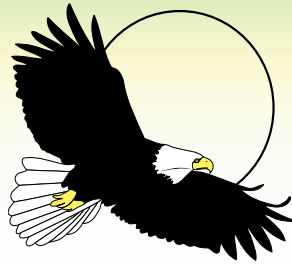


**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
December 2011**



Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles.

Isaiah 40:31

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A Congregation of the ELCA

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday-Friday, 8:30AM-4:30PM  
(309) 827-6121 • (309) 829-3866 FAX

**SUNDAY MORNING EMERGENCIES:**

(309) 531-1040  
info@stjohnsbloomington.org  
www.stjohnsbloomington.org

# T H E E A G L E

## Incarnation and the Mud-Flap God

The word 'incarnation' is an unusual word. We don't often use it outside of church and its meaning may be vague or uncertain for many of us. It doesn't help, of course, that the word 'incarnation' sounds like a few other words we do use in everyday life: 'carnation,' the flower; 'tarnation!,' the favorite exclamation of Yosemite Sam; and worst of all, 'incarceration,' which is what happens to Lutheran pastors if they run off with the church's money.

So what does 'incarnation' mean? The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines it as: (1) the embodiment of a deity or spirit in some earthly form; (2) the union of divinity with humanity in Jesus Christ. So 'incarnation' is the word we use in church to talk about the astonishing, miraculous event that took place when God became human in Jesus Christ.

Here's an easy way to remember what it means: 'incarnation' is derived from the Latin word *carno*, meaning 'flesh' or 'meat.' If you've ever eaten chili con carne (chili with meat), or watched a carnivorous (meat-eating) lion stalk its prey, or experienced carnal desires (um, nevermind)—then you've used the same root word as 'incarnation.' Incarnation has to do with our bodies, our flesh, our bodily selves and the way we experience them in daily life. In particular, the incarnation means that Almighty God, the creator of the world, took on a body—became, like us, an ordinary human being who slept, wept, sweated, and yes, died. It's incarnation that we commemorate every year at Christmas which is sometimes called 'the festival of the incarnation.'

The incarnation means that Christians, uniquely among the world's monotheistic religions, believe that God knows our humanity from the inside. When the alarm goes off in the morning and we think, *Gosh, 5:30AM already?*, God knows that feeling (Mark 4:38). When we get frustrated with the stubbornness and blindness of those who should know us best, God knows that feeling (Matt. 16:23). When we shed tears over the death of a loved one, God knows that feeling (John 11:35). When we offer a sincere and heartfelt prayer to God, and it isn't answered, God knows that feeling (Matt. 26:39). All of the intense, complicated and often contradictory feelings and emotions that go into making us human beings—Jesus knows these things personally because he's been through them.

What would motivate God to take on humanity for us? Only love. If incarnation is the 'what' of Christmas, love is the 'why.' Incarnation means that God in Christ loved you, and me, and everyone on this planet of ours so much that he stepped into this world of ours and became one of us for our sake.

One of my seminary professors once told a story that reflects this point. She was driving on the highway behind a big 16-wheeler truck and she noticed that it had the name 'JESUS' written on its mudflaps in big letters. At first, pious woman that she was, she was taken aback: How disrespectful! Why would anyone put Jesus' name on a truck's mudflaps where the grit and grime and mud of the road will cover it over? But then it occurred to her that those mudflaps were an amazing illustration of the incarnation. The holy God (Jesus) loved us so much that he came and dwelt among the mud and the muck with ordinary people like you and me.

So this December give thanks for our mud-flap God, our incarnate God, our Christmas God. There's no better news in the whole world.



Pastor David Bruner

## Advent Offering Envelopes

Advent offering envelopes were delivered to homes in November. If you did not receive a set, or desire more, additional envelopes may be found at each of the St. John's Welcome Centers.



