

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2009

Volume 49, Number 4

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## Congregation to meet Apr. 26

As announced at the Annual Meeting in January, the Congregation Council is calling a special meeting of the congregation for Sunday, Apr. 26, at 12:00 noon in St. John's Hall. The only purpose of this meeting is to update the congregation on the budget and the progress on repairing the roof, and to present a balanced budget for 2009 for the congregation to approve. All members are urged to attend.

## Children process with palms Apr. 5

Children are invited to participate in the Procession with Palms on Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), Apr. 5. We ask that children meet in the Library prior to the first or second service to receive a palm and line up for the processional. Parents are welcome to participate along with their child(ren).

## Easter Breakfast Apr. 12



Join us in St. John's Hall on Easter Sunday for a delicious breakfast and help our youth raise money for their summer trips! The breakfast will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 11:00 a.m. Suggested donations at the door are \$5.00 per individual and \$20.00 per family. The menu for the morning will be ham & cheese egg bake, broccoli & cheese egg bake, fruit and juice and coffee. Thank you so much for your support!



## Holy Week and Easter at St. John's

*Sunday of the Passion, Apr. 5*  
Procession with Palms and  
Holy Communion, 8:30 and 10:45  
**Cathedral Choir (Luther  
College) concert, 3:00 p.m.**  
(see back page)

*Maundy Thursday, Apr. 9*  
Holy Communion,  
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

*Good Friday, Apr. 10*  
Liturgy of Good Friday,  
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

*Holy Saturday, Apr. 11*  
The Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 p.m.  
at Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College  
(with area Lutheran congregations)

*The Resurrection of our Lord,  
Sunday, Apr. 12*  
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.  
Holy Communion at all services  
Easter Breakfast from  
8:30 to 11:00 a.m.  
9:30 service broadcast  
on KYMN 1080 AM

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

[office@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:office@stjohns-elca.org).

For information, contact the Church Office:

**phone:** 507-645-4429

**fax:** 507-645-9633

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[office@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:office@stjohns-elca.org)

**website:**

[www.stjohns-elca.org](http://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.

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 of prayer using Scripture as guide. Celebrate the season of Easter in prayer. Meets Tuesday April 28 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 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*

News about financial crises is everywhere. Each of us knows (or is) someone who has lost a job or home, watched savings slip away, or just become more sensitive to daily money issues than we used to be. Ripples of worry flow in every direction. Even if you haven't felt personally touched by the state of the economy, you still may be concerned about the global situation and feel the effects of that nagging concern psychologically.

What have you heard from family, friends, and neighbors? What do their words say about their needs? Where might you suggest that they go for direction?

A member of our congregation who is a legal professional offers advice like this:

- Look at your life realistically and try to keep your options open.
- Fight denial; be clear about your own financial limits.
- Choose trustworthy advisors to guide you through next steps.
- Take on new uncertainties with a back-up plan or two.
- Explore your networks; consider using online tools such as Facebook.
- Understand and accept that change is a way of life.
- Be willing to reinvent yourself—over and over.

A Stephen Minister can be a support through times of economic as well as personal stress, reassuring you that you are not alone when circumstances test your patience and your faith. The pressure of living with uncertainty may take a toll on you in many ways, at work and at home. But hope paired with stress can provide you with comfort and nurture your strength. A Stephen Minister is present to walk a rocky path alongside you, hopefully, so that you may survive with uncertainty and live confidently with change.

If you or someone you know would benefit from the call of a Stephen Minister, contact Joan Halvorson at 645-5544 or one of the pastors at 645- 4429.

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

*Matthew 5:4*

## Bereavement Ministry

**Northfield Grief Support Coalition:** A grief support group will meet this month at St. Peter's Lutheran Church every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.

**Grief Resources:** Carenotes are available in the Commons and copies of "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."*

April 8, 2008

**Marjorie Bly**

April 29, 2008

**Gena Grinde**

## From our pastors . . .

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*Be not  
afraid!*

. . . and they said  
nothing to any-  
one, because  
they were afraid.

Mark 16:8

This year we have been reading from Mark's Gospel account in our worship. And of all Mark's Gospel, his Easter story is perhaps the strangest. It's the shortest by far. Mark tells only of the initial encounter of the women at the empty tomb; he adds no further stories where people actually see Jesus. And his resurrection account ends with the verse listed beside this column – the women left the tomb and said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Of course, we know from the other Gospel writers that the women didn't stay silent, even if they were initially afraid. But as we enter Holy Week and then the Easter season in this first part of April, I find myself wondering if we should pay attention to this verse a little more.

