

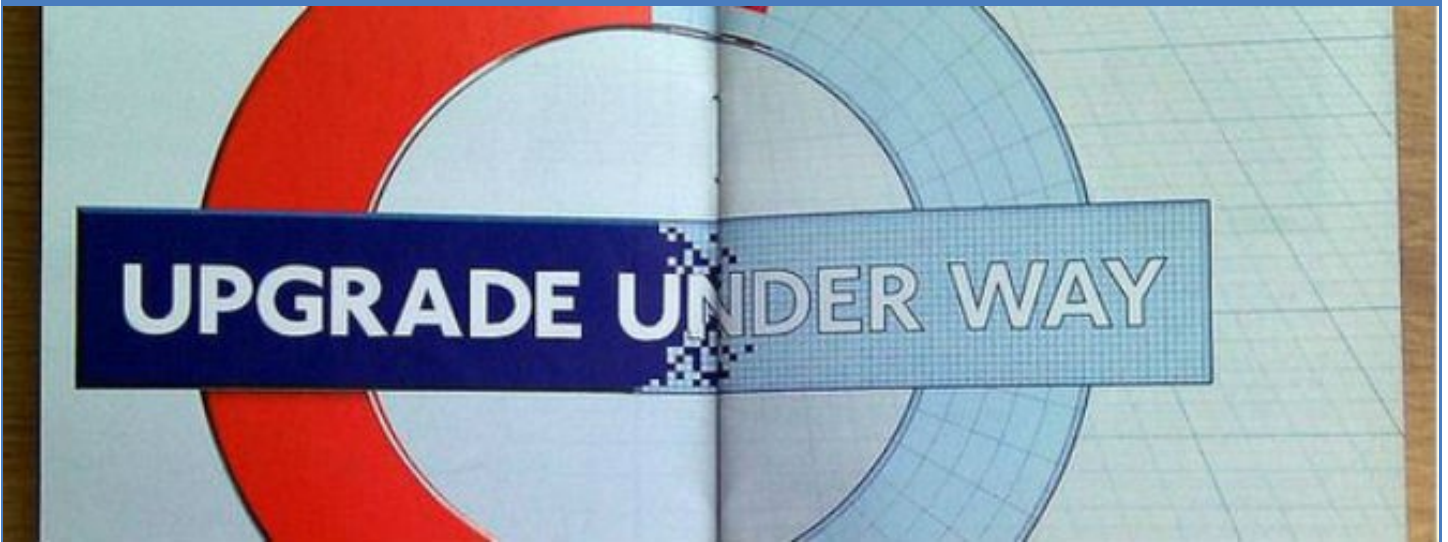


The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2017



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St. John's Website Receives a New Look!

We're excited to announce that our new and refreshed website is coming in August!

The updated site will include changes to navigation, with dropdown menus for both mobile and desktop versions. We've also improved the structure of our content, so you'll get more from a quick read. There's a whole host of smaller but impactful changes, all to make your experience of the St. John's website that much better for you.

Watch for more information in the News Blasts and Sunday bulletins.

Please contact the church office at 507-645-4429 with any questions.

WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays
FELLOWSHIP
9:30 a.m. Sundays

LIVE BROADCASTS
8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays
KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM
kymnradio.net

TV BROADCASTS
NTV Channel 187
7:30 p.m. Mondays
7:00 p.m. Fridays

Summer Worship Services

8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays

Summer Nursery Hours

10:00-11:15 a.m. Sundays

Summer Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Sundays

Live Broadcasts

8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

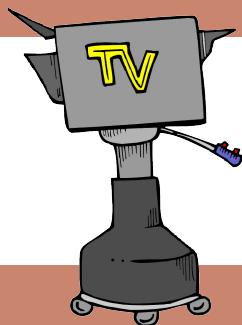


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



WELCOME STATEMENT

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace, and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

St. John's Forum Preview

The St. John's Forum meet on Sundays between services, beginning September 17. This year, the forum is focused on building community and education for adults of all ages. This will include opportunities for intergenerational learning, relevant topics for parents and grandparents, and important conversations that impact us all.

