

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

June-July 2009

Volume 49, Number 6

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inside . . .*

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St. Olaf pastoral intern at St. John's this summer

Bethany McCaughan, serving her internship at St. Olaf College this past year as she prepares for ordination, will be doing some pastoral work at St. John's this summer to broaden her experience beyond that which she could do at the college. Bethany will likely preach a few times and lead worship, but will primarily be doing pastoral visitation to shut-ins in coordination with Pr. Quam, visiting in the hospital

in coordination with all the pastors, and working with the children and family ministry programs, such as Vacation Bible School and possibly Confirmation Camp.

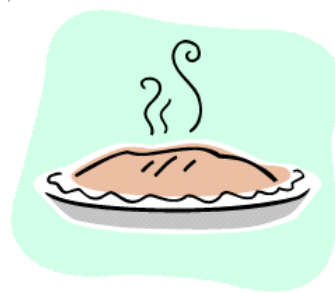
Bethany will be introduced to the congregation at worship on a Sunday in June. She is a 2005 graduate of Hamline University and will graduate from Luther Seminary in St. Paul in 2010.

Daniel Fenn begins ministry at St. John's

On June 1, a new era in the rich musical history of St. John's will begin, as Daniel Fenn begins his time as Director of Music Ministry. This is a full-time position for the first time, combining music coordinator, organist, senior choir director, and supervision of music staff, along with overall direction of the music ministry at St. John's.

Daniel's office is upstairs, above the main office, adjacent to choir room no. 209. There will be a more thorough introduction to Daniel in the August *Voice*, but we all will be able to hear him starting at worship on June 7. Please take the time to greet him and make him feel welcome to St. John's and Northfield!

2nd Annual Rhubarb Sunday June 14!



Cultivate that rhubarb now and harvest it for St. John's 2nd Annual Rhubarb Sunday, June 14. If you don't grow rhubarb, no need to worry because many people in our congregation do and want to share with you. Last June, many congregants shared marvelous stories of resurrecting family favorite recipes of their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Come, gather with us as we appreciate the gift of each other's company and taste the best of spring with homemade rhubarb cake, dessert,

bread and sauce at our one of a kind Rhubarb Sunday!

The sign up poster will be in the Commons starting Sunday, May 31 through June 7. We need 25 people to sign up. Bring your rhubarb treats on Saturday, June 13 or Sunday, June 14 before the 8:30 service.

Future dates to look for, 2nd Annual Strawberry Sunday July 12, and 2nd Annual Apple Sunday Aug. 9. If there are any questions call Guy Reid, 645-7984, Char Nelson, 663-0564, Sue Boxrud, or Pat Fick, 645-8331.

The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church of Northfield, Minnesota. Articles for the *Voice* must be submitted by the 15th of each month to the Church Office or by e-mail to: office@stjohns-elca.org. For information, contact the Church Office: **phone:** 507-645-4429 **fax:** 507-645-9633 **e-mail:** office@stjohns-elca.org **website:** www.stjohns-elca.org

Church office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

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

Friday

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

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: An informal time of prayer using Scripture as a guide. Meets Thursday, June 25 at 7 p.m., and Thursday, July 24 at 7 p.m. 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*

Stephen Ministry Training

Stephen Ministers are trained Christian care givers who provide care, in addition to the care that St. John's pastors provide, to those experiencing life's challenges.

We all find ourselves in the role of care giver at some point in our lives – when a friend is going through a divorce, after a co-worker loses his job, when a spouse gets sick, or when someone you know is struggling after the death of a loved one.

St. John's Stephen Ministers will offer care giving training this fall. The training is open to those interested in being commissioned as Stephen Ministers and those who do not wish to be commissioned as a Stephen Minister but

who would like to receive training in care giving skills.

Training includes fifty hours of class time learning and practicing skills in areas such as listening, assertiveness training, confidentiality, crisis theory, and use of scripture and prayer.

