

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

SWORD & SHELL

AUGUST, 2010

FROM OUR PASTOR

Our daughter was married on July 17th. Many members of St. James have asked whether there would be a time when I would speak about that event. Perhaps this newsletter is an appropriate place to do that.

Our daughter and her new husband each live in Washington, D.C. It was important to them to have their friends and co-workers attend the wedding, along with family and friends who do not live there. Our son, his wife, and their daughter live in the nation's capital, too. My wife's parents accompanied us; and other members of our extended family came, too.

The word that describes the wedding and the weekend best is, "**glorious.**" Our son served as tour guide, showing us the sights of the city. The hotel where our daughter had secured a block of rooms was splendid and well-situated. The rehearsal dinner hosted by the groom's parents was nearby. The location for the wedding, the reception, and the dance was very nice. All of these added to the enjoyment of our visit. But three moments in particular were, "**glorious.**"

Our daughter met us at the airport and drove us to our son's home. As I was sitting on the sofa in her home, our seventeen month-old granddaughter ran to me! I had not expected that. It was glorious!

My son-in-law's father is a United Methodist minister. At the rehearsal, we decided that he would lead his son through his marriage vows, then I would lead my daughter through hers. She asked me to offer them to her in short phrases, rather than a sentence at a time. I told her I would. At the wedding, as she prepared to say her vows, she locked her gaze on my eyes, concentrating, and trying to maintain her composure. So, it was my privilege to look into my daughter's face—eye-to-eye—as I lead her, slowly, through her vows. That was glorious, too!

The first dance belonged to the bride and groom. He had spent months selecting all the music. We watched them, overjoyed that they had found joy in each other. Then, another song—a very familiar one—began to play. My daughter invited me to dance with her. Another glorious moment!

There are moments when we know that God has blessed us; and we thank God for the gifts that we have received. Our days in Washington, D.C. included many other activities; but these three singular moments were glorious: a granddaughter's welcome, a daughter's eyes, and an invitation to dance with a newly-wed bride in her time of joy. I thank God for these wonders.

Each of us knows times of glorious joy. And we are moved to raise our prayers of thanksgiving and praise to God.

— Pastor Gregory Davis

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

The **Simply Giving**® Program endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank

Since St. James began offering an automated giving program called The **Simply Giving** Program endorsed by Thrivent Financial Bank, 36 members have chosen to participate.

Several members have told us how much they like the program because of its convenience. They also mentioned that they appreciate that their financial gifts to St. James continue even if they are out of town and aren't able to be at a worship service.

The **Simply Giving**® Program is a way to help you achieve your stewardship plan for 2010 and beyond. You can enroll at any time by contacting the church office.

Second quarter financial statements have been placed in your church mailboxes. We hope you have taken time to review this information.

Stewardship helps us exercise our faith and trust in God.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

From elca.org: Martin Luther once asked, "What do we older folks live for if not for the care of the young, to teach and train them?" The importance he placed on education has remained a hallmark of the Lutheran church for centuries, and is truly part of our calling.

Christian education is at the very heart of the church. In the educational process the Spirit of God encounters people of all ages so that they are nurtured in faith, grow in knowledge and experience, and are inspired and empowered to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Soon we will begin another year of Sunday Church School. We offer classes on Sunday mornings for ages 3 through adult and we offer confirmation instruction on Wednesday evenings, typically for students in seventh and eighth grades.

We will kick-off our SCS year with Rally Day at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, September 12. In preparation for the SCS year our Christian Education Team (Jill Boeschen, Denise Friesth, Nicole Heley Lehman, Michelle Laughlin, Connie McConnell and Lisa Wells) will be selecting curriculum and recruiting teachers. We welcome you to join our team (we almost always have chocolate or other treats at our team meetings!) and we encourage you to consider helping with our SCS program in some way – either leading a group of students, helping with music, helping with special projects, etc.

There are many ways to help – so listen, God is calling!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"We had a blast at the "Baobab Blast: God's Great Get-together". Learners of all ages gathered for four evenings of fellowship, learning, serving, singing, crafting, drumming, weaving, knitting, eating, sharing and more! *A special thanks to all the participants!*

Some of the highlights shared by students include:

- Making the Djembe drums and "bottle caps" shakers.
- Playing the drums loaned to us by Reiman Music and the new drum, shakers, and rainstick purchased with Darryl Jahn Memorial funds (thank you!).
- Having passport photos taken and getting their own passport stamped each evening.
- Learning about the Bible stories for the week.
- Earning money for the God's Global Barnyard project.