As we recognize the 500th year of the Reformation this fall, St. John's Forum will help us to remember what the Reformation was, why it still matters today, and what new kinds of reformation God might be calling to us to in the 21st Century. Keep an eye out for a Root Beer & Hymn Sing on Sunday, October 29!

As we move into the winter and spring, the St. John's Forum will be engaging topics around life passages (such as baptism, marriage, and death) and life struggles (such as busyness, disability, and poverty).

We hope you will join us for this exciting season of the St. John's Forum!

Dear Friends in Christ:

As you heard in a letter sent this past month, Pastor John Quam will be retiring from his position as our Visitation Pastor on September 30. After 20 years of ministry, this will be a big transition for all of us at St. John's. On Sunday, September 24, we will celebrate his ministry among us and wish him and Louise God's blessings on the next stage of their life and service in our community.

Pastor Quam has been synonymous in many people's minds with our ministry to the elderly and homebound in our congregation, so naturally we are asking, what's next?

First the facts:

At any given time, 40-50 St. John's members are dealing with illness or mobility issues that prevent them from getting to church on Sundays. About 75% of these people are living in some sort of care facility. Some are only temporarily disabled or are caring for a loved one.

- St. John's outreach includes monthly communion services in 3 different facilities, 1-1 visits from a pastor, and Stephen Ministers when appropriate.
- St. John's visitation ministry includes care for people who are not members of St. John's but whose congregations don't have the resources to offer this care.
- The fastest growing portion of our congregation is recently retired adults, often people who are new to Northfield and planning on spending the "last third" of their lives here. The needs of adults over 60 vary widely! By 2020, the number of people in Minnesota over 65 will outnumber school-aged children. That is already the case at St. John's.
- Northfield also has a large number of people whose lives are dedicated to caregiving - spouses, adult children of aging parents, and parents of people with disabilities. Providing support to caregivers is a ministry that needs our attention.
- Northfield as a community has several efforts underway to be an Age-Friendly community, a place that is sensitive to people with dementia, and a place where aging is not a dirty word. This is a rich time to be part of community conversations about the role the church plays in the last third of our lives.

At our July Church Council meeting, the Council approved the following plan for the immediate future:

1. At the recommendation of the Faith & Health Board, St. John's will create a **paid half-time Parish Nurse position**. This person will be responsible for coordinating care of the sick and homebound, leading a team that includes the pastors as well as other trained lay people to coordinate care. This position will tend to the holistic care of our members and also act as a link to a variety of community resources.
2. Pastors Pam and Jonathan will lead our ministry of offering **monthly worship gatherings** at the Northfield Retirement Center, 1000 Cannon Valley Drive, and 3 Links.
3. **Hospital visitation** will continue to be led primarily by pastors, with the parish nurse assisting when appropriate.

Continued on page 5

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenschner



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included in Sunday morning prayers unless specifically requested. Contact Mary Cisar with a prayer request or to become a prayer chain volunteer: macisar@gmail.com or 507-663-1097.

Grief Care Resource:

Care Notes are one of the grief support resources at St. John's. Stop by the Commons to pick one up for yourself or for a loved one.

Grief Booklets:

"Journeying through Grief" is a resource for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.



The following St. John's members died in this month last year. We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."

August 13, 2016
Muriel Sovik

August 20, 2016
Francis Marek

Stephen Ministry: Who is Stephen?

The name "Stephen Ministers" comes from an incident in the early Christian church described in Acts 6:1-7. The number of believers, Jewish and Gentile, was growing rapidly. The twelve disciples did not have time enough to oversee the increasing number of tasks that came their way, like distribution of food to the needy. When the Greek-speaking believers complained to "the Hebrews" that their widows were not getting a fair share of the community's food, the twelve disciples solved the problem by delegating the work to the laity: "select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and serving the word." Everyone seemed pleased with this solution, and the congregation chose and commissioned seven men, all with Greek names. The first mentioned among the seven is Stephen, "full of faith and the Holy Spirit."

