

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2009

Volume 49, Number 2

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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. For information, contact the Church Office: **phone:** 507-645-4429 **fax:** 507-645-9633 **e-mail:** office@stjohns-elca.org **website:** www.stjohns-elca.org

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.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25

Lent, our springtime period of renewal and focus on repentance and life in Christ, begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, with worship and the imposition of ashes at noon and 7:00 p.m. As in the past couple years, we will abstain from celebrating Holy Communion on this day of repentance and confession. Mid-week worship begins the next week, Mar. 4, at 7:00 p.m. using the Holden setting of Evening Prayer written by Marty Haugen. **Soup Suppers** will precede each midweek service (but not on Ash Wednesday.) More on the theme for our Lenten mid-week worship will be in the March *Voice*.

Foundation blesses St. John's ministry in 2008

During 2008 the St. John's Foundation gave nearly \$14,000 to the ministry of St. John's congregation. The mission of the Foundation is to provide funds to the congregation for new ministries that otherwise aren't budgeted, to continue the mission of the congregation. The Foundation is an endowment of over \$312,000, and the grant to the congregation for 2009 is \$14,700.

The projects and ministries funded by the Foundation in 2008 include the Shared Ministry Gala in the spring, Bible videos for the Sunday School children, college scholarships for the youth of the congregation who attend ELCA colleges, money to help start up the very successful Second Wednesday Meals that began in the fall, a new video camera to record our worship services for TV, and a new door-locking system which will save the church money but also be more efficient. In addition, money was given to the Pastors' Emergency Fund to help

Boards, council elected at Annual Meeting

Orientation, first board meeting Feb. 10

At the Annual Meeting of the congregation on Jan. 25 thirty-three people were elected to positions of leadership in the congregation, to the Congregation Council, our ten boards, and other standing committees. The first meeting of the new boards for 2009 is Tuesday, Feb. 10. Starting at 5:30 p.m., the boards will have pizza together, then a brief orientation at 6:15 p.m., and then break off to do planning for 2009. Council and board members newly elected will be installed at worship on Feb. 1.

Elected to the Congregation Council were: Betsy McLaughlin, president; Tim Eklund, president-elect; Patsy Ophaug, secretary; Sue Brockman, chair of Children's Ministry and Education; Paula Carlson, chair of Evangelism and Communications; Barb Knaak, chair of Faith and Health; and Michael Sylvester, chair of Stewardship. In addition, Scott Swanson, chair of Properties and Grounds, and Judy

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Prayer and Care Ministry

Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word is a time of silence and prayer guided by Scripture. No experience necessary. Meets Thursday, Feb. 19 in the Fireside Room.

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.

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

God's Unconditional Love

Unconditional, non-judgmental love, the kind of love that accepts us just we are with "no strings attached," is the need of all Christians. Stephen Ministers strive to bring this kind of unconditional love to our care receivers. Here is the attempt of 8-year-old Danny to explain such a love: "One of God's main jobs is making people. God doesn't make grownups, just babies, because they are smaller and easier to make, and he accepts them *unconditionally*. God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like pastors, pray at times besides bedtime.

"Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him! But he was good and kind, like his father. He told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them. God said O.K., *unconditionally*. His Dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to be on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. Now he helps his Dad out by listening to prayers and accepting people *unconditionally*."

"You can pray anytime you want and you will be listened to *unconditionally*, because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time and they are very forgiving. If you don't believe in God, you will be very lonely. It is good to know God's around you when you're scared, and that God loves you *unconditionally*. And that's why I believe in God - and that's how God gives me *unconditional love*."

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

Matthew 5:4

Bereavement Ministry

Northfield Grief Coalition Update:

Northfield Retirement Center/Three Links Greif Support Group continues to meet this month, 1:30-2:30 p.m. at NRC. Contact Barb Knaak for more information, 664-0444, bknaak4@charter.net

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.



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."

February 17, 2008
Bergetta Costa

February 22, 2008
Steven Anderson

From our pastors . . .

In, not Of

See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

Matthew 10:16



In his final discourse and prayer, recorded by John in chapter 17, Jesus says that we, his followers do not belong to this world. And then he says that he has sent us into the world, just as he was sent into the world. This paradox, that we are in the world but not of it, not belonging to it, can be confusing to us. But it is central to how we understand God's call to us as disciples.