Our other learners enjoyed two of the science experiments: 1. learning about blood typing and 2. desalination.

A special thank you to our volunteers:

Small group leaders and helpers: Nicole Jahn Lauridsen, Connie McConnell, Paula May, Sally Henry, Michael Moran, Denise Friesth, Cheryl Wells, Oweni Moring, Allison Kane, Michele Kane, Ellen Rothweiler, Kevin Lauridsen

Music and Science: Nicole Heley Lehman, Josh Boeschen

Crafts: Jill Boeschen, Lisa Wells, Abby Dolan, Keith Wells

Photography and slide show: Mike Dunn

Kitchen: Fiona Phoenix, Marcia Kostal, Susan Henry

Animal prints: Benjamin Heley Lehman and family!

African supplies: Sheila Green (Jill Boeschen's wonderful mother, Sheila Green!!)

Loving Hands/Harolds Hats: Jan Nissly, Ila Hanson, Michelle Laughlin, Deneen Dygert, Jenni McCombs, Susan Henry

Other duties as assigned: Boeschen family, Friesth family, Heley Lehman family, Wells family!

Special thanks, also, to everyone who provided food for the evening meals.

GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD

**VBS
Outreach
Project**



Students were encouraged to ask their parents for a chore that they could do to earn A DOLLAR. Then they could bring the dollar to VBS for God's Global Barnyard. More about this project from the ELCA website:

- Animals provide families living in poverty with food, funds and fertilizer—all for a better future. Gifts to God's Global Barnyard support animal-related projects of ELCA World Hunger.
- **\$10.00** *10 little chicks make a big difference! Within a few months of birth, chicks begin laying eggs. Eggs make nutritious meals for growing kids, and the extra eggs generate income to grow a small business.*
- **\$30.00** *A pig in a pen is like money in the bank. Within months, piglets grow to weigh a couple hundred pounds--bringing a big payoff at the market. Families can also use and sell a pig's natural fertilizer to help grow crops.*

Students contributed a total of \$140 for this project. We have purchased 50 chicks and 3 pigs!
THANK YOU!!!

LOVING HANDS/HAROLD'S HATS

The Christian Education Team invited the Loving Hands/Harold Hats Group to attend VBS and make hats. This was a stroke of genius. We made 15 hats and added at least 4 people (2 adults and 2 children to our numbers).

This month, I delivered 50 more hats to Child Serve. Child Serve wants 110 hats. We have 27 hats to finish this project. I also delivered 29 preemie and small hats to Broadlawns and 20 preemie and small hats to Iowa Lutheran Hospital.

A huge thank to all involved in this ministry

Don't forget to check Aunt Nellies and Grandma's attic for yarn. Please deliver to the Parish Steward so we may thank you properly.

Submitted by Jan Nissly

AUGUST WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

5:00 P.M. Saturday	July 31	August 7	August 14	August 21	August 28
Deacon	Steve Henry	Susan Henry	Kent Kroeger	Jerry Wylie	Verna White
Greeters	Jim & Dawn Harnack	Oweni Moring/ Steve Henry	Susan Henry	Annette Krauth	Kent & Diane Kroeger
Ushers	Jim & Janet Longcor	Diane Reed	Jerry Wylie	Dick & Jean Mott	Dick & Lynn Walker
Altar Guild	Oweni Moring	Rita Davis	Susan Henry	Barb Bean	Diane Kroeger
9:30 A.M.	August 1	August 8	August 15	August 22	August 29
Asst. Minister	Andrew Walling	Lon Friesth	Carole Henning	Aaron Heley Lehman	Kent Henning
Deacon	Verna White	Denise Friesth	Luther Hanson	Andrew Walling	John Harvey
Lector	Jean Pock	Grant Shoeman	Cheryl Livingston	Eric Toot	Paula Rother
Acolyte(s)	Katie Merritt	Alec McCombs	Austin Probst	Jenna Sherzan	Grant Shoeman
Greeters	Charlie & Paige Fiedler	Carol Gannon	Richard & Nancy Geist	Doug & Sandy Johanson	Collin Laughlin & Grant Shoeman
Ushers	Luther & Jody Lehman	Deanne & Bryce Plew	Isaac Rodenberg	Jeff & Reka Lindell	Jeff Kane & Connor Mutch
Altar Guild	Carol Gannon	Mary Dzubak	Nancy Geist	Ila Hanson	Ally Shoeman
Nursery	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Other					
Social Time Hosts	Dygert & Walling	Shoeman & Schultz	Nissly & Wells	Johanson & Toot	GSM Team
Pew Patrol	Janet Longcor	Diane Munch	Kathleen Olesen	Dee Miller	Tammy Dial
Sunday Teller	John Pietila	John Pietila	John Pietila	John Pietila	John Pietila
Monday Teller	Axness & Longcor	Gannon & Shoeman	Boeschon & Geist	Crane & Krauth	Hanson & Pock