One of the things the conference I attended in February raised is that we are living in a new time of life for the Christian church on earth. In fact, our presenter argued that there are three major eras in the history of the Christian church, and that we have only recently entered into the third. The first is the apostolic age, the growth of the early church, and it ends at the early 4<sup>th</sup> century, when Constantine made Christianity the religion of the empire. From around 300 A.D. until 1960 we were living in the era often called Christendom, when Christianity was the dominant religious force in the Western cultures. This presenter says that era ended in 1960, and he chooses that date as the one when blue laws – those laws in the U.S. which prohibited certain commerce and activity on Sundays – began to be repealed. Since 1960 we've been living in a post-Christendom era and most of our congregations still live as if we are part of the dominant culture and always will be. (We see the shift in Northfield in the increasing difficulty to keep Wednesday evenings clear of school activities and many clubs and leagues having all-weekend tournaments for children and youth that last not only all Saturday but all day Sunday, among other signs.)

Your Congregation Council is reading a book to help us think about what all this

might mean for St. John's. In this book, the author (who was our presenter in February) says that three things are key for congregations and how we do ministry in the post-Christendom era: 1. Lay people are the front-line ministers, not the clergy. 2. Church professionals (including clergy and directors of differing ministries) are there to train and support the ministry of the baptized people of God. 3. Ministry takes place in the world, not only in the building of the church, with a strong emphasis on ministry in daily life.

These are not new ideas, and many have been talking about these three realities in the past couple decades as people have realized that the situation is now different. What the council will be talking about is what it means for St. John's. And I referred to Mark's Gospel for a reason.

I think our biggest issue as a congregation is how we work together to tell the Good News of God's love. It's central to our vision plan we've lived in since 2005. It's key to our recent development of Shared Ministries. And it's absolutely essential to our future, that we look at how we might change our whole way of thinking about how ministry is done at St. John's into a place that is a training center, a fitness center for Christian believers in this community. We may not keep quiet because we're afraid, but we've not been the best at sharing the Good News. We've assumed people know it and either are involved or not for their own reasons. But there are huge numbers of folks who haven't been touched by God's love that raised Jesus from death and gives life to all. That should be more than enough incentive for us to put aside our fears and learn to be good-news-tellers, evangelists, in this new era in Christ's Church. God help us all to do this together!

In Jesus' name,



# March Actions

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## Memorials and Gifts

### Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Ed Chambers**: by Sue Brockman and Brian Evenson.

### St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Al Finholt**: by Joan Kark.

In memory of **Edwin and Gertrude Chambers**: by Suzanne and Tim Chambers, Deb and Cecil Massie, Mare and Jane Chambers, Kenneth and Carolyn Jennings, Judith Stoutland, Lyla Arneson, Joyce Briggs, Shirley Falck, Ron and Betty Ronning, Rose and Ed Youngquist, Dick and Jo Dahlin, Ken and Joyce Madole, James Burk, Gary and Mary Carlson, Jim and Marnie Thompson, Ralph Strand, Susan Boxrud, Chuck and Elaine Becker, Sandra Mahaniah, Beth Chambers, Jo Chambers.

### Radio Fund

In memory of **Alice Erickson**: by Kenneth and Sonja Dahlager.

### Building Fund

In memory of **Ed Chambers**: by I. Ruth Hansen.

## Other Actions

### Baptisms

**Taylor Christian Manuell**, son of Chad and Lisa; sponsors are Vernon and Bonnie Westrud and Gary and Mary Manuell; March 7, 2009

**Dyson Hall McBroom**, son of Saul and Amy; sponsors are John and Christine McBroom and Sarah McBroom; March 15, 2009

**Addison Grace McCarthy**, daughter of Rob and Angie; sponsors are Krista and Tim Noe; March 29, 2009

### Weddings

**Andrea Venable and Steven Pease**, March 21, 2009

### Funerals

**Al Finholt**, March 7, 2009

### Radio Broadcasts

March 1, 2009, in honor of **our 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**, by Eugene and Joyce Schrader

