longer have a school at St. John, some of us are still involved with schools by working in them or transporting our kids (or grandkids) back and forth there. Such was the case for me last Friday when my kids got out of school early because of the heat. As we were driving home and talking about getting out early because of the heat, I chimed in with that line that every parent says (and all kids hate to hear), “Back when I was your age...” and I proceeded to tell my kids that we never got out early because of the heat. Matthew asked, “What *did* you get out of school for?” Without hesitation, I answered, “Saturday and Sunday.” (Celeste Cummins)



Confirmation Class



ners, Christ died for us.”

Haley Redenbaugh and Grace Jesse were Confirmed this year on Palm Sunday, April 13th. As part of their questioning, they had to answer essay questions. As space permits in the newsletter, the answers to their questions will be printed here. Their first question was printed in the July issue of the newsletter. Below are the answers to the question “The most comforting and encouraging thing I’ve learned throughout my Confirmation experience is...”

“...that I have a God (who loves me). He will always be there even when everyone else gives up. Also God’s gift of my family, they stick with me through everything. Also importantly my grandparent’s they showed me the life I can have in Christ. God uses them all...to show me the right direction to take so I will always find my way back to Him if I ever get lost. It is very comforting that I can always find shelter in the Lord. As it says in Psalm 18:2 *The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*”

“...That God cared enough to take away our sins. He made two perfect people, that was Adam and Eve. They ended up sinning. So he sent his son, Jesus Christ, to take away the sins of the world. We don’t deserve what he did for us. But as it says in Romans 5:8 God shows his love for us while we were still sin-

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

September 6th and 20th will be the days to be at Mission Central. Both days will feature a “double header” of Missionary presentations. On the 6th at 1:30 pm, Judy Newhouse (Hong Kong) and Michael Parris (Macau) will give presentations. Gail Grieser (Southern Asia) will give a presentation beginning at 1:00 pm on September 20th. Rachel Powell (Dominican Republic) is scheduled to begin her presentation at 1:30 pm on the 20th.

Reverend Michael Parris is a career missionary in Macau. In this role, Reverend Parris is working with the LCMS missionary team in Macau to start a new church at the Concordia English Center and to begin an English-speaking service for foreigners. He also helps teach English at the Concordia English Center, helps at the school for the deaf in Macau, and provides pastoral care to the other missionaries in Macau. Michael was born on January 8th in Davenport, IA, where he also grew up. Prior to becoming a missionary, he served parishes in Iowa and Nebraska. Michael has two grown daughters and enjoys running, gardening, woodworking, fishing, and Taekwondo (he has a yellow belt).

Gail Grieser teaches English classes to adults and partners with local leaders and educators to encourage and strengthen the understanding and use of the English language in the community. Although, Gail was born in Hartford, CT, she considers Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, IN her home congregation. In her free time, Gail enjoys camping, scrapbooking, sports and spending time with her four children.

Deaconess **Rachel Powell** teaches and mentors Dominican deaconess students and identifies mercy project opportunities. In addition, Rachel coordinates and participates in community outreach activities sponsored by congregations and mercy houses in this country. Rachel’s hometown is Bryant, IN and she is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Decatur, IN. In her spare time, she enjoys baking, yoga, running, and learning to play the guitar.

Please pray that God would bless and strengthen Michael, Gail, Rachel, and all the missionaries across the world as they reach out to the people living in the countries and areas they serve.



LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

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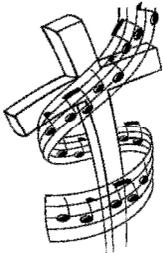
To God be all the Glory.

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

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.



September Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Deb Matasovsky & Londa Stille

Greeters: Saturday

Sunday
Dave & Donna Dose

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

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Dave Dose

Acolytes: Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

Addyson Hogrefe

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Available

The KAYL Broadcast for this month is given in thankfulness to God.

ALTAR FLOWERS

7 - For Mom, Gram, "G.G." (Naomi Benna) from her family

14 - Ron & Jerene Neir 45th Anniversary

21 - Flowers given in praise to God for giving 50 years of marriage to Ron & Barb Walters on September 6th.

28 - Joann Oatman

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