



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 7

JULY 2018



**ALL
Together
Worship
JULY Only
One Worship
Service
9:30 a.m.**

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Worshipping As One In July... Service at 9:30 a.m.

Once in a while - on the Sunday after Christmas or when a service is canceled because of weather - we have had one Sunday morning service. Each time this happens, we hear how much the congregation appreciates the opportunity to see people "from the *other* service."

This July, the Worship & Arts Board is proposing an experiment - ONE Sunday worship time at 9:30 a.m. This time has historically been the most popular hour for Easter worship, and worshipping at this hour with fellowship time afterwards will allow us all to gather together in a more relaxed way.

All five Sundays in July will follow this pattern. Our planned Fruit Sunday for that month - Berry Sunday on July 15 - will begin at 10:30 a.m.

Will we do this again? We don't know! But for this summer it is an experiment we're excited to try, and looking forward to seeing what new connections are forged when we gather at one time for Holy Communion.

WORSHIP SERVICES
9:30 a.m. Sundays in July
FELLOWSHIP
10:30 a.m. Sundays in July

LIVE BROADCASTS
9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays in July
KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM
kymnradio.net

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

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

9:30 a.m. Sundays in July

Nursery Hours

9:30-10:45 a.m. Sundays in July

Learning and Fellowship

9:45-10:30 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September - May

Live Broadcasts

9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays in July

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

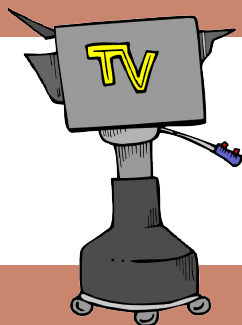


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

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.

Blessing Box at St. John's

"Take something if in need;
leave something when blessed."



St. John's Sunday school children are supporting a new mission at St. John's this year: "Blessing Box". It is similar to the Little Libraries found around town except the Blessing box is filled with donated non-perishable food and personal hygiene products. The idea is that anyone walking by who may be struggling can use the goods to make ends meet. The community is welcome to donate to the box being mindful of Minnesota's temperature changes. Donation Ideas: canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar, coffee, crackers, soap, mittens, toothbrush, baby items, such as diapers, pacifiers. The box is located in the drive-up on the north side of St. John's.

Dear Friends in Christ:

ABUSE is a word that seems to be in the headlines daily these days:

- Our state is grappling with how to keep elderly and vulnerable adults safe in institutional facilities.
- Our federal government has removed domestic abuse as a legitimate cause for seeking asylum.
- While teenage pregnancy is at historic lows, teens are also reporting more abuse in their dating relationships.
- The leader of the Southern Baptist Convention was recently removed for advising women in abusive marriages to tolerate their situations.

Anyone who has ever tried to help a friend escape from domestic abuse knows that the abusive situations are typically chaotic, bewildering, and often incredibly difficult to escape. In this context, a lot of the platitudes we cling to about kindness and forgiveness seem shallow. It's one thing to "turn the other cheek" when someone thoughtlessly insults you, but did Jesus really want us to tolerate persistent abuse?

A close look at the context of Jesus' famous words in Matthew 5 reveal that Jesus was addressing very specific situations where those in power were given authority to mistreat others.

Turn the Other Cheek

In ancient culture a master was allowed to backhand a servant as a way of asserting their power. The physical act of turning the cheek forced the abuser in that situation to strike them as an equal. Turning of the cheek then was an *assertion of humanity* on the part of the servant.

Go the extra mile

In Roman occupied territories, a soldier was allowed to commandeer any peasant and could force them to carry their pack one mile, interrupting whatever business that person might have that day. The law limited this to one mile, but it was a way for the conquerors to daily remind the conquered that they were under the thumb of the Romans. When Jesus urges his followers to go the extra mile, it is again an unexpected assertion of humanity. By turning a forced march into a volunteering for more, the soldier in question would be forced to see the other person as someone with agency.