## 2011 Annual Reports Due Dec. 9.

Ministry Teams and all organizations within the life of St. John's should turn in their report of activities to Tom Roberts in the church office **no later than Friday, December 9, 2011**, to be included in the 2011 Annual Report of Ministries. Submissions may be delivered to the church office, placed in Tom's mailbox, or e-mailed without formatting and saved as an .rtf file to [tom@stjohnsbloomington.org](mailto:tom@stjohnsbloomington.org). (If e-mailing, please state in subject line: "2011 Annual Report.") If you have any question about whether you should prepare such reports, contact one of St. John's pastors for clarification.

## Holiday Poinsettias 2011



Would you like to contribute to the beauty of our church this Christmas season by donating a poinsettia "in honor of" or in "in memory of" loved ones? You may fill out an envelope at one of the Welcome Centers beginning the last weekend in November, or call your request in to the

church office. **Cost: \$7 per plant. Checks should be made payable to St. John's with "Poinsettias" in the memo line.** Dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. You may take your plant(s) following the 11:00PM Christmas Eve service. Requests accompanied by \$7.00 must be received by noon on Wednesday, December 14 to allow adequate time to prepare the dedications for inclusion in the bulletins.

## Altar Flower Sign-Up for 2012

Altar Flower dates for 2012 may be reserved by mailing confirmation of your date to Sandy in the church office. For those on the permanent list, your dates are automatically carried over, but please be sure to confirm your request by telling us:

- Who the flowers are for
- The weekend date you wish to be reserved
- If this is "in honor of" or "in memory of" your loved one
- Include a check for \$30.00 with *Altar Flowers* in the memo line

This is a lovely way to remember or honor a loved one, but be sure to confirm your request. Questions? Please call Sandy at 827-6121, x.201.

## Interim Director of Worship Arts Ministry

On November 14, 2011, the Church Council approved the creation of a new position for St. John's, "Interim Director of Worship Arts Ministry." If you are interested in applying for this position, please contact the church office for a list of requirements.

## Stewardship Pledge Update



Thank you to everyone who has ... Our Response taken the time to return a pledge card for St. John's 2012 Operating Budget, "God's Faithfulness—Our Response." As of the week ending November 25, 2011, we have received 352 pledges for a total of \$1,254,631.00. Our proposed 2012 Operating Budget is approximately \$1.7 million. If you have not pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so at your earliest convenience.

## Attention: Gifts of Stock, Mutual Funds or Grain

If your contribution to St. John's is given through stocks, mutual funds or grain, please contact Susan Brown at [susan@stjohnsbloomington.org](mailto:susan@stjohnsbloomington.org) or Fran Crownhart at [fran@stjohnsbloomington.org](mailto:fran@stjohnsbloomington.org). You may also call Susan (x.204) or Fran (x.206) at 827-6121. We do not always receive the name of the donor when contributions are given through these means. When you call or e-mail, please give us the following information: your name, the name of the stock, mutual fund or grain company, the trade date, the shares or bushels sold and where you would like the funds directed. This will help us in recording the gift to the appropriate person. Thank you.

## Thank You to All

Pastors Hill, Bruner and Reents would like to express their appreciation to the entire congregation for the kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity exhibited during Pastors' Appreciation month.

## Kaffehuset for December

Join us Wednesday mornings at 10AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. Have you always wanted to write your memoir? On **December 7** Terri Ryburn will talk about how to begin and share childhood stories from her unpublished memoir. On **December 14** Jane Liedke will talk about life in China today. Jane and her daughter, Emily, lived in China for about ten years. On **December 21** Jan Peterson will sing some beautiful Christmas music and perhaps lead us in a few holiday favorites. On **December 28** we close out the year with Lisa Banasik guiding us in interpreting the symbols found on the beautiful anniversary quilts that hang in the Fellowship Hall and stairwell at St. John's and other Christian symbols found around the church. **During December we ask that people share a favorite holiday treat.** People whose last name begins with A to C on December 7; D to G on December 14; H to R on December 21; and those from S to Z on December 28.

