



# The **St. John Eagle**

*"Celebrating more than 100 years, 1904 - 2010"*

*Member Congregation of the ELCA and LCMC*



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## ***St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church***

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### **From the Pastor's Pen Macintosh**

For several years, now, we have elected to send our benevolence moneys directly to selected ministries around the world. For me, this has been especially satisfying, since it permits us to have a greater sense of familiarity with, and involvement in, the work of specific pastors and missionaries. In this spirit, on Sunday, March 14, we shall host Pastor William Moberly, Founder of Awakening Lutherans to World Missions and Director of East European Mission Network, the latter of which we include in our benevolence giving. I urge you to attend worship that day, to help welcome Pastor Moberly.

Coincidentally, we have recently received a gracious thank-you letter from another of our benevolence recipients, the Finnish (Suomi) Special Interest Conference, which continues to be active in the ELCA. Pastor Antti Lepisto, President of the Suomi Conference, included with his letter information about the ministry we help support, specifically the Harlu parish building project. The communist era is past and the people of Russia want to worship and learn more about God. We at St. John are privileged to be part of that ministry.

As Pastor Lepisto reports, the Harlu parish in Russian Karelia serves the villages of Harlu, Laskela, Impilahti, Hiidenselka, and Leppasyrja. Though ministry has been going on for many years, there has been no permanent church building in any of the villages and the people have moved from apartments to cultural centers to daycare buildings. When the paper mill in Laskela closed, the unemployment rate rose to 60 percent. Many children in the schools did not have money to purchase lunches; food and clothing were in short supply. The parish and its supporters in other countries stepped in to provide for the needs of the community.

Oleg Menaker, a member of the communist party, was the director of the community youth center in Laskela. In 1996, Deacon Juhani Nevalainen and his wife Taimi, Laestadian Usherays missionaries from Haapavesi, Finland, asked Oleg if a space in the center could be used for Sunday School. Oleg thought the program might benefit the children and he agreed. He began to follow what was being taught in the Sunday School, met with adults, and participated in a summer retreat. As Oleg says, "God found me." With Juhani as his mentor, Oleg was encouraged to study at the Theological Institute. He was ordained and now serves as full-time pastor of the parish.

In 2007, a group of mission-minded people from the United States and Canada traveled with Suomi Conference President Antti Lepisto to visit congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia. The group stopped in an old building where members of the Harlu parish gathered for worship. After hearing of their struggles to find a permanent place to meet, these new friends from this side of the Atlantic pledged \$36,000 to help build a church in Laskela for the Harlu parish. The fund-raising effort that followed touched the hearts of others and \$75,000 was gathered for this project. After two and a half years of negotiation with many local, district, and Russian Republic of Karelia governmental units and following all the necessary steps and regulations, the building project is now moving forward with our help from St. John.

## **Serving St. John with our Time and Talents**

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### **During March**

#### **Ushers**

Karin Caves  
Tim Caves  
John Caves

#### **Custodial**

3/7 Gemma  
3/14 Dancewicz  
3/21 Bott  
3/28 Reed

#### **Coffee Hour**

3/7 Judy & Cheryl  
3/14 Karin, Tim, John Caves & Linda  
3/21 Mary & Bert  
3/28 Carole & Raudna

#### **Lector**

3/7 Phil/Sue Reed  
3/14 Phil/Sue Reed  
3/21 Tom Knowlton  
3/28 Tom Knowlton

#### **Childcare**

3/7 Chip & Shannon  
3/14 Kristin Phyles  
3/21 Rick & Cheryl  
3/28 Kira Dancewicz

#### **Lay Assistant**

3/7 Steve Gemma  
3/14 Angie Cornwell  
3/21 Linda Phyles  
3/28 Sue Reed

### **During April**

#### **Ushers**

Ralph Comeau  
Becky Comeau

#### **Custodial**

4/4 Phyles  
4/11 Berg/Grayson/Othote  
4/18 Gemma  
4/25 Dancewicz

#### **Coffee Hour**

4/4 Easter Sunday – All Members  
4/11 Linda & Becky  
4/18 Lydia  
4/25 Linda & Melissa

#### **Lector**

4/4 Judy Othote  
4/11 Judy Othote  
4/18 Susan Dancewicz  
4/25 Susan Dancewicz

#### **Childcare**

4/4 Chip & Shannon  
4/11 Kristin Phyles  
4/18 Rick & Cheryl  
4/25 Kira Dancewicz

#### **Lay Assistant**

4/4 Steve Gemma  
4/11 Angie Cornwell  
4/18 Linda Phyles  
4/25 Sue Reed

### **During May**

#### **Ushers**

See list downstairs

#### **Custodial**

5/2 Bott  
5/9 Reed  
5/16 Phyles  
5/23 Berg/Grayson/Othote  
5/30 Gemma

#### **Coffee Hour**

5/2 Shannon & Angie  
5/9 Men of the Church  
5/16 Linda & Susan  
5/23 Linda & Becky  
5/30 Judy & Cheryl

#### **Lector**

5/2 Linda Phyles  
5/9 Linda Phyles  
5/16 Phil/Sue Reed  
5/23 Phil/Sue Reed  
5/30 Tom Knowlton

#### **Childcare**

5/2 Chip & Shannon  
5/9 Kristin Phyles  
5/16 Rick & Cheryl  
5/23 Kira Dancewicz  
5/30 Chip & Shannon

#### **Lay Assistant**

5/2 Steve Gemma  
5/9 Angie Cornwell  
5/16 Linda Phyles  
5/23 Sue Reed  
5/30 Fred Faust

***Please ask someone to fill in for you if you are unable to make it when you are scheduled. Phone numbers can be found in the church directory.***

## **Please Recycle**

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In an effort to do our part to help with the environment, we ask those that do not take home their weekly church bulletins to recycle them in the recycle bin located downstairs. In addition to used bulletins, any clean paper at the church should be recycled. Every little bit helps toward a greener environment.

