

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2009

Volume 49, Number 1

*on the
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The *Voice* is a monthly
publication of St. John's
Lutheran Church of
Northfield, Minnesota.
Articles for the *Voice*
must be submitted by
the 15th of each month to
the Church Office or by
e-mail to:

office@stjohns-elca.org.

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Church office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

9:00 a.m. to noon and
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. to noon and
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Epiphany worship and potluck Jan. 6

The day of Epiphany, Jan. 6, is the celebration of God's light and love in Jesus spreading to the whole world. As these strangers from the East came to worship Jesus, his coming became a coming for all the peoples of the earth. As we have done the past few years, St. John's will celebrate the light of God's grace in the world on the day of Epiphany itself. Come and worship as we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord on Tuesday evening, Jan. 6, at 7:00 p.m. We will use the service of

Holden Evening Prayer for this worship. We will also gather for a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall – join your family at St. John's for this celebration, and like the Magi, bring a gift (of hotdish, salad, or dessert this time, instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh) to share! This festival begins the season of Epiphany, a season of light and hope for the salvation of the creation. **Note:** if you are able to help serve at the potluck, people are needed - contact the church office.

Washed in God's Water: Baptism Recognition Jan. 11

Sunday, Jan. 11, is the Sunday of the Baptism of our Lord, the first Sunday after Epiphany. As is customary now at St. John's, we will not only celebrate Jesus' baptism in the Jordan that day, but also recognize and give thanks for all those brought through the waters of

baptism in 2008. There will be engraved medallions for each of those newly baptized whom we recognize this day. In addition, in worship we all will affirm our own baptisms as we remember our call to minister on Jesus' behalf in the world.

Annual meeting Jan. 25

The Congregation Council has set Sunday, Jan. 25, as the date for the Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church, immediately following a potluck dinner in St. John's Hall. Items of business will include receiving of reports, election of officers, board, and council members, and action on the proposed 2009 budget. Annual reports are scheduled to be printed by Sunday, Jan. 18, and there will be an annual meeting preview on Jan. 18 between services. **Foundation meets:** The annual meeting of the St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation, Inc., will also be held, immediately following the annual meeting.

St. Olaf Choir sings at worship Jan. 4

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to our worship once again on Sunday, Jan. 4. They will lead us in worship and sing anthems at several places in our worship. This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and as we are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music.

The vision of St. John's: growing as disciples + becoming signs of God's love for each other and the world

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word: Mark the days of Epiphany by attending this time of silence and prayer guided by a verse from Scripture. Meets Thursday, Jan. 29 at 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

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 663-1097.

I Want to Be Cared For!

At a meeting for St. John's Stephen Ministry leaders, the conversation turned to the importance of having this ministry in our congregation: we learn how to take care of one another. One Stephen Minister told this story about a recent visit with her care receiver, Sharon.*

"The two of us had been seated in her living room for forty-five minutes, talking about a painful friendship, when her three-year-old son Nicholas got up from his nap. He was cranky. He held his left hand dangling in front of his chest like a claw (he'd cut his finger several days earlier and had been carrying his hand that way ever since, explained his mother), and he was whimpering. 'Would you like something to drink? Some juice?' Sharon asked. 'No-oo-oo,' Nicholas sobbed. 'Would you like something to eat? An apple? A granola bar?' 'No-oo-oo,' Nicholas sobbed. 'What *would* you like then?' his mother asked. Nicholas, wearing a tee shirt and baggy diaper, stood there thinking: 'I want—I want—I want—to be cared for!' Sharon and I burst out laughing. This intelligent and competent mother of three had just said the same thing to her Stephen Minister, with moist eyes: 'I want my friend to take care of me.'"

The Stephen Ministry group also laughed heartily at Nicholas's urgent pronouncement. We spoke of the need in all of us, children and adults, to be taken care of. We may be overwhelmed by events or we may be enjoying a period of contentment—still, we always need to be taken care of. We need to feel God's love for us through the love of another human being. After a pause, one Stephen Minister, widowed a few years ago, said calmly, 'That's one of the things you miss when you lose a beloved spouse. You don't have anyone to take care of you every day.'"

*The names and identifying details in this true story have been changed for the sake of confidentiality.

If you, or someone you know, wants to receive the care of a Stephen Minister, call Pastor Johnson at 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at 645-8445.

*Bear one another's
burdens, and in
this way you will
fulfill the law of
Christ.*

Galatians 6:2



*Providing one-
to-one care and
encouragement*

Grief Booklets: "Journeying through Grief" booklets are available 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.