• *Worship* •

## HOLIDAY WORSHIP TIMES DEC. 2011/JAN. 2012

### Families to Light the Advent Wreath on December 3/4, 10/11 and 17/18

Please reserve your time by signing up at either Welcome Center, or by contacting the church office to schedule a time.

### Midweek Advent Worship

“Do You Hear What I Hear”

**Wednesdays at 7:15PM in the Sanctuary  
December 7, 14.**

Our three midweek Advent worship services will include Marty Haugen’s familiar Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. Each Wednesday, a special guest will tell of their expectation and experiences prior to the birth of Jesus: Expect visits from—the prophet Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Joseph.

Please join us on November 30, December 7 and 14 for these special and inspirational thirty-minute services of song, testimony, and prayer.

### “Christmas Lessons and Carols”

**Sunday, December 25, 2011 at 10:30AM in the Sanctuary**

Come and celebrate with us on Christmas morning with scripture and song. We will hear familiar passages from the Bible and sing several favorite Carols. Our own St. John’s musicians will provide the beautiful Christmas carols for this joyous day.



### Christmas Eve Worship—Saturday, December 24, 2011

**4:00, 6:00 7:00, 9:00 and  
11:00PM**

Join us for a celebration of the birth of the Christ child as we sing festive Christmas carols and songs, hear the Christmas Gospel from Luke 2 and share in Holy Communion.

Special children’s messages will be given at both 4:00PM services (Traditional and Contemporary), 6:00PM (Contemporary), 7:00PM (Traditional).

Families with school age and older children are encouraged to attend one of the later services—to make room for the many families with very young children at the earlier services.

- **4 and 6PM: Worship in the Parish Life Center** (downstairs, south entrance), led by the Community of Joy Band and Singers.
- **4PM, 7PM, and 9PM: Worship in the Sanctuary**, accompanied by the pipe organ. Special music at 4:00PM; the St. John’s Choir sings at 7:00PM and 9:00PM.
- **11PM: Worship in the Sanctuary.** This service will strike a different, more intimate chord, with music led by the SES band.



### New Year’s Eve

**Saturday, December 31 at  
5:00PM (SES)**

We will have a repeat of our much-beloved “Christmas Lessons and Carols” service. Please join us!

### New Year’s Day

**Sunday, New Year’s Day—January  
1, 2012 at 9:15AM (Traditional), and  
10:30AM (COJ)**

Ring in the New Year 2012 at our two festive worship services with Holy Communion.



### Christmas Cantata

**Sunday, December 11 at 8:00 and 9:15AM  
St. John’s Choir and The Creation Choir**

St John’s Choir and The Creation Choir will be presenting “O Come All Ye Faithful—A Service of Carols by Hal H. Hopson,” a Christmas cantata, on December 11th at both traditional services. The Creation Choir will be participating in the 9:15AM presentation of the cantata. Join us for a journey from Advent to Christmas through music!

**Note:** An encore presentation of this program will take place on Saturday, January 7, 2012, at 5:00PM Saturday Evening Service

• *St. John's Volunteers—Making a Difference* by Gudrun Dunt •

## What Keeps People from Serving?

A recent article in *Church Volunteer Central* listed five false assumptions that keep people from serving. I found this interesting as the reasons given provide great insight into the insecurities and doubts that can creep into our thinking. Consider the following:

1. The church doesn't need help.
2. I have nothing of value to offer.
3. There are other people more qualified to serve.
4. Serving will require time or skills that I don't possess.
5. I will be asked to serve in an area I don't enjoy.

I encourage potential volunteers to have two conversations. The first should be with the Lord. When we take our doubts and concerns to Him, we can trust Him to provide us with all that we need to fulfill the task. Yes, He will challenge us to grow and stretch, but He also promises to walk beside us.