## **Budgetary Notes**

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This is an indication, as a percentage, of how our offering income compares to where we need to be for our budget to balance at the end of the year. Through January 31<sup>st</sup>, we have income amounts that are 14.1% below our anticipated budgeted amounts. If you have a specific budget question, please feel free to talk to Fred Faust or Steve Gemma.

## **Haven from Hunger**

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Ever wonder what the cardboard box in the undercroft marked “Haven from Hunger” is for? Throughout the year the Haven from Hunger is in need of canned goods and non-perishable food items (pasta, baby food, etc.). We deliver the contents of this collection box to Haven when we serve our meal there. If you would like to donate food to the Haven from Hunger, please bring the food items to service with you and place them into the box.

## **St. John News and Notes**

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We ask for your prayer and concern for these members and friends of St. John:

Ellen Hepburn

Anna Snow

David Fredrickson

Our volunteer lists need more volunteers! Please consider serving your church as lay assistant, lector, or a member of the choir. There are also other opportunities to serve as a cleaner, coffee hour host, usher and nursery volunteer! If you have any questions, suggestions or ideas in this regard, please speak with Pastor, Linda Phyles or Steve Gemma.

We are seeking more young people to serve as acolytes during our worship services. The role they play is important and is a form of service in the chancel. If you or anyone you know is interested, please speak with Lisa Winsor.

The Easter lilies list for this year is posted on the bulletin board in the undercroft. We invite you to place a plant or plants in the chancel for our Easter celebration. You can take them home with you after the service or leave them for distribution to our sick and shut-in. The cost is \$9.00 per plant. Please place your order by March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Please note that beginning February 17<sup>th</sup>, and continuing through the Lent season, we will be using Setting III of the liturgy. On Easter Sunday, and continuing through the Easter season, we will be using Setting II of the liturgy. We will return to Setting I of the liturgy for Pentecost.

## **Past Happenings**

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Pledges were dedicated on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> during the worship service. Your help, support and generosity for our congregational ministry in the coming year is very much appreciated.

Our Christmas Eve Service was held at 7:30 p.m. and was a meaningful Celebration of Christ's birth. Poinsettias at the altar only made the Sacrament much more sacred and spiritual.

On December 27<sup>th</sup> we celebrated our annual Service of Lessons and Carols. During this service, our Sunday Church School presented their annual pageant describing the story of Christ's birth in their own special way.

Our thanks go to Susan Dancewicz and other staff members for an excellent presentation.

Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup> our annual Congregational Meeting was held after an abbreviated coffee hour, with Pastor Phyles officiating. The congregation approved the 2010 budget as well as new Church Council Members, Raudna Pelletier and Rick Cormier.

The Annual St. John Family Retreat to Camp Calumet was February 12<sup>th</sup> through February 15<sup>th</sup>. This year there were 5 families in attendance. Everyone participated in the traditional activities such as tubing, broom-ball, hiking to Jackman's Ridge, ice skating, and a hike on the frozen lake. Pictures from the weekend are available on our website, please check them out. Finally, as always, the food was plentiful and superb. Reservations have been made to attend again next year. Please plan to attend.

On Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, the Annual Pancake Breakfast was held. All who attended did not go away hungry! Thanks to all the people who made this event happen.

### **In Memory**

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We join with those who mourn in remembering before God and one another those who have departed this life in the sign of the faith. Karen Funicella (spouse of Jonathan Westfield, mother of Summer Westfield).

### **Upcoming Events**

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Our annual Healing service will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Our annual Table of the Lord Communion service will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 7:30 p.m. This service is unique in its presentation and is well worthwhile attending. One portion of the Service is devoted to hammering our nails that we received on Ash Wednesday into a wooden cross.

Easter will be celebrated on April 4<sup>th</sup> this year. There will be special music by our choir and organist. Communion will be celebrated as a part of this Service. After the Service the annual Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt will be held – rain or shine. This is a special event which has been celebrated for a number of years. Our next communion service will be held on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., St. John's WELCA will be hosting the annual spaghetti dinner fund-raiser. This year the event will include a Mystery Dinner. For those that are not familiar with mystery dinners, it is an interactive dinner. Prior to the arrival of most of the guests, a murder takes place. During the course of the meal, different clues/evidence will be presented to the guests in hopes that someone can solve the murder mystery. The theme that has been chosen takes place in 1960; Joe Millionaire decides to throw himself a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party and invites celebrities from that point in time. Someone (Joe) gets murdered and one of the guests is the murderer. At the end of the evening, the murderer, weapon and motive will be revealed. There will be a prize for the one(s) that solve this mystery, so please keep your ideas to yourselves. The cost for the dinner will be \$8/adult, \$5/child, or \$20/family.

*The staff of The St. John Eagle extends everyone our wish for a Happy Easter.*