Northfield Grief Support Coalition – a new Grief Group session will begin at the Northfield Retirement Center on Monday, January 19 at 1:30 p.m. Contact Barb Knaak for more information, 664-0444 or bknaak4@charter.net.



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."

January 10, 2008
Miltzo Tverberg

January 11, 2008
Mary Jane Evenson

January 31, 2008
Paul Tollefson

*Blessed are they who
mourn, for they shall
be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4

Bereavement Ministry

From our pastors . . .

The Southern Cross

"All the ends of
the earth have
seen the salvation
of our God."

Psalm 98:3



In 1911, in what is now the Central Diocese of Tanzania, God's Spirit worked through the witness first of Lutheran missionaries from Leipzig, Germany and later of Augustana Synod missionaries from America. Today, the 384 congregations in the Central Diocese are made up of Tanzanians who have been Christians for generations. Given that reality in Tanzania and in many nations around the world there is a new understanding of mission developing in the Church described as "accompaniment." Instead of western Churches taking the lead on mission throughout the world, Christians now interact with one another as colleagues, as fellow workers in Christ's vineyard, serving and witnessing in Christ's name, and accompanying one another on the journey of faith.

Since 1988 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod (SEMS) has been in partnership with the Central Diocese (CD) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). As in all relationships, regular communication and time spent together help to maintain and deepen those connections. To that end, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod sent two delegations to the Central Diocese this fall. The first group included Pastor Roger Michaelson and Pr. Steve Bohling and Steve's wife, Nancy. Roger and Steve taught classes at the Lutheran Institute Kiomboi during the fall term. (The Lutheran Institute educates ELCT pastors, evangelists, and parish workers.) On Oct. 21, Kathy Bolin, the Synod's Global Mission Coordinator, and I, a member of the Synod's Global Mission/Companion Synod Committee, travelled to Tanzania to spend time in the Central Diocese visiting with Diocese leaders and congregational members – reviewing joint projects and discussing the challenges and opportunities of our partnership. Our visit focused on four areas of ministry in the Central Diocese: health care, education, evangelism, and the partner congregation program that exists between the CD and the SEMS. We were warmly welcomed at fifteen congregations and visited five

primary care clinics (dispensaries). We spent time visiting with staff at the Iambi Lutheran Hospital, and staff and students at the Lutheran Institute at Kiomboi. We worshipped with thirty members of a mission congregation one Sunday and the next Sunday worshipped with over seven hundred members of Merya Parish as they celebrated their 50th anniversary. We ate many meals of rice and chicken and drank a lot of pop and hot chai. We enjoyed running water many days but at Kiomboi, a woman named Margaret carried hot water – heated over a coal fire – to our house each night so we could all wash up.

There are many challenges for the people of Tanzania and for the Church there. There are also joys, and I thank you and the members of the staff for allowing me the time away to be with our partners in Christ in the Central Diocese, on behalf of our synod. I have many stories to share, and I look forward to sharing some of them during St. John's Forum on Feb. 1.

In the meantime a story for this season of Epiphany as we marvel that the light of Christ shines in all nations: Before travelling to the Central Diocese Kathy and I visited mission partners in northern Tanzania including Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen, ELCA missionaries serving at the Maasae Girl's Lutheran Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania. St. John's helps to sponsor Jean and Marv's work and as a partner I was invited to participate in the Reformation Day services at the school's chapel. That day fifteen teenage girls were baptized and twelve girls were confirmed – all having completed a year and a half of religious instruction. When it was time for the baptisms, the girls lined up at the rail wearing bright red tee-shirts and tan skirts. As the baptisms began the very resonant church bell started ringing. Startled, I spilled some of the water I was holding in a red plastic bowl. As the bell continued to ring, a choir started to sing. It was so loud that Chaplain Jean had to yell the names of the girls in my ear so I could speak their names as the gift of

continued on page 4

December Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Raymond Quade**: by Dale and Dian VanGuilder

In memory of **Elaine Benson**: by Annalee Larson.

In memory of **Alice Anderson**: by Charles and Lillian Anderson, Theodore and Patricia Peterson, David and Marian Anderson, Marlene Kampa, Karen Gustafson, Floyd and Kay Midura, Paul and Rebecca Bridgeman, Michael and Karen Wurzer, Bruce and Mary Kingland, Ronald and Mary Ann Eckart.

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Alice Anderson**: by Phillips Van Vo and Duoc Thi Le.