We later learn that Stephen did more than distributing food. "Full of grace and power," he "did great wonders and signs among the people." His preaching and miracles brought him into conflict with the Jewish religious authorities and led to his being stoned to death (Acts 6:8-7:60). Stephen is best known as the first Christian Martyr. The name "Stephen Ministers," however, refers to an earlier stage of Stephen's life, his being chosen by the congregation to help the twelve disciples extend the work of ministry in an expanding young church.

If you, or someone you know, is going through a time of change or difficulty, call one of our pastors (507-645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (507-645-8445 or 507-334-4274) to discuss the possibility of receiving the care of a Stephen Minister.

Weekly Summer Pub Theology Continues in August!

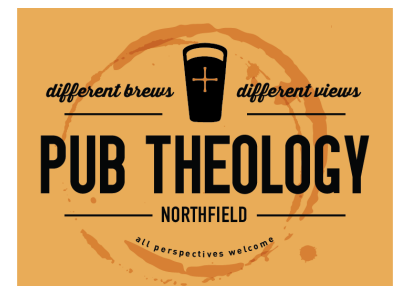
What is Pub Theology?

Led by Pastors Pam and Jonathan and Mike Skunes, it is weekly conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet on Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at **Froggy Bottoms**. Feel free to invite family and friends, neighbors, and strangers.

Each week, the topic will be different and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, the News Blast, and an email list.

Contact Pastor Jonathan (jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org) to add your name to the email list.



Next Summer Supper is August 23!

We hope you will join us for St. John's second Summer Supper!



The first Summer Supper, held in June, saw over 30 St. John's community members and friends getting better acquainted over cozy home meals, eating, and visiting into the early evening. Thank you, organizers, hosts, and attendees, for making this first event fun, meaningful, and tasty!

An opportunity for fellowship sponsored by the Adult Education & Ministry Board, Summer Suppers are part of an intentional effort to bring together members of St. John's in ways that foster and renew our connections to each other. This effort is a response to the sense of being fragmented in many ways in our culture as well as in our church, and can be a way for us to recognize in each other our oneness as children of God.

Inspired to join in? Look for the Summer Supper display in the Commons, and RSVP on the sign-up sheet to host or attend the second Summer Supper. We warmly welcome previous participants and newcomers to join us in this second event. We look forward to seeing you!

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

4. In conversation with all our **permanently homebound** members, we will assess the best ways to continue visitation and care.

Will a new Visitation Pastor be hired? Not immediately. We want to allow time for a new model to be explored, and for the called pastors to be involved in discussions with all our members about their care before we take this step. As with any interim, taking a bit of time is wise.

Will you still get a visit in the hospital if you are sick? Yes - if we know you are sick! HIPPA laws make it illegal for your health status to be shared unless you explicitly ask for the church to be contacted. The "on call pastor" voicemail at church will always let you know the number of an available pastor.

Can I ask for a visit at home? Of course! But we don't read minds. If you have not been regularly visited in the past, please contact Pastors Pam or Jonathan to talk about your needs.

We believe that as a church we can witness to each other how God cares for us - physically, emotionally, spiritually. There are many ways we do this work together, and we look forward to many fruitful conversations in the weeks and months ahead about how we extend God's love.

Pastors Pam and Jonathan

Life and Growth

Deaths

July 5, 2017
Paula Lawrence



Radio Broadcasts

July 2, 2017

Given in memory of
Edgar Larson
by Helen Larson and Family.

July 9, 2017

Given in memory of
Chuck Jacobson
by Marilyn Jacobson.

July 16, 2017

Given in memory of
Milo Quinnell
by his family.

July 23, 2017

Given in memory of
Gregory Hellie
by Anita and Charles Hellie.