March 15, 2009, given with thanks **to the congregation for their prayers and gratitude for healing**, by Herb and Pat Fick

## St. John's Congregation Council

Betsy McLaughlin, *President*

Tim Eklund, *President Elect*

Patsy Ophaug, *Secretary*

Bron Scherer, *Treasurer, chair of Business Management*

Pat Fick, *chair, Adult Ministry and Education*

Barbara Wilson, *chair, Benevolence and Social Concerns*

Sue Brockman, *chair, Children's Ministry and Education*

Paula Carlson, *chair, Evangelism and Communications*

Barb Knaak, *chair, Faith and Health*

Scott Swanson, *chair, Properties and Grounds*

Michael Sylvester, *chair, Stewardship*

Judy Swanson, *chair, Worship and Arts*

Brett Norgaard, *chair, Youth Ministry and Education*

Pr. Joseph Crippen and Pr. Mark Johnson also serve on the council, with voice but not vote.

# News and Events

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## Door Security Hours

Effective immediately the southwest double green doors by main parking lot will automatically unlock prior to office hours in the morning.

## Stephen Ministry

### Presentation Open to All

A presentation on Christian caregiving at the end of life will be held on Tuesday, Apr. 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The session is part of a continuing education series for Stephen Ministers but is open to all members of the congregation and community.

## N.E.W. to meet Sat., May 2: Mark your calendars!

The tenth annual gathering of Northfield Ecumenical Women and the Fellowship of the Least Coin will be held Saturday, May 2nd, at 9:30 AM, at Little Prairie United Methodist Church, located just south of Dundas, on 130th Street East ( west on County Road 8.)

The annual NEW gathering continues the relationship among the women of many congregations in the Northfield area that celebrates their diversity and the common bond that existed among them for over 55 years in Church Women United.

All St. John's women are invited to come share a common worship and learning experience. A continental breakfast will be served followed by a program featuring inspirational speaker Grace Lusher who for 12 years has been affiliated with the Stonecroft Christian Women's Clubs. Her title is "Rags to Riches." There will also be special music and the annual offering for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. The offering is sent to Church Women United to fund projects worldwide that help women and children. Come for good food and good company!

## A plea and a thanks:

Churches with very busy kitchens and reception rooms, such as St. John's Hall and kitchen, often hire a staff person to coordinate all the kitchen activities. Churches without such a staff person rely on numerous volunteers to keep the many kitchen related events afloat! It takes an enormous amount of energy and very hard work to pull it all off! St. John's is so fortunate that Alice Nasby was willing to take on the huge responsibility of finding and working with several volunteers kitchen "monitors." This group is dedicated to keeping the kitchen in excellent working condition. They have already spent many hours cleaning and re-organizing the kitchen. It has never been in such great shape! Check lists have been made and instructions for using the kitchen equipment have been updated and posted in necessary locations.

Speaking as someone who has worked in the St. John's kitchen for over 20 years, I know from experience that people do not like to read instructions. However, since we are so blessed to have this beautiful new kitchen, I am asking (pleading) with all kitchen workers, whether new to the kitchen, or long-time workers, that you please read all signs and instructions found throughout the kitchen. This is extremely important for safety and for protecting St. John's very expensive equipment.

For many years, Alice Nasby taught home economics at the High School. She was dedicated to running a "tight ship" in order to teach her students the many aspects of working in a kitchen. Besides teaching them to cook, etc, they also learned the importance of keeping the kitchen sanitary, for all obvious reasons, as well as for keeping the state kitchen inspector from shutting down the classroom kitchen. Note: There have been many times in the past, if an inspector had come into the St. John's kitchen, it would have been shut down! Work spaces were not sanitized; the electric dishwasher was run incorrectly, clean silverware "handled" rather than left to air dry, etc.

There might be times when Alice or more of the monitors will suggest to us, that we use different or more sanitary methods in our kitchen work. I, as an occasional worker, plan to accept these suggestions graciously and I invite everyone to do the same. Many thanks, Alice Nasby, for taking on this important job. It is very much appreciated!