In memory of **Larry Koester**: by Michele Koester.

In memory of **Buren Watland**: by John Lundblad.

Radio Fund

In memory of **Helen Ingram**: by Troy Dunn, Thomas Ingram, Mark and Mary Zentner.

In memory of **Alice Anderson**: by Dorothy Langeness

Stewards of Grace Fund

In memory of **Alice Anderson**: by I. Ruth Hansen.

Music Fund

In memory of **Genevieve Odegaard**: by Viginia Gangsei.

Tanzania Scholarship Fund

In Honor of **Gunnar and Thea Benson**: by Duane and Marie Benson.

Other Actions

Radio Broadcasts

Dec. 14, 2008, in memory of **Richard Nasby's December birthday**, by his family and friends.

Dec. 21, 2008, in memory of **Mr. and Mrs. Austin Kasa and Mr. and Mrs. S. E. "Jack" Reed**, by Avis and Curt Reed.

Dec. 24, 2008, in memory of **Percy Johnson's Birthday**, by Millie Johnson.

Dec. 25, 2008, in memory of **Gustav Odegaard's 100th birthday**, by Ruth Legvold and Anna Thissen.

Dec. 28, 2008, in memory of **Helen Collins**, by family and friends

from our pastors, *cont. from page 3*

Christ's mercy washed over them, each claimed as God's beloved child. Jean told us that bells are rung during baptisms to rejoice in the gift of God's salvation in Christ – and to share that joy with everyone within hearing distance. Marv and Jean send their greetings and their thanks to St. John's.

On our last night in Tanzania someone finally pointed out to our group the Southern Cross in the night sky. We had been looking for the constellation throughout the trip and we guessed that this group of stars was probably what we were looking for, but we needed someone to confirm it for us. We agreed that even if we hadn't seen the constellation we had already seen the Southern Cross in Tanzania. We had seen it in the lives of the people we met in the Central Diocese, confirmed for us in their service and outreach on behalf of Christ's Church. They reflect the light of Christ in Tanzania just as you and I try to do through the ministries we share at St. John's and throughout our Synod. Praise God for Christ, the savior and light of the world. And praise God for companions who share the work of witnessing to that light and salvation.

Mark

News and Events

Thanks for the Giving Tree

The Northfield Community Action Center sent this thank you for the over 200 Giving Tree Gifts:

"The gifts were wonderful! St. John's certainly helped make the spirit of the season shine brightly here in Northfield. . . This year 812 children from 351 households received gifts. . . As one mother wrote in a thank you letter, "My family and I don't have words to give you thanks. We are blessed by the knowledge that there are so many good people with good hearts that want to help people and we wish everyone that helped with Christmas Sharing the Merriest Christmas ever!"

Thank you from Iambi

Pastor Allan Kingu, the headmaster of the Iambi Secondary School, sent us this message of thanks for the funds sent for the solar powered water pump:

"I thank God for the new plans of the water project for my school. After the completion of this project I am sure we will do a lot on land healing project in my school and around the village area. Take my Christmas greetings to all church members in St. John's. Tell them I truly appreciate their support of water project for my school. May our Lord God bless them more and more as they consider others in their problems.

Community Celebration Jan. 19, Martin Luther King Day

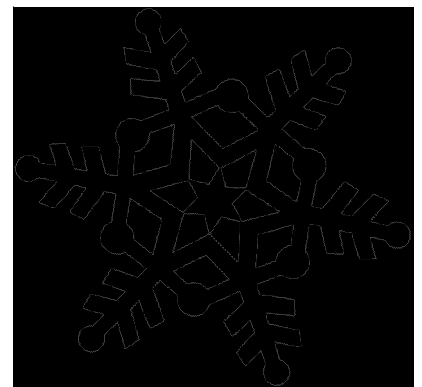
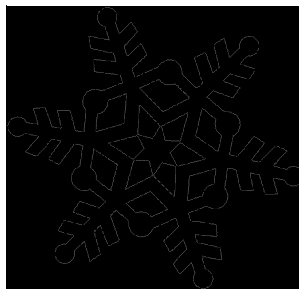
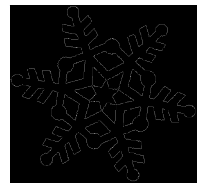
The Northfield community celebration of Martin Luther King day is Jan. 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Carleton College. This event is sponsored by the Northfield Human Rights Commission. The presenter is going to be Mary Easter. All are welcome.

from Marv and Jean, *cont. from page 11*

some harvest, maybe enough to replaced the seeds they planted a few weeks ago hoping for a real crop. Sometimes it doesn't happen...Farmers have to be the greatest example of people living by faith than anyone I can imagine. When the crop doesn't happen, what do they do: they look forward to the next season. May our faith be similar.