July 30, 2017

Given by Elvin and Corrine Heiberg
in celebration of their
60th wedding anniversary on August 3.

If you would like to
sponsor a broadcast (\$160),
please contact the church office
by phone at 507-645-4429 or email at
office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Youth to Remember!

Pool Party!
Wednesday, August 9

Online Registration for 2017-2018
Begins in August

Catechism Orientation
Wednesday, September 6, 5:30 p.m.

Confirmation Orientation
Wednesday, September 6, 6:15 p.m.

ROCK, Wednesday Afterschool Programming
Begins Wednesday, September 13

Open House for Preschool 1
Wednesday, September 13, 6:00 p.m.

First Day of Confirmation
Wednesday, September 13, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

First Day of Sunday School
Sunday, September 17, 9:45 a.m.

First Day of Life Groups
Sunday, September 17, 9:50 a.m.

Online registration for Children and Youth 2017-2018 School Year!

Check out St. John's website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org where you will find all the forms needed for registering children and youth for the 2017-2018 school year plus information on how to volunteer for upcoming events and programs.

We appreciate registrations turned in by August 27 for returning members. Visitors and new members are invited to register at any time during the year.



Please contact [Julie Brehmer](#) or [Mike Skunes](#) at 507-645-4429, if you have questions regarding programming.

Dive in on August 9!

Northfield area churches invite families with children in 5th grade and younger to our Annual Pool Party at the Northfield Outdoor Pool on Wednesday, August 9, from 5:00-7:30 p.m.



The cost for admission is \$3.00 per person or you may use your pool pass. Churches will be providing free food at the event so come eat, swim, and enjoy!

(This event is canceled if the pool closes due to weather.)

Is your 3 year old starting Sunday School?

Children who are three years of age by 9/1/17 are welcome to begin Sunday School this fall!

Parents are invited to bring their preschooler to an Open House on Wednesday, September 13, at 6:00 p.m. to meet the teachers and get acquainted with their classroom before Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 17.

If you have question, please call St. John's at 507-645-4429 and speak with Julie Brehmer.



Fall Programming is Coming!

- Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 17 for children age 3 (by September 1, 2017) - grade 5 from 9:45-10:30 a.m.
- Toddler Time: Children who are 2 by 9/1/17 and preschool children, along with their parents, are invited to "Toddler Time". Once a month during the Sunday school hour, our little ones sing songs, talk about a favorite Bible story, play games, make crafts, and meet new friends.
- ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program for children in kindergarten - grade 5, begins on Wednesday, September 13. Bus transportation will be offered from the Northfield Elementary schools to St. John's so kids can jump right into Wednesday's fun!
- Catechism, (CAT) for 4th and 5th graders begins in October! Orientation for Catechism will be held on Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- Confirmation: Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall Through large group teaching lead by pastors and small group discussions lead by faith-filled college students and adult mentors, Confirmation is designed for students to grow in faith alongside their peers. During Confirmation we'll engage youth in the Biblical narrative, leave space for them to explore the "burning questions" about life and God, and explore the ways we can live a life rooted in Christ.
- Life Groups: Sundays, 9:50-10:40 a.m. in the Youth Room Youth are welcome to come downstairs to hang out together in our youth room between services. During our gatherings, we enjoy playing games, eating donuts, talking about life, and reflecting on the gospel lesson of the week.

Get involved with Children's and Youth Ministry at St. John's!



For children and youth to feel connected to their church, it's important for them to build relationships with at least 5 adults, other than their parents.

Please consider volunteering with programming this fall on a Sunday Morning or Wednesday afternoon/evening. We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities. Please talk with [Julie Brehmer](#) or [Mike Skunes](#) at 507-645-4429 or check out the volunteer opportunities in the registration packet.