Marilyn Haugen  
Former Kitchen Coordinator

# News and Events

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Next meeting:  
Monday, Apr. 13  
7:00 p.m.  
Fireside Room

“Enough for  
all creation”

Kathy Shea & Kristi  
Wermager  
report on  
Ecumenical  
Advocacy Days in  
DC

## From the Peace and Justice group . . . Ecumenical Advocacy Days

Kathy Shea and Kristi Wermager represented the southeast Minnesota Synod at Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington D.C., March 13-16, 2009. This high impact weekend, is organized by the National Council of Churches and sponsored by the ecumenical Christian community. The goal is to strengthen the voice of people of faith who are working for global peace with justice. Our common beliefs were emphasized in ecumenical worship services each day, concluding with a Sunday evening service in Commemoration of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Franciscan Order by Francis of Assisi. Plenary sessions and workshops provided training on the issues.

The theme of this 7<sup>th</sup> annual advocacy days meeting was Enough for All Creation. The specific focus of this meeting was climate change and how climate change contributes to poverty and forced migration. There were plenary sessions on the science, ethics, and impacts of global climate change as well as workshops focusing on different regions of the world, global economic justice, and security. We also had specific advocacy training on how to make the best use of a thirty-minute visit with our members of Congress or their staff.

Working with ELCA staff from the Washington D.C. and Chicago Offices we also addressed U.S. Policy towards Columbia with our members of Congress. The ELCA has taken an active role in Columbia to help people displaced by 50 years of internal conflicts. We brought our members of Congress information showing that humanitarian rather than military aid is more effective in promoting peace and justice in Columbia. This was reinforced by first hand experience from two Columbians who attended the congressional visits with us.

The weekend culminated with lobby visits on Capitol Hill on Monday. Visits to congressional offices were arranged ahead of time and most of the visits were with senior staff people in the offices of our representatives and senators. Specific bills on climate change are expected this year. We had the opportunity to suggest issues that should be in the bills and to begin a relationship to follow up on issues discussed. The take-home message for us is that these issues are not political issues, but moral issues. As people of faith we are called to care for all of creation through responsible and sustainable use of resources and the gifts we have been given.

## Days of Prayer and Action for Colombia, Apr. 19 and 20

*“Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream.” Amos 5:24*

Lutheran World Relief asks us to join with Christians across the country to pray and take action to support the peace process in Colombia.

### PRAY

- For the healing of the victims and the perpetrators,
- For the poor to free themselves from economic oppression
- For lawmakers to exercise wisdom in decision-making
- That citizens of the U.S. exercise their right to demand policies that promote justice and peace for the people of Colombia.

### ACT

- Contact your Members of Congress and ask them to:
- Increase humanitarian aid to victims of violence.
  - End military aid to Colombia.
  - End aerial fumigations.
  - Promote a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

For more information on Colombia and the Days of Prayer and Action visit [lwr.org/colombia](http://lwr.org/colombia).

**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)

**Special Event**

Pot Luck Salad Luncheon Sat., Apr. 4, 12:00 p.m. We have invited St. Peter's women to be our guests! Singing Hymns—Ancient and Modern: Professor Emeritus Bob Scholz will lead the program focusing on Lenten and Easter hymn, his special interest. We will learn when and where hymns were written and who wrote them. And Bob will play the piano too. At St. Olaf Bob was Professor of Music and Voice, and Director of the Viking Chorus and the Chapel Choir. Elizabeth Circle will do the set up and the kitchen work.

**Meetings Scheduled:**

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

**Mon, Apr. 6,** 12 noon-Circle Bible Study Leaders join Ruth Hansen in the Fireside room to prepare for Circles.

**Tuesdays Apr. 7 and 21,** 9:30 a.m.-Knitters meet in the Library. Do you like to knit? New knitters are welcome. Questions? Contact: Bobbie Maakestad

**Mon Apr. 13,** 9:00 a.m.-Fellowship Hall. Getting the quilts ready for Thursday.

**Thurs, Apr. 16,** 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.- "Workmorning" for Quilting and other projects, every third Thursday in Fellowship Hall. Additional hands are always put right to work on these mornings. For questions contact Kathy Vang, Quilting Coordinator. 645-4849

**Looking Ahead:**

Saturday, May 4, 9:30 a.m. Little Prairie Methodist Church—a joyous Ecumenical Gathering of church women in the Northfield area.

"Paths to Wholeness" Retreat Scheduled for Saturday, Apr. 18: Contact Carrie Melby if you would like to be part of this day of spiritual growth. Phone: 663-7934.