If you sense you have a gift for care giving or are searching for a way to grow in faith, consider being part of this fall's training group. If you have question about training contact one of the pastors, Pam Schwandt 645-6120, or Jennifer Edwins 645-9653.

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

Matthew 5:4

Bereavement Ministry

The Grief Support Group of Bethel Lutheran and First United Church of Christ meets through July 1 on Wednesdays at Bethel Lutheran. Contact Barb Knaak (646-0444) for more information.

Grief Booklets: "Journeying through Grief" is a resource for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.



The following St. John's members died in this month last year. We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer with reverence and affection."

June 5, 2008

Liv Hertsgaard

June 12, 2008

Clifford Swanson

From our pastors . . .

Bearing fruit

*I am the vine,
you are the
branches. Those
who abide in me
bear much fruit.
John 15:5*



In January of 1998, St. John's congregation voted to start a new endeavor, to become Mission Founders to a new congregation in the ELCA, site to be determined. The congregation committed to raising \$150,000 beyond our normal budget to fund this new start over five years. In addition, the congregation voted to raise \$50,000 over the same amount of time to support Mwangaza, a ministry in Tanzania founded and led by St. John's member Shoonie Hartwig, and to commit \$6,000 more to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod's Walking Three by Three campaign, working with our partners in Colombia and Tanzania. These goals were all met over the course of the next few years, thanks to many faithful members of the congregation.

This may seem like old news, and it is, but we recently heard of fruits borne from those seeds which began to be planted over a decade ago. The week after Easter we received a call from one of the lay leaders at Rejoice Lutheran Church in Frisco, Texas, the congregation for which we became a Mission Founder congregation. Rejoice wanted St. John's to know that on Maundy Thursday of this year they worshipped in their new building, and that they continue to give thanks for our support in their early years. The money we gave and sent to them in those five years was an important part of their continuing to survive, and eventually thrive. The new building is phase 1 of a long-range strategic plan for the congregation. Pictures of the new building, and much information about the ministry of the congregation can be found at their website, www.rejoicelutheran.com.

We don't always see the fruits of seeds we plant in our lives. Individually and as a congregation, we touch the world,

touch people's lives, make a difference. But much of that difference is unseen, unknown, for some time. Seeing the picture of Rejoice's building is a joyful thing, because we can see the concrete results of a vision this congregation had, a vision which led to action and to making a difference.

We continue to seek God's vision for us and for this place. We are operating under the theme "Extending God's Love," based on our vision plan of the past couple years. That growing and thriving congregation in Texas is the result of St. John's extending God's love. Now they also are able to extend God's love through their ministry. And it keeps on growing, spreading, in the wisdom and grace of God.

As we enter the season where the earth brings forth great fruits, and we see the goodness of God's agriculture, God's nurture of this world, visible in green leaves and good things to eat, let's also ask God's help in seeing how God's love is also growing and spreading through us. Let's open our eyes to new visions of growth, new visions of grace, new visions of extending God's love through our work here together. Amazing things will happen, as we see now in Texas! God help us all to see, and act, and so bear fruit.

In Jesus' name,

May Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Oliver Messner**: by Myron and Arlene Dack, Lorene Elg.

In memory of **Gordon Rasmussen**: by Marlys Behr, Dennis and Jane Rinehart

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Gordon Rasmussen**: by Grant and Ruth Aaseng, Joseph and Ginny Shaw.

In memory of **Merley Ophaug**: by John and Louise Quam.

In honor of **Carol Benson**: by the Pelletier Family.

Building Fund

In memory of **Oliver Messner**: by Roger and Darlene Hand, Richard and JoAnn Kleber.

Pastors' Emergency Fund

In memory of **Gordon Rasmussen**: by Paul and JoAnn Jorgensen.

Choir Chair Fund

In memory of **Gen Odegaard**: by David and Ruth Legvold.