Please note: If you cannot serve on the assigned date, please trade with another volunteer and call the Parish Steward, 276-0134, with the change by Wednesday of the week you are assigned to serve!

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

5:00 P.M. Saturday	September 4	September 11	September 18	September 25
Deacon	Jerry Wylie	Rita Davis	Dawn Harnack	P.A. Henrichsen
Greeters	Doug Laughlin	Elva Lehman & Merle Bean	Jan Longcor	Bev Maas
Ushers	Ken & Verna White	Erik & Rebecca Allison	Elva Lehman & Merle Bean	Jim & Dawn Harnack
Altar Guild	Elva Lehman	Jan Longcor	Bev Maas	Oweni Moring
8:30 A.M.	September 5	September 12	September 19	September 26
Asst. Minister	Lon Friesth	Pastor Davis	Diane Munch	Pastor Davis
Deacon	P.A. Henrichsen	Diane Howe	Deanne Plew	Isaac Rodenberg
Lector	Paige Fiedler	Kevin Howe	Carol Gannon	John Pietila
Acolyte(s)	Shane Burgess	Josh Chambers & John Danielson	Collin Laughlin & Emily Lehman	Katie Merritt & Grant Shoeman
Greeters	Chris & Lori Burgess	Bob & Carol Crane	Wanda DeJongh	Dygart Family
Ushers	Charlie & Paige Fiedler	Karl & Jenni Chambers	Doug & Michelle Laughlin	Doug & Sandy Johanson
Altar Guild	Mary Dzubak	Carol Gannon	Debby Wylie	Ally Shoeman
Nursery	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
11:00 A.M.		September 12	September 19	September 26
Asst. Minister		Frank Munch	Pastor Davis	Lon Friesth
Deacon		Aaron Heley Lehman	Greg Boesch	Frank Munch
Lector		Greg Boesch	Jill Boesch	Deb Grant Howard
Acolyte(s)		Jon Dolan & Jordan Heley Lehman	Chloe Kostal & Alec McCombs	Austin Probst & Jenna Shezan
Greeters		Josh Boesch	Deneen Dygart	Howard Family
Ushers		Greg Boesch	Dave Dygart	John Harvey
Altar Guild		Mary Dzubak	Diane Kroeger	Debby Wylie
Nursery		OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
Other				
Social Time Hosts	Dial & Dygart	Munch & Grant Howard	Johanson & Laughlin	Lehman & Wylie
Pew Patrol	Merle Bean	Jill Boesch	Carol Crane	Wanda DeJongh
Sunday Teller	P.A. Henrichsen	P.A. Henrichsen	P.A. Henrichsen	P.A. Henrichsen
Monday Teller	Axness & Longcor	Gannon & Shoeman	Boesch & Geist	Crane & Krauth

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YOUTH PLANNING MEETING

Hear ye Hear ye!! Our fall youth event planning meeting is Sunday, August 29, from 6:30-7:30! This important meeting is for grades 6-12 and their families! Bring your calendars, event ideas, and a snack to share and join us as we schedule our events for the upcoming fall months. These meetings are helpful to the youth team because it allows us to hear your ideas and collaborate with families on scheduling to hopefully ensure the greatest number of participants. We hope these meetings are helpful to you in that they give you the youth activity schedule way in advance so that your family can plan for these fun, fellowship and faith building activities!



After we set the schedule, the best place to view it in order to refresh your memory in on the St. James Youth Google calendar! The calendar link is: www.stjamesjohnston.org/PDF/CALENDAR/ChurchCalendar.htm This calendar is updated regularly to reflect any changes that may occur and also provides information about location of activities and which age group is involved. Make this site a weekly stop for your family so that you can keep on top of what's happening for the youth at St. James!