**Looking Back:**

Bella Voci, 50 wonderful young women singers from Northfield High School, gave a surprise performance at the March WELCA thanks to David Legvold. Bella Voci is directed by Dwight Jilek.

**WELCA Mission Action Report from Marilyn Jacobson:**

We have recently delivered 28 layettes and 11 quilts to Lutheran Social Service. A box of bandages and good used sheets were delivered to Global

Health Ministries and 44 hand-knitted sweaters were sent to Guideposts.

Global Health Ministries has requested good used or new sheets (any size) and rolled bandages.

This spring we are collecting items and money for Hospice Kits for Global Health Ministries. Information and a box for donations will be on a table

in the Commons. Monetary donations are also needed for this cause. Please make checks payable to WELCA Hospice/ Aids

If you are unable to come to workdays and would like to sew quilt squares at home please call Kathy Vang 645-4849.

Please note: We are unable to find 3 of the bandage rollers.

If you have taken one home and are rolling bandages - wonderful!, but please tell so we can account for them; or return it if it is not being used. Call Marilyn Jacobson, 663-9060. We have many sheets waiting to be ripped up and rolled into bandages.

**GREEN HINT-O-THE-MONTH**

Contacting people in office and/or contributing money to support the work of those trying to preserve the quality of our water and air are two good ways of preserving our environment. (WELCA's National Convention passed a resolution suggesting careful use of all resources.)

**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

*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)

# Serving on Sundays

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## Serving in April

### *Acolytes*

- April 5** (8:30) Isaak Tjaden, Kristen Beck; (10:45) Michael Anderson, Erik Berthelsen
- April 9** (7:00) Katie Bull
- April 10** (7:00) Peter Duba
- April 12** (8:00) Bethany Emanuelson, Adam Neuger, Billy Seeberg; (9:30) Colton Kastner, Molly Polzin, William Swanson; (11:00) Rachel Langehough, Connor rowley, Isaak Tjaden
- April 19** (8:30) Katherine Hirdler, Amelia Kimmes Kneser; (10:45) Michael Gasior, Ian Iverson
- April 26** (8:30) Mike DeCramer, Bennett Falck; (10:45) Nathan Berthelsen, Grant Erickson

### *Coffee*

- April 5** David and Kasia Gonnerman, Terry and Peggy Dell
- April 12** No Coffee - Easter Sunday (go to the easter Breakfast!)
- April 19** Jack and Paula Schwandt, Amy Boxrud and Doug Bratland, Jo Chambers
- April 26** Jim and Marnie Thompson, Bill and Char Carlson, Joan Kark

### *Communion preparers*

- April 5** Sharon Bishop, Virginia Shaw
- April 9** Gloria and Tom Porter (**Maundy Thursday**)
- April 12** Easter Sunday - (8:00) Judy and Joe Smith; (9:30) Sue and David Rudser
- April 19** Jill Enestvedt
- April 26** Cheryl and David Buck

### *Nursery*

- April 5** (8:30) Jenny and Brent Nystrom; (10:45) Connie and Todd Menssen
- April 12** Easter Sunday - No nursery coverage
- April 19** (8:30) Stephanie Aman; (10:45) Steve and Sheri Williams
- April 26** (8:30) Greg and Grete Walter; (10:45) Kris Vatter

### *Ushers*

- April 5** (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
- April 12** (8:00) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Alice Bates, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen, Sandy Whitworth, Bill Whitworth; (9:30) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber; (11:00) Jonathan Norrie, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Guy Reid, Jon-Erle Reid, Steve Williams
- April 19** (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
- April 26** (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 Outreach



This month St. John's members are needed for a spring clean-up of our section of State Highway 246. Meet in the High School parking lot across from the cemetery on **Saturday, April 25 at 1:30 pm**. Wear comfortable but durable shoes and bring work gloves. Safety vests will be provided along with water and a snack. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up in the commons or call the church office. This is a confirmation cubit event. Thanks for helping to care for this small part of God's creation.

## Companion Synods Medical Team Forming

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is forming a Companion Synods Medical team who will assess and respond to the needs and opportunities for support of the companion synod health programs in Colombia and Tanzania. Currently, the Central Diocese in Tanzania operates 13 rural dispensaries and one general hospital and has plans to expand six of the dispensaries to health centers and for the hospital to become a university teaching facility. Anyone with medical expertise and experience, who is interested in supporting the medical outreach programs of our companion churches is invited to attend an informational meeting on Sunday, Apr. 19 at 2:30 pm at Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester. Contact Jane Rinehart or Pastor Mark Johnson for more information.