Other Actions

Baptisms

Elizabeth Margaret Willkomm, daughter of Kyle and Amy Willkomm; sponsors are Yvonne Zachman Fiedler and Luke Fiedler; May 3, 2009

Vivian Lee Willkomm, daughter of Kyle and Amy Willkomm; sponsors are Melanie Dixon and Drew Dixon; May 3, 2009

Anna Elizabeth Pearson, daughter of Mark and Karen Pearson; sponsors are Julie Urban and Scott Urban; May 17, 2009

William Daniel McLaughlin, son of Jeff and Betsy McLaughlin; sponsors are Rachel McLaughlin and Michael Lojek; May 17, 2009

Parker Rose Sindelar, daughter of Daniel and Nicole Sindelar; sponsors are Samantha Jacobson and Mackenzie Mariska; May 31, 2009

Noah Patrick Distad, son of Jeffery and Amanda Distad; sponsors are Peter Fredin and Tracy Bond; May 31, 2009

Radio Broadcasts

May 3, 2009, in remembrance of **Roger Mahachek**, by Bev Mahachek

May 10, 2009, in memory of **Helen and Leon Ingram**, by their children and grandchildren

May 17, 2009, in memory of **Alice and Eddy Erickson**, by family and friends

May 24, 2009, in memory of **Marie DeWolfe and her birthday on April 30**, by her family

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was to help each student advance to the highest possible achievement for every student, not just the highest academic performers. The "lower ability" girls are often the ones who need it the most because of the poverty from which they come. Villages and parents see that education benefits even these little ones. Of those girls who did not make it to A-Level, sixty four graduates are teaching in Primary School throughout Maasailand. In God's eyes, all are valuable and worth all efforts to walk alongside them as far as

they can go. They learn they are of value and gifted when others treat them from that perspective...As ever, we thank you for your love and prayers and support,

-Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen

. . . from our Council

Special Congregational Meeting-Approval of 2009 Revised General Fund Budget

On Sunday, Apr. 26, 2009 at a Special Congregational Meeting, the St. John's Lutheran Church congregation approved the revised general fund budget as approved and presented by the Church Council. The Church Council approved various budget reductions totaling approximately \$38,000.00 which is highlighted below. As part of the 2009 budget process and solution, all staff salaries and benefits were held at 2008 levels. Additionally, approximately \$73,000.00 was approved to be transferred from the 2006 hail storm insurance proceeds to fund the remaining 2009 general fund expense budget shortfall. Following is a brief recap of the 2009 budget as originally presented at the annual meeting in January and subsequently revised.

Original 2009 general fund revenue budget	\$863,450
Original 2009 general fund expense budget	\$974,506
Budget deficit, presented January 2009	(\$111,056)
Subsequent expense budget revisions approved by Council-	
Eliminate 2009 capital reserve (major building repair budget)	\$18,000
Reduce general repairs & maintenance budget [\$10,000 remains]	\$8,000
Reduce benevolence & social concern budget [\$118,330 remains]	\$7,100
Other property & grounds, business management reductions	\$2,460
Misc. program expense budget reductions	<u>\$2,800</u>
Total reduction in 2009 planned expenses	<u>\$38,360</u>
Tentative, revised budget deficit	(\$72,696)
Remainder of budget deficit funded by cash transfer from 2006 hail storm insurance proceeds	<u>\$72,696</u>

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

Lutheran Night at the Twins – August 26

The 16th Annual Lutheran Night at the Twins will be held Wednesday, August 26 at 7:10 p.m. Bus will leave Bethel at 5:30 p.m. for the game against Baltimore. Sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the North Rice County Chapter is chartering a bus to take fans to the Metrodome. Watch for sign up information in the bulletin.

Money and Earth Savings Book

A new resource is now available for individuals and families during this time of economic downturn. Northfield resident Mark Ekeren has compiled practical suggestions for saving money and saving the earth in the "Money and Earth Savings Book." The book also includes over two hundred web site addresses and a CD. Stop by the St. John's Library to take a look.

Compassion International

Members of St. John's who attended the Sunday morning Forum on Apr. 26, were introduced to the work of Compassion International, whose corporate office is located in Colorado Springs, CO. Compassion equips children for the future by providing for their core needs—spiritual, economic, social and physical. Today they are helping more than 1 million registered children in 25 countries.