Love, Jean and Marv

Complete updates from St. John's Mission Partners Charity Hall, serving in Japan through the ELCA's J-3 program and Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen serving at the Masaae Girl's Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania are posted on the Mission/Outreach Board in the Commons.



News and Events

Advent Fair 2008



News and Events

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Sunday School Christmas Program!



Serving on Sundays

Serving in January

Acolytes

- January 4** (8:30) Alexa Nutt, Hunter Redfield; (10:45) Evan Nelson, Noah Parker
January 11 (8:30) Rebecca Storlie, Amelia Tjaden; (10:45) James Rowley, Kristopher Swanson
January 18 (8:30) Karl Amundson, Kelsey Bull; (10:45) Kirstin Buck, McKenna Boyum
January 25 (8:30) Irene Duba, Lars Christianson; (10:45) Zachary Evenson, Katelyn Canedy

Coffee

- January 4** Kurt and Barb Anderson, Charles and Rachel Stark, Howard and Julie Thorsheim
January 11 Mark Gleason and Kristi Wermager, Chuck and Marilyn Jacobson, Evelyn Estenson
January 18 Wes and Rae Pearson, Rich and Sylvia Eriskson, Barb Knaak
January 25 Jo and Dick Kleber, Richard and Jane Nelson, Solveig Bailey

Communion preparers

- January 4** Joe and Judy Smith
January 11 David and Sue Hagen
January 18 Debbie and David Becker
January 25 Doug and Anne Fitzgerald

Nursery

- January 4** (8:30) Jenny and Brent Nystrom; (10:45) Connie Menssen
January 11 (8:30) Greg and Grete Walter; (10:45) Carolyn and Mike McCune
January 18 (8:30) Sherry Benson; (10:45) Todd Menssen
January 25 (8:30) Stephanie Aman; (10:45) Amy Willkomm

Ushers

- January 4** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Alice Bates, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen, Sandy Whitworth, Bill Whitworth; (10:45) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber
January 11 (8:30) Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Guy Reid, Jon-Erle Reid, Steve Williams
January 18 (8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:45) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Lowell Johnson, Todd Iverson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
January 25 (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:45) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback

News and Events

Next meeting:
Monday, Jan. 12
7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

*Nonviolence in
M. L. King's
"Beloved
Community"*

All are welcome!

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Martin Luther King's leadership for a "Beloved Community"

What do the defining qualities of "The Beloved Community" offer us today as our society faces the present and possible challenges of these times? Early in his ministry, Martin Luther King Jr. focused his concern for social justice in the concept of "The Beloved Community." This term was coined by the philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce who founded The Fellowship of Reconciliation in the early 20th century. King further developed Royce's idea, making it a realistic goal that could be achieved by a group of people committed to and trained in the principles and methods of nonviolence. The Beloved Community would overcome inequities, replace bigotry and discrimination with fairness and respect for all; peace with justice would prevail. This high ideal was bolstered by King's practical awareness that conflict will always be a part of human interaction. The key was to learn how to deal with these conflicts in nonviolent ways. King's study of the work and ways of Gandhi increased his understanding of the strength and value of nonviolent action. He developed six principles of nonviolence and six steps for nonviolent social change which were used successfully in the struggle for equality and civil rights in the U.S. during the 1960s. In this movement, the nonviolent tactics they used and the nonviolent response to violence against them achieved the beginning (still ongoing in some areas) of a significant social change.

At our January meeting, we will look at the Six Principles of Nonviolence and Six Steps for Nonviolent Social Change. See the bulletin boards for copies. We will ask if these principles can be effective in our personal lives, our group and community circles, in our national and international affairs. What do they offer us as we look at health care issues, at education on all levels, at the economy, at tensions over borders and the governance of countries? What can active nonviolence do to increase justice?

The Peace and Justice Group invites all to think about these large and important topics and to join us on Jan. 12.

Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence

1. Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people
2. Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding
3. Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice not people
4. Nonviolence holds that suffering can educate and transform
5. Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate
6. Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice

Mission Outreach



St. John's Newest Partner in Ministry: El Salvador Lutheran Church, El Cocuy, Colombia

St. John's members Jane Rinehart and Kristi Wermager travelled to Colombia in October to visit members of our Synod's Companion Synod – the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia. One outcome of the trip was that St. John's officially became a ministry partner with El Salvador Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia.