At the Annual Meeting on Jan. 25, we as a congregation passed an unbalanced budget, with the promise that the council will come back early in the spring to another meeting of the congregation. At that time we hope to have solved the deficit in the budget so we can be faithful stewards of God in this place. As explained at the meeting, the reason for the delay is that there are a number of things yet unknown that will affect the final budget, including what it will ultimately cost to fix our roof this spring. The council, and I as your senior pastor, are committed to finding real solutions to the imbalance and having a fiscally sound budget for 2009 and hopes for 2010 and beyond.

As I listened to the meeting, and have thought about it since, I realized once again that we constantly live in this paradox Jesus describes in John 17. Once again we find ourselves in the common situation of having to live in the world, with all its difficulties and challenges (including our current economic crisis which now spans the globe), while realizing that our true identity, our true place, our true center is with the God who has come to the world in Jesus.

What this means is that we are called to do two things at the same time as Christian disciples. One is to use our minds and our skills and the gifts God has given us, and do the best we can with the resources we have. When we do this we are to be like those in the

world who do business. We are to use prudence and care, to be open and transparent in our dealings, and do our best to be faithful stewards.

The other thing we are called to do is trust that God is with us and will take care of us. To trust that ultimately we cannot guarantee a secure future financially, or spiritually, or physically, or in any way, that all we have and are and will be is in God's hands. If we are faithful to what God has called us to be and do in this ministry, we need to trust that God will provide what we need for that ministry. And certainly God has proved this amply to us at St. John's over the past years, especially the past five.

These are not opposing things, but important partners in faithful discipleship. Jesus asked us to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves" as we go into the world. Both using wisdom and care like any good business, but also informed by the innocence and confidence of trusting faith in the God whose love cannot be stopped, even by death. It's not either faith or practicality. It's *faithful practicality*, or perhaps *practical faith!* Like any paradox, it can be hard to understand how these can hold together. But in the tension between our faith and our best judgment and wisdom we find the life in Christ God has in mind for us.

I am confident and hopeful that we can find the way to balance this budget in the first quarter. But I am equally confident and certain that no matter what, God is with us and will help us. And it is both of these things that make me grateful for this ministry God has given us to do. God be with us as we do this work together!

In Jesus' name,

January Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Robert Rossing**: by Pearle Thomsen and Solveig Bailey.

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Robert Rossing**: by Carol Johnson, Basil and Kathy Mroz.

In memory of **Cliff Distad**: by Paul Kaeding, Leonard DeWolfe.

Radio Fund

In memory of **Ruth Pulju**: by Friends and Family.

In memory of **Hazelle Flom**: by Bette Quinnell.

In memory of **Kenneth Peterson**: by Bette Quinnell.

Stewards of Grace Fund

In memory of **Robert Rossing**: by I. Ruth Hansen.

In memory of **Hazelle Flom**: by Alice Nasby.

Pastors' Emergency Fund

In memory of **Gen Odegaard**: by Martha Circle

Other Actions

Baptisms

Braden Henry VanSickle, son of Adam and Sarah; sponsors are Nichole Macias and Tracy Kokke; January 11, 2009

Funerals

Sigved Sampson, January 10, 2009

Alice Erickson, January 29, 2009

Radio Broadcasts

Jan. 4, 2009, in memory of **Elmer and Cora Schulz**, by Marie, Ken and Steve Struss and Kris and Jana Lawton

Jan. 18, 2009, in memory of **Ruth Pulju**: by friends and family.

Jan. 25, 2009, in memory of **Ruth Pulju**: by friends and family.

Boards and Council, *continued from page 1*

Swanson, chair of Worship and Arts, were elected to complete the terms they were appointed to fill during 2008.

Elected to the boards of the congregation were: Adult Ministry and Education – Bill Carlson; Benevolence and Social Concerns – Trine Carlson, Jonathan Norrie; Business Management – Brian Boyum, Rebecca Judge; Children's Ministry and Education – Kristy Mikula, Nick Neeb; Evangelism and Communications – Mary Cisar; Faith and Health – Addie Roadfeldt, John Sand, Carrie Duba; Properties and Grounds – Suzanne Sylvester, Andy Westerback, John Duba; Stewardship – Terrance Hassanally, Jim Thompson; Worship and Arts – Bernie Renander, Charlie Wilson; Youth Ministry and Education – Peggy Dell.

Elected to standing committees of the congregation were: Audit Committee – Kim Motzko, Chris Weber; Nominating Committee – Greg Kneser, Guy Reid, Scott Swanson.

The list of council and board members will become a regular part of the *Voice* starting next month to help members know whom to contact about the various ministries of the congregation.

