

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH

SWORD & SHELL

MARCH, 2010

FROM OUR PASTOR

On Sunday, February 14th, as I was on my way to teach the Adult Class, **Council President Greg Boeschen** met me in the Narthex and said, “*Come with me.*” His smile made me wonder about what otherwise could be an ominous command. We know Jesus invited people to become his disciples by saying, “*Follow me.*” But, “*Come with me,*” might have been what the guards who arrested Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane ordered him to do. Those Roman soldiers came with clubs and swords. When our Council President said, “*Come with me,*” he appeared to be unarmed. *(Phew!)*

A few steps through our Narthex allowed me to see people smiling in Ivuga Hall. **To my surprise, the Congregation Council had arranged for a celebration to mark the 25th anniversary of my ministry as the pastor of St. James Lutheran Church!** A decorated anniversary cake, cookies, cupcakes, and other goodies had been prepared. Mr. Boeschen presented a gift of money from the congregation—a check for \$470.00! There was a basket of cards from congregational members, some of which included thoughtful notes and an additional \$75.00 in cash.

On top of everything else, the Congregation Council arranged to have my wife Rita, who attends worship on Saturdays at 5:00 P.M., there as well! Since that day, another gift of \$143.00 has come to me. Rita said that someone had suggested that the funds could help underwrite my pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November of this year.

It’s wonderful—and thoughtful—for a congregation to express its appreciation so openly for the efforts of its pastor. **It would be a great asset to the larger Church of Jesus Christ, if every pastor were confident of the loving support of the congregation he or she is called to serve.** The congregation of my youth loved its pastors; and I assumed that was true of every congregation. Through the years, as colleagues have spoken about how they have been treated in congregations they serve, I have learned the blessing that a supportive and loving congregation is for the work of its pastor.

There were young people in Ivuga Hall on February 14th. We may not think about the power of what they witnessed for the direction of their lives. The Church of Jesus Christ needs pastors and other leaders for the future. The impression our younger members have of the Church are shaped by events such as this 25th anniversary appreciation reception. It may have planted a seed in the minds of our youth to consider serving the Church as a pastor, a lay rostered leader, or to take an active role of leadership in a congregation such as serving on the Council, or one of its Teams and Committees.

Thank you, for your participation in the life of St. James Lutheran Church. Thank you, for the celebration on February 14th, the cards, and the financial gifts. And, thank you, for expressing your appreciation for the work of your pastor openly. I pray that it will inspire others to cultivate a relationship of trust and support between congregations and pastors in the future.

It may even inspire a boy or girl who enjoyed a piece of cake or a cupcake in Ivuga Hall in February, 2010, to think one day about his or her life in the Church as an adult. Perhaps one of them will become a pastor who serves a congregation that expresses its loving support for the ministry done among them by celebrating the 25th anniversary of the day he or she accepted the Call and began in that congregation. *We are planting seeds here at St. James Lutheran Church!*

Appreciatively,
Pastor Gregory Nelson Davis

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS

Each Wednesday in Lent, we shall gather for a simple supper, a time of learning, and worship. This year's Lenten Learning will focus on the connection between our Christian Faith and the ways we serve God and others. Sung Vespers will bring each evening to a close.

Supper, 5:30-6:00
Lenten Learning, 6:10-6:50
Sung Vespers, 7:00

The following groups will prepare and serve the meals for our Lenten series this year.

Wednesday, March 3—Year 1 Confirmation Class
Wednesday, March 10—Year 2 Confirmation Class
Wednesday, March 17—Congregation Council
Wednesday, March 24—Youth Group & Youth Team

HOLY WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Thursday, April 1, 7:00 P.M. – **Maundy Thursday Eucharist**
Friday, April 2, 7:00 P.M. – **Good Friday Liturgy**
Saturday, April 3, 5:00 P.M. – **Easter Service**
Saturday, April 3, 7:00 P.M. – **Easter Vigil**
Sunday, April 4, 8:30 and 11:00 A.M. – **Easter Sunday**



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!

The Colts beat the Saints at St. James! Thank you for your SOUPER Bowl of Caring donations in February! 60 food items were donated to the food pantry on behalf of the Colts vs 59 items for the Saints.

Thank you to Benjamin Lehman for counting and displaying these items and to Jim and Jan Longcor for delivering them to DMARC. In January, 143 food items and \$115 were donated to DMARC. In February, 119 food items and \$320 were donated. Thank you, St. James members, for your faithful ministry to the hungry.