The Partner Congregation program was developed to help congregations gain an expanded view of the Church and a broader vision of mission through a tangible connection with Christians in other nations. Partner congregations often share ministry through regular communication, mutual prayer, shared worship litanies and music, connections between children and youth, congregational visits, and in the case of Colombia, education and advocacy in this country regarding Colombia's civil war.

Financial support can be a part of a partner congregation relationship but the Southeastern Minnesota Synod's Global Mission/Companion Synod Committee has established a suggested limit to financial support in an effort to keep the relationships between congregations as mutual as possible.

St. John's new partner congregation is located in El Cocuy, a town of around 5,000 located in the mountains northeast of Bogota. Founded in 1939, El Salvador was the first congregation in the Lutheran Church in Colombia (IELCO). It has a membership of 50 and has had a number of its members go on to serve in ordained ministry, including Pastor Natanael Lizarazo who has served in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

The partner congregation relationship with El Salvador has been affirmed by the St. John's Congregational Council and will be coordinated through the Mission Partner Team at St. John's. We give thanks to God for our partners at El Salvador Lutheran Church and pray that our ministries on behalf of the Gospel would be strengthened through the partnership we share.

News from Jean and Marv in Tanzania

A portion of the December 2008 newsletter from Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen, ELCA-GM missionaries serving in Tanzania since 1998:

Dearest fellow travelers,

Merry Christmas and Happy 2009 to all! It's normally a time to think about gifts. As we know, gifts can take many forms. We give thanks to God for the great gift you give to us in your partnership to mission in this special place. How do you love us? Let us count the ways: prayer, raisins and walnuts and Starbucks, prayer, visits by churches, toothbrushes and toothpaste for the girls, prayer, shoes for the girls, prayer, etc. Please know that we consider all you do in support of us to be truly a gift from God and we are thankful. We offer a special thank you to all our "official" missionary sponsoring church partners. During these difficult financial times

you have kept your commitment to us, oh faithful ones. Be blessed.

Our campus is mostly closed down in December, although about a hundred girls remain. They stay for various reasons. We tell them if it's not safe to go home, don't go. Last year we lost two of them from school to pregnancy. Oh, if the others would learn from their sisters that it is not always safe! If David Simonson (the builder of the school) had his way, he'd have never let the girls go home: Marvin agrees. However, we can't do that to the girls and their families. And so, life happens. Do pray for these girls, basically unknown to you but so in need of divine protection.

We have had some rain as the short-rainy season draws to a close, not enough for farming although some people who planted may get

continued on p. 5

Mission Statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Our theme for 2008-2009: One World: Our World.

Websites for newsletters and information: semnsynod.org and womenoftheelca.org

We start a new year:

Monday, Jan. 5 - 12:00 p.m. – Circle Bible Study Leaders join Ruth Hansen in the Fireside room to prepare for Circle meetings

Tuesdays, Jan. 6 and 20 - 9:30 a.m. – Knitters meet in the Library. Contact: Bobbie Maakestad

Coming Up! A Retreat on Saturday, Jan. 10 — something new!

There is no regular January meeting, instead a special opportunity: A retreat led by Carrie Melby—**Paths to Wholeness**—from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m at St. John’s. Carrie brought this idea home from the triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA which she attended last summer. The day includes shared time, devotional time, private time for reflection, time for devotion/worship and an opportunity to experience different types of spirituality. At the end of the day we will study Jesus’ spirituality and his model of spiritual wholeness. Cost is \$10, covering materials, snacks, and a lunch. To register contact Carrie Melby, 663-7934 or email melbys@rconnect.com.

Monday, Jan. 12 – 9:00 a.m. Fellowship Hall. Getting the quilts ready for Thursday

Quilting: Thursday, Jan. 15 — 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. “Workmorning” for Quilting and other projects, every third Thursday in Fellowship Hall. The faithful group of St. John’s women comes every month to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. However, many are snowbirds and the numbers dwindle so “winter workers” are welcomed. Sewers to make the tops of quilts at home are needed too. Any who are interested in doing this even if unable to come to the quilting days, please speak to Kathy Vang for material and instructions. Contributions of material are welcome. Sometimes small squares are sewn together, but more often a large colorful piece of fabric just needs a border sewed around it to make it large enough. On work mornings

quilters assemble a back, a middle layer and a top, then tie it with yarn and pin the edges together, which are then sewed. Again, much of this sewing is done at home. The November project day was very successful with 18 attending. 54 school kits and 12 layettes were assembled and during October and November 27 quilts were made. Thanks to Youth Director Mike Sherman and some of the confirmands who came on a Saturday and tied quilts under Kathy Vang’s supervision. Any helpers are welcome! For questions contact Kathy Vang, 645-8617, quilting coordinator.