### Good News Gang, 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade

St. John's kids and friends helped bake cookies and made cards for our friends who are unable to come to church.

**Thanks for your service!**



# Mission Outreach

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## Global Health Ministries

On Mar. 7, a group from St. John's traveled to Fridley to serve at Global Health Ministries. Along with a church group from Eagan, we loaded two 20 foot shipping containers with medical supplies that were sent to clinics in Cameroon. Global Health Ministries supports Lutheran medical clinics and hospitals around the world. We had to pack the crates extremely tight, in order to fit as many supplies in as possible and cut down on shipping costs. It was sort of like playing a big game of Tetris! It was a lot of fun, and we got to help out a lot of people on top of it.



# Adult Ministry and Education

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## Sunday Morning Education Hour

### April 5

**St. John's Forum:** "Growing Up Healthy", Janet Lewis Muth. Growing Up Healthy is a program of Rice County that seeks to increase the level of community connectedness experienced by marginalized families with children under the age of five. Organized in 2006, this initiative is funded by a grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation. **St. John's Hall**

### April 12

**Easter Sunday** – No St. John's Forum. Breakfast served between services in St. John's Hall

### April 19

**St. John's Forum:** Compassion International, Dick and Jo Dahlin. Compassion International is a Christian Child sponsorship and advocacy ministry that supports nearly 1 million children in 25 countries. Hear about this ministry through the stories of St. John's members who sponsor children through Compassion International.

**New Members:** New Members and St. John's Host meet for coffee and fellowship. **Fireside Room**

### April 26

**Welcome Reception for New Members, St. John's Hall (No St. John's Forum)**

## Director of Music Ministry, *cont. from back page*

seminary, he has also studied conducting and church music with Dr. Anton Armstrong, Dr. Christopher Aspaas and Dr. John Ferguson at St. Olaf College. He holds a Bachelor of Music in Organ from Mississippi College, and a Master of Music in Organ Performance from the University of Houston, Texas. He has served in several congregations throughout his time of education in Mississippi, Texas, and Minnesota. Mr. Fenn received superb recommendations from people such as Paul Westermeyer, professor of church music at Luther Seminary, and Dr. Anton Armstrong, St. Olaf College.

The search team held two days of interviews and auditions for two final candidates on Mar. 20 and 21. Both candidates were well-received. Over fifty St. John's members participated in each of the auditions either as choir members or as singers in the congregation and filled out feedback forms. The search team discussed both candidates extensively, weighing many factors including musicality, conducting abilities, organ playing, potential to revitalize the music

program, theological knowledge, and personal qualities. Feedback from the members at the audition was also an important factor in the decision. While the team felt both candidates were strong, it voted unanimously in favor of Mr. Fenn. Members of the search team were Steve Edwins, Tim Eklund, John Ferguson, Andrea Hoff, Margaret O'Leary (chair), Donna Paulsen, Cathy Rodland, Thomas Schattauer, Robert Scholz, and Pastor Crippen. In the opinion of the search team, he brings excellent skills as organist, as well as considerable experience working as organist and choir director, and will serve us well as we move forward with the music program at St. John's. Mr. Fenn will begin at St. John's on June 1. Many thanks to all who participated in this important work over the past year, including the members of the music task force, the music search team, Personnel, Council, staff, and the many members who were invaluable at the auditions!

# 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 - Tues., Apr. 14, 9:00 p.m.

Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271

### Grief Group

Contact: Barb Knaak 664-0444

### 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

### 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

### 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



## Of Community and Kindness

By Barbara Eaves

When my husband and I were contemplating our move back to Minnesota, we determined that it would be most important for us to settle in a place where we could seek out and build community; that is, relationships with others.

Community is vital to health for all. We need people with whom we can laugh and cry. We need those with whom we can share our hopes and dreams, fears and failures, and with whom we can rehearse the stories that have shaped who we are. We need people who will stimulate, challenge and stretch us with new ideas and understandings. We even need people we can trust who will help bring correctives to our lives and encourage us along the way.