Neither of these situations make it clear what exactly we should then do in situations where we are the abused – or more importantly, how we should respond when we see others abused. But they DO help us understand that Jesus' words of peacemaking are not meant to make anyone a doormat. Nor do they authorize people in power to abuse their privileges.

At St. John's, we have clear policies in place to prevent abuse of vulnerable people, including background checks and safety policies for all our children and youth programming. But more importantly, we need to be watchful on behalf of everyone who is vulnerable to

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From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



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."

July 5, 2017

Paula Lawrence

Stephen Ministry: Health Benefits for Inviting Nature Into Our Lives

"The indescribable innocence of and beneficence of Nature, ..of sun and wind and rain, of summer and winter, ..such health, such cheer, they afford forever!"

Henry David Thoreau

Now that our Minnesota summer has at long last arrived we may not need reminders to get out and bask in the beauty and wonders of God's creation, but we may be surprised at the improvements it brings to our mental, physical, and spiritual health.

In recent years many studies have shown multiple benefits for immersing oneself in nature. Researchers in Japan have found that forest environments promote a lower concentration of cortisol, lower blood pressure, and lower pulse, among other things, proving that our bodies relax when exposed to natural surroundings. Since the early 1980's the Japanese have been practicing "Shinrin-Yoku" (forest bathing) as a healthy lifestyle practice. The aim is to slow down, breathe deeply, and awaken to the sights and sounds and feel of the forest. This, in turn, boosts immunity and mood, and reduces stress hormones.

English researchers have found that people living near more green space reported less mental stress and a higher well being. Other studies cite benefits that include increased ability to focus, accelerated recovery from surgery or illness, increased energy, and improved sleep.

The June issue of Living Lutheran has an article on "Holy Hikes," a national eco-ministry dedicated to renewing connections with God's creation through liturgical hikes. Holy Hikers say participating in this ministry has enhanced their faith: "when I'm out there on a hike things make more sense and the feeling of disconnection fades."

In a world that thrives on being busy, productive, and over-scheduled, we would all do well to find the time to disconnect from our devices and to engage in the therapeutic practice of taking a slow walk through the woods or meadow, tending to the garden, or even adding plants indoors. In Psalm 46, we are reminded, "Be still, and know that I am God."

If you are stressed or are going through a difficult time, you may also benefit from a caring listening ear.

St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to offer this kind of support.

Please call Joan Halvorson (507-645-8445) or one of the pastors (507-645-4429) to request a Stephen Minister if you feel this could make a difference for you.

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

physical or emotional abuse. We encourage you to speak up and reach out for yourself or for loved ones if you suspect abuse. Jesus came that all might have life, abundantly. Do not let anyone's life be diminished by abuse.

Pastor Pam Fickenscher

Call these numbers for help:

For sexual assault, family abuse, and other issues:

HOPE Center
1-800-607-2330

For crisis assistance:

Rice County Social Services 24-Hour Crisis Line
1-800-422-1286

Mental Health Crisis "Warm Line" (adults):
1-877-399-3040

Life and Growth

Births

May 25, 2018
Joseph Edward Gebler
Son of Marie and Adam Gebler

Baptisms

June 3, 2018
Nora Mae Lauer
Daughter of Stephanie and Matthew Lauer

Weddings

June 23, 2018
Alyssa Cheadle and Paul Pearson



Radio Broadcasts

June 3, 2018

Given in memory of
Gene Schrader
by family and friends.

June 10, 2018

Given in memory of
Steve Swanson
by his family.

June 17, 2018

Given by
Richard and Joann Kleber
in celebration of their
60th wedding anniversary on June 14.

June 24, 2018

Given in honor of
Lowell and Barbara Johnson's
65th wedding anniversary
by their children.

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

Looking Ahead to September...

September 12

Orientation for Wednesday After School Programming and Confirmation

September 16

Worship changes to 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Programs Begin

September 19

Wednesday After School Programs and Confirmation Begin



Get involved with Children and Youth Ministries!

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 children and youth programming this fall with Sunday Morning or Wednesday programming. We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities.