Looking Ahead.....

The regular February meeting of the Women of the ELCA will be Thurs, Feb 6 at 1:00 p.m. in St. John’s Hall, “All Ages’ Illustrated Books on One World: Our World” by Marvis Canon.

Financial note:

Besides \$75 for some new table cloths for St. John’s Hall we have designated \$200 to help with postage for LWR projects; \$200 to help support our local Healthfinders Health Care Clinic, where volunteer medical personnel aid those with either too little, or no health insurance; and \$250 to support the two St. John’s members who visited the Evangelical Church in Columbia, South America.

Circles meet regularly most months on the second Wednesday - Jan. 7 or Thursday - Jan. 8

- Lydia* - Wed. 9:30 a.m.- leader Millie Johnson
 - Sarah* - Wed. 9:30 a.m.- leader Carol Nesheim
 - Miriam* (ChristCare circle) - Wed. 6:30 p.m. - leader Cheryl Buck
 - Claudia* - Thurs. 9:30 a.m.- leader Marilyn Jacobson
 - Martha* - Thurs. 9:30 a.m.- leader Brynnie Rowberg
 - Dorcas* - Thurs. 2:00 p.m.- leader Gretchen Hardgrove
 - Elizabeth* - Thurs. 1:30 p.m.- leader Ann Ness
 - Abigale/Rebecca* - Thurs. 2:00 p.m.- leader Lillian Anderson
 - Mary* - Thurs. 7:30 p.m.- leader Rachel Stark
- WBG **second Saturday** at 8:30 a.m., Kathy Mellstrom in Fireside Room. (Women’s Breakfast Group)

GREEN HINT-O-THE-MONTH
 “Curly bulbs” use less power for the same light and last longer than regular bulbs. (WELCA’s National Convention passed a resolution suggesting careful use of all resources.)

Adult Ministry and Education

Small Group Ministries

Body, Mind, and Soul

Contact: Doug Johnson 645-6916

Connections

Contact: Carol Schoen 645-6840

Dad's Time Out

Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271

Grief Group

Contact: Barb Knaak 664-0444

Gospel of St. Mark - Bible study

Contact: David and Genevieve Quarberg
645-0089

Meets: weekly for six weeks, Mon. 10:30-11:30am or Wed. 5:30-6:30pm

Men's Breakfast Bible Study - Food, fellowship, Bible study on Genesis

Contact: Dean Ostlie 645-2597

Meets: Every other Thursday, 7:30-9:00am

Miriam ChristCare Women's Circle - Bible study and conversation

Contact: Cheryl Buck 663-9056

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 pm and 4th Wed. 8:45-9:45am

Mission Partner Team

Contact: Jane Rinehart 663-1659

Noon Bible Study

Contact: Pr. Crippen or Pr. Johnson 645-4429

Peace and Justice - Informing and engaging people of faith in issues of faith and justice

Contact: Judith Stoutland 645-7842

Meets: 2nd Monday, 7-9pm

Praise and Prayer

Mondays, 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Mary White 645-4783

Receiving Our Blessings - Based on storytelling, recalling blessings

Contact: Phil Eaves 645-4172

Meets: weekly for six weeks, Tuesday or Wednesday, 7:00-8:15pm

Shepherds of the Flock - Tending to the care and appreciation of pastors and staff

Contact: Barb Anderson 663-7941

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 7-8pm

St. John's Knitters

Contact: Bobbie Maakestad 645-4397

St. John's Quilters

Contact: Rae Pearson 645-7437

The Acts of the Apostles - Bible study

Contact: Dick Dahlin 645-5978

Meets: weekly on Sunday morning during education hour

Women of the ELCA Circles

Contact: Pat Fick 645-8331

Women's Breakfast Group

Contact: Kathy Mellstrom 663-1451

Providing small group study and fellowship opportunities

ChristCare Small Groups Ministry

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Matthew 18:20



Another Year of Grace



As we step with hope into another year of grace, ChristCare ministry invites you to consider a resolution to participate in a small group this winter. Small groups provide a great opportunity to get acquainted with others and to gain a sense of belonging within a larger community

A variety of topics and meeting times has been developed for the winter months. Brochures detailing the groups, schedules, and leaders are available on the ChristCare bulletin board in the Commons. Group Leaders invite you call them if you would like more information about their group and to learn whether the group is full. Because ChristCare is a small group ministry, the size of the group is important for maintaining a sense of belonging.