Women's Retreat, *continued from page 11*

valuable, but what brought greater depth to the day was everyone's willingness to share their experiences and insights with the rest of the group. Everyone left with a light heart, new found friends and a lot of food for thought.

Carrie Melby led this retreat and has begun a waiting list of others who would like to attend at another date. If you'd like to attend a "Paths to Wholeness" retreat please talk to Carrie or contact her at melbys@rconnect.com. She will gather names until enough people have shown an interest and plan another retreat for March or April.

News and Events

SEMCAC Senior Dining at Northfield Senior Center

How often have you heard the expression: There is no free lunch? Well, there is here in Northfield, at least for those who are 60 years and older! Every week day, SEMCAC serves a good, warm dinner, cooked on the premises in the morning, for seniors at the Northfield Senior Center, regardless of whether or not they are members. Suggested donation for those "of age" is \$3.00. Want a good meal for people who are visiting? Not a problem! All are heartily invited, too, at a price of \$5.50 for those "under age." Those who don't drive may take the bus. Northfield Transit (645-7250) makes a special effort to get our diners to lunch on time, and Senior Dining includes a free token for the return trip! Seniors who eat at Senior Dining praise the food as "just like family, not like institution food at all!" or "the best lunch deal in town!" It's time to stop keeping this program the best-kept secret in town. All are welcome to come and find out how good it is! Dinners are served by reservation only. **Call 664-3735 by 9:30 a.m., dinner is served at 11:30 a.m.** The SEMCAC bulletin board has the monthly menu. Diners get good food and good conversation. Who knows? Maybe even new friends will result!

Thinking about Joining St. John's? Come to lunch!

Any who are considering joining St. John's are invited to an informational lunch with St. John's staff on Sunday, March 1, 2009 at noon in St. John's Hall. There will be opportunity to get to know the staff, get more information on the new member process, and learn about the ministries of St. John's. Contact the church office for more information, 645-4429.

Marriage Encounter Weekend: You are God's Love for Your Spouse

Find out how to share it with a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend. Get away from the everyday demands of the world so the two of you can really focus on each other. Weekend includes two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals from Friday at 7:00 p.m. to Sunday at 5:00 pm. Four presenting couples, including a Lutheran clergy couple, give a series of presentations followed by questions the couples discuss in the privacy of their hotel room. There is no counseling and no group sharing. No one tries to change who you are. It's great for couples who already have a good marriage and want to enrich their relationship, but it also does wonders for those marriages that have lost their luster through years of child rearing and work obligations. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are *March 27-29* in Duluth or *April 24-26* in Brooklyn Center. Please register a month in advance. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon, 763-561-1575 or visit www.godlovesmarriage.org.

News and Events

Winter Walk 2008

"Alleluia Choir, our K-2nd grade choir, sang at this year's Winter Walk on December 4. About 25 singers and family members came to represent St. John's at this festive event!" Below are some photos of fun!



Coming up:

Alleluia Choir (K-2nd grade singers) travels to Northfield Retirement Community Feb. 1. They will sing for a 10:30 a.m. worship service in the NRC chapel. The choir looks forward to praising God and representing St. John's in this special way!

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Next meeting:
Thursday, Feb 5
7:00 p.m.
St. John's Hall

*Note location change

Rationing
Health Care in a
Pandemic
Guest Speaker:

Karen Gervais
PhD, Director,
Center for Health
Care Ethics

All are Welcome!

How would you ration health care?

Karen Gervais, visiting Professor of Ethics at St Olaf and Director of Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics will lead us in a discussion on the preliminary report for the Minnesota Pandemic Ethics Project. The draft report, released in late October, is the collaboration of the Minnesota Center for Health Care Ethics and the University of Minnesota Center for Bioethics. It is being funded by the Minnesota Department of Health. We will be focusing on the ethics of how to ration health care in a time of very limited supply. The frameworks developed by this project group have applications to other aspects of Health Care where limited resources are available and the demand exceeds supply. Karen will focus on one resource discussed within the report, antivirals. Please join us for this provocative discussion.