Next, take time to speak to those leading or serving in the area that is of interest to you. They will have first-hand knowledge of the joys and challenges. That conversation will help you determine if a volunteer opportunity is a good fit.

Finally, as we look once again at our list, here's a little extra encouragement as you consider serving:

1. **The church doesn't need help.** St. John's would not be the church it is without willing volunteers that help in every area.
2. **I have nothing of value to offer.** God has given each of us spiritual gifts that we are to use in service to others. Every Christian has gifts!
3. **There are other people more qualified to serve.** There are many qualified people, but perhaps *your* presence and ideas will provide new insight and perspective.
4. **Serving will require time or skills that I don't possess.** Serving does take time and skills. If God promises to provide the skills, we can trust Him to also provide the time.
5. **I will be asked to serve in an area I don't enjoy.** Our interests do change over time. If you are serving in an area that is no longer a good fit, it is time to try something new. There are many ways to serve that have a limited time commitment.

### Current Volunteer Opportunities

**Christmas Eve Greeters:** Be a friendly face by welcoming visitors and members to worship this Christmas Eve. Greeters are needed for all services.

**Coffee Corps:** Be part of the church hospitality team. We have a few open slots in the 2012 Sunday Morning Coffee schedule to either make coffee or help with clean up.

**Bulletin Boards:** Help us freshen up the bulletin boards in the office wing. Many people regularly check these bulletin boards to find out



what is happening at St. John's. This is a perfect opportunity for a creative individual who can invest a small amount of time.

**Greeter Coordinator for Community of Joy (COJ) Services:** Looking for a leadership opportunity that is easy to step into? We are in need of a coordinator for our COJ greeters. Responsibilities include maintaining the greeter schedule, making changes as needed and training new greeters.

**Ushers for Special Services:** St. John's has a number of special worship services throughout the year. Interested in being an usher only occasionally? This would be a great fit.

## Interested in Learning More About Membership at St. John's Lutheran Church?

The next Discovering St. John's (DSJ) New Member Class is coming up in January. DSJ is designed to help prospective members and visitors learn more about what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. You will learn about the history, core values and mission of St. John's. More importantly, you will learn how you can become active and connected in the life of the congregation.

### Winter DSJ Schedule\*

#### Sunday, January 22 (2:00–5:00PM)

Discovering St. John's Class—Fellowship Hall

(We welcome your children and will have planned activities for them during our class time.)

#### Sunday, January 29 (5:30PM)

Dinner and Conversation with St. John's Program Staff in the Parish Life Center (PLC).

#### Sunday, February 5 (10:15–11:15AM)

New Member Reception on Balcony

(New members will be received at the 9:15AM Traditional Service.)

\*Childcare is available but you must contact the church by January, 16, 2012 to allow time for arrangements to be made.



## Family Camp, Rock Climbing and Faith Works

Be on the lookout in 2012 for three opportunities for children and junior high. **Family Camp** (replacing Camp45), **Rock Climbing Camp** and **Faith Works** offer great opportunities to grow in faith in adventurous ways. More info coming early in 2012! LOMC's summer Program Directory will also be available soon.

• *Body, Mind & Spirit* •

submitted by L. Baue •

## Advent Prayers to Slow Down, Simplify, and Listen to the Lord

Advent is a time to think about, and experience the immense blessings that God wants to give us. He wants to shower us with his love just as powerfully as a cloudburst showers the earth below. He wants to shine his light into our hearts—a light that is a thousand times brighter than the sun. Our work is to slow down, simplify, and listen to the Lord. Here are some ways you can pray during Advent for simplicity and all that it entails:

- Pray for attentiveness to what truly matters without the distraction of trivial things.
- Pray for opportunities to learn something new regularly.
- Pray for discernment of how God would like you to set your priorities and the ability to focus on them consistently to fulfill His purposes in your life.
- Pray for the grace to be able to rest, become aware of God's presence, and enjoy it.
- Pray for peace in all situations, no matter what the circumstances.
- Pray for an enlivened imagination that fosters your creative contributions to the world.
- Pray for freedom from all that burdens you: past mistakes, fears, destructive habits, hurts inflicted by others, and more.
- Pray for confidence in God's love for you and trust in His power to work things out for the best in your life.
- Pray for a clear mind and the ability to clearly communicate what you value to others.
- Pray for openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- Pray for a genuine awareness of God's grace in your life and for humility.
- Pray for a passion to pursue justice.