Here is a listing of ChristCare groups: *Peace and Justice, Shepherds of the Flock, Men's Breakfast Bible Study, Miriam ChristCare Women's Circle, Receiving Our Blessings, The Acts of the Apostles, Gospel of Mark.* The group leaders, brief description and meeting times are listed to the left.

ChristCare: Connect and Belong

St. John's Forum

The St. John's Forum meets in St. John's Hall between services.

Jan. 4: No St. John's Forum - Reception for St. Olaf Choir, St. John's Hall

Jan. 11: "Food as Medicine"/Dr. Gary Carlson, physician at Allina Medical Clinic, Northfield. Dr. Carlson's special interests are complementary and alternative medicine and acupuncture, St. John's Hall.

Jan. 18: Annual Meeting Preview/Presentation of Annual Report, Annual meeting agenda and proposed 2009 budget, St. John's Hall.

Jan. 25: The Church in Liberia/presentation by Luther Seminary student, Pr. Joseph Roberts Sr. Pr. Roberts was ordained in the Baptist Church in Liberia and is pursuing a Master's Degree in Children, Youth and Family Ministry.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

Jan. 4 No Sunday School (*Christmas Break*)
 Jan. 11 Sunday School
 Jan. 18 Sunday School
 Jan. 25 Sunday School
 Feb. 1 Sunday School (*Camp Sunday/Teacher Brunch*)

Rock – Wednesday, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

2nd Wednesdays, 5:00 -5:30 p.m.

Jan. 7 Meet in Fellowship Hall
 Jan. 14
 Jan. 21
 Jan. 28

Catechism

4th Grade CAT – Youth Room, 5:00- 5:45 p.m.

Jan. 7
 Jan. 14
 Jan. 21

3rd Grade CAT Retreat – Youth Room, 4:45- 6:15 p.m.

Jan. 28

Parent's Night Out

Jan. 10, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

2nd Wednesday Meal, For Everyone!

Jan. 14, 5:15-6:15 p.m., St. John's Hall

Camp Sunday/Teacher Appreciation

Feb. 1, 9:45 a.m. (during the Education Hour)

Preparing for Holy Baptism

Parents who wish to have their baby or child baptized at St. John's are asked to attend a preparation session to discuss the meaning of baptism and to talk about the details of the day. Baptism preparation is held on the first Saturday of each month in the Fireside Room. The next session is Saturday, Jan. 3 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

"On the Road" Summer Camp

On The Road will be offered for kids in grades 1 – 4, Aug. 9 - 13 through Good Earth Village Bible Camp. Bethel, St. Peter's and St. John's Lutheran Churches will be hosting the event. Go online to www.goodearthvillage.org and click on "GEV On The Road" to register for the Northfield camp. Space is limited so register today!

4th Grade CAT Classes

4th graders have Catechism classes these Wednesdays in January, 5:00 – 6:45 p.m. in the Youth Room:

Jan. 7: 5th & 6th Commandments and Meanings
 Jan. 14: 7th & 8th Commandments and Meanings
 Jan. 21: Review of Commandments 1st – 8th

Third Grade Catechism Retreat

Third graders will meet Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 4:45 – 6:15 p.m. in the Youth Room for a retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism. If you are unable to attend, please call Pr. Johnson or Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.

Camp Sunday!

Sunday, Feb. 1 is Camp Sunday! The 3rd through 5th grade Sunday school classes will meet downstairs in the Youth Room from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp counselors will be here to answer questions and get kids excited about attending Summer Bible Camp. Parents are welcome to attend!

Teacher Appreciation Brunch!

Sunday School teachers and assistants are invited to brunch on Sunday, Feb. 1 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room in honor of their hard work and dedication to Christian Education. When you see your child(ren)'s Sunday School teacher, remember to express your thanks!