P.S.: High School students - talk with Julie how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Children and Youth

Magical Mystery Tours



When:

Wednesday, August 9
9:15 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Where:

Drop off/Pick up in Bethel Parking Lot

Cost:

\$25
(transportation, admission, pizza for lunch)

What:

Magical Mystery Tours are events organized by the youth directors of churches in Northfield for middle school youth who've completed grades 5-8. The 'mystery' part of it is that we try to keep our destination a secret from our youth. We meet in the parking lot of Bethel Lutheran Church on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month during the summer, load up a bus and take off.

For additional information, contact Mike Skunes at 507-645-4429 or youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Shared Ministry

Meals on Wheels



St. John's is responsible for distributing Meals on Wheels from Sunday, September 17, through Saturday, October 14.

Many volunteers are needed. You can sign up for this important ministry of care for elderly and disabled members of our community on Sundays in the Commons beginning August 20.

For further information contact Christy Hall-Holt at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org or

Nancy Kluver at 507-581-0896 or mkluver@gmail.com.

Connecting Through Serving

What happened to June and July? It is now August and summer is drawing to a close. While trips to the cabin, fishing, boating, bike rides in sweltering heat, walks with swarming mosquitoes looking for a tasty meal, and days at the pools working on our sunburns are coming to a close - it also means cooler weather, new adventures in school for students, bountiful garden produce, the return of monthly hospitality groups, Sunday School, Confirmation, Wednesday Night Meals, activities, choirs, and new opportunities to make friends and serve at St. John's.



Are you wondering how to connect with others at St. John's? Would you like to meet new people? Why not try something new and different? Why not volunteer to serve in a different month? How about signing up to usher, help on Wednesdays, prepare communion or clean up communion, serve coffee, greet, sing in a choir, hang out in the nursery, or mentor a confirmation group? We LOVE volunteers here!

If you are interested in venturing out of your comfort zone a little to see what a blessing it can be to try something new please contact Christy Hall-Holt or Mary Kelvie at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. We are excitedly waiting to talk to you!

Can You Help?

The Archive Committee is looking for someone to record pastoral acts such as funerals, baptisms, and confirmations in written form in the archive record book.

The information is readily available from Leah Garlie in the church office. The amount of time needed for this activity will vary, but a good estimate is 1 to 2 hours per month.



This is an important contribution to the history of St. John's and a check on our digital records. You can do this at your convenience. Barbara Walters will introduce you to this task and will act as a backup if you are absent for a period of time.

St. John's Annual School Kit Event!

Last year, St. John's 220 school kits joined the 191,000 school kits shipped by Lutheran World Relief to children in 12 countries! In many of those countries these kits are the deciding factor in receiving an education.

Your generous donations allow this to happen each year.

Buy one or more supplies and place them in the "school bus" in the Commons area. Leave the supplies in their packages and we will assemble them at church on **Backpack Sunday, September 17.**

Items needed for one kit include:

- four 70-sheet notebooks of wide of college-ruled paper
- one 30 centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- one pencil sharpener
- one blunt Fiskar scissors
- five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- five black or blue ballpoint pens
- one box of 24 crayons
- one 2 1/2" eraser



Monetary gifts are awesome - we'll buy the supplies for you! Make checks payable to St. John's WELCA and write school kits in the memo line.

Suggestion to parents: bring the list along when you take your kids shopping for school supplies, and let them be part of the project.

Think Global, Think Local

While filling a backpack for LWR school kits, provide one for a Northfield student, too!

Northfield has a nonprofit, Operation Backpack, which was begun in 1993 through the Community Action Center, to address this

need. The Methodist Church has been especially active in staffing this project, but all members of the community are invited to make financial donations and to volunteer. Last year almost 600 children were served by Operation Backpack. The CAC identifies families and oversees participation.

The St. John's Benevolence & Social Concerns Board approved sending \$500 to Operation Backpack. If you would like to make a personal donation, send your check to: Operation Backpack, PO Box 804, Northfield, MN 55057.



News and Updates



New Group... Prayer and Baptismal Shawl Knitting!

This new group is planning to launch in September. A daytime group will be led by Sue Sharrow, but we need a leader for an evening group.