Excerpts from the report:

"In response to experts' warnings that a worldwide outbreak of a respiratory virus is inevitable, pandemic influenza preparedness plans are being developed around the globe. Another pandemic will certainly occur, though no one knows when or whether it will be mild, moderate or severe. Severe pandemics raise unique and particularly difficult challenges, so it is prudent to prepare and plan for one. Severe pandemic influenza occurs on a scale that distinguishes it from other public health disasters in terms of its global nature, size and impacts. It is experienced over years, not days, weeks or months, and threatens core public health, social and economic infrastructures. Unlike a mild pandemic, a severe pandemic has the potential to cripple normal health care and business operations and disrupt the distribution of essential goods and services globally. Unlike other disasters, states and communities cannot count on receiving federal assistance in a severe pandemic. Health-related resources will be particularly important public health tools, and must be managed and distributed to best serve Minnesotans' common good. ...This preliminary report contains the proposed ethical frameworks for rationing antiviral medications, N95 respirators, surgical masks, vaccines and mechanical ventilators."

"Deciding how best to ration health-related resources from a statewide perspective during a global public health disaster raises novel ethical issues. Should some individuals and some groups have prioritized access to certain resources: If so, why? Should resources like vaccines go to those at greatest risk of dying from the flu even if they may not respond as well to vaccines as others? Should resources be used to protect persons who are taking risks to help others, because they are contributing to everyone's survival – whether they are irreplaceable workers at a power plant, health care workers caring for flu victims, or volunteers delivering Meals on Wheels" Should resources be given first to children, because they cannot fend for themselves, they are society's future, and society is responsible for their welfare? Should patients be removed from ventilators so that others more likely to benefit can be given a chance at survival? Ethical guidance is needed to help answer such wrenching questions."

For an electronic copy of the entire report, contact Char Carlson - carlsoncharbill@msn.com. Excerpts of the report will be available at the church.

Mission Outreach



March Hands and Feet - Save the Date!

Global Health Ministry is the organization that St. John's members will serve next month. Global Health Ministries, based in Fridley, Minnesota, works to support the health care programs of Lutheran churches around the world.

What: Loading a container full of medical supplies through Global Health Ministry

When: Saturday, March 7 – leave St. John's at 8:30 p.m., return at 2:30 p.m.

Where: Global Health Ministry Warehouse, Fridley, Minnesota

Who: Seventh Graders and up – we need 12 people. Sign up in the Commons or contact the church office.

Our Mission Partners: Update from Charity Hall

Charity Hall is in Tokyo, Japan with the ELCA's J-3 program teaching English and working with the Lutheran Church in Japan. St. John's supports Charity's work through financial gifts and prayer. Complete updates from St. John's Mission partners Charity Hall and Jean Wahlstrom and Marv Kananen serving in Tanzania are posted on the Mission/Outreach in the Commons.

A very belated Christmas, New Year's and Epiphany to you all! December was a blur of Christmas preparations and parties, events and activities with students and a two week whirlwind Japan adventure with my family...I love to see new things, try new foods and experience the thrill of the unknown. (Green tea ice cream, anyone?) The best part of my work and play here however comes from time spent together with friend, co-workers, church friends, students, and even mini-conversations with a certain five-year old girl I met on the train this afternoon. Put simply, the true joy is in the relationships. This month I volunteered alongside one of my students feeding homeless men and

women a warm lunch, attended two plays featuring two [of my] students, sang karaoke with some of my students at the dorm's annual Christmas party, prayed with a good Taiwanese friend on multiple occasions and danced the hula at a church Christmas party (definitely a first!). All these instances and countless others, shape who and what I am here in Japan. All are grounded in my relationship with God, by far the most important relationship I have. And as these relationships continue to shift and change, all will continue to shape me in the year to come. I pray that this year is full of relationships that foster peace, health, and wholeness for you!

- Charity

Serving on Sundays

Serving in December

Acolytes

- February 1** (8:30) Cameron Judge-Becker, Nicholas Gonnerman; (10:00) Jasmine Newman-Evans, Hannah Cuddy
February 8 (8:30) Dalton Skrove, Paul Hummel; (10:00) Bjorn Bade, Katharine Herrlich
February 15 (8:30) Nathan Berthelsen, Nicholas Pelletier; (10:00) Mike DeCramer, Emma Kmoch
February 22 (8:30) Grant Erikson, Jessica Smith; (10:00) Bennett Falck, Tanner Ruppe

Coffee

- February 1** David and Genevieve Quarberg, John, Carrie and David Duba, Katie Helgen
February 8 JoAnne Polley and Mark Ulmer, Rod and Deb Christensen, Rachel Peterson
February 15 Jonathan and Katherine Norrie, Kelly Stanton-Nutt and Robert Nutt, Jessie Lindberg
February 22 Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Tim and Lois Eklund, Shirley Nelson

