

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2009


Volume 49, Number 3

*on the  
inside . . .*

Human Sexuality  
statement released  
✧ pp. 5-7

Kitchen team up  
and running  
✧ p. 8

March Food Share  
month  
✧ page 13



The *Voice* is a monthly  
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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.

## Come into God's presence: the psalms focus our Lent, our life

Lent, our springtime period of renewal and focus on repentance and life in Christ, began on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, with worship and the Imposition of Ashes. Beginning Wednesday, Mar. 4, Our Lenten mid-week worship will center on the theme "Come into God's Presence: our psalms, our prayerbook." The psalms are the prayerbook of the Bible. They are virtually the only part of the Bible that is written from human perspective, from us to God. They voice our concerns, thanks, hopes, prayers, laments, and praise to God. We will focus on six categories of the psalms this Lent: penitential/confessional psalms (done on Ash Wednesday); psalms of lament; psalms of praise for the Creator/creation; psalms of thanksgiving-trust and confidence; psalms of Torah/Wisdom (living in God's goodness), and psalms of thanksgiving-general. Each week we'll talk about how each of these types aid our prayer and worship and draw us into God's presence. Mid-week worship is at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday in Lent. We will return to using the Holden setting of Evening Prayer written by Marty Haugen this year. Soup Suppers will precede each midweek service at 5:30 p.m.



## Council and boards of St. John's, 2009

The following is the Congregation Council and the ten boards of the congregation, some elected at the Jan. 25, 2009 Annual Meeting, and others in continuing terms. Starting next month there will always be a list in the *Voice* of the current council, Personnel Committee, and Nominating Committee. Board chairs also serve on the council; their names are in **bold type** below. Note: in our structure, the Treasurer also serves as chair of Business Management.

### Executive Committee:

**Betsy McLaughlin**, *President*; term: 09-10;  
**Tim Eklund**, *President Elect*; term: 09-10;

**Patsy Ophaug**, *Secretary*; term: 09-10;

**Bron Scherer**, *Treasurer*; term: 07-10

### Adult Ministry and Education

**Pat Fick**; term: 07-10

**Kristi Wermager**; 07-10

**Greg Kneser**; term: 08-11

**Bryan Hoff**; term: 08-11

**Bill Carlson**; term: 09-12

### Benevolence and Social Concerns

**Barbara Wilson**; term: 08-11

**Paul Peterson**; term: 07-10

**Jane Rinehart**; term: 07-10

**Kathy Shea**; term: 08-11 *cont. on back page*

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:** a time to explore prayer and Scripture together using a simple guided format and held in a contemplative setting. Mark the days of Lent in prayer and silence. Meets Thursday, March 19 at 1:30 pm 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](mailto: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*

## Who Is My Neighbor?

Most of the care receivers assigned to Stephen Ministers of St. John's are members of our congregation, but the scope of this ministry is much wider than that. During its 28 years in our midst, Stephen Ministry has always reached out to others in the community—to those who belong to no church; to those who belong to a church without a Stephen Ministry program; to those who prefer, for reasons of confidentiality, to seek help outside their own congregation.

At present six people outside our congregation are receiving the care of a St. John's Stephen Minister. They come to us through various means: they might request a visit with one of our pastors; they might become acquainted with a member of our congregation who suggests this ministry and helps make the connection; they might be referred to us by SM leaders at Emmaus Baptist Church, the only other congregation in Northfield with a Stephen Ministry program. The Stephen Ministers of the two churches have been actively collaborating for almost seventeen years.

Stephen Ministers receive fifty hours of training to develop the habits of mind and spirit that shape the distinctively Christian care they offer: they do their work in the name of Christ, and they trust Christ to provide the cure in his own way and time. Often their visits with care receivers include prayer or Scripture, but only if this is what the care receiver wants. The primary task of the Stephen Minister is to listen and support without judging.

The congregation's vision theme for this year is Extending God's Love. St. John's Stephen Ministry attempts to extend God's love to anyone who needs the help its care givers can offer—to those of weak faith, of strong faith, of no faith; to our neighbors within the congregation and to our neighbors without.

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

*Matthew 5:4*

## Bereavement Ministry

**Northfield Grief Support Coalition:** St. Peter's Grief Support Group meets this month beginning March 23 at 7 pm. Contact Barb Knaak for more information. [Bknaak4@charter.net](mailto:Bknaak4@charter.net) or 664-0444.

**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."*

March 16, 2008  
**Ralph Arneson**

March 18, 2008  
**Elaine Benson**

## From our pastors . . .

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*Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."*  
*John 13:34*

*Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*  
*Matt. 22:37-40*

*Jesus said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."*  
*Matt. 28:19-20*



These words from Jesus form the whole basis for our reason to exist as a congregation, the whole basis for our call as individual disciples. We are given two commands by Jesus, to love as he loved (which he specifies in the two Great Commandments), and to make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them his commands (which are to love as he loved.) This provides all the mission and vision and focus any of us need as individuals or as a congregation to do God's work in this world.

I attended the two-part ELCA Head of Staff seminar held in Florida these past two Februarys. Each of the two years we learn a great deal about ministry and leadership. But a key focus in this year's curriculum was congregations and mission. One presenter said something really powerful. He said that congregations have no mission. God has a mission. Congregations are called to be a part of God's mission, not make our own.

I couldn't agree more. And Jesus' mission for us is so clear, as those verses show. Our vision plan at St. John's dovetails beautifully with Jesus' mission: we are to grow disciples – both growing ourselves as disciples and growing disciples in terms of reaching people with the Good News of Jesus – and we are to be signs of God's love here at St. John's and out in the world, in the community. Our councils and leadership over the past four years have done a marvelous job of articulating this call we hear from God.

What has been more difficult for us as a congregation has been living into this mission. In 2009 St. John's will pass its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of living as a congregation of God's people here. And one of the things that 140 year old congregations can tend to do is lack an urgency for doing God's mission. As long as we care for ourselves, and continue to do good ministry as we see it, we can sometimes rest on our laurels. By contrast, new congregations, those only a couple years old, tend to be filled with people who

are energized to hear God's call and move the congregation to be effectively doing God's mission.