For millions of children in developing nations, the daily struggle for survival takes priority over going to school, playing games with friends, or making any plans for the future. Tragically, poverty is robbing millions of all hope. Compassion International is a Christian child development ministry with more than fifty years of experience in releasing children from poverty and transforming lives in Jesus' name. Every sponsored child is connected with a local church-based program where he or she will be loved, valued and protected. The child you help will hear the Gospel, and be given the opportunity to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. As a sponsor you can play a direct role in your child's development. You can send family photos and letters of encouragement, assuring him or her of your love and prayers.

St. John's currently has 17 members who are sponsoring 23 children., including the child from Colombia that the Sunday School children sponsor. If you have any questions, you may ask any of our sponsors: Shirley Falck, Herb and Pat Fick, Joe and Carole Nesheim, John and Patsy Ophaug, David, Cheryl and Kirsten Buck, Vern and Joan Koester, Ron and Sue Rodman, Jack and Grace Huus, Chuck and Marilyn Jacobson, Joseph and Mary Crippen, John and Fran Evenson, Dick and Jo Dahlin, Troy and Jennifer Sorensen, Brian Evenson and Sue Brockman, Ed and Louise Gass, Mike and Melissa Berthelsen.

You can learn more about Compassion International at www.Compassion.com or call 1-800-336-7535.



Alleluia Choir celebrated the end of their year with a pizza party at B&L's. Thank you, parents and kids, for a *Great* turnout! Thank you, also, to our many piano accompanists and instrumentalists who helped us this year. We are grateful to have singers of *All* ages who contribute to our worship experience here at St. John's!

~ Jenny Pelletier

Summer in Shared Ministry

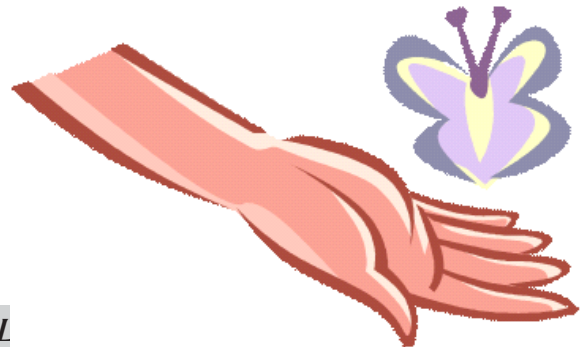
As a child I loved summer - the warm, sunny weather, the long, freedom filled days, the sound of the ice cream truck coming down the street. Summer always seemed so full of opportunity. It was as though summer days never ended and hours upon hours were devoted to adventure. I spent weeks at a time at Girl Scout camp and space camp. My parents packed us in the car and we drove (what seemed like!) across the country. Summer was full of the opportunities only such large amounts of unstructured time could afford.

Eventually I was old enough to join my church youth group on their summer adventures. We traveled to Fargo to clean up after the floods. We slept on the floor of inner city churches after running day camps. Without my realizing it my summers became opportunities to serve others. By the time I was in college the habit of summer adventures of service was so ingrained, I spent months learning and living with others. I always traveled under the well intentioned guise of service and I always learned more about God and God's work in the world than I could have ever imagined. It turns out when we strive to serve others we end up being blessed ourselves.

So many of the things I loved about summer as a kid haven't changed. I still get really excited when I hear the music of the ice cream truck. Summer still seems so full of opportunity and the days still seem to stretch into unending time. For some reason summer just feels so free and summer still offers wonderful opportunities to serve.

This summer in Shared Ministry at St. John's we are committed to supplying the Food Shelf with volunteers throughout the month of July. On Aug. 19 members of St. John's will be putting the finishing touches on the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity House in Dundas. Those are just two of the summer service opportunities St. John's will be involved in this year. New opportunities are always arising so get ready to be invited to serve!