Communion preparers

- February 1** Jim and Mary Bierman
February 8 Barb Knaak and Shirley Falck
February 15 Duane and Elaine Kringen
February 22 Rose and Ed Youngquist

Nursery

- February 1** (8:30) Betsy and Jeff McLaughlin; (10:00) Steve and Sheri Williams
February 8 (8:30) Greg and Grete Walter; (10:00) Doug and Anne Fitzgerald
February 15 (8:30) Roz Eaton-Neeb; (10:00) Carolyn and Mike McCune
February 22 (8:30) Stephanie Aman; (10:00) Connie Menssen

Ushers

- February 1** (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
February 8 (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
February 15 (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
February 22 (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

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

Meetings Scheduled:

Mon., Feb. 2, 9:30 a.m. — Executive Board Meeting of Women of ELCA in the Fireside Room.

Thurs., Feb. 5, 1:00 p.m. — General Meeting: In honor of National Children’s Authors and Illustrators Week, a hands-on experience of “One World: Our World” with recent books for all ages – 6 to 96 – will be presented by Marvis Canon. Award winning titles by international illustrators and authors from the Middle East, Asia and Africa includes folk tales, real life, environmental and religious themes. Books will be available for check out. Marvis is a former university school children’s librarian at Indiana State University. Coffee and Treats by Mary Circle .

Mon., Feb. 9, 12 noon — Circle Bible Study Leaders join Ruth Hansen in the Fireside Room to prepare for Circle.

Tuesdays, Feb. 3 and 17, 9:30 a.m.—Knitters meet in the Library. Questions? Contact: Bobbie Maakestad

Mon., Feb. 16, 9:00 a.m.—Fellowship Hall. Getting the quilts ready for Thursday.

Thurs., Feb. 19, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.—“Workmorning” for Quilting and other projects, every 3rd Thursday in Fellowship Hall. There are always tasks for new helpers. More hands produce more quilts. Questions: contact Kathy Vang, 645-8617, quilting coordinator.

Looking Ahead.....

The regular March meeting of the Women of the ELCA is Thursday, Mar. 5, 1:00 p.m. in St. John’s Hall. Topic: *Creation Care*, by David Legvold - thoughts about water quality and our own roles as stewards of our environment. Sarah Circle will serve treats.

Report on Women’s Retreat

“Paths to Wholeness” was the title of the women’s retreat held at St. John’s on Saturday, Jan. 10. The retreat drew together 15 women from many different paths with varying life experiences. The age range covered almost 5 decades. That in itself added an unanticipated value and richness to the day. Many women came seeking “quiet” and “time away” after the holiday season. What they received was some directed time of meditation, Bible study, lively discussions, the sharing of faith stories, devotions, opportunities for artistic expression, and a better understanding of the many different ways people express their spirituality. Participants indicated that their introspection about their personal spirituality was very

retreat report continued on page 5

Financial update:

St. John’s Women of the ELCA began the year with a balance of \$3,018.91, took in \$5,227.67, donated and spent \$7,081.87 and ended with a balance of \$1,164.71. To learn the interesting details look over the complete figures in St. John’s Annual Report booklet. When Jerene Mortenson talked to us about her son Greg’s work building schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan we took up a collection to support his efforts. We received a lovely letter from her thanking us for the generous donation of almost \$800.

Green Hint-o-the Month:

Dripping faucets waste BOTH water and money!
(WELCA’s National Convention passed a resolution suggesting careful use of all resources.)

Circles meet regularly most months on the 2nd Wednesday, Feb. 11 or Thursday, Feb. 12

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)

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



"The Think Method"...and Beyond

By Barbara Eaves

Do you remember the teaching method used by the Music Man in the musical of the same name? It was called, "the Think Method" and it was by this method the music man proposed to teach members of the high school band to play their instruments and make music.

Lately I have been wondering if we could use that same method to get the frigid temperatures of the past weeks to warm up. However silly that notion is, I can remember hearing and using some similar words of advice for enduring such times. The advice goes something like this: "the more you think and talk about it the worse it is," or "if you don't look at the thermometer, it won't be so bad".

We can apply those same notions to the foreboding news that inundates us every day and fills us with fear and anxiety, or to the pain and sorrow that is such an unwelcome visitor to so many. No manner of "the Think Method" will take away the troubles we face, be they personal, national, or global.