In this St. John's is like many long-established congregations. We, like many, were founded to serve a particular immigrant group and ensure they had a church. In St. John's case, the Norwegian settlers in the community. That was the mission, and we did it well. As we grew up alongside St. Olaf College, founded by the same people, another part of our mission was that partnership. Until the mid-1950s the students worshipped here on Sundays, and most faculty were members. It's been a vital part of St. John's life. But in the past couple decades things have changed. Our ties to St. Olaf, while valuable, are not as strong as they used to be. (For example, not all faculty are members, or Lutheran or even living in Northfield anymore.) The city has changed, society has changed drastically, and the needs of families, youth, senior citizens have also changed a great deal. And these all will continue to change.

For St. John's to be faithful as we continue our life as God's people here, it's important that we continue to listen to God's mission for us and ask the questions we need to ask about how we do that mission in a changing world. It's not enough for us to maintain what we have. Rather, we might want to ask God to fill us with a little of that fervor and excitement that brand-new congregations have. Because in many ways, that's our reality: we have a new call from God, in a world that is ever changing. And with God's help we can do our mission as faithfully as those who have gone before us did. Even if it looks radically different.

Your council will be talking about these things in the next months. I hope we all will pray for God's guidance as we consider God's mission here, that we might all do this faithfully together.

In Jesus' name,

# February Actions

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## Memorials and Gifts

### Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Alice Erickson**: by Shirley Falck.  
In memory of **Frank Ozmun**: by Minnie Ozmun.  
In memory of **Sig Sampson**: by Vern Olson, Sig Sampson Estate

### St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Bonnie Larson**: by Sharon Bishop.  
In memory of **William St. John**: by Sharon Bishop.  
In memory of **Sig Sampson**: by Richard and Jo Dahlin, Brynhild Rowberg

### Mission Fund

In memory of **Clifford Distad**: by Eugene and Mary Trom.

### Radio Fund

In memory of **Alice Erickson**: by Phyllis Knutson, Virley and Forrest Brown, Charles Lunder

## Other Actions

### Baptisms

Gabriella Grace Ryan, daughter of Nate and Tiffany Ryan; sponsors are Ramie Ryan, Josh Mathre, Justin Mathre and Becky Mathre; February 15, 2009

### Funerals

Agnes Johnson, February 12, 2009  
Ed Chambers, February 23, 2009

### Radio Broadcasts

February 8, 2009, in memory of **Bill and Verna Quinnell**, by Milo and Elouise Quinnell

February 15, 2009, in memory of my husband, **Jim Braulick**, by Georgia Braulick

February 22, 2009, in honor of **friends of St. John's**, by Val Hallan

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### *User Friendly Kitchen, continued from page 8*

who is in the kitchen at a certain time. Second, concerning small amounts of dishes from a group: 1) Rinse and place in correct dishwasher racks on dirty side of dishwasher; 2) All large containers or trays are to be hand washed by the user. Third, the chairperson of each group using St. John's kitchen will fill out a check sheet for the group. Fourth, the outside exit near the dining room area is not for garbage.

The kitchen monitors have noticed many positive things concerning the use of St. John's kitchen, however, some issues still remain. There have been problems with general kitchen clean up, sanitation, proper use of equipment and returning equipment to its place. It is very important we rectify these issues as the kitchen is a commercial kitchen and held to specific standards. The Ministry Team would like people to read the signs for easier use of the kitchen. As a result the Kitchen Ministry Team wants the kitchen users to do a complete check before leaving the kitchen. They are offering workshops on correct techniques for a commercial dishwasher and proper use of other equipment once a month between services.

Currently we have need of volunteers willing to deep clean the kitchen and those willing to operate the dishwasher on a semi-regular basis. Please speak to Regina Hassanally, Director of Shared Ministries, if you are willing to serve in this way.

We look forward to continuing to work with you in maintaining our kitchen as a positive and user friendly place. If everyone at St. John's takes pride in our kitchen mission our ministry will be successful.

*Sincerely,*  
*Kitchen Ministry Team*



# *... from and around the greater Church*

St. John's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with nearly 5 million Lutherans across the United States and the Caribbean. There are 65 geographic synods within the ELCA, and St. John's is a part of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. As baptized children of God in Christ, the congregation is also part of more than a billion Christians on earth. On this page each month news from our synod, from the churchwide organization, and beyond will be shared.

## **from the churchwide organization:**

### **Final draft of sexuality statement, recommendations released**



*From press releases dated Feb. 19, 2009:*  
The 15-member Task Force for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Studies on Sexuality released Feb. 19 "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust" — a proposed social statement on human sexuality — and a "Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies" for the professional leadership of the church. The 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly — the chief legislative body of the church — is expected to consider the social statement for adoption as an official statement and the report and recommendations as policy changes Aug. 17-23 in Minneapolis.

**The statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust"** — The proposed statement addresses a spectrum of concerns relevant to human sexuality from a Lutheran perspective. It responds to the question: "How do we understand human sexuality within the context of Jesus' invitation to love God and love our neighbor?" If adopted by the assembly, the social statement will assist the ELCA in its moral deliberation, govern its institutional policies and guide the church's public advocacy work.

While the document does not offer once-and-for-all answers to contemporary questions about sexuality, it "seeks to tap the deep roots of Scripture and the Lutheran theological tradition" for Lutherans to discern what is "responsible and faithful action," according to the proposed statement. The document contains sections on key Lutheran

principles, trust and human sexuality, social structures that enhance trust, sexuality and trust in relationships, sexuality and social responsibility, and a series of resolutions to incorporate the statement into the mission and ministry of the ELCA. "Sexuality has to do with relationships, and God has made us relational beings," said the Rev. Rebecca S. Larson, executive director, ELCA Church in Society. "The underlying question of this social statement, therefore, is what makes right relationship. Our model is God's unfailingly, trustworthy relationship with people and creation. No human relationship can thrive without trust. The social statement therefore considers all human relationships and social structures in light of what fosters trust, commitment and protection for those who are vulnerable," she said. The call for trust is woven into the proposed statement's discourse about marriage, same-gender relationships, family and children, commitment in relationships, adult cohabitation, society, public ministry and more.