Please talk with Julie Brehmer or check out the volunteer opportunities in the registration packet.

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

2018-2019 Registration

Online Registration for Children and Youth 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 school year plus information on how to volunteer for upcoming events and programs. We appreciate registrations turned in by August 26 for returning members. Visitors and new members are invited to register at any time during the year.

Please contact Julie Brehmer or Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429, if you have questions regarding programming.



**Lutheran
Social Service**
of Minnesota

High School and Middle School Youth Service Opportunity *Tentatively Thursday, July 26*

High School and Middle School youth of St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's will take a trip to a Lutheran Social Services site in Minneapolis.

This trip will likely involve helping to prepare a community meal in a large kitchen with locally donated food and serve it.

Details are still being worked out and will be shared once they are firmed up. Watch for information via email and in the bulletin.

Questions? Contact Angie Gehring at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429.

Mary Kelvie Moved to Owatonna: What Does that Mean for Shared Ministry at St. John's?

On May 31, Shared Ministry Co-coordinator, Mary Kelvie, and her husband, David, moved to Owatonna to be closer to family. Fortunately for us, Mary is still working with St. John's, online through the internet and email, by phone, and occasionally on site when she is in town. For the time being, Mary will continue to be the main contact for funeral receptions, creating website and monitor signs, and making sign up sheets via the online directory (CCB) for Sunday hospitality, Fruit Sundays, and other upcoming events like Night to Unite in August.

Christy will be the Shared Ministry person "on the ground" - live and in person! She will help to welcome people who are new, connect St. John's people through the Accompany newcomer gatherings, and match people up with meaningful service opportunities.

Here are some ways you can serve this summer:

- Preparing the wine and wafers for communion, and washing up the vessels afterwards.
- Welcoming people into St. John's at the doors and at the Welcome Desk on Sundays.
- Setting up for and serving coffee and donut holes, and then cleaning up afterwards.
- Inviting neighbors around St. John's to our annual Night to Unite picnic.
- Providing music, showing fun cars, tending the bouncy tent, doing face painting.

Does any of this sound fun? Like something you'd like to learn how to do? Please let us know!

Christy Hall-Holt
connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org
507-645-4429

Mary Kelvie
sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org
651-226-7950



Shared Ministry

Crazy Coffee Sundays!

What in the world happened to our regular coffee service in June?!!!

Well - while we had planned on continuing coffee service between services as usual, we found volunteers were not signing up ahead of time.

We also want to make sure that the workload of preparing, serving, and cleaning up/dishwashing is spread over many in the congregation - otherwise the "usual suspects" carry a heavy load each week.

How can we figure this out?
We welcome your thoughts and suggestions (and sign-ups!)

Warm (coffee) regards,
Christy, Shared Ministry Co-coordinator
with Mary Kelvie

Game Plan Reminder:

We will have coffee service if at least THREE people have signed up by the WEDNESDAY before each Sunday.

Please check your calendars for July and August and sign up if you are available. You can switch with someone if a conflict arises.

You can sign up in the Commons, online thru CCB, or by contacting Christy Hall-Holt or Mary Kelvie.

Christy Hall-Holt
connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org
507-645-4429

Mary Kelvie
sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org
651-226-7950

News and Updates

Properties & Grounds Work Morning Saturday, July 14 8:00-11:00 a.m.

We are looking for volunteers to sign up for a work morning to spruce up the church's exterior landscaping. Pruning, weeding, and mulching will be the focus of the work.

You can sign up in the Commons, online thru CCB, calling the church office, or email office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



New 150th Anniversary Grant Approval to Assist Immigrants By Kathy Schuurman

The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board was informed of the great news that the funds from the Grace Overflowing Capital Campaign exceeded its goals. Since a percentage of those funds was designated towards benevolence, it set the



Benevolence & Social Concerns Board in motion to make a plan to distribute the extra benevolence dollars. The board was asked to revisit all the submitted grant proposals. After careful review and discussion, board members recommended that the grant proposal from the Immigrant Law Center of MN, which had previously gained high support, now be adopted into the current grant program. John Kelly, Executive Director, attended our May meeting to explain the grant further and to answer our questions. Benevolence board members unanimously voted to move this grant proposal forward for the approval of the Church Council. The Church Council approved the proposal at its May meeting.

The Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM) is a nonprofit agency that provides immigration legal assistance to low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota. ILCM also works to educate Minnesota communities and professionals about immigration matters, and advocates for state and federal policies which respect the universal human rights of immigrants. ILCM continues to be intentional in seeking additional funding sources through the United Way, government sources, foundations, faith-based organizations, and individual donors to provide more resources to the most vulnerable.

John Keller reported that 15-20 percent of undocumented immigrants have a recourse for legal status available to them, if properly screened. This screening would circumvent the deportation process for them. However, immigration legal resources to screen are scarce and resources to assist clients from removal are very limited. This at a time when the need for these services have increased dramatically. Legal services are important to address the primary hurdles that immigrants and refugees face to living safe and stable lives. Securing a legal status for a client lifts their family out of fear, makes fair-wage jobs available to them, and allows the entire family to come out of the shadows and more fully contribute to civic life within their communities.

The ILCM grant requested \$25,000 to supplement the position of a traveling staff member. This represents .25 FTE of the staff member's work. This person would be based in the St. Paul office but would visit Northfield two days each month, to conduct appointments, provide education or outreach presentations, and ongoing casework done remotely. 100% of the money will be used to respond to the concerns and legal matters of the immigrant and refugee community in the

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New 150th Anniversary Grant Approval to Assist Immigrants

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Northfield area. The ILCM development staff will seek additional funding from the colleges, local employers, the city, local nonprofits, and individuals to ensure its future sustainability and growth.

ILCM already has a robust network in Northfield, working closely with the Northfield High School TORCH program, St. Olaf College and Carleton College, Growing Up Healthy at Greenvale Park Elementary School, the Northfield City Council, and the Northfield Police Department. They have a strong partnership with the Center for New Americans and its executive director, Ben Casper, who lives in Northfield and is a resource for St. Dominic's Church. Having these links and networks already established in Northfield will open doors and lead to the success of this project.

In addition to these networks, the Northfield Community Action Center, along with the Volunteer Lawyers Network, is currently coordinating a group of community members who are working to provide a new, walk-in, legal clinic for a variety of legal issues. The hope is that ILCM will provide its expertise in matters of immigration law.

The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board was excited to approve this grant and move it forward so that St. John's can become a vital part of ILCM's work in this new outreach into our Northfield community, especially at this critical time. Watch for further reports and updates in the near future.

Questions should be directed to Kathy Schuurman by phone at 507-645-9617 or email at kathy.schuurman@gmail.com. Some of the information used in this report was gleaned from the ILCM grant proposal. The full proposal is available upon request.

News and Updates

Supporting Students Here and Globally

This year, you have TWO opportunities to support students in need with your back-to-school shopping: here in Northfield and around the world through Lutheran World Relief.

This year through Grace Overflowing's support of TORCH we are also supporting local students who are first-generation college students. Participants in their new Alumni center get support to continue their studies through registration assistance, community college classes offered locally, and material help.

The list below includes items for younger students as well as the modern college student. Please give as you're able. Monetary donations can also be made to WELCA for the LWR supplies, or to St. John's for the TORCH program.

Items needed for include:

- 70-sheet wire-bound college-ruled notebooks
- 30 centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- pencil sharpeners
- blunt Fiskar scissors
- unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- black or blue ballpoint pens
- box of 24 crayons
- 2 1/2" eraser
- Small denomination gift cards- Target, coffee, or gas
- Highlighters
- Microwave popcorn
- Earbuds - less than \$5 versions are acceptable
- Laundry detergent

News and Updates

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals opened their twelfth season this summer. Recitals are held during the Wednesday noon hour from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. with the following schedule:

Wednesday, July 4
No Recital

Wednesday, July 11
Richard Collman, Organ
Randall Ferguson, Guitar
United Methodist Church, 1401 S. Maple St.
Gabriel Kney Organ, II, 27 ranks

Wednesday, July 18
Catherine Rodland
Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College
Holtkamp Organ, III, 90 ranks, 2007

Wednesday, July 25
Noah Klein
All Saints Episcopal, 419 Washington St.
Reuter Organ, II, 9 ranks

Wednesday, August 1
Stephen May
First UCC, 300 Union St.
Johnson & Son/Schlicker/Rutz, III, 53 ranks

Wednesday, August 8
Joanne Rodland
St. John's Lutheran Church, 500 Third St. W
Dobson, II, 26 ranks

Wednesday, August 15
Janean Hall and Larry Archbold
Skinner Chapel, Carleton College
Rutz 2018, IV, 48 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.



Save the Date: Night to Unite on August 7

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.

Please let Christy Hall-Holt or Mary Kelvie know if you can provide/help with one of the following:

- showing/giving rides in your interesting vehicles
- singing and playing instruments or setting up music
- making and/or distributing flyers
- setting out and/or putting away chairs and tables in the parking lot

Christy Hall-Holt
connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org
507-645-4429

Mary Kelvie
sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org
651-226-7950



Global Guru of Nonviolence: Nine Decades of Promoting Nonviolence

Since last February, peacemakers around the world have felt a severe loss in the death of Gene Sharp whose 90 years of life had earned him the title "Global Guru of Nonviolence."

In his early years, Sharp studied the wisdom of great minds through thousands of years.

During his university student days, he refused the draft and was jailed for his protesting policies of violence. In 1983 he created the Albert Einstein Institute. Sharp's work continued through his university teaching and independent studies.

This background made him challenge a 'super-solution' to social-political problems; he believed there was never just one way to solve all the problems. His approach included outlining various methods of nonviolent action which allowed for adapting strategies to the current situation.

This flexible approach was especially helpful to the work of smaller groups and for his focus on the role of ordinary persons to work wherever they were. His suggestions for ways to make peace included possible responses and ways for individuals to make or choose responses.

In 1990 he published *From Dictatorship to Democracy* which has been called 'a handbook for nonviolent actions for change.' As an open, free source of information and techniques, it gave Sharp a worldwide readership. It remains a popular source of ideas and challenges. Ruairidh Arrow, a British newsman, made a documentary about Sharp's work and is currently working on a biography. He asserts that Sharp's principles are a strong support for the power of individuals which can be the negative refusal to comply with the cruelty of dictators as well as the active, supportive cooperation in areas of justice and political reform. Arrow further asserts that Sharp does not argue for the moral values of nonviolent resistance but for the pragmatic effectiveness of it.

Sharp's writings, including, *Politics of Nonviolence*, *Waging Nonviolence*, helped inspire challenges to Hugo Chavez and Slobodan Milosevic, Ukraine's Orange Rebellion, Egypt and Arab Spring, the Occupy Movement in the US in 2011.

News and Updates

Children, Come to the Table!

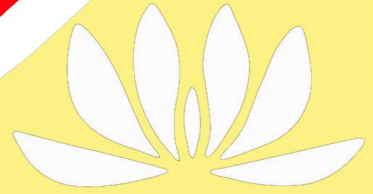
When is my child ready to take
Holy Communion?
When is anyone really ready?

As Lutherans we believe that the sacraments are gifts of God not dependent on our understanding or preparation to be effective as gifts of grace.

At St. John's we urge parents to bring their children to the table every week, whether they receive a blessing or the bread and wine. Parents may use discretion based on their own piety and family situation as to when a child receives the bread and wine, but there is no minimum age.

Age appropriate materials are available for discussing communion with your child from age 4 and up. Contact Pastor Fickenscher or Pastor Davis if you are interested in having your child commune for the first time.

the **WOMEN'S** page



JULY GATHERINGS

Breakfast Group
Saturday, July 14th
8:30-10:00
St. John's Fireside Rm

Boomers
Saturday, July 14th
4:30-?
Tanzenwald Brewery
103 Hwy 3 North

St. John's Circles take a break each Summer. Watch for information in the August VOICE.