(Adapted from *When True Simplicity is Gained: Finding Spiritual Clarity in a Complex World*, 1988, Martin E. Marty)

• *Global & Local Missions* •

## Mission Faith Share

*Rob Gieraltowski is Director of Jr. High Ministries for St. John's. Last month he gave this faith share about his experiences this summer on a mission trip to Nueva Esperanza, Ecuador.*

Before you say "Yes" to a mission trip you ask yourself: "Can I handle this?" "Can I afford it?" "Do I know what I'm getting myself into?"

The answer for most of us is . . . simply "No." There will be things you will have a hard time handling. Money will almost always be a concern, and by following God you'll never completely know what you are in for. . . . I wouldn't want it any other way. If God calls you to serve, He will be faithful in helping you and guiding you in the journey. He did for me through prayer, scripture, and humbly surprising me with help from friends and family.

The trip called up many Gospel stories—from the Bible and from the trip to Ecuador. The Gospel was brought to life by . . .

- Water and a well—helping complete a well that is now providing life giving water to the villagers
- Letting children come to Jesus—through a week-long VBS and sports camp
- Healing of the sick—medical aid to many throughout the area of Nueva Esperanza
- The miracle at a wedding—a miracle of ten couples joined together by God in a town that did not consider marriages before our church's visit two years ago
- A group of growing disciples following Christ—a motley crew of 22 Illinoisans setting out to serve and grow in faith

The story that still strikes me is when Dr. Manuel (our leader and guide) asked each couple a day before the wedding ceremony, "So, have you decided to get married?" One man replied, very honestly . . . "No, I'm good."

When God asked me to go to Ecuador this year, I could have said:

- Lord, I can't handle it and I won't know what to do.
- I don't speak the language.
- I don't have the money.
- I'd rather take a vacation.
- Maybe another year.

I could have said, "No God, I'm good."

God has a way of convincing you otherwise if you listen. Philippians 2:13 shares: . . . *for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.* For me, the trip was an experience of serving outside my comfort zone and trusting God in every step—and every step was a blessing and one I hold closely in my heart.

Whether your call is to join St. John's team next summer in Ecuador, collect food for Clare House, sing in the band, pack boxes for Lutheran World Relief, pray for a friend, serve communion, care for a family member, spend time in the Bible, or maybe even consider marriage like those in Ecuador . . . let God lift you as he lifted me to see his Gospel in new and amazing ways.

By the way, the "I'm good" man may not have gotten married . . . yet. God is not done growing him and he isn't done growing us. I suspect his fiancé isn't done with him yet, either. Thank you for letting me share and blessings for supporting God's work in Open Door Missions at St. John's.



Rob Gieraltowski at work in the fields of the Lord.



• Global & Local Missions •

• Adult Discipleship •

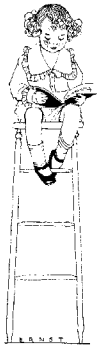
## The Giving Tree



There is still time to take an angel or two from one of the Giving Trees in the Atrium and Narthex and help those less fortunate in our community. Each angel gives the name and age of the recipient and one or more suggested gifts. Please select an angel and write your name beside the corresponding number on the sign-up board. Wrapped gifts should be placed under the tree by December 12.

The names of those in need are provided by the following agencies: Children's Foundation, Mayor's Manor, Home Sweet Home, The Baby Fold, Catholic Charities, and Center for Hope.

If you have any questions about your "angel," please call Deanne Eytalis at 830-4220.