Summer is wonderfully filled with BBQs, family vacation, and sunny days that stretch into warm nights. I'd like to encourage you to add something else to your summer paradigm, more opportunities to extend God's love to members of our own congregation and our greater community. Take advantage of all the ways our Ministry Coordinators are inviting you to serve, whether it is pulling weeds in St. John's lawn, placing light fixtures in a Habitat Home, offering your gifts during Sunday morning worship, or stocking the Food Shelf. One of the great things about being called a child of God is being called to serve God and serve God's people. Likewise, one of the great things about summer, somehow, for some reason, more than any other season, is that it seems to offer us fresh opportunities to serve in new ways. I look forward to all the ways we'll be serving together this summer!



Serving on Sundays

Serving in June

Acolytes

- June 7** (8:30) Bethany Emanuelson, Rachel Langehough, Molly Polzin; (10:00) Colton Kastner, Adam Neuger, Connor Rowley
June 14 (8:30) Nathan Berthelsen, Grant Erickson; (10:00) Mike DeCramer, Bennett Falck
June 21 (8:30) Michael Gasior, Ian Iverson; (10:00) Katherine Hirdler, Amelia Kimmes Kneser
June 28 (8:30) Evan Nelson, Noah Parker; (10:00) Alexa Nutt, Hunter Redfield

Coffee

- June 7** Doug and Margaret O'Leary, Phil and Barbara Eaves
June 14 David and Debby Becker, Mary Beth and Paul Beck
June 21 Pat and David Halsor, Elvin and Corrine Heiberg
June 28 Liz and Gary Wicks, Duane and Marie Benson

Communion preparers

- June 7** Ann Ness, Char Nelson
June 14 Charlotte and Bill Carlson
June 21 Joan Kark, Jill Enestvedt
June 28 Jim and Judy Cederberg

Nursery

- June 7** (10:00) Steve and Sherri Williams
June 14 (10:00) Ann and Doug Fitzgerald
June 21 (10:00) Betsy and Jeff McLaughlin
June 28 (10:00) Connie and Todd Menssen



June 14 is Rhubarb Sunday!

Ushers

June 7 / July 5

(8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Alice Bates, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen, Sandy Whitworth, Bill Whitworth; (10:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber

June 14 / July 12

(8:30) Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:00) Jonathan Norrie, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Guy Reid, Jon-Erle Reid, Steve Williams

June 21 / July 19

(8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Lowell Johnson, Todd Iverson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary

June 28 / July 26

(8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback

Serving on Sundays

Serving in July

Acolytes

- July 5** (8:30) James Rowley, Kristopher Swanson; (10:00) Rebecca Storlie, Amelia Tjaden
July 12 (8:30) Kristin Buck, Zachary Evenson; (10:00) Karl Amundson, Irene Duba
July 19 (8:30) Jasmine Newman-Evans, Bjorn Bade; (10:00) Cameron Judge-Becker, Dalton Skrove
July 26 (8:30) Mike DeCramer, Bennett Falck; (10:00) Nathan Berthelsen, Grant Erickson

Coffee

- July 5**
July 12
July 19
July 26

If you would like to volunteer for any Sunday in July, please contact Pat Fick 645-8331 or by e-mail, pat@phyque.com

Communion preparers

- July 5** Wes and Rae Pearson
July 12 Terry and Norma Gilbertson
July 19 Eugene and Lois Bakko
July 26 Joe and Judy Smith

Nursery

- July 5** (10:00) Todd and Connie Menssen
July 12 (10:00) Stephanie Aman
July 19 (10:00) Steve and Sheri Williams
July 26 (10:00) Kris Vatter

July 12 is Strawberry Sunday!



News and Events

Next meeting:
No meeting
scheduled for June
or July

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Keep Active for Justice and Peace in the summer

Although the Peace and Justice Group does not meet in June and July, the work for justice and peace does not end. Many of the activities of the year will continue as we respond to requests for advocacy for people in danger and for those in need of shelter, food, support, and for correction of injustice that threatens lives and livelihood. Keeping vulnerable people and places in our prayers is a priority, as always.