On the topic of marriage the document states that the historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions recognize marriage as a covenant between a woman and a man. In recent decades the church has begun to understand "in new ways" the need of same-gender couples who seek relationships of "lifelong companionship and commitment as well as public accountability and legal support for those commitments," said the statement.

*continued, p. 6*

# News and Events

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## Statement, recommendations released - *cont. from p. 5*

The proposed statement acknowledges that “consensus does not exist” among ELCA members on how to “honor” committed same-sex relationships. The statement reflects differing conclusions on the basis of biblical and theological interpretation. Some members believe homosexuality is a sin in their understanding of biblical teaching and natural law, and some members believe homosexuality “reflects a broken world in which some relationships do not pattern themselves after the creation God intended.”

Some Lutherans believe same-gender relationships are to be “honored and held to high standards and public accountability” but do not equate these relationships with marriage, and some believe that same-gender relationships are to be held to the same “rigorous standards, sexual ethics and status as heterosexual marriage,” said the statement. Despite the varying viewpoints, the church encourages all people to live out their faith with “profound respect for the conscience-bound belief of the neighbor,” said the proposed statement.

The document calls on congregations to be safe places for children and youth, and it calls for education on human sexuality for children and youth. “Degrees of physical intimacy should be carefully matched to degrees of growing affection and commitment,” stated the document. For this reason, the document calls the church to oppose “non-monogamous, promiscuous or casual sexual relationships.” The statement addresses the topic of the value of friendship, adult cohabitation, and Lutheran opposition of sexual exploitation within and outside the church. It also asks that justice for women in church and society continue to be an important dimension of Lutheran response.

“When approved, Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust will be the 10th social statement of the ELCA,” said Larson. “All social statements are developed through at least a five-year process in a broadly participatory way. Human sexuality infuses all of life from the time we are born until the time we die. It is also social. Economics, business and advertising, social roles, medicine and science are all relevant to human sexuality

and the ways we act in relationship to others. How to use this gift in a way that honors God and serves the neighbor is a critical issue, particularly in this culture,” Larson said.

A draft of the social statement was given to ELCA members in March 2008 for study, review and feedback. (Note: St. John’s participated in this review in fall 2008.) “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust “reflects what the task force heard from this church in response to the draft social statement,” said Larson. “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust” completes a directive from the 2001 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to develop a social statement on human sexuality.

**Report and Recommendations:** The task force also released a “Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies” to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly regarding the professional leadership of the church. This document completes a directive from the 2007 assembly to address and make recommendations on changes to policies that preclude Lutherans in committed, same-gender relationships from the ELCA’s professional rosters. On the basis of study and “listening to this church,” members of the task force developed a report and recommendation for the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly — the church’s chief legislative body — to consider as regards the church’s current policy.

For Lutheran pastors and other professional leaders in the ELCA, the church requires that sexual intimacy “be within the context of marriage.” The church understands marriage as between a man and a woman. Gay and lesbian Lutherans serve as ordained ministers in the ELCA but are expected to abstain from engaging in same-gender sexual intimacy. The report focuses on changing the policy that “ordained ministers who are homosexual in their self-understanding are expected to abstain from homosexual sexual relationships” — as stated in the ELCA’s “Vision and Expectations” for ordained ministers. The same expectation is expressed in policies for professional lay leaders of the church.

*continued, p. 7*

# News and Events

## Statement, recommendations released - *cont. from p. 6*

The task force's report also highlights areas of disagreement and agreement among ELCA members regarding current policy. Some members of the ELCA support continuation of the policy, and some members advocate for change. Lutherans have asserted "their positions with varying degrees of certainty," the report said. The task force acknowledged that there is neither "a consensus — a general agreement — nor any emerging consensus" either within the ELCA or within other faith communities in North America, according to its report. The task force stated that ELCA members "must seek a common way to live and serve in the midst of disagreements."

"Through careful listening to this church and to one another other, task force members share a sober appreciation for the depth of disagreement on this matter. We also share a longing for church unity," said the Rev. Peter Strommen, Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Prior Lake, Minn., and task force chair. "Our hope is that a way can be found to live in the unity of the gospel amidst our differences."

The task force recommended that a process begin with the churchwide assembly, "declaring its intention about what it wants to do," according to the report. It proposed four steps to be taken consecutively. If the assembly agrees to the first, then the second, third and fourth would be considered only if the preceding steps have been approved.

The first step asks the assembly whether it is committed "to finding ways to allow congregations and synods that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships," said the report. The second step asks the assembly whether it is committed to finding a way for Lutherans in committed, same-gender relationships to serve as ELCA professional leaders — clergy, associates in ministry, diaconal ministers and deaconesses.

If steps one and two are accepted, step three asks the assembly to commit to implementing steps one and two "in such a way that all this church bear the burdens of the other, love the

neighbor, and respect the bound conscience of any with whom they disagree." According to the report, "decisions about policy that serve only the interests of one or another group will not be acceptable." Step four presents a proposal for how the ELCA could move toward change "in a way that respects the bound conscience of all," said the report. The fourth step is different from the previous steps in that it is "not simply a commitment in principle, but makes a specific recommendation for flexibility within existing structures and practices of this church to allow for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to be approved" for professional service in the ELCA, stated the report.

The task force's report and recommendation on ministry policies completes a directive from the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to address and make recommendations on changes to policies that preclude Lutherans in committed, same-gender unions from the ELCA's professional rosters. The 2001 assembly directed the church to study homosexuality with reference to two topics — the blessing of same-sex unions and the "ordination, consecration and commissioning of people in committed, same sex unions." It also asked the church to develop a social statement on human sexuality.

Information about the ELCA Studies on Sexuality, including the full text of both of these documents is at <http://www.ELCA.org/faithfuljourney> on the ELCA website.

### from your pastors:

Given the length of the time the ELCA has been studying this issue, and the importance of the conversation, most of the text of the press releases are quoted here so that all who wish may have a brief summary. We hope that many will also take the time to check the website for full texts. Both Pr. Crippen and Pr. Johnson are available for comments and questions. In addition, Pr. Crippen is a voting member at the August Churchwide Assembly which will consider these documents.