## What Do the Prisoners Think About Storybook?

This is a quote from Warden Cheryl Thompson at Dwight Correctional Center: "While many prison volunteer programs start strong, lose strength quickly and quietly end, we know that we can always count on Storybook and the volunteers to be there month after month, as they have been for over 10 years at some prisons." Storybook is in 15 prisons and jails. Storybook helped 5,328 children connect with their 3,259 incarcerated

parents (in 2011).

from "Prisoner and Family Ministry Annual Report, 2011" *Lutheran Social Services of Illinois* newsletter.

**One book, one CD = one family connected.**

**Watch for the next Bundle Days in February 2012.**



• Junior High Ministries •

• Noah's Ark •

## Jr. High Meeting Schedule For December/January

**Genesis**.... Meets Dec. 4, 11, 18. Classes will resume Jan. 8.

**iWORD**..... Meets Dec. 4. Classes will resume Jan. 8.

**Thrive**..... Meets Dec. 7 and 14. Classes will resume Jan. 4.

Note: Thrive **will not** meet Dec. 21 as originally scheduled.

## Noah's Ark Cookbooks Make Great Last-Minute Gifts

Still need a gift for your child's teacher or godmother? The Noah's Ark Cookbook, filled with student artwork and mouth-watering recipes, is your answer! Support this Noah's Ark Preschool fundraiser during one these dates:

- Dec. 3 at Saturday Evening Service
- Dec. 4 at all Sunday services
- Dec. 8-9 in Noah's Ark
- Dec. 14 at Wednesday night events
- Any time by contacting Wendy Iverson at Noah's Ark (wendy@stjohnsbloomington.org or 828-1974)

Cost is \$15. All proceeds will be earmarked for technology in the classroom. The cookbook is one-of-a-kind and affordable, so don't miss out!



## Sunday Morning Adult Class Offerings

**Great Expectations: Studies in Isaiah (Paul Crownhart, presenter). Resumes Sunday, Dec. 4-Sunday, Dec 18.** Although a book of prophecy, Isaiah is also one of the most poetic books of the Bible. These texts from Isaiah are read by people throughout the world during the season of Advent. With imagery such as the lion and lamb laying down together, the holy mountain of God, and streams in the desert, the words of Isaiah are woven together with great expectations of the life to come. This 4-session Bible study explores 4 word pictures in Isaiah and encourages participants to explore this book thoughtfully together: (1) Peace for God's People, (2) Hope for God's People, (3) Joy for God's People, and (4) Promise for God's People.

## Seniors' Bible Study

We have just about completed our study of the Old and New Testaments. Congratulations to those who have completed this study. God has richly blessed us with this study of God's Word.

A verse in Hebrews describes the Advent and Christmas message: *Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son. . . .* (Hebrews 1:1-2a).

Please join us for our study on Thursdays from 9:30-10:30AM.

**December 1** ..... Romans

**December 8** ..... Prison and Pastoral Epistles

**December 15** ..... (No class) Pastors meet with Bishop Roth

**December 22 and 29** ..... Blessed Christmas Vacation

What would you like to study in January?

Peace, Pastor Reents

## Abigail Circle

will meet Monday, Dec. 5, at 7:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. Hostesses: Linda Click and Jean Kuethe.

## Elizabeth Circle

will meet Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 1:00PM in the Dining Room. Lesson leader: Harriet Zoeller. Hostesses: Marge Mehlberg and Joan Gentes.

**Please note:** The January meeting for Elizabeth Circle will be a social luncheon, Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 12:00PM at Baxter's Restaurant (near the airport in Bloomington). There will be no lesson in January.

Reservations should be made by mid-December with either of the Co-leaders, Barbara Starcevic, 662-3224 or Betty Moore, 663-5030.

## Rachel Circle

will meet on Tuesday, Dec. 6, at 6:00PM, at the home of Sylvia Cooper, 803 Broadway, Normal, for our annual Christmas Potluck. Our lesson on "Heaven" from Randy Alcorn will be postponed until our January meeting.