Anyone interested, contact Sue @ sue_sharrow@msn.com or 507-301-3083.

Meeting times:
Evening Group
September 20 at 6:15 p.m.
Daytime group
September 28 at 10:00 a.m.

The Fireside Room
(with comfortable seating)
has been reserved for both groups.

Please contact Sue if you are interested in attending either of these meetings and/or leading the evening group.

the WOMEN'S page

Gatherings

Consider spending time each month with other women of St. John's.

We offer a variety of groups for all ages and interests.

Watch for dates and venues on the St. John's Women bulletin board, St. John's website, our facebook page, in the September's Voice and our annual informational booklet!

Get connected!

Bold Café'

Boomers

Breakfast Club

Circles:

Abigail/Rebecca

Elizabeth

Lydia

Martha/Claudia

Mary

Sarah



Want to change the world?

Check out all the ministries supported by St. John's Women.

Backpack
Kits



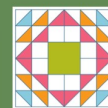
Fair Trade Coffee
& Chocolate



Thistle Farms
products



Knit for
Kids



Quilts for
refugees



Baby Care
Kits



Personal
Care
Kits

Plus: your monetary offerings help support local programs aiding the poor, homeless, and women in crisis.

Change the world by becoming informed

Our 2017-2018 theme:

ImMigration: CULTIVATING DIVERSITY, EQUITY and JUSTICE

Watch for more information.

You won't want to miss a single program!



**Women of the Baby Boomer
generation:**

Meet us at The Tavern Pub/bar
Saturday, Aug. 5th @ 4:30-6:00

*If the weather in nice,
you'll find us outside on
the patio!*



info: Julie Zdenek
julie.zdenek@gmail.com
618.698.4870



SAVE THE DATE!



BACKPACK SUNDAY

St. John's annual Inter-generational Event!

September 17
9:45 am, St. John's Hall

Look for the "Bus" in the Commons and
pick up your list of school supplies.



like us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns"
friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns
(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Correspondence: women.stjohns500@gmail.com
Publicity: Julie Zdenek 618.698.4870



Climate Change and Faith

Submitted by Naomi Bartley,
Climate Reality Leader Volunteer

"Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and of the distribution of good. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. **Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades.**"

Pope Francis
Laudato Si



In 2006, Nobel Laureate and former US Vice President Al Gore got the world talking about climate change with the Academy Award-winning film *An Inconvenient Truth*. It was just the beginning of a climate revolution, and later that year, he founded The Climate Reality Project to move the conversation forward and turn awareness into action. The Climate Reality Project is a diverse group of passionate individuals who have come together to solve the greatest challenge of our time. We are cultural leaders, organizers, scientists, and storytellers, and we are committed to building a better future together.

The Climate Reality Project: Community by community, we are demanding action on climate change. Join us for a presentation on the impacts, solutions, and what you can do to help drive action.

All are welcome to attend the Climate Reality Presentation with Naomi Bartley on Wednesday, August 16, at 7:00 p.m. in St. John's Theater.

"Let ours be a time remembered for the **awakening of a new reverence for life**, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life."

The Earth Charter
As quoted in Laudato Si

News and Updates

Registration Time for Open Door Preschool

Open Door Preschool has openings for the 2017-2018 school year.

Open Door offers 2 and 3 day morning and afternoon sessions. Combinations and extended day options are also available.

Visit our website at: www.opendoorpreschoolnorthfield.org or contact Barb Howe or Sue Anderson at 507-645-8532 for further information.

Scholarships are available.

Open Door is proud to be a 4 star Parent Aware rated program.



News and Updates



**Watch for
fall start dates
for choirs
in the
September issue
of the Voice.**

From the Faith & Health Board

Preventing Falls in your home

Falls can happen at home for many different reasons including poor vision, poor nutrition, a history of falls, certain medications as well as conditions in the home. This advice from the National Center for Patient Safety will help lower your risk for falls at home. Following these simple steps can help you “catch yourself”, reducing the risk of falling and avoiding the serious consequences associated with falls.

