Please Join Us!
Rally Day will take place on Sunday, September 10th.

Worship begins at 9:00 am
(The children will be singing)

Faithbuilders classes begin at 10:30 am
Hot Dog Feed will start at 11:15 am

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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 will be begin with Rally Sunday on September 10th!

Adult Bible Class meets at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room (led by V. Winterhof) and Pastor Lesemann’s Bible Study will meet in the library.

Be in the Word

ST. JOHN EAGLE
Our Need for One Another

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.* 1 Corinthians 12:27

How many of you know people who say they are believers yet do not attend church? I think all of us know people like that! In preparing to write this article I ran across one pastor’s opinion who basically said that “the New Testament apostles can’t conceive of anything called a Christian that’s not connected to Christ’s body…the New Testament has no vision for the Christian life apart from our playing our part in the local church.”

The bible gives us a picture of the church as the body of Christ. We see Paul describing this and making the argument in 1 Corinthians chapter 12 that each member is necessary and irreplaceable. In that chapter we see that the eye can’t say, “I have no need of the feet.” And the feet can’t claim, “because I’m not an eye, I’m not a part of the body.” To the contrary, each part is necessary to the body.

With that verse in mind, why is it necessary for us to be in church (assuming we are able bodied and able to attend)? Because we are a part of the body of Christ! Church is not a human invention. Church is God’s idea. In fact most of the New Testament is not just about Jesus BUT is about the work of the church that Jesus began and intended to continue. So if you want to give up the church, in a way you are also giving up Jesus and what He wants for you.

So how are we to view those who decide to reject this fellowship and no longer attend? Well, instead of complaining about them, and I am just as guilty in this as anyone else, we need to lovingly respond to them. One of the things that you can do much better than I can is to call people! Is there someone you know pretty well that you haven’t seen in church in a while? Call them up. Ask how they’re doing. Tell them you’ve missed them! Ask them if they have any prayer requests. And keep calling - we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and need to care for one another as such.

Most people have ready excuses in their minds for not attending church. You most likely have used them at times in your own life. Perhaps they’re too busy or it’s their only morning off and they want to relax. Or they don’t like the worship style. And if there is ever a reason you will hear over and over from someone not going to church it is all because of “so and so” and what they said or what they did, or that the church is full of hypocrites anyway and on and on. And in a way they are right! The body of the church is comprised of sinners top to bottom.

***Pastor’s newsletter article continues on the bottom of p. 7***
PRAYERS FOR PEOPLE - Ephesians 6:18 states, “be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” With that verse in mind, we are praying our way through the directory (alphabetically). Families will be featured in each newsletter that everyone can pray for. Some items to include in your prayers might be if they are sick, ask for healing and patience; if they are active members, ask God to keep their faith strong; if they have not been in church recently, ask God to help them reestablish connections with their faith; if they are near death, pray for God’s blessings and assurance of their faith. The next members on our prayer list are Dan Coleman, Courtney Collins, Pom Cook and family, Ashley Cooke and family, Jamie Cords, and Celeste Cummins and kids. The funeral service for Lanny Grigsby, 79 years old, was held August 8, 2017 at 10:30 am. Group 4 was in charge. A funeral service for Lil Cornell, 89 years old, was held August 11, 2017 at 1:00 pm. Group 1 was in charge. The funeral service for Lois Treinen, 84 years old, was held August 16 at 1:30 pm. Group 2 was in charge. Thank you to everyone who furnished or served the food and helped clean up following these three funerals. We appreciate all your help. THANK YOU - To our St. John family: Thank you so much for all the cards, encouraging words and gifts that you have given to me for the celebration of my 20th year in the ministry. Thank you as well for the humbling but greatly appreciated gathering on Sunday, the bountiful potluck meal, the beautiful corsage & boutonnière, the entertainment and all the congratulatory words! It just adds to all the wonderful support you have given me in the past 10 plus years! You are all so kind to your pastor and his family and you make us feel so very loved and appreciated. God bless you all! You are a joy to serve! In His grace, Pastor Bruce H. Lesemann
A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR LUTHERAN WOMEN

- Summer “vacation” is over, and activities get “back in gear.” The LWML’s Mission Statement wants every woman “to affirm her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.” As a called child of God, we want to and are expected to help further His Kingdom. Working by ourselves, we are like one candle in the night. When we gather with our sisters in Christ, we have more candle power, and the impact of our light becomes greater. For this reason LWML was organized 75 years ago. Not only do we grow in Christ in our own local groups, but we join together into district and national groups. One example of the impact: Over the years Lutheran women have raised over 100 million dollars in mites.

St. John has two groups for women in our church: the Ladies’ Aid (organized in 1906) and Mary and Martha, a group meeting in the evenings to accommodate the working woman. YOU are encouraged to be a part of one of the groups. The fellowship, Bible study, and opportunities for service will enhance your faith life.

St. John Ladies’ Aid will meet on Wednesday, September 6 at 1:30 p.m. at the church. Jan Magnussen attended the National Gathering last summer, “Jesus Christ Above All,” and will share the inspiration she received and what is new….including the logo on this page. Joann Oatman is the hostess and Marilyn Mittelstadt will lead the opening devotions. Roll call is to tell the greatest thing anyone has ever done for you. Please accept this invitation and join us.