GLOBAL & SOCIAL MINISTRY

If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and the malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

Isaiah 58: 9b-10

May you feel God's presence during this Lenten season and may the words from our Ash Wednesday lesson be in our hearts and minds. We have two opportunities to help the hungry and oppressed in the upcoming weeks.

During the month of March, St. James will be collecting **in-kind donations for Hope Builders**. This is the organization to which our 2009 Warmth for the Homeless campaign was directed. Some of the men Hope Builders assisted are now in apartments or will be living in apartments soon and need the bare essentials of apartment life—**towels, blankets, sheet sets, cleaning supplies, dishes, toiletries, etc. as well as furnishings (mattress box frames/bed springs needed in particular)**. Please bring gently-used or new items to the bin in the entryway/ vestibule from **March 6-27**. If you have large items/furniture to donate, please do NOT bring large items to church. A sign-up sheet for furnishings/large items will be located near the bin—list the item, your name, and a contact phone number or e-mail and Hope Builders or a Global and Social Ministry team member will contact you regarding pick up. Items in excess of Hope Builder needs will be donated to St. Joseph Emergency Shelter (for families "graduating" from the shelter into their own residence). If you would rather give a gift of money, apartment rent and bus passes are also needed by Hope Builders to assist these at-risk, recently homeless individuals.

Food Pantry Weekend is March 20-21—MARCHetti Sauce (please bring non-glass spaghetti sauce or ANY (non-perishable, non-glass, non-expired, and non-home-canned) item you are able to donate to the entryway shopping cart—crackers such as Saltines were mentioned as a particular need during our January delivery). As you may have read in the Des Moines Register, the Des Moines Area Religious Council Emergency Food Pantry is struggling to meet the needs of the nine area food pantries it serves. Also, with all the snow days, children normally getting free/reduced breakfast and lunch are needing food at home. Please consider a food or monetary donation at this time—good Lenten exercise! Paper sacks are also being collected near the shopping cart (the pantries pre-package for households when possible to expedite pick up).



Please join the **Global and Social Ministry Team** at our next meeting: **Thursday, March 11, 6:00-7:30 p.m.** If you cannot attend but have feedback or ideas to share, please contact our new team chair, Deb Howard Grant; our council liaison, Oweni Morring; or our staff liaison, Ellen Rothweiler.

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Dr. Duane Larson, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary, will be the speaker for the March 15th School of Ministry, sponsored by the Center for Renewal at Grand View University. He will provide updates about emerging models for church leadership formation in our seminaries and the role of the seminary in our changing world.

The discussion begins at 7:00 p.m. in Rasmussen Center for Community Advancement Professions, classroom 103. Cost is \$10.00 and payment can be made at the door. However, it's good to get your reservation in so that we can have enough materials for everyone in attendance. Contact Jane White at 515-263-6008 or jwhite@grandview.edu or on line registrations can be made at www.renewingchurch.org (Workshops and Events tab).

CLOTHES CLOSET

The Closet at Crown Point needs your gently used children's spring clothing! Please bring any outgrown or no longer worn items to our spring collection on **Saturday, March 6th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Help us organize our sorting room by donating empty copy paper boxes. We will also be accepting: new socks and underwear for toddlers and school-age children and new sundry items (baby, feminine, paper or laundry products and personal care items).



We are a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization and will provide you with a receipt for your donation. **We will not accept** household items, toys, adult shoes, bedding and jewelry. We ask that you please find another organization in which to donate these items. Our next collection will be Saturday, May 1st, 2010. Contact Shawna Beron at 515.868.1357 for more information or to volunteer! Please visit our website: <http://www.orgsites.com/ia/theclosetatcrownpoint/>

CONGRATULATIONS!

February 12-15 Diane & Hailey Bridgewater and Carol Crane were in Olde Town Alexandria, Virginia, for the USA Bouldering National Championships for youth and adults.

On Saturday, Hailey and her cousin, Tristin Crane, of Colorado Springs, Colorado competed in the qualifying round. Hailey placed 3rd and Tristin 12th in the qualifying rounds for Female Youth Junior (Hailey) and Male Youth 11-and-under (Tristin). Ten in each category went on to the finals round on Sunday. So Tristin finished 12th in the USA.

On Sunday, Hailey competed on very difficult routes along with 9 other junior females. Hailey placed 2nd in the finals. The top 4 in each category made the USA Climbing Team.