## Sarah Circle

will meet Thursday, Dec. 1 at 1:00PM in the Dining Room. Lesson Leader: Elsa Laesch. Hostesses: Shirley Moriarity and Marge Swanberg.

## Prime Timers and Lunch Bunch

Join us for a Christmas Brunch at Noon on Sunday, December 11, at Swingers Grille, 1304 Cross Creek Drive, Normal. \$17.96 includes tax and gratuity; beverage extra. Reservations are due by Wednesday, December 7. Respond to Sue and Roger Weller, 663-7616, or Rich and Janet Zich, 452-2224. Others interested are invited to join us!



## Thank You From St. John's Quilters

In a recent article from Lutheran World Relief's *Faith in Action* Newsletter, one woman from a very poor family in India came to a hospital to receive a quilt from LWR. The woman said: "During the winter, I wrap my whole family in the quilt." The article continued: "Wrapping a Quilt around those in need is like sending a hug, a prayer, a sense of belonging from one side of the world to the other. Through these gifts of quilts, St. John's Quilters truly serve as the hands and feet of Christ to those in need around the world."

St. John's Quilters proudly announce 258 quilts were loaded in the semi-trailer during the Ingathering weekend of Lutheran World Relief on October 29.

"Thank You's" are offered to everyone that helped make the 258 quilts, especially including:

- To our regular group of women who faithfully come the 2nd and 4th Tuesday mornings of each month to tie knots and pin the edges of the quilts.
- To all the women who: 1) take the quilts home and zig zag the edges; 2) cut blocks and sew them together to make tops; 3) sew the backs together.
- To the many members of St. John's that donate good clean used sheets, especially flannel, for the liners and cotton material for tops and backs.
- To Joyce Niemi, Linda Click and Marlene Blaine for their leadership and organization following the loss of our leader, Florence Conway.
- To Doris Robertson for organizing the Quilt Blessing weekend, including putting out the quilts and packing them for shipment, and for her leadership in organizing the Ingathering weekend.

- To Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the St. John's Women's Board for their monetary support of St. John's Quilters.

St. John's Quilters ask that members please continue to support this ongoing project of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please contact Linda Click, 663-2536.

### • Gratitudes •

✚ Thank you so much for your kind cards and letters of care and concern to our family on Mom's passing. We do appreciate your prayers and your special thoughts.

Thank you for the memorials to the Alzheimer's Association given in the name of Alice Henrietta Wells. Memorials continue to come in, and can still be sent to the local Bloomington Office at 303 N. Hershey.

In Christ's love,

Knight and Susan Wells

✚ The Property Ministry Team would like to thank Dave Lucht for his years of service. Dave will be stepping down as the chair of the Property Ministry Team at the end of this year. Dave will continue to stay on the team, but a big THANK YOU! is in order for everything he has accomplished during these last several years.

St. John's Property Ministry Team

✚ A big thanks to everyone for helping to make this past blood drive such a success. The final count was 53 units, exceeding our goal of 52. Thank you again to all that helped out!

Lynn Carpenter

## Book Discussion Groups

### Evening Group

Monday, Dec. 12, 7:00PM for a book exchange activity. Hostess: Marilyn Myers. Dinner at Luther Oaks at 5:30PM. **Reservations required.** Please call Marilyn Myers at 663-8371 to make your reservation.

## Next Eagle Deadline— Wednesday, December 7, 2011\* for the January issue

Please submit your unformatted articles (saved as an .rtf file) to tom@stjohnsbloomington.org, or to the church office.

\* One week earlier than normal due to holiday scheduling.

**Rev. Frederick C. Hill**  
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*Invite and connect people to God  
and one another through Christ's love*

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“...and his name  
shall be called  
**Emmanuel**  
(which means, God is with us).”  
—Matthew 1:23