There’s a place for YOU....

Would you like to share the love of Jesus, but are afraid to speak alone? Then join with others who have that same passion by proclaiming His love in song. The St. John Choir has a place for you. God has given many people musical talents to sing His praises and help lead the congregation’s song, and we encourage you to lift your voice with others. Voices of all ages—teens to adults—are welcomed. The choir is a wonderful “training ground” for the young crowd, and it keeps the voice “oiled’ for those more mature singers. Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. The first fall rehearsal is August 30. Special events for this fall include the Reformation observance and Advent/Christmas music.
MISSION SERVICE  - Our crew loaded and hauled 1,109 pounds of clothing for Orphan Grain Train this Spring. Despite the recent rain showers, we loaded another 598 pounds for Orphan Grain Train. They didn’t let the rain stop them! They just covered the load with tarps and took off. The crew also went to Orphan Grain Train and helped them load a semi for a trip to the Navajo Indians. Many thanks to a great group of workers!

We had a large load of double knit given to us. It makes good fillers, but it is all gone. We could use more double knit, mattress pads, and flannel sheets. These all make good, warm fillers.

We have also had some large bags of sheets given to us. These are used to make backs for the quilts. Fitted sheets are used for liners or cut into strips and squares to be used as quilt tops.

We hauled 35 quilts to Orphan Grain Train this last trip and had six bed mats. Our crew packs as items come in each week. We have a nice load started again for next time. We could use more Tyson boxes. These are really nice to pack the clothing in for Orphan Grain Train.

Our sewing group is getting very small. If anyone is interested in tying quilts, we would welcome more help. If we have people who are able to come, we meet on Monday mornings. Many thanks to my at-home suppliers. They keep bringing in many items for us to work on.

All of our crews are fabulous and are always there when we ask for help—rain or shine! We really appreciate all the donations.

Marleen has bought enough supplies for 24 more school kits for LWML. Now, we could use more help to make back packs. The back packs can also be used. We will need them by April.

Marguerite Manteufel

A Sincere THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the benefit for the Lytle Twins at Pizza Ranch on Wednesday evening, August 23rd. Grace and Emily are doing well at Blank Children’s Hospital in Des Moines and have both recently passed into the four pound range. It is hoped they will possibly be home with the family by mid-September. Lois Lytle

WITH APPRECIATION  - Thank you for the $200.00 that was given in support of missionaries Alyssa Anders and J.P. & Aimee Cima.
HOPE AND HEALING - Beginning, Monday, September 11, 2017 from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, the Fratzke & Jensen, Sliefert, and Mahaney Funeral Homes, along with UnityPoint Hospice, will be sponsoring a seven week grief support group for individuals, couples, or families that have experienced the loss of a loved one or friend through death. For more information or to register for the group, please contact Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home (732-1911), Sliefert Funeral Home (732-5010), Mahaney Funeral Home (288-4461), or UnityPoint Hospice (749-2741).

SEPTEMBER ASSISTANTS - Incase you're wondering when you see the back page...no, I did not forget to fill in the sections for the Greeters, Bell Ringers, and Acolytes. There just aren't any signed up for September!

PASTOR LESEMANN'S ARTICLE CONTINUES (from p. 3) BELOW...

But as we talk with those who have drifted away, if the Spirit prompts us, we can remind them that we shouldn’t let sinful people keep us away from the blessings He gives us in worship. And we need them and they need us as fellow members of the body of Christ.

We can remind them that this is a process that we are all going through. Change takes time and we need to be patient and understanding in that regard. And we can work in that change together. We should strive to do as it says in Romans 14:13, “Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother’s way.”

And finally when someone we have not seen in a while returns let us rejoice! As it says in Romans 15:7, “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”

May God give us a zeal and understanding for the lost, especially those whom we have not seen for a while who have worshiped with us in the past. We may not realize it, but we need them as much as they need us as they are, by faith, a part of the body of Christ.

In His grace,
Pastor Bruce H. Lesemann
Be Hopeful
By: Celeste Cummins

Recently, I took a chance at something that was uncharacteristic of me. It seemed like a good idea at the time, but the outcome was out of my hands. All I could do was wait to see how it turned out. As the days ticked by, my waiting became more and more uncertain and anxious. Would I get the outcome I had hoped for?

One day in the midst of waiting, this verse popped up on my Thrivent perpetual calendar. “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him” (Romans 15:13). The outcome of my situation was still uncertain, but this verse gave me four things to ponder as I waited.

Hope – God is a God of hope. With Him, there is always a chance. Romans 4:18 tells us, “Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed...” Because of their age, Abraham and Sarah’s ability to have children looked hopeless – but God is a God of hope – and He made it happen!

Joy – We can be filled with joy because God tells us, “I know the plans I have for you” (Jeremiah 29:11). With joyful anticipation, we look forward to whatever God has planned for us – even if it is unknown to us!