LUTHERAN SERVICES OF IOWA

Children are God's greatest gift

With the new school year approaching, August is a busy time. Parents are getting last-minute school supplies and children are spending their last summer moments playing with friends. Soon kids will be in the classroom and the local parks will quiet and the community pools become empty. During these waning moments of summer it is a great time to celebrate the exuberance of youth and the life changing presence a child has on life. Children truly are God's greatest gift.

LSI understands how special children are and believes that every child deserves a loving permanent home. This is why LSI strives to provide services that promote children's best interests in finding a safe permanent family. LSI's services educate parents in an effort to prevent abuse and neglect and promote positive parenting, increasing the chance a child can remain part of a happier, healthier family. LSI is also a leader in Iowa KidsNet, a statewide collaboration of agencies that recruits, trains, licenses and supports families to foster and adopt Iowa children. With support, children can reach their potential for greatness and make successful transitions to adulthood. A life influenced by a child is a beautiful gift from God.

For information on staying involved in your child's school experience or for parenting tips, visit www.lsitips.com.

“MEET” IVUGA’S LAY EVANGELISTS-IN-TRAINING!

In the Pare mountains of Tanzania, Pastor Chediell works to spread God’s Word among five sub-parishes that make up the Ivuga Parish. To do this, he must walk or ride his motorbike many miles and still he is unable to be at every sub-parish every Sunday, nor is he, alone, able to see to his congregation’s many needs between Sundays. However, Pastor Chediell and the people of Ivuga are blessed with lay evangelists, who undergo two years of instruction and training at the Usangi Bible School in the Pare Diocese, before they begin their work in the parish.

Several years ago, the Partnership Committee in Ivuga told us that they needed more lay evangelists. The two-year training period for each evangelist costs \$2,000 to cover the expenses of tuition, books, supplies and family maintenance. St. James members raised funds; so, two candidates began the lay evangelist training program last fall. A third will begin in September. Pastor Chediell has provided some information about these three lay evangelists in training. So, we introduce them to the people of St. James:

Joseph Fahamuel, who began lay evangelist training last fall, is 36 years old. He is married to Santiel Juma and they have seven children. Jackson and Jerald, twin boys, are 16, James is 14, Japhet is 12, Joshua is 9, John is 6, and Janefer is 7 months old. Joseph has completed Standard Seven level of education (we are uncertain how this translates to schooling in the U.S.). Joseph is interested in music, education and religious issues.

John Bumija is single and 26 years old. Like Joseph, he also began training last fall and he has also completed Standard Seven level of education. He is interested in education and religious issues.

Enock Mnzava, who is 28 years old, will begin training this fall. His level of education is Form Four.

We hope to hear more about Joseph, John and Enock this year. If you are interested in learning more about them (perhaps even exchanging correspondence?) or about our sister congregation, please join us at the next Global and Social Ministries monthly meeting on **August 12 at 6:00 P.M.** Healthy snacks are usually provided and we try to keep the meeting moving and as brief as possible.

LUTHER PARK AUXILIARY'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Luther Park Auxiliary's 2010 Ice Cream Social will be Sunday, August 8, from 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Luther Park Apartments Community Center, located at 1555 Hull Avenue in Des Moines.



There will be a free will offering for the Ice Cream and Brownie Sundaes.

You will also find a variety of delicious home-made cakes, cookies, pies, and sugar free items for your purchase!

All proceeds will go towards new landscaping at Rose Glen Apartments.

The Northeast Polk Co. Chapter #31161 of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will provide supplemental funds for this event.

If you would like to help serve at this event or are able to furnish a two-crust pie, please see or call Jean Mott at 276-2968.

SEMINARY ASSISTANCE

HANNAH BERGSTROM deLEON, daughter of the Revd David Bergstrom, pastor of St. James Lutheran Church from 1979-1984, will enter Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota, this Fall. She has asked for financial support from our congregation. Our Congregation Council decided to let our members know of her request, thinking that those who remember Hannah might want to respond.

Contributions toward her support through St. James Lutheran Church will be forwarded to her seminary.

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN JOHNSTON, IOWA

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*St. James Lutheran Church is a
congregation making a distinctly
Lutheran Christian witness
in Johnston, Iowa, and the surrounding
area that extends to all of the world in
the name of Jesus Christ, through our
partnership with the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America.*

All Are Welcome!