Did you know St. John's Women make about a dozen quilts every month that are shipped all over the world?

You can play an enormous role in this exciting ministry simply by cutting squares and or donating sheets and fabric.

Cutting squares is not limited to women, nor is it limited to adults!

Make this a Summer project!

Donate full, queen or king size sheets, (cotton, or cotton blends) and fabric scraps at least 1/3 yard (cotton, cotton blends, twill, corduroy or flannel).



Contact Sue Sharrow: 301-3083 or sue_sharrow@msn.com

KNITTERS and CROCHETERS
2nd and 4th Thursday, monthly
10:00 a.m. in Room 19, Lower Level

Yarn provided. New members and beginning knitters/crocheters welcome. Knitting can be done at home also.

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Donate July 22 - September 2

Drop school items in the donation box in the Commons

See details on the following page.



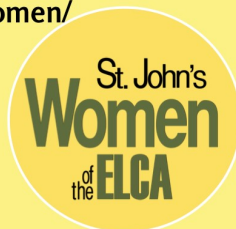
Visit our web page:

<https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/women/>



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



LEGACY OF A ST. JOHN'S WOMAN

By Shirley Keltto

Whether the ministry is local, as in the church or in the community, this column intends to lift up women of St. John's. This month we acknowledge Judith Anderson Stoutland.

Be Bold

Be Patient

Be Grateful

Be Happy

Be Kind

Be Strong



So reads a post on Facebook on June 12, 2018, from the Churchwide Women of the ELCA. These adjectives can aptly describe Judith Stoutland who throughout her life exemplified these qualities.

Judy comes from Milan, MN, a small town, settled by Norwegians, located northwest of Montevideo, MN. Attending St. Olaf College and majoring in English, she was the editor of the Manitou Messenger for a year. Her first position after college was in the Fergus Falls, MN School System, where her contract was to teach the junior level classes.

After one year of teaching, she married Fred Stoutland. Three were born to this union and she has six grandchildren. While they lived in Connecticut, she studied at Trinity College, working toward a master's degree.

Upon the family's return to Northfield, her teaching focused on teaching in the 'English as a Second Language' Department at St. Olaf. The ESL program grew under her guidance until 1997 when she retired. Judith says that she received a lot of satisfaction from the students who came from countries such as Namibia, Mexico, Israel, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Palestine, and Spain. She gives Judith Dirks of Northfield thanks to her dedication in helping the Hmong population settle here, and, thus, those students were part of the ESL classes.

Judith keeps a good-sized garden in her back yard so she reaches out to students to help with maintaining that garden. Many would come, in shifts as their schedules allowed. She sees the garden like a continuation of the classroom. She says that those students touched her as much as did the students in the ESL classroom. Judith cleverly says "the garden was a 'Language of Weeds.'"

Here at St. John's, she served as the convener of the Peace and Justice Program. Her involvement goes back many years. Many vigils on Bridge Square – no matter the weather.

The emphasis being 'fairness and equality for all.' That sums up Judith's legacy!



SCHOOL KITS TIME!

Donations taken July 22 - Sep 2



Notebooks, wire bound, 70 sheets

Rulers, 30 cm, or centimeter and inches

Pencil sharpeners (small, plastic)

Fiskar scissors, blunt end

Pencils, #2, unsharpened, with erasers

Ballpoint pens, blue or black, NO gel

Crayons, box of 16 or 24

Eraser, 2 1/2"

Items can be donated in bulk

Items do not need to be sorted

Donations of money: write check to St. John's WELCA, (school kits on memo line).

Place donations in the School Kit box, in the Commons.

Information: Jane Rinehart (612) 840-6450



News and Updates



Weekly Pub Theology Continues in July

What is Pub Theology?

It is weekly conversation led by Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan 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, in the News Blast, and an email list.