However, there is something that can help to sustain us during days, seasons, or years of uncertainty and grief, and the isolation and despair that can accompany them. That something is to being engaged with others. When we come together we are able to enjoy community and friendship which not only can warm us on the inside, but also encourage and strengthen us in difficult and troubling times.

One of main purposes of small groups is to develop communities of belonging. If you are not participating in a small group at St. John's, take a look at the list of opportunities on the side bar of this page and call the leader of a group listed there. Most all groups listed have room for more and would welcome your presence. The Second Wednesday Suppers at St. John's have also created a wonderful place to meet and visit with one another while enjoying a meal together.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation,
who consoles in all our affliction,
so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction
with the consolation with which are ourselves are consoled by God.
2 Corinthians 1:3-4*

Adult Ministry and Education

Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Education Hour is at 9:45 a.m. Coffee is in the Commons between services.

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

St. John's Forum focuses on religion and science this month. See article below.

ChristCare groups are part of St. John's small group ministry and meet in various rooms as noted.

Feb. 1: *St. John's Forum:* The Lutheran Church in Tanzania – Pr. Mark Johnson

ChristCare: Acts of the Apostles, with Dick Dahlin, rm. 214

Feb. 8: *St. John's Forum:* Religion and Science Series, a discussion with Ian Barbour

ChristCare: Acts of the Apostles, with Dick Dahlin, rm. 214

Parents Invited to Sunday School: Parents are invited to Fellowship Hall (downstairs) for coffee and conversation about children's ministry with the Children's Ministry and Education Board

Feb.15: *St. John's Forum:* Religion and Science Series, "Interactions Between our Lives as Scientists and our Christian Faith" – Professors Jim Cederberg and David Nitz

ChristCare: Acts of the Apostles, with Dick Dahlin, rm. 214

Feb.22: *St. John's Forum:* Religion and Science Series, "Interactions Between our Lives as Scientists and our Christian Faith" – Professors Gene Bakko, Kathy Shea, Paul Jackson

ChristCare: Acts of the Apostles, with Dick Dahlin, rm. 214

St. John's Forum Has Series on Religion and Science in February

Throughout the modern era there has been continuous debate about whether scientific and religious views of reality are compatible. In the past few years widespread public attention has been drawn to the topic by provocative books such as Oxford biologist Richard Dawkin's book "The God Delusion". This month, St. John's Forum explores the relationship between religion and science with the help of several scientists who are members of Northfield churches. On February 8, Ian Barbour, Emeritus Professor of Religion and Physics at Carleton and winner of the 1999 Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities. On February 15 Jim Cederberg and David Nitz, St. Olaf physicists who are members of our congregation, will approach this topic with an emphasis on physical science including what it tells us about the nature of the universe. To close the series on February 28, St. Olaf biology professors Gene Bakko and Kathy Shea, and St. Olaf chemistry professor Paul Jackson, all members of St. John's, will discuss the relationships between evolution and religion and the role our faith plays in influencing a lifestyle within the laws of nature.

Dad's Time Out Feb. 10

The regular monthly fellowship and Bible study for dads meets this month on Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 9:00 p.m. at the Contented Cow. This is a chance for dads to meet and talk about issues of importance and help each other grow in faith. Put your kids to bed, and then come up. Some may arrive late due to Board orientation this month, so those who are on time are encouraged to wait!

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

- Feb. 1 Sunday School (*Teacher Appreciation, Camp Sunday*)
- Feb. 8 Sunday School
- Feb. 15 Sunday School
- Feb. 22 Sunday School (Youth Fundraiser)

Rock – Wednesday, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. 2nd Wednesdays, 5:00 -5:30 p.m.

- Feb. 4 Meet in Fellowship Hall
- Feb. 11
- Feb. 18

Camp Sunday/Teacher Appreciation

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

Catechism

- 5th Grade CAT – Youth Room, 5:00- 5:45 p.m.
- Feb. 4, 11, 18

Parents Invited to Sunday School

- Feb. 8 (*see article*)

Second Wednesday Meal, for everyone!

- Feb. 11, 5:15-6:15 p.m., St. John's Hall

Good News Gang Event – Skating/Cookie Baking

- Feb. 16 (*see article*)

5th Grade CAT Classes

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

- Feb. 4: The Second Article and Meaning
- Feb. 11: Completion of 2nd Article and Meaning
- Feb. 18: Review of Second Article

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, Feb. 7 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Skating and Cookie Baking! Good News Gang 3rd-5th Grade



There is No School on Monday, Feb. 16! Join your friends at the Northfield Ice Arena for skating! Then come back to St. John's for hot chocolate and cookie baking. The cookies are for eating (of course) but also a service project for new members and our friends who are unable to come to church. Here are the details:

Date: Friday, Feb.16

Time: 12:30 p.m. – Meet at the Northfield Ice Arena. 1:30 p.m. – We return to St. John's for cookie baking! Parents may pick up children at 2:45 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

Admission: \$1.00 for skating. You need to bring your own skates. If you do not have a pair, call a friend or let me know. We'll check around!