Many of us have a cadre of relationships we can count on: family, colleagues, neighbors and friends. We may also participate in groups where we find community: groups centered in fellowship, learning, work, service, common interests, and support.

Some people don't have relationships they can depend upon. Some don't feel like they belong or have any sense of meaningful community, even when they are in the midst of a group... or a congregation... and may not have the confidence to risk taking the first steps in seeking out settings in which they can connect with others.

St. John's is blessed in having a variety of opportunities where people can build community and develop a sense of belonging. Recently, a small group which meets monthly to discuss a book they have been reading, had a rich and lively conversation about the importance of reaching out to others in kindness.

We practice kindness when we engage new and different faces in conversation following worship, during coffee, meals, and other gathering places, whether those take place in church, workplace, school or community. A kindness extended through a simple greeting or courtesy may be all that is needed to help someone gain a sense of belonging; it may also lead to an opportunity for helping that person connect with a group where community can be fostered. When that happens it becomes a touch of God's grace.

*"...be kind to one another, tenderhearted  
...imitators of God, as beloved children..."*

*from Eph. 4:32b-5:1*

**Important Dates to Remember!**

**Sunday School Schedule**

April 5 - Sunday School (*Palm Sunday*)  
 April 12 - No Sunday School (*Easter Sunday*)  
 April 19 - Sunday School  
 April 26 - Sunday School

**Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt**

Apr. 11, 9:30 a.m. at St. John's

**Parent's Night Out**

Apr. 18 from 5:30 p.m to 8:30 p.m.

**ROCK for 1st - 5th graders**

April 15, 22, 29 from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. ,  
 Fellowship Hall

**Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt**



Children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to come and participate in the annual St. John's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, Apr. 11 at 9:30 a.m. The children will be separated by age groups for the hunt. Remember to bring a basket or bag for collecting eggs!

**Parents:** We need individually wrapped candy and small items to fill the eggs. Donations can be dropped off in the office or put in the basket at the Welcome Center. Thanks!

**Parent's Night Out At St. John's Apr. 18**

This is a chance for parents to enjoy a night out with the church providing a "Kids Night Out" for your elementary age children.

Here's how it works: sign up and bring your children (up to grade 5) on Saturday, Apr. 18 from 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to stay back one night each year to assist with childcare/activities at church. A sign up poster is in the Commons. Please call Julie Brehmer at St. John's if you have any questions.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade CAT Retreat**

The last retreat for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade CAT this year is Wednesday, Apr. 29 from 4:45 - 6:15 p.m. in the Youth Room at St. John's. The topic is The sacrament of Communion.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT Classes**

Fourth grade CAT students will have their last CAT classes for the year this month. Classes will be held in the Youth Room from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. the following dates:

- April 15: Ninth and Tenth Commandments and Meanings
- April 22: What God says of the Commandments
- April 29: Review and year-end party

**The last session will be an ice cream party and review of all the Commandments. Please bring a favorite ice cream topping to share!**

**ROCK on Wednesday!**

ROCK, a Wednesday afternoon program for 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> graders, meets in Fellowship Hall from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. St. Olaf students lead kids in games, devotions and crafts. The spring schedule for ROCK is Apr. 15, 22, 29 and May 13. Join the fun and bring a friend!

**Camp E.D.G.E.**

**Experience and Discover GOD Everywhere!**

**Vacation Bible School, August 10 - 13** for preschool (age 3 by 9/1/08) - kindergarten at St. John's.

Each session includes a Bible trek, where children take a journey to a different Bible destination! They learn that God is with them, guides them, teaches them and loves them. Come join the adventure! Registration forms available in April in the main office and in the Commons!



**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, Apr. 4 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

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## Christikon Meeting

On Apr. 7 at 6:30 p.m., we will be having a meeting for all of you going to Christikon this summer. Come, and learn some trip details, and things that you can expect from this trip. We'll also be talking about some trip details, such as the final cost for the trip, etc. If you're going on the trip, this is a required meeting.

## Youth Gathering Meeting

On Apr. 7 at 7:15 p.m., there will be another meeting for those of you attending the Youth Gathering. This time around, we will be talking a bit more about what exactly the Youth Gathering is, and we'll be also making plans for sharing our experience with the rest of the congregation when we return. If you're going on the trip, this is a required meeting.