Teachers and Assistants:

Preschool 1: Stephanie Aman, Kim Norton, Dodie Mickelsen
 Preschool 2: Sue Brockman, Kristy Mikula
 Kindergarten: Hannah France, Katherine Peterson, Sonja Wermager

First Grade: Maia Horsager, Julie Ims, Kirsten Johnson

Second Grade: Beret Amundson, Julie Becker, Martha Crippen, Kirsten Gunn, Liv Thompson

Third Grade: Michael Berger, Darlene Hand

Fourth Grade: Emilie Judge Becker, Ellen Iverson

Fifth Grade: Cheryl Buck, Karleen Sherman

Music: Amy Boxrud, Doug Bratland, Andrea Hoff, Jenny Pelletier

Library: Susan Canon, Connie Menssen, Anne Fitzgerald, AmyChristianson, Katie and Kelsey Bull

Resource Rm: Brian Evenson, Sandy Kimmes

ROCK on Wednesday!

ROCK, a Wednesday afternoon program for 1st – 5th graders, will meet in January! St. Olaf students, Katy, Kelly, Liz and Jordan will be back in the New Year to lead kids in a fun-filled hour of games, crafts, Bible activities and PIZZA! ROCK will resume on Jan. 7!

2009 schedule: Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 18; *Break for Lent, then resumes:* Apr. 15, 22, 29; May 13

Children and Communion

Holy Communion is the meal of all the baptized children of God. If your baptized child has expressed an interest in receiving Holy Communion please contact a pastor.

Children's Ministry notes, continued on page 15

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

High School and Middle School Ski Lock-in at Welch

On Friday, Jan. 30, high school and middle school youth are going to Welch Village for a ski lock-in. This is a NAYW event, so our friends at Bethel, St. Peter's, and Trinity will be coming along as well. Look for details and permission slips to be arriving soon.

E-mails requested!

Dear Parents,

In an effort to better serve you and the youth, I'd like to compile a list of all of your e-mails. As I'm sure you all know, it is much quicker and easier to send e-mails than it is send out postcards and letters. Plus it saves church on postage, which is a good thing as well. That being said, if you would all e-mail me at msherman@stjohns-elca.org, that would be helpful. You don't have to write a message, but I do ask that you put your name in the subject line, so that I know who you are. If you really don't want to communicate via e-mail, let me know, so that I can be sure to contact you the old fashioned way.

Many thanks,

Mike Sherman

Children's Ministry notes, continued from page 14

Parent's Night Out at St. John's Jan. 10!

This is a chance for parents to enjoy a night out with the church providing a "Kids Night Out" for your elementary age children. It will be held on Saturday, Jan. 10 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Here's how it works: sign up and bring your children (up to grade 5) on any/all of these nights. Parents are encouraged to stay back one night each year to assist with childcare/activities at church. (St. Olaf students will be there to assist, and confirmation students are encouraged to help out as well – earn cubits!) The next 2 dates after that are scheduled for Mar. 14, and Apr. 18. A sign up poster is in the Commons. Please call Julie Brehmer at St. John's if you have any questions.

New High School Bible Study

Starting on Sunday, Jan. 11, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., we'll be starting a new program for our High School Youth. There will be a Bible Study, food (I'm thinking pizza), and some fellowship. I'll have the first Bible Study planned out, but I'm open to topic suggestions for future Bible Studies. All high school youth are welcome. Feel free to bring a friend! - *Mike Sherman*

Cinnamon Rolls are back!

Last month St. John's youth sold cinnamon rolls to help raise money to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering this summer. Cinnamon rolls were a big success, in fact, we sold out. Luckily for you, we will be selling them again in January. Look for the cinnamonony goodness on Jan. 18, between services, and after 2nd service.

Parents invited to Sunday School, Feb. 8!

Parents of Sunday School children are invited to Sunday School's Opening and Music time on Feb. 8 at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall (on the lower level). At 10:00 a.m., children will be dismissed to their classrooms and parents are invited to stay for a cup of coffee and conversation with the Children's Ministry and Education Board about how to create community in St. John's along with any new opportunities or needs you would like to see in regards to Children's Ministry.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, ext. 25.

Pastors

Joseph G. Crippen

Mark E. Johnson

John E. Quam

Building Manager

Rich Kleeberger

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

Choir Directors

Jenny Pelletier - Alleluia

Carol Benson - Hosanna

Cathy Rodland - Jubilate

Ruth Legvold - Laudate

Ron Rodman - Senior

Jo Dahlin - Rejoice Ringers

Office Manager

Laurie Prior

Organist

Cathy Rodland

Parish Administrator

Shelley Keske

Parish Nurses

Lynette Marks

Karin Norgaard

Youth Ministry

Mike Sherman

Congregation President

Tim Eklund



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Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all -

from the pastors and staff
at St. John's!

Thank you for your partnership
in this ministry!

May God bless us all as we begin
another year of our Lord!