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or across from the Nursery by February 11 so we can plan the event! Friends are always welcome!

Parents: If you can help with carpooling or cookie baking, please let me know at jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org or call the church at 645-4429, ext. 25.

Parents Invited to Sunday School on Feb. 8

Parents are invited to Sunday School's Opening/Music time on Feb. 8 at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. 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 in regards to Children's Ministry. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, ext. 25.

Camp Opportunities - Summer of 2009!



St. John's is excited to offer camp opportunities for kids age 3 – 5th grade this summer. Listed on page 16 are the camps available for Summer 2009!

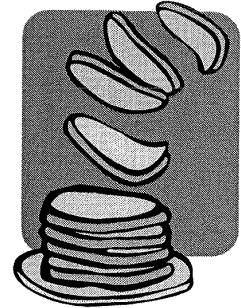
Time to Clean the Nursery!

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, after the Second Wednesday meal, the Early Childhood Ministry Team invites you to help with cleaning the Nursery. We'll start around 6:15 p.m. Many hands make light work!!!

Children and Youth Shared Event

Youth Fundraiser Sunday, February 22!

- 8:00 a.m. Silent Auction Begins with a **BUY IT NOW!** Option
 9:30 a.m. "Mardi Gras" Pancake Breakfast
 (\$6 per person/ \$20.00 per family)
- Pancakes
 - Sausages
 - Fresh Fruit
 - "King's Cakes" – claim a prize if you find a hidden coin in your
- 12:30 p.m. Breakfast Ends
 12:30 p.m. Silent Auction Ends

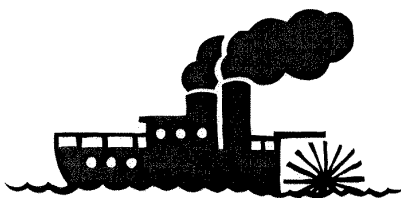


We want EVERYONE to be involved in this year's fundraiser to help families with the cost of camp. Over the last few years we've noticed that it's the parents of the kids going to camp who are the biggest financial contributors to the Youth Fundraiser. We'd like to expand the support of camp to the rest of the congregation! Please use one of the slips below to donate to our youth and give the slip to the Church Office, Mike or Julie, AND, make sure you come to the Fundraiser Breakfast on February 22. THANKS in advance!!!

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH WITH A DONATION OF

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$150 _____other

Please circle the amount you would like to donate or write in amount of your choosing. Thank you!



St. John's youth will be traveling down the Mississippi to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering in July.

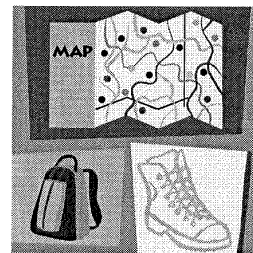
Those who donate \$20 or more will be invited to a dinner in August, hosted by the youth.

From (your name is optional):

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH WITH A DONATION OF

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$150 _____other

Please circle the amount you would like to donate or write in amount of your choosing. Thank you!



St. John's youth will be traveling to Green Lake and Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp in Spicer/New London, MN in June and Christikon in Montana in August.

From (your name is optional):

Summer 2009				
Camp	Age	Dates	Cost	Other important info:
Vacation Bible School (VBS) Northfield	Age 3 (by 9/1/08) – K	August 10-13	\$10.00	Registration Forms available April 1; due by June 1.
Good Earth Village "On the Road" Northfield	Grades 1-4	August 9-13	\$65.00	"On the Road" is a summer camp offered through Good Earth Village and hosted by Bethel, St. Peter's and St. John's Lutheran Churches. Register at www.goodearthvillage.com "GEV On The Road"
Shores of St. Andrew Spicer/New London, MN	Grades 3-5	June 14-19	\$380.00	Registration and \$165 due February 15; campfires by the lake, swimming, canteen, singing and lots of fun!
Confirmation Camp @ Green Lake Spicer/New London, MN	Grades 6-8	June 14-19	\$380.00	Registration and \$165 due February 15; Confirmation students are expected to attend camp at least once during their 7 th or 8 th grade year. Sixth graders will participate in regular camp activities.
Magical Mystery Tours	Grades 6-8	TBA	Cost Varies	St. John's youth join other Northfield area youth for mystery activities three times throughout the summer. Register when you get the letter in the mail before the event.
Christikon Montana	Grades 9-12	July 30 – August 7	Approx. \$440	Registration and deposit due on Feb. 15. Christikon is an ELCA sponsored camp located in southern Montana, just north of Yellowstone Park. St. John's will travel with Bethel youth to Christikon
National Youth Gathering/New Orleans	Grades 9-12	July 21 - 27	Approx. \$610	Registration and deposit were due in September 2008. The National Youth Gathering is an event which occurs once every 3 years. Youth from all over the country will meet in New Orleans to practice their faith through worship, prayer, play, service and learning.