## Middle School Grand Slam

On Saturday, Apr. 18, all Middle School Youth are invited to come to Grand Slam in Burnsville. There will be mini-golf, bumper cars, laser tag, and arcade games.

The cost is \$15 per youth, and includes:

- Unlimited mini-golf
- Unlimited laser tag
- Unlimited bumper cars
- 4 tokens for the arcade
- 1 batting cage token
- A slice of pizza and a pop

We will also be needing adults to chaperone / drive for this event. Look for details in the mail.

## Middle and High school Sunday School

Here's what's on the schedule this month for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School:

Apr. 5 – Holy Week Discussion

Apr. 12 – No Sunday School, come help out or eat at the Easter Breakfast!

Apr. 19 – Ship of Life Redux

Apr. 26 – Movie Day and discussion

## Youth Ministry Certification class

From Apr. 27 to May 15, I will be down in Dubuque, Iowa, attending a youth and family ministry certification program. There, I will learn some new skills in the area of youth and family ministry, and hone the skills that I already have. I'm very much looking forward to the class, and I hope that it will go a long way in helping me to serve the youth in our wonderful congregation!

*-Mike Sherman*

## High School Underground Church

Many have been asking for this, so here it is. On Apr. 24, we're having an Underground Church night just for High School kids. Look for details in the mail. Bring a friend!

## Confirmation Retreat

At the end of Feb. and early March, our 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders went on a retreat down to Good Earth Village, near Spring Valley, MN. It was a chance for them to get together as a class and relax and have a little fun. They had Bible studies and devotions, went for a hike in the woods, sat around the fireplace and had hot chocolate, and stayed up late playing games. It was a great weekend!

## St. John's ELCA Scholarship

High School seniors who currently attend or who are planning to attend and ELCA College, are eligible for \$100.00 scholarship from the St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation. Your college will likely match this scholarship amount. This is a non-competitive scholarship. Students can request this scholarship each year up to four years for each year he / she is a full time student. Application forms, available in the church office are due Apr.15. You must submit an application each year you attend and ELCA college.



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**Children's Ministry**

Julie Brehmer

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Carol Benson - Hosanna  
Cathy Rodland - Jubilate  
Ruth Legvold - Laudate  
Ron Rodman - Senior  
Jo Dahlin - Rejoice Ringers

**Office Manager**

Laurie Prior

**Organist**

Cathy Rodland

**Parish Administrator**

Shelley Keske

**Parish Nurses**

Lynette Marks  
Karin Norgaard

**Youth Ministry**

Mike Sherman

**Congregation President**

Betsy McLaughlin

**President Elect**

Tim Eklund

500 Third Street West  
Northfield, MN 55057  
507-645-4429

Address Service Requested

## St. John's has new Director of Music Ministry

On Tuesday, Mar. 24, the Congregation Council voted to offer the newly created position of Director of Music Ministry to Daniel J. Fenn, and the same week he accepted. This brings to a close a long and intensive process beginning over a year ago with a music task force assigned to make recommendations about the music staffing at St. John's. The recommendation to create a new position combining organist, senior choir director, music coordinator, and adding music director responsibilities was approved by Personnel Committee and the Council last fall. Over thirty applicants sought the position, and the music search team has been working on finding the right candidate from those applicants since November.

Mr. Fenn is currently a graduate student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he will earn a Master of Sacred Music Degree in Choral conducting in May, 2009. In addition to theological and sacred music studies at the

*continued on p. 12*

## Luther Choir sings here Apr. 5

On Sunday, Apr. 5, the Cathedral Choir of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, will sing at St. John's both at the **10:45 a.m. service and in concert at 3:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. The Cathedral Choir is composed of 90 select singers, drawn from the college's sophomore class. Its membership reflects the wide range of academic disciplines on campus. Members are selected yearly by audition. Cathedral Choir participates actively in campus worship, in the annual *Christmas at Luther* concerts, and at several special events and concerts throughout the academic year. Cathedral Choir tours each spring in the Midwest. Their 2008-09 year culminates with a commencement weekend performance of *Ein Deutsches Requiem* by Johannes Brahms with Collegiate Chorale, Nordic Choir and the Luther College Symphony Orchestra. The Cathedral Choir is directed by Dr. Sandra Peter, Assistant Professor of Music at Luther College, where she directs Cathedral Choir and Aurora (100 first-year women) and teaches introductory and advanced choral conducting.