# News and Events

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## Welcome Team News:

A new service team formed last Fall at St. John's, and many exciting changes are underway as we Extend God's Love to our guests at St. John's.

The first thing you may have noticed is that our Welcome Team greeters are now stationed at the two main West entrances to the church before the two Sunday services. Team members are there to open the doors and warmly welcome guests and members alike to church each Sunday morning.

In addition, some team members now regularly bake delicious chocolate chip cookies to give out as a welcome gift for our first time visitors. Those bags are located at the Welcome Center in the Commons with a gift tag that says "Thank you for visiting St. John's!" Feel free to hand these out when you meet a guest.

We've revamped the sign-in sheets to gather more helpful information for following up with our guests. And our team now makes follow-up phone calls the week after a visit to thank them for worshipping with us and answer any questions they may have about the church or community.

To assist us in warmly welcoming our guests, we encourage every member of St. John's to join us. Here are a few easy things everyone can do:

*Look for people in church on Sunday morning who are looking lost or standing alone. This is a good sign that they are either guests or a new member. Introduce yourself and others who may have common interests or experiences.*

*Slide toward the center of the pews to make room for newcomers.*

*Pay attention to the orange Welcome Sheets as they are passed down your pew during worship. Seek out guests after the service to welcome them and learn more about them.*

*Assist guests with the hymnal or bulletin if they seem to have lost their place during worship.*

*Offer to walk visitors to the Welcome Center in the Commons so they can pick up a copy of our newsletter and brochures, and receive their welcome gift. (Or bring those items to them.)*

We feel blessed to be a part of the wonderful community at St. John's, and know that you do too. Let's share this blessing with everyone who walks through our doors!

*-Sue Rod and Mary Crippen  
Welcome Team Coordinators*

## St. John's Kitchen is User Friendly

St John's kitchen monitors have been busy making the kitchen **user friendly**. During the last two months the group has cleaned, reorganized shelves, and added new labels to areas needing extra instructions. This Ministry Team is under the Adult Ministry and Education Board. The board approved of the monthly monitor system.

This is how the monitor system will work. Currently there are 14 monitors and each person will be in charge of one month. Four other people will be doing weekly checks on the kitchen. The monitors are not cleaning up after people. Instead: 1) they will check to see that things are in order for the next group to use the kitchen; 2) that equipment has been turned off properly; 3) that garbage has been taken care of correctly according to the check sheet; 4) they will check for upcoming groups if they need instructions for use of the kitchen. The monitors will also check to see if the **check sheet** has been completed for each group using the kitchen. Each monitor will report to the staff person in charge to contact the chairperson of the group that left the kitchen untidy, equipment improperly shut down, or failed to complete the check sheet.

There are a few new policies in place. First, any one wishing to use the kitchen has to check with Laurie Prior, office manager, before using the kitchen. The monitors and church staff need to know

*continued on page 4*



# Stewards of Grace

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## Stewards of Grace Report January, 2009

### A little History:

#### December 2, 2001 A special meeting resulted in: Voted for:

1. To build new addition = \$ 3,022,000.00
2. To borrow up to \$ 2,250,00.00 for construction and remodel
3. A benevolence component of 6%
4. Capital Campaign "Growing with Grace"  
Goal was \$ 1,650,000.00 Raised \$ 1,614,000.00

#### April 25, 2004 A special meeting resulted in: Voted for:

1. Approved a Second fund campaign for debt retirement
2. Goal was \$ 1,500,000.00 -\$ 1,200,000.00 for debt retirement, Benevolence \$ 150,000.00(10%) and \$ 150,000.00 to complete unfinished construction and delayed repairs.
3. The Debt Retirement Campaign was named "Stewards of Grace."

#### January, 2009 Latest (last)/ Numbers on Stewards of Grace (3.5 Years)

Pledge Data	Giving Units	Pledge \$	Paid \$
1. Completed/exceeded pledge	205	\$ 609,769.00	\$ 704,545.00
2. Pledge partially Paid	67	\$ 248,296.00	\$ 131,775.00
3. Paid/No Pledge	61	\$ .00	\$ 29,681.00
4. Pledged, no Payment	8	\$ 29,184.00	\$ .00
5. No Pledge/No Pay	375		
<b>Totals</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>\$887,249.00</b>	<b>\$ 866,001.00</b>
6. Misc. gifts and Memorials			\$ 76,821.00

**Total Stewards of Grace Received \$ 942,822..00**

#### Usage of Stewards of Grace Funds:

1. Costs for the Campaign-	\$ 51,942.61 (5,5%)
2. Benevolence Component-	\$ 94,282.20 (10%)
3 Debt retirement & interest Payments	\$ 796,597.39 (84.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 942,822.00</b>

#### Mortgage Balances (as of Dec. 31,2008)

#1 5 year renewal	\$ 855,426.94 at 6%
#2 20 year note	\$ 888,883.52 at 6.625%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,744,330.46</b>

#### Mortgage Payments 2009

12 pays @ \$13,611 + \$ 163,332.00
Principle \$ 51,345.42
Interest \$ 111,986.58

# Serving on Sundays

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## Serving in March

### *Acolytes*

- March 1** (8:30) Michael Gasior, Ian Iverson; (10:00) Katherine Hirdler, Amelia Kimmes Kneser  
**March 8** (8:30) Evan Nelson, Noah Parker; (10:00) Alexa Nutt, Hunter Redfield  
**March 15** (8:30) James Rowley, Kristopher Swanson; (10:00) Rebecca Storlie, Amelia Tjaden  
**March 22** (8:30) Kirstin Buck, Zachary Evenson; (10:00) Karl Amundson, Irene Duba  
**March 29** (8:30) Jasmine Newman-Evans, Bjorn Bade; (10:00) Cameron Judge-Becker, Dalton Skrove

### *Coffee*

- March 1** Barbara and Lowell Johnson, Lloyd and Connie Gunderson, Sharon Bastian  
**March 8** Julie and Scott Ims, Jenny and Hunter Redfield, Elsie Nelson  
**March 15** John and Patsy Ophaug, Mark and Mary Polzin, Winnie and Alan Alberg  
**March 22** St. John's Girl Scout Troops, Shelley Keske  
**March 22** Lynette and Alan Marks