Lighting

- Replace burned out light bulbs
- Use a night light in your bathroom, hallway and bedroom
- Keep a flashlight available
- Make sure that lights are easy to turn on and off

Floors

- Remove scatter and throw rugs from your home
- Keep floors free from clutter
- Wipe up spills immediately
- Make sure your floors are not slippery
- Do not have extension cords where you walk

In Your Bathroom

- Use a raised toilet seat and safety frame for ease in getting up from and sitting down on your toilet
- Set the water temperature at 120 degrees or lower, to prevent burns and falls from trying to avoid the hot water
- Place non-skid adhesive strips on the bottom of your tub
- Use liquid soap or soap-on-a-rope to help avoid dropping your soap

Other Locations

- Store items that you use often at waist level
- Select furniture with armrests for support as you are getting up and sitting down
- Keep your telephone within easy reach
- If you experience dizziness and weakness, consult your doctor

If you are interested in more information about falls, Rice County Public Health will be offering a free program at Milestone Assisted Living in Faribault on “A Matter of Balance.” The free sessions will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. for four weeks, September 11-October 4. The sessions include information on changes that can be made to reduce fall risk and exercises to improve strength and balance. For more information or to register, call Rice County Public health 507-332-6111.

Connect with Rice County Habitat for Humanity: **Volunteer, Donate, Advocate**

As a member of St. John's and also a board member of the Rice County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity, I have experienced the many ways members of the St. John's congregation have already supported Habitat. I know many of you have given your time and expertise on build sites around the county, have provided food for volunteers on the build sites, and also given generously with direct gifts to the cause. Our benevolence board annually allocates a portion of their budgeted dollars to Habitat. Thank you to all who have already connected in these ways.

With the building season now upon us, I am simply sharing Habitat's message of **Volunteer, Donate and Advocate. You can Help Build It!** through the following methods:

1. **Volunteer:** There are many, many ways to help Habitat with your volunteer time. For example, bring a meal to the build site, work on the build site, raise money for Habitat, join our Board of Directors, mow the lots that we own but have not yet built on, help pick families, and help with mailings and other office work.
Save the Date: Sign up to be one of St. John's volunteers at the Build Site in Dundas on **Thursday, August 17.**
2. **Donate:** The easiest way to contribute dollars is by visiting the Habitat website – www.habitatricecounty.org and finding the 'Donate' tab. Donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars is also a possibility if you are a Thrivent Member. Every dollar counts! Consider participating in our "Buy a Foot Campaign. For \$98.21 you can "buy" a square foot of one of our houses. Your donation is tax deductible and will directly impact our 2016 build season.
3. **Advocate:** Share the Story of Habitat. The more broad the understanding of our organization and its goals, the better! The grassroots message of Habitat is how we spread the word and gain more supporters.

Look for the brochures in the commons area this month or feel free to contact Brent Nystrom at brent.nystrom@gmail.com or 507-581-6715 if you would like more information on Habitat or the ways to Volunteer, Donate and Advocate.



News and Updates

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals opened their eleventh season this summer on July 5 and will conclude on August 9.

Recitals are held on Wednesdays during the noon hour from 12:15 to 12:45 p. m. with the remaining schedule:

Wednesday, August 2

Bob Henstein

United Methodist Church, 1401 S. Maple St.
Gabriel Kney Organ, 2 manuals, 27 ranks

Wednesday, August 9

Emily Rudquist

St. John's Lutheran Church, 500 3rd St. W.
Music of Bruhns, Bach, and Liszt
Dobson Organ, 2 manuals, 26 ranks

Some recitals will include a free-will offering to defray publicity expenses.

For more information, contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357 or email rkcollman@msn.com.