Congratulations Hailey!

MARCH WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

5:00 P.M. Saturday	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Deacon	Brian Queck	Steve Renner	Rita Davis	Dawn Harnack
Greeters	Jim & Dawn Harnack	Morring/Henry	Susan Henry	Annette Krauth
Ushers	Jim & Jan Longcor	Richard & Lynn Walker	Erik & Rebecca Allison	Jim & Dawn Harnack
Altar Guild	Bev Maas	Oweni Morring	Rita Davis	Susan Henry
8:30 A.M.	March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
Asst. Minister	Carole Henning	Pastor Davis	Kent Henning	Pastor Davis
Deacon	Denise Friesth	Diane Howe	Verna White	Oweni Morring
Lector	Eric Toot	Andrew Walling	Jerry Wylie	Paige Fiedler
Acolyte(s)	Jordan Heley Lehman	Collin Laughlin	Katie Merritt	Austin Probst & Grant Shoeman
Greeters	Charlie & Kathy Levine	Jeff & Reka Lindell	Ken White	Rodney & Kathleen Olesen
Ushers	Jerry Wylie	Gary & Diane Bridgewater	Charlie & Paige Fiedler	Steve Henry & Terry Frisch
Altar Guild	Debby Wylie	Mary Dzubak	Carol Gannon	Nancy Geist
Nursery	Emily Lehman	Ben Dygert	Emily Lehman	Reka Lindell
11:00 A.M.	March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
Asst. Minister	Pastor Davis	Aaron Heley Lehman	Pastor Davis	Nicole Heley Lehman
Deacon	Greg Boeschen	Jerry Wylie	Luther Hanson	Denise Friesth
Lector	Jill Boeschen	Paula Rother	Ila Hanson	Deb Grant Howard
Acolyte(s)	Jon Dolan	Jenna Sherzan	Chloe Kostal	Alec McCombs & Jenna Sherzan
Greeters	Josh & Elizabeth Boeschen	John & Doreen Christensen	Dave & Deneen Dygert	Alan & Karen Ellis
Ushers	Karl & Josh Chambers	John Christensen	Jeff Kane	Dave Dygert
Altar Guild	Mary Dzubak	Ila Hanson	Diane Kroeger	Debby Wylie
Nursery	OPEN	OPEN	Linda S. Anderson	OPEN
Other				
Social Time Hosts	Shoeman & Silberhorn	Toot & Walling	Wells & White	Wylie & Bridgewater
Pew Patrol	Luther Hanson	Susan Henry	Michele Kane	Kent Kroeger
Sunday Teller	Ken White	Ken White	Ken White	Ken White
Monday Teller	Hanson & Poock	Axness & Longcor	Gannon & Shoeman	Boeschen & Geist

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!

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

5:00 P.M. Saturday	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
Deacon	P.A. Henrichsen	Steve Henry	Susan Henry	Kent Kroeger
Greeters	Diane Kroeger	Lauren McNeal	Dee & Don Miller	Morring/Henry
Ushers	Morring/Henry	McNeal/White	Dick & Jean Mott	Brian & Linda Queck
Altar Guild	Diane Kroeger	Bev Maas	Oweni Morring	Rita Davis
8:30 A.M.	April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25
Asst. Minister	Diane Munch	Pastor Davis	Frank Munch	Pastor Davis
Deacon	Steve Renner	Brian Queck	Andrew Walling	Linda Queck
Lector	Carol Gannon	John Heinicke	Jordan Heley Lehman	Kent Henning
Acolyte(s)	Sarah Ross & Adam Johanson	Allyse Shoeman & Cheryl Wells	Shane Burgess & Josh Chambers	Jordan Heley Lehman & Collin Laughlin
Greeters	John & Jennifer Pietila	Jean Pook	Karl & Jenni Chambers	Doug & Margit Ross
Ushers	Doug & Sandy Johanson	Jeff & Reka Lindell	Connor Mutch & Jeff Kane	Doug Ross
Altar Guild	Allyse Shoeman	Mary Dzubak	Carol Gannon	Nancy Geist
Nursery	Cheryl Wells	Linda Queck	OPEN	Jennifer Pietila
11:00 A.M.	April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25
Asst. Minister	Lon Friesth	Nicole Heley Lehman	Pastor Davis	Aaron Heley Lehman
Deacon	Luther Hanson	John Harvey	Ellen Rothweiler	Sue Fox
Lector	John Harvey	Jim Howard	Paula Rother	Steve Kostal
Acolyte(s)	Lindsey Darland & Connor Mutch	Jenna Tayloe & Travis Theisen	John Danielson & Jon Dolan	Chloe Kostal & Alec McCombs
Greeters	Jim & Deb Howard	Ila & Luther Hanson	David & Paula May	Todd & Jennifer McCombs
Ushers	Wayne Mehre	Jerry Wylie	Keith & Lisa Wells	Greg Boesch
Altar Guild	Mary Dzubak	Ila Hanson	Diane Kroeger	Debby Wylie
Nursery	OPEN	Ben Dygert	Paula May	Lilian Buch
Other				
Social Time Hosts	EASTER BRUNCH	Burgess & Chambers	Dzubak & Frisch	Hanson & Harnack
Pew Patrol	Kathy Levine	Janet Longcor	Leasle Luebke	Jill Boesch
Sunday Teller	Dave Dygert	Dave Dygert	Dave Dygert	Dave Dygert
Monday Teller	Crane & Krauth	Hanson & Pook	Axness & Longcor	Gannon & Shoeman