### *Communion preparers*

- March 1** Lynette and Alan Marks  
**March 8** Elden and Solveig Zempel  
**March 15** Kathy Vang and Judy Smith  
**March 22** Michael and Suzanne Sylvester  
**March 29** Brett and Karin Norgaard

### *Nursery*

- March 1** (8:30) Greg and Grete Walter; (10:00) Carolyn and Mike McCune  
**March 8** (8:30) Jenny and Brent Nystrom; (10:00) Steve and Sheri Williams  
**March 15** (8:30) Betsy and Jeff McLaughlin; (10:00) Ann and Doug Fitzgerald  
**March 22** (8:30) Roz Eaton; (10:00) Carolyn and Mike McCune  
**March 29** (8:30) Sherry Benson; (10:00) Connie Menssen

### *Ushers*

- March 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  
**March 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  
**March 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  
**March 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  
**March 29** (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



# News and Events

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## From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Next meeting:  
Monday, March 9  
7:00 p.m.  
Fireside Room

“Extending  
God’s Love  
To Special Needs  
Children  
In Ukraine”

Minnesota’s Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) held its 2009 Day on the Hill on February 3. Under the theme “Led by the Prophets,” JRLC executive Director Brian Rusche presented morning briefings on key legislative issues to prepare the 850 citizen participants in the event for afternoon visits with their legislators urging all to join JRLC’s prophetic leadership in bringing about justice and righteousness in Minnesota. Briefings can be found in full at [www.JRLC.org](http://www.JRLC.org). A condensed version is presented here.

1. **Homelessness and Housing** — Three years ago on any given night about 10,000 Minnesotans were without a home. Continuing job loss and home foreclosures are increasing the need for state resources to prevent homelessness and provide housing stability. **JRLC Position:** (1) preserve current investments for homeless prevention, outreach, emergency shelters and transitional housing; (2) increase funding for existing permanent supportive housing; (3) increase the Housing Trust Fund for rent assistance for homeless adults, youth and families.

2. **Health Care** — 374,000 Minnesotans, including 77,000 children have no health insurance. The Governor’s budget proposes to cut about 113,000 more Minnesotans from health care coverage. The human dignity of every person demands recognition of health care as a right. Public health research tells us that overall health in a society improves when health disparities are narrowed. Having healthy neighbors improves everyone’s health status and we all benefit from system-wide efficiencies. **JRLC Position:** Achieve universal coverage and guaranteed access to comprehensive and quality health care. The state has a primary role to make sure that health care is available to the poor and vulnerable. Denying insurance coverage to 113,000 Minnesotans is inhumane and costly.

3. **Ending Poverty** — In 2004, 35 religious leaders in Minnesota signed *A Common Foundation: Shared Principles for Work on Overcoming Poverty*. The executive summary of the report of the Legislative Commission to End Poverty released in February states, the current economic crisis, while daunting, sharpens their resolve to end poverty in Minnesota by 2020. Minnesota’s overall poverty rate is about 9.5% — over 480,000 people including 170,000 children. As more of our neighbors fall into joblessness, bankruptcy, medical debt and homelessness we must ask the critical question, “Why does our economy fail so many?” **JRLC Position:** Support repairs of the wage floor and increase household income through tax credits and childcare assistance. Adopt benchmarks by which progress toward ending poverty can be measured.

4. **Budget and Taxes** — Minnesota should raise sufficient revenue to meet agreed-upon levels of public service, doing so fairly, based on ability to pay. Minnesota’s budget crisis is due largely to an insufficiency of revenue. Minnesota’s Price of Government (POG) index, maintained by Minnesota Management and Budget, shows that state-local revenues as a percent of income stood at about 16 percent in 2008. That’s a full percentage point lower than the typical POG that prevailed through the 1990s, amounting to about \$4 billion of the projected shortfall for the next biennium. **JRLC Position:** (1) raise revenue to avoid painful cuts to health care, early childhood, and human service programs; (2) restoration of income tax rates, an income tax surcharge and expansion of sales tax base are all options.

St. John’s is a member congregation of JRLC and is also related to JRLC through the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA and its membership in the Minnesota Council of Churches.

JRLC encourages comments on these issues to Representative Bly and Senator Dahle.

Representative David Bly, 557 State Office Building, St. Paul 55155, 651-296-7065  
Senator Kevin Dahle, 320 State Capitol, St. Paul 55155, 651-296-1279



# Mission Outreach

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## March Hands and Feet

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.

## March is Minnesota Food Share Month

This month St. John's joins other Minnesota congregations, synagogues, mosques, businesses, schools, and the media to help restock the food supplies of more than 300 food shelves across the state. St. John's supports hunger relief efforts around the world through ELCA World Hunger, but this month we focus our attention and efforts here in Northfield.

According to the Northfield Community Action Center, an average of 1,103 people living in Northfield, representing 385 households, received food at the CAC Food Shelf each month in 2008. This is an increase of 20% over 2007. Of those receiving food last year in Northfield 42% were children. People using the food shelf do not have enough income to cover their basic needs. Prices for food, transportation, housing, and health care continue to climb and these increases, coupled with the effects of higher unemployment, can mean financial crises for people in our community.

Food and cash donations are welcome at the Northfield CAC Food Shelf throughout the year, but especially this month as the community shows support during Minnesota

Food Share month. (**Cash donations are preferred due to discounted food to which food shelves have access. Every dollar donated helps the CAC purchase 4 pounds of food.**)

The support we give to the CAC Food Shelf is one way to mark the season of Lent, as we seek to grow in discipleship, remembering the words Jesus spoke, "...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." (Matthew 25:35) Menno Simmons, founder of the Mennonite Church, said, "True evangelical faith, cannot lie dormant, it clothes the naked, it feeds the hungry, it comforts the sorrowful, it shelters the destitute, it serves those that harm it, it binds up that which is wounded..." Support of the CAC Food Shelf is a way St. John's is extending God's love in Christ into the community.