News and Updates

Upendo's Graduation and Letter of Thanks

For the past six years, St. John's has supported the education of Upendo Naengop, a student at the Maasai Girls' Lutheran Secondary School in Monduli Tanzania. This began when Jean Walstrom and Marvin Kananen were ELCA missionary teachers that St. John's supported at the school.

Upendo graduated in May, and sent us a letter of thanks and telling us of her plans for the future. We sent her a graduation card that was delivered to her by Operation Bootstrap Africa, the nonprofit that coordinates scholarships for students at the school.

Excerpts from Upendo's letter:

After graduation we will go home to wait for examination result. After the result I will go to University. Always I prefer to study nutrition subject because I want to help people who are suffering from malnutrition.

Some of us are included to KISA program. In KISA we are taught about women empowerment on how to solve different problems and how to help and encourage each other in the community we live.

Here in our country there is rainfall so people are planting different crops like beans and maize. Is there rainfall in your country? I would like you to read the word of God from Psalms 32:8.

Thank you from Upendo Naengop



What is a Thrivent Action Team?

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial?

Then consider organizing a **Thrivent Action Team** the next time you identify a project at St. John's and kick-start your effort with \$250 in "seed money!"



ACTION TEAM

A Thrivent Action Team can be organized by any member of Thrivent by identifying a worthy project at St. John's and organizing your group of friends help. Here are the steps:

1. Register your Thrivent Action Team project at www.thrivent.com/actionteam.
2. Log into your online account. If you do not have one you will need to create an account.
3. Enter your project information.
4. Once approved, Thrivent will send you a box of promotional supplies, volunteer t-shirts and a \$250 "community action card" (similar to a credit card) to use as seed money for your project.
5. Finally, report back to Thrivent on the success of your project.

Members of Thrivent Financial can lead two Action Teams each year! Just imagine the good we could do at St. John's!

What can an Action Team do?

You could organize a group to help with Spring Clean Up at St. John's and purchase plants, mulch or garden tools; you could host an ice cream fund raiser between services and raise money for youth camping trips. Be creative!

What can't you do with an Action Team?

The purpose of an Action Team is to get people involved in making a difference. The program is not meant to be a gift or a grant. Thrivent Action Teams are meant to engage people in fun, worthwhile causes and "kick-start" the project by offering seed money for advertising, project supplies or fund raising costs. It's really about enlisting and promoting volunteers!

All members of Thrivent Financial are eligible to organize two Thrivent Action Teams per year. Check it out - go to www.thrivent.com/actionteam.

From Bread for the World

Bread for the World urges all of its members and supporters in congregations across the U.S. to contact senators and representatives to register opposition to deep and disproportionate cuts to critical anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs.



In the U.S. 1 in 8 families (1 in 10 in MN) struggles to put food on the table. The proposed cut of \$1.7 trillion in the next 10 years to safety-net programs such as SNAP (food stamps) and Medicaid would jeopardize food security for millions of families and senior citizens.

Right now, 20 million people are at risk of starvation due to the extraordinary famines in South Sudan, northeastern Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. The U.S. has long been a global leader in responding to humanitarian emergencies and is the greatest provider of lifesaving food aid in the world. In 2015 alone, U.S. food-aid programs reached 48.8 million people bringing life-saving support to vulnerable families. It is crucial that the U.S. continue to be a leader in foreign assistance with its Food for Peace program. Beyond saving countless lives, our own nation's security is benefited by alleviating suffering, decreasing poverty and fostering development to create a more stable and prosperous world.

You can contact: Representative Lewis at jasonlewis.house.gov, click on email; Senator Klobuchar at klobuchar.senate.gov, click on email; Senator Franken at franken.senate.gov, click on "tell me what you think."

Much more information at www.bread.org.

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9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fri

Night to Unite on August 1

St. John's will again be hosting our annual Night to Unite celebration. This is a part of a national program that encourages neighbors to come together on the first Tuesday in August to strengthen community and increase the safety of neighborhoods.

The celebration will include a picnic style meal along with a bouncy tent, emergency vehicle tours, vintage cars, live music, and games.