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

The Library at St. John's From the Adult Ministry & Education Board By Genevieve Quarberg

Summer in this North country is a friendlier time to pay attention to the natural world surrounding us. There also may be more time to stop and do that, to reflect alone or with family on where we are, what we see, and how important it is to us.

Books like Sigurd Olson's *Listening Point* get us caught up in a movie that becomes our own when we remember such shared experiences in camping or being in the North. Other perspectives from *Earth Stories* by John Aurelio tickle our imagination, while *The Man Who Planted Trees* by Jean Grono and wood engravings by Michael McCurdy take us back to a time between two world wars when a man steadfastly planted 100 acorns, a brave act of hope in the future. *How I Learned Geography* by Uri Shulwitz is also from WW II, telling how his family lived in exile in Turkestan, Kazakestan for six years and he learned about the world from a single map purchased instead of food.

Poets, with their acute sight and insight shine a light on our deepest feelings or gather our scattered thoughts. They are ideal to read aloud with others, perhaps even talking about them. Gerhard Frost, who was a loved professor at Luther Seminary, is easy to relate to in his small books, *Blessed is the Ordinary* and *Kept Moments*. Another is a collection of words from the Psalms, Proverbs, prophets and Christ, along with photographs, *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*. Wendell Berry's *Collected Poems* come out of a love for and commitment to a life connected to the soil. *Delights and Shadows* by Ted Kooser, former Poet Laureate of the United States, can open our eyes to the world around us. Freya Manfred has poems especially for women in the first half of her book *My Only Home*, but concentrates on the seasons of the year in the second half.

Especially for little children, see the book *All Things Bright and Beautiful* for poems and prayers. And for children of all ages, read the most delightful small book, *Prayers from the Ark* by Carmen Bernos De Graztold, who as a young French woman also lived and suffered during WW II (translated by the novelist Rumor Godden). The author portrays in words the essence of each animal while Jean Primrose does the same in wood engraving sketches.

If you are a gardener, you will appreciate the book by Allan A. Swenson, *Your Biblical Garden, Plants of the Bible and How to Grow Them* or *The Art of Spiritual Rock Gardening* by Donna E. Schaper or *Herbs of the Bible* by James A. Duke, all with excellent illustrations.

You can check books out for two weeks, long enough to take on vacation if you like. These books will be in the display case, but there are other books just waiting for curious readers to find them on the shelves. You are encouraged to seek and find!

From Bread for the World

Nearly 300 Bread for the World members and activists visited Capitol Hill on June 12 to personally ask their members of Congress to support a bipartisan farm bill that protects nutrition assistance in the United States and improves international food aid, and to cosponsor and pass the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act. They were participating in Bread's 2018 Advocacy Summit and Lobby Day.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

The farm bill is must-pass legislation that authorizes most U.S. agriculture and nutrition policies, as well as humanitarian relief programs. The current House of Representa-

tives version of the bill would cut more than \$17 billion in food assistance from the supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP).

The Senate farm bill continues bipartisan support of U.S. international food assistance programs and rejects the broad sweeping cuts to domestic nutrition assistance that would harm kids, families, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

"We are thankful the Senate Agricultural Committee introduced a bipartisan farm bill that protects domestic nutrition programs, especially SNAP, and truly funds international food aid," said Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World.

The Feed the Future programs authorized by the Global Food Security Act (GFSA) alleviate hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. These programs support smallholder farmers, strengthen agricultural businesses, and promote critical nutrition interventions for mothers and babies in the first 1,000 day window. The law will expire next year unless Congress acts. "In Feed the Future focus countries, poverty rates have dropped by 19 percent, and 1.7 million more households are free from hunger. Congress must reauthorize this vital legislation," Beckmann said.

Much more at www.bread.org.

**Have you visited the
St. John's Library?**

Check it out! Take home a book today!

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OFFICE HOURS

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-Th

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



Berry Sunday
July 15 - 10:30 a.m.

Can you help?

Set up? Clean up? Serve?

Bring a dessert?

Sign up in the Commons today!