Special Needs Camp – Families with campers with special needs are invited to check out this camp at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, www.gllm.org. The camp is being held on July 6 – 9!

Family Camp opportunities are also available at Green Lake and Good Earth Village – check out their websites!

Scholarships are available!

Please talk with Pastor Johnson, Julie or Mike for more information.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Sunday School

From Mike Sherman, Director of Youth Ministry: In an effort to better serve our parents, I will now be posting a monthly itinerary for Sunday School (for 6th -12th grade Sunday School) in the Voice. I hope that you all find it helpful to know what we will be doing each week in class. That being said, here are the Sunday School topics for February, 2009.

February 1 – Camp Sunday!

February 8 – Friendship

February 12 – The Church

February 22 – There will be no Sunday School this day, but all youth are encouraged to help with the Youth Fundraiser.

Confirmation Retreat for grades 7-9 at end of February

All 7th, 8th, and 9th graders have a confirmation retreat at the end of February. The retreat takes place at Good Earth Village. This is a great chance for our youth to get together in a spirit of fellowship and fun. Here are the dates for each group:

9th Graders – Friday, Feb. 27 to Saturday afternoon, Feb. 28

7th and 8th Graders – Saturday afternoon, Feb. 28 to Sunday afternoon, Mar. 1.

Parents will be receiving the details and permission forms in the mail.

Youth Gathering financial update

So far, \$1,705.00 has been donated to the Youth who are going down to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering this summer. Our goal is \$6,000.00, which will pay for half the cost for each youth going on the trip. In addition, we have made \$165.00 by selling cinnamon rolls, the profits of which also go towards the National Youth Gathering. Thank you so much to all those who have donated so far! Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will be very helpful in getting our youth down to New Orleans.

6th Grade CAT class Feb. 11

A reminder for all 6th graders: 6th Grade CAT class will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at 5:30 p.m., in the Fireside Room. Supper will be provided, and the group will be working on writing its own prayers. **Note:** There is no class on Feb. 25, as it is Ash Wednesday. Students are encouraged to attend Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00 p.m. with their parents.



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 Nurse

Lynette Marks

Shared Ministries

Regina Hassanally

Youth Ministry

Mike Sherman

Congregation President

Betsy McLaughlin



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Foundation, *cont. from front page*

people in need, and several repair projects were supported in the building. It's truly a blessing to have these gifts each year!

Thanks to all who have given to the St. John's Foundation over the years for all the ministry that fund continues to do! Brochures describing the Foundation are available in the Commons and elsewhere in the church for those who'd like more information.

Missing something? See the Lost and Found!

The church lost and found is filling up. Please be sure to check and see if anything is yours. The items are on the rack near the new bathrooms off the Commons. There are also a few items in the church office (2 pairs of glasses, pin and a button).

Regina Hassanally to lead Shared Ministries



On Jan. 15, new St. John's member Regina Hassanally began serving as the Director of Shared Ministries for the congregation. This is a part-time position, and it is critical to how we do ministry together. Regina will work with all the ministry teams and boards and with members of the

congregation as we work together. She is the person who will help members find their gifts and passions for serving God here, and work with boards and ministry teams to connect these members to their ministry. As we continue to face tight budgets, the work and ministry of the lay members of the congregation is even more vital than ever as we seek to be faithful here.

Regina and her husband Terrance joined St. John's last fall. Regina has her M.Div. degree in 2008 from Palmer Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, and is taking classes at Luther Seminary in anticipation of being approved for ordination in the ELCA in the future. Terrance works in development at Carleton College. We are excited to welcome Regina to the staff and look forward to her work among us!