Please use the special envelope in the giving envelope packet to support the CAC Food Shelf this month. St. John's Sunday School students are also participating in the Food Share month with a special offering challenge. Watch their progress downstairs. Thank you for supporting this life-giving community resource!

# Mission Outreach

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**Mission Partner Team Update:** *The Mission Partner Team welcomed visitors from two of our partner congregations last month, El Milagro Lutheran Church in Minneapolis and El Salvador Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia.*

On Feb. 5 three staff members from El Milagro, Pastor Judith Van Osdol, Warren Craft, and Jim Seller, met with members of St. John's staff and the Mission Partner Team. El Milagro is experiencing "an adventure in discipleship" as it seeks to make Christ known in South Minneapolis. Many people in the neighborhoods around El Milagro, including those who worship and serve at El Milagro are undocumented workers. This fact shapes El Milagro's ministry as it seeks to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Undocumented workers are not eligible for social service programs which limit access to health care, education, job training, etc. Turnover in church membership is frequent as people search for jobs and affordable housing. El Milagro's mission is to serve this community that is marginalized and transient. Through worship and music and youth-led evangelism, El Milagro is seeking to be a healing community in Christ's name.

St. John's may not face the same challenges as El Milagro but St. John's is also called to be a healing community, to extend God's love in Christ's name for members of this congregation and the Northfield community who are marginalized in all sorts of ways. The group that met on Feb. 5 identified five potential areas of ministry that El Milagro and St. John's can share to help strengthen our common mission to be healing communities in Christ's name:

prayer, youth, music, human resources, and justice issues. A short term task force – made up of members from both El Milagro and St. John's – is being formed to plan two or three partner events for the coming year. If you are interested in being part of this conversation and planning contact one of the pastors or Jenny Pelletier, 664-9296.

On Saturday, Feb. 7 members of the Mission Partner Team welcomed Jorge Diaz, communication director for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia, Pastor Natanael Lizarazo, pastor at First Lutheran in Sioux Falls and founder of LIZWAN, a non-profit that coordinates programs that provide hunger relief, and access to health care, housing, and education in Colombia, and Ildze Canfield, a staff member of SMSQ Architects. All three guests are Colombian and shared with the team their reflections about the current political situation in that country as well updates on the church. Jorge and Pastor Lizarazo grew up in El Cocuy and were members of El Salvador Lutheran Church, St. John's new partner congregation. Jorge brought official greetings from the staff and people at El Salvador along with photographs of the area. St. John's will officially mark this new partnership with El Salvador later this spring. In the meantime watch for a display about our new partner in ministry in the Commons and on the web.

## **Council affirms partnership with Iambi Lutheran Church, Tanzania**

In January, St. John's Congregation Council affirmed a proposal from the Mission Partner Team that St. John's enter into a formal partnership with Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod has been a companion synod with the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania since 1988. St. John's joins thirty three other congregations in the Synod who have a partner congregation in the Central Diocese. In December, the council affirmed a partner relationship with El Salvador Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod has been a companion synod with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia since

1994. St. John's joins thirteen other synod congregations who have a partner congregation in Colombia. St. John's is the first congregation in the synod to have a partner congregation in both Tanzania and Colombia. The Mission Partner Team will nurture these relationships and provide updates to the congregations about the ministries of Iambi and El Salvador. A more formal recognition of these partnerships will take place in worship later this Spring.

**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](http://semnsynod.org) and [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org)

**Meetings Scheduled:**

**Thurs., Mar. 5,** 1:00 p.m.- General meeting. "Creation Care," by David Legvold: Thoughts about water quality and our roles as stewards of our environment. Coffee and treats by Sarah Circle.

**Mon, Mar. 2,** 9:30 a.m.-Executive Board Meeting of Women of ELCA in the Fireside Room.

**Mon, Mar. 9,** 12 noon-Circle Bible Study Leaders join Ruth Hansen in the Fireside room to prepare for Circle.

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

**Mon, Mar. 16,** 9:00 a.m.-Fellowship Hall. Getting the quilts ready for Thursday.

**Thurs, Mar. 19,** 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.- "Workmorning" for Quilting and other projects, every third Thursday in Fellowship Hall. Some faithful helpers have gone south for the winter so more are needed. For questions contact Kathy Vang, "Quilting Coordinator." 645-8617

**Looking Ahead.....**

The April meeting of the Women of the ELCA will be a Pot Luck Salad Luncheon Sat, April 4, 12 noon. in St. John's Hall. We have invited the women of St. Peter's to be our guests!

Program Title: "Singing Hymns-Ancient and Modern." Bob Scholz, Professor Emeritus of Music and Voice, Director of the Viking Chorus and Chapel Choir, will lead the program and hymn sing for the afternoon. Bob will focus on Lenten and Easter hymns, his special interest. We will hear when and where hymns were written and who wrote them and Bob will play the piano. Elizabeth Circle will host.

**Pajama Cutting!**

Months of preparation are needed to produce 1100 pairs of pajamas for Northfield Christmas Sharing 2009—the cutting has begun. To help come (with or without scissors) to the Methodist Church any of the following times: Monday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. from now until March 31.

**Green Hint-o-the Month:**

**Buy food produced locally whenever possible.** (WELCA's National Convention passed a resolution suggesting careful use of all resources.)

**Invitation to Retreat**

Tell Carrie Melby if you would like to be part of the next "Paths to Wholeness" retreat sometime in March or April. In January fifteen women were inspired by sharing experiences and insights here at St. John's, and the list for the next retreat is growing. Please talk to Carrie or contact her at [melbys@rconnect.com](mailto:melbys@rconnect.com) about participating.

**Circles meet regularly most months on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, Mar. 11 or Thursday, Mar. 12**

- Lydia* - Wed. 9:30 a.m.- leader Marilyn Boschee
  - Sarah* - Wed. 9:30 a.m.- leader Carol Nesheim
  - Miriam* (ChristCare circle) - Wed. 6:30 p.m. - leader Cheryl Buck
  - Martha/Claudia* (combined)- Thurs. 9:30 a.m.- leader Brynnie Rowberg
  - Dorcas* - Thurs. 2:00 p.m.- leader Gretchen Hardgrove
  - Elizabeth* - Thurs. 2:00 p.m.- leader Ann Ness
  - Abigail/Rebecca* (combined)- Thurs. 2:00 p.m.- leader Gert Brosz
  - 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 pm and 4<sup>th</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Gift of Encouragement

By Barbara Eaves

As I recall, we were all afraid to go into her room the first day of sixth grade (the word we would have used is "scared"). Her name was Miss Rule and her reputation was one of being very strict and mean. During the first weeks in her class it seemed like those who had labeled her were right and that her name, Miss Rule, was appropriate.