Peace – Though I am worried, anxious, and feeling anything but peaceful at the moment, Jesus has told us, “My peace I give you” (John 14:27). In this world, we will struggle and face uncertainty, but we can have peace because Jesus Himself has brought it. We just have to place our faith in Him.

Trust – I do not know what the outcome of my situation will be. It may bring me joy or sadness. But, I can “trust in the Lord with all [my] heart” (Proverbs 3:5) and believe that God will give me the outcome I need, even if it is not the one I want.

When you find yourself waiting – for news from the doctor, for a flight to touch down, for the Cubs to win the pennant again – remember the words in Philippians 4:6 (ESV), “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

Be filled with hope, joy, peace, and trust in the Lord as you pray and make your requests known to God.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13
JUST A NOTE - Death is usually not a topic that most people like to talk about. However, with three funerals at St. John in a little over a week, this seemed to be a good time to dedicate a few pages in the newsletter to this topic. I received "The Train of Life" via email; the writer is unknown. The devotions on the next two pages were written by Tim Hetzner, President of Lutheran Church Charities.

The Train of Life

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone.

As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats.

This train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

I wish you a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey. Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train.
The Fear of Death (Part 1)

“Show me, O Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life” (Psalm 39:4)

Next time you drive through a tunnel and come out on the other side, remind yourself that’s how death will be for every redeemed child of God. You say ‘good night’ on earth, and hear ‘good morning’ in Heaven.

Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross explained that most of us go through the following stages when we face the prospect of dying:

1) Shock stage - ‘O, my God!’
2) Denial stage - ‘It can’t be true!’
3) Anger stage - ‘Why me?’
4) Bargaining stage - ‘Spare me, God, and I will do something for You.’
5) Depression stage - ‘It’s all over. I have nothing to look forward to.’
6) Testing stage - ‘What can I do to make my remaining days worthwhile?’
7) Acceptance stage - ‘It doesn’t make sense to fight the inevitable.’

The truth is, the moment we were born we all began to run out of time. It’s just that in the wonder and excitement of childhood and adolescence, and the busyness and stresses of mid-life, we don’t think about it much. We’re like the hypochondriac who put the words on his tombstone: ‘I expected this, but not just yet!’ But as we age and realize that we’ve less time ahead of us than behind us, we begin to pray with the psalmist: ‘Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom’ (Psalm 90:12). Someone asked Charles Spurgeon, ‘Do you have dying grace?’ He replied, ‘Not today, but I will when I’m dying!’ And the grace that has saved and sustained you thus far will be with you as you transition from your lesser life to your greater one.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, my days are numbered and in Your hands. Teach me to live in that eager expectation of eternity with You - while working now knowing You still have plans for me here. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Written by Tim Hetzner, President of Lutheran Church Charities, August 8, 2017, devotion@lutheranchurchcharities.org
The Fear of Death (Part 2)

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies” (John 11:25)

Years ago, there was a best selling country song that said, ‘Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die.’ Why? Sometimes it’s because we’re not sure that we’re ready. But you can be. How?

1) You can prepare spiritually and emotionally. Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?’ (v. 25-26). When you put your trust in Christ, death is not the end of you but the beginning of the best version of you.

2) You can prepare relationally. How? By letting the key people in your life know on a regular basis how much you care about them. You must also forgive anyone who has hurt you, and seek their forgiveness if you hurt them (see Mark 11:25-26).

3) You can prepare financially. One of Christ’s last acts on the cross was to commit the care of His mother to one of His disciples. Good stewardship requires that you leave a valid will with clear instructions concerning your earthly possessions and how you want your funeral to be handled. This may not be a pleasant thought, but it’s your spiritual responsibility. Paul writes, ‘I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better’ (Philippians 1:23). Why did Paul say heaven was ‘far better?’ Because God had already given him a glimpse into heaven. David felt the same way, ‘In thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore’ (Psalm 16:11).

Prayer: Heavenly Father, help me live in a way that I am prepared to depart and be with You, while still living each day doing Your will for me here. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Written by Tim Hetzner, President of Lutheran Church Charities, August 9, 2017, devotion@lutheranchurchcharities.org
St. John is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)

WE WELCOME YOU TO
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!
Saturday Evening—6:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning—9:00 a.m.
402 Lake Ave
Storm Lake, Iowa 50588
Phone: 712-732-2400
Email: stjohnstormlake@gmail.com
Web: www.stjohnstormlake.org
www.facebook.com/stjohnstormlake

September Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Deb Matasovsky & Loni Stille
Greeters: Saturday, 6:00 p.m.
          Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Bell Ringers: Saturday, 6:00 p.m.
              Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Acolytes: Saturday, 6:00 p.m.
          Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

The KAYL Broadcast for this month is sponsored for the glory of God.

Musicians are encouraged to share their talents during our worship services throughout the year. If you play an instrument or would like to join the choir, please contact our music director, Suzanne Winterhof. The choir will rehearse each Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm. New members are always welcome.

Altar Flowers
3rd - Ron & Jerene Neir
10th - Gram, G.G., Mom - Naomi Benna from her family
17th - In memory of my sister Dorothy by Eileen Mandernach
24th - Family of Willis Lussman

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.
1 John 4:7