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!

YOUTH AUCTION

The Youth of St. James would like to thank all the people who attended our auction and contributed by donating items or bidding on our auction.

We raised \$340.00 from the luncheon and \$3308 from the auction for a total of \$3648.00.

The funds raised will be used for the upcoming Youth Programming events. A number of youth will travel to Denver, CO, during Spring Break, for a combination service project and recreational event. We're also planning a day trip with summer, with the tentative plan to travel to the Omaha zoo. Additionally there are a variety of youth activities locally throughout the year, and we will set aside a portion of these funds for the 2012 National Youth Gathering event.

Thanks again for your generosity of time, talent, and treasure to support the youth of St. James. We hope you enjoyed the event.

LOVING HANDS

We have two "Loving Hands" groups that meet monthly at St. James. One group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. (next meeting March 2) and another group meets the first Thursday of the month at 10:00 A.M. (next meeting March 4).

We have three ways of sharing our talents by knitting, crocheting, sewing or quilting:

1. **Prayer shawls** to be given to our members who are suffering mentally or physically. Any extra shawls can be donated to Luther Park or Mercy Hospice-Johnston. The idea is to pray for those who will be the recipient of our talents.
2. **The Linus Project:** This ministry is named after Linus of the Peanuts comic strip. The blankets **HAVE** to be hand made. Police and Fire Fighters keep these with them at all times to be given to children who are taken from bad situations.
3. **HAROLD'S HATS:** Hats for all ages from infant to adults can be knit, crocheted, sewn or purchased to be donated to local charities. In 2008, member, Jan Nissly, made over 70 hats, gloves and donated them to Children and Family Services of Iowa. Additional hats and gloves were purchased and donated to a local charity in Iowa City by Jan's step-daughter.

Anyone who would like to join a group, please join our next meeting or contact Jan Nissly, hjnissly@q.com, or 986-5002.

MARCH CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday!

Melanie Dygert
Sara Reed
Grace Schmeling
Jerry Wylie
Olivia Houseman
Alison Mutch
Duncan Silberhorn
Samuel Anderson
Samuel Frary
Donna Gwinn
Deb Heldt
Julie Probst
Benjamin Dygert
Charlie Levine
Jessica Damrau
Emily Kostal
Nathan Wylie
Lisa Friesth
Colin Seibert
Jaxson Wendland

Cooper Wendland
Evelyn Avitt
Kathy Levine
Lauryn Tosch
Jennifer Darland
Aaron Anderson
Ginger Yates
Tracy Grasso
Aaron Heley Lehman
Sandy Johanson
Jeff Kane
Zachary Dygert
Craig Theisen
Kent Henning

Happy Anniversary!

Doug & Stacy Sherzan
Jon & Janine Seibert



In joyful affirmation of the covenant into which Christ has called me through Holy Baptism, I will serve joyfully and faithfully in the life and mission of our congregation!

We are in need of additional worship assistants—assisting minister, deacon, lector, usher, altar guild, nursery, and social time hosts! It requires over 24 worship assistants each weekend.

The Finance & Stewardship is working on Time & Ability Commitment Forms to be distributed to all members. Once this is complete, the Worship & Music Team will host a training session for all willing “servants”!

We hope you will join us as we all serve together to the Glory of God !

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!