However, as the weeks passed and the behavior boundaries had been established and followed, the harshness disappeared and it was clear that Miss Rule wanted everyone in her class to succeed. Today I still remember Miss Rule as strict, yes, but also loving and caring. She remains my favorite teacher, a mentor and encourager to all who came under her tutelage.

What a gift it is to receive expressions of encouragement, words that affirm our worth and encourage us to hold on, to grow deeper, to reach further. Perhaps you know or can recall a person or persons who have supported and encouraged you in your life.

ChristCare ministry at St. John's offers small group settings which nurture a sense of belonging and encouragement, along with providing an opportunity to grow in knowledge and understanding.

*"... Let us consider how to provoke one another, not neglecting to meet together as the habit of some, but all the more encouraging one another..."*

*Heb. 10:24-25a*

## Dad's Time Out Mar. 10

The regular monthly fellowship and Bible study for dads meets this month on Tuesday, Mar. 10, at 9 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.



# Adult Ministry and Education

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## 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 music this month. See article below.

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

**Mar. 1: Sunday Morning Concert Series:** Rejoice Ringers directed by Jo Dahlin, **St. John's Hall**

**Mar. 8:** *St. John's Forum:* The Lutheran Church in Colombia. St. John's members Jane Rinehart and Kristi Wermager share their experiences and observations from last October's Synod trip to Colombia. The trip included visits to institutions of the Lutheran Church in Colombia as well as projects of the Lutheran World Federation, **St. John's Hall**

**Mar. 15:** *St. John's Forum:* Series on Music and the Church – J.S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion. Robert Scholz, Emeritus Professor of Music, St. Olaf College will discuss Johann Sebastian Bach's 1727 musical setting of the Passion based on Matthew 26-27, **St. John's Hall**

*New Member Session:* New Member Beginnings, **Fireside Room**

*Parenting Class:* Faith and Skills for Parenting, Carrie Duba leads a discussion for parents of children of all ages, **Rm. 9**

**Mar. 22:** *St. John's Forum:* Series on Music and the Church – Music Therapy. Jennifer Pelletier, director of the Alleluia choir at St. John's, will describe her work as a music therapist, **St. John's Hall**

*New Member Session:* Exploring Ministry at St. John's, **Fireside Room**

*Parenting Class:* Faith and Skills for Parenting, Carrie Duba leads a discussion for parents of children of all ages, **Rm. 9**

**Mar. 29:** *St. John's Forum:* Series on Music and the Church – The Great Hymnwriters of Early Lutheranism. Eric Lund, Professor of Religion, St. Olaf College, will examine the religious poetry, music and life stories of a few of the greatest hymn writers of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, from Martin Luther to Paul Gerhardt, **St. John's Hall**

*New Member Session:* Exploring Gifts at St. John's, **Fireside Room**

### Spring New Member Session

New members will be received at St. John's on Sunday, Apr. 26 at the 10:45 am service.

Those considering joining St. John's are invited to lunch with the pastors and staff on Sunday, Mar. 1 at noon in St. John's Hall.

Those wishing to join St. John's are asked to complete and return a Member Information Form by Sunday, Mar. 15. Forms will be sent to prospective members and are also available in the church office. If you have questions or need more information contact one of the pastors.

### Save the Date – Youth Recital May 10

The Sunday Morning Concert Series Youth Recital is Sunday morning, May 10. High School or Middle School youth interested in performing in the recital on keyboard, voice, or a band or orchestral instrument should contact either Ruth Legvold at 645-4429 or JoAnn Polley at 645-7631 by March 15.

### Rejoice Ringers Perform Mar. 1

As a part of the Sunday Morning Concert Series, Rejoice Ringers, directed by Jo Dahlin, will present a recital at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Mar. 1, 2009 in St. John's Hall. The adult handbell ensemble, which rehearses once a week, October through May, will perform repertoire that spans the entire church year. Come hear and see our church members perform on the Schulmerich handbells and the Malmark choir chimes.

**VBS and Day Camp - Summer of 2009!**



This summer St. John's, along with Bethel and St. Peter's Lutheran churches, will be offering a joint Vacation Bible School/ Summer Camp experience for children age 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> grade the week of August 9 – 14

**For kids completing 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade:**

Good Earth Village, "On the Road!" will bring the fun of summer camp to Northfield. This 5-day program is filled with games, worship, crafts, Bible study and singing. Registration is through Good Earth Village. Campers can register on-line at [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) or by completing a registration form available in the Commons. Since this is a community-based event please send your registration in early. Good Earth Village can accommodate about 125 campers.

**For kids age 3 (by 9/01/08) – K**

Vacation Bible School will be held the same week as "On the Road". Kindergarteners have the option of going to either VBS or "On the Road". The VBS program will be half days, whereas "On the Road" is a full day experience. You decide which camp works best for your child! More information about VBS will be coming in April!

**Important Dates to Remember!**

**Sunday School Schedule**

- March 1 - Sunday School
- March 8 - Sunday School (*Daylight Savings Time*)
- March 15 - Sunday School
- March 22 - Sunday School
- March 29 - No Sunday School (*Spring Break*)

**"Faith and Skills for Parenting" class with Carrie Duba**

Sundays, March 15 and 22 at 9:45 a.m. in Rm. 9 (*see article*)

**Lenten Soup Suppers**

Begins March 4 at 5:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall

**Parent's Night Out**

March 14, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. *New Time!*

**ROCK during Lent for kids in 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

March 11, 18, 25 from 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (*see article*)

**No Catechism this month for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades**

**ROCK on Wednesdays during Lent!**

A special version of ROCK will take place on Wednesdays during Lent this year! ROCK will be held on March 11, 18, 19 at 5:00 p.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. (when soup supper begins) in Fellowship Hall. The 3 sessions will have faith-filled activities to help kids follow Jesus during journey to the cross and eventually Easter. Volunteers interested in helping may speak with Julie at 645-4429.

**March Food Share Campaign**

This month, Northfield Community Action Center has its annual Minnesota Food Share Campaign. St. John's Sunday School classes will be participating in the drive to help benefit our local food shelf.

During March, we are asking for donations from St. John's kids in one of two ways:

**With cash donations** – The Community Action center has the ability to purchase food items at a much lower cost per pound than the average consumer can, so cash is preferred. For every \$2.00 donated by a class, a donation sheet will be posted on their classroom door. On Sunday, April 5, we will find out which class has the most cash donations. Donuts will be given to the class with the highest total and donut holes to the second highest! (March's Sunday School offering will be donated to this drive.)

**With food items** – Classes will have a donation box or they can be placed directly in the grocery cart that will be displayed by the bulleting boards across from the Nursery. Items most needed: cooking oil, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned meat, meal helpers, healthy snacks, dry milk pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned beans, dry pinto beans, and rice. Hopefully our cart will be overflowing by the end of the drive!

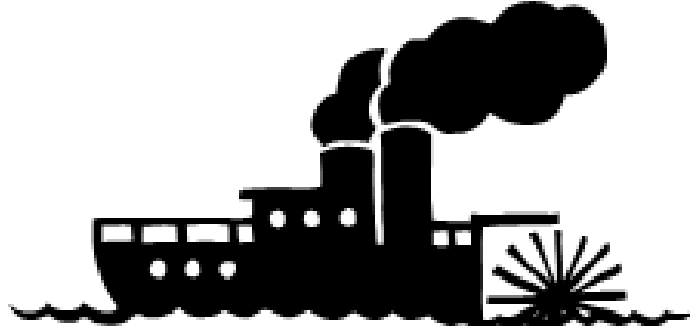
This is a great opportunity to talk with your children about how they can help their neighbors! If you have any questions, please call Julie at 645-4429, ext. 25. Thanks!

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

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## Youth Fundraiser

The Youth Fundraiser was a huge success! Thank you all so much to those who donated, ate and bought auction items. Also, a tremendous thank you to all of you parents and youth that helped to pull it all off! We made about \$3,500 with the breakfast and silent auction. We've also received a \$1,000 grant from Thrivent, putting our total to about \$4,500. This money will be used to help our youth go to camp this summer. Thank you all again so much!



## Youth Gathering Update

Many of the Youth who are going to the Youth Gathering were able to help out at the Youth Fundraiser and earn money to go on the trip. However, we have still not met our goal of raising \$6,000. Talk to Mike Sherman if you would like to donate and help get our High Schoolers down to New Orleans.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Mentors & Mentees

Even though it's Lent, we still want you to get together for some M&M time. The official M&M night is Mar. 11. Come and meet together for soup supper, and then go to service together. Remember, if you can't meet on the 11<sup>th</sup>, you are welcome to get together at any other time of your convenience.

## Sunday School

In an effort to better serve our parents, I will now be posting a monthly itinerary for Sunday School (for 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> 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 March, 2009.

March 1 – No Sunday School (Sherm and the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders will be gone at Good Earth Village)

March 8 – Creativity and Games

March 15 – Lectio Divina and Prayer Practicing

March 22 - Quilt Making

March 29 – No Sunday School

Middle School Event:

On Saturday, Mar. 21, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., we will be having an underground church night! This event is for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>, graders. The cost is free, so come and have some fun! Sign up on the Youth Board, or look for permission slips in your e-mail or regular mail.

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

**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

**Youth Ministry**

Mike Sherman

**Congregation President**

Betsy McLaughlin



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## Council and boards of St. John's, 2009 *continued from page 1*

Trine Carlson ; term: 09-12  
 Jonathan Norrie ; term: 09-12

**Business Management**

Bron Scherer; term: 07-10  
 Dale Gehring; term: 07-10  
 Jerry Appeldoorn; 08-11  
 Jim Oates; term: 08-11  
 Rebecca Judge; term: 09-12  
 Brian Boyum; term: 09-12

**Children's Ministry and Education**

Sue Brockman; term: 09-12  
 Kristy Mikula; term: 09-10  
 Sherry Coudret; term: 07-10  
 Lori Peterson; term: 09-11  
 Michael Berger; term: 08-11  
 Nick Neeb; term: 09-12

**Evangelism and Communications**

Paula Carlson; term: 09-12  
 Debbie Faust; term: 08-10  
 Barb Anderson; term: 08-10  
 Joan Kark; term: 08-11  
 David Hagen; term: 08-11  
 Mary Cisar; term: 09-12

**Faith and Health**

Barb Knaak; term: 09-11  
 Carrie Duba; term: 09-10  
 Elizabeth Bade; term: 08-10  
 Rod Christensen; term: 08-11  
 Addie Roadfeldt; term: 09-12  
 John Sand; term: 09-12

**Properties and Grounds**

Scott Swanson; term: 09-10  
 Scott Ims; term: 07-10  
 Chris Weber; term: 08-11  
 John Duba; term: 09-11  
 Suzanne Sylvester; 09-12  
 Andy Westerback; 09-12

**Stewardship**

Michael Sylvester; 09-12  
 Lois Eklund ; term: 08-10  
 Erik Lindell; term: 07-10  
 Jim Thompson; term: 09-11  
 David Neuger; term: 08-11  
 Terence Hassanally; 09-12

**Worship and Arts**

Judy Swanson; term: 09-11  
 Zach Pelletier; term: 07-10  
 John Walters ; term: 08-10  
 Margaret O'Leary; 08-11  
 Bernie Renander; term: 09-12  
 Charlie Wilson; term: 09-12

**Youth Ministry and Education**

Brett Norgaard; term: 08-11  
 Dana Engstrom; term: 07-10  
 Martha Erickson ; term: 08-10  
 Troy Sorensen; term: 08-11  
 Peggy Dell; term: 09-12