Summer, with its changed schedules and routines, can be a great time to explore your values and commitments in new ways. Which of these ideas might work for you and your family?

Focus on learning about one part of the world, or a specific issue.
Look for opportunities to discuss what you learn with a friend or two.

Make your learning personal. Look carefully at the faces of those who are affected by war, violence, fear, or pain. Imagine being there.

Connect with real people. Volunteer to help at Thursday's Table and sign up to deliver Meals on Wheels. Reach out to someone you care about but have not been in touch with during the year.

Write or call your legislators to let them know what you think about a current issue.

Talk together about times when a conflict is resolved in a nonviolent way.

Read the biography of a peacemaker: Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King Jr., Denise Levertov, Oscar Arias Sanchez, Rosa Parks, Jane Addams, Aung San Suu Kyi, or Pete Seeger.

Nurture your spirit with a time each day to reflect on what is important to you. Celebrate with a child the goodness in your lives.

Some quotes for your reflection:

You just need to be a flea against injustice. Enough committed fleas biting strategically can make even the biggest dog uncomfortable and transform even the biggest nation.

Marian Wright Edelman

We are constantly being astonished these days at the amazing discoveries in the field of violence. But I maintain that far more undreamt of and seemingly impossible discoveries will be made in the field of nonviolence.

Mohandas Gandhi

Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free.

Dalai Lama

Peace is not a passive but an active condition, not a negation but an affirmation. It is a gesture as strong as war.

-Mary Roberts Rinehart

Mission Outreach



CAC Food Shelf in July

St. John's is responsible to help staff the Northfield Community Action Center Food Shelf during the month of July. Sign up in the Commons during June or contact Don Sahling, 645-9220.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity in August

Volunteers are needed to help at the Thrivent Builds house in Dundas on Wednesday, August 19 from 3-9 p.m. Work will include installation of fixtures and accessories as well as clean up before final inspection. Sign up in the Commons. Also, St. John's has been asked to contribute financially to this project. There is still time to meet the congregation's goal of \$1,200.00. Checks can be made out to St. John's with "Thrivent Builds" in the memo line.

Don Kimber Honored as Food Shelf Volunteer

St. John's member Don Kimber was recognized for his volunteer work at the Northfield Community Action Center (CAC) Food Shelf last month at the Minnesota FoodShare Campaign celebration lunch hosted by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

CAC Program Director Judy Bickel nominated Don for the award. She wrote, "Don is a World War II Merchant Marine veteran who has served his country and his home town all of his life in many different ways...Everyone that has had the opportunity to work alongside Don quickly realizes that he has a heart of gold and true compassion for every individual that comes to the CAC Food Shelf. In addition to helping distribute food and stock shelves very Tuesday, Don also picks up food donations from Target two or three times a week and often helps serve food at the CAC's Thursday's Table dining program...Don is a real life hero."

Minnesota FoodShare announced that the 2009 March Campaign raised 12,020,197 pounds of food and dollars combined, statewide. The Northfield CAC was recognized at the awards ceremony for conducting the 14th most successful food drive in the state, raising over 130,000 dollars and pounds...More than four hundred households are receiving food at the CAC Food Shelf each month.

Thank you to St. John's members, including Sunday School students, who contributed to Minnesota FoodShare and congratulations, Don!

Update from East Africa

This is a portion of the May 2009 newsletter from Jean Wahlstrom and Marv Kananen. Jean and Marv serve at the Maasae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania. St. John's has supported Marv and Jean through the ELCA Division of Global Mission since 2005. The complete newsletter is posted on the Mission Board in the Commons.

Dear Friends,

The National Exam Council announced that the Form IV exam results...were released on May 1. The grades for the Maasae Girls Lutheran Secondary School were not great, no Division Ones, but nothing below Division Three: it was 3 Division II and 9 Division III. All 12 girls are now eligible to go on to further education, possibly 6 to university (bachelor degree) and 6 to the two year teachers' training programs (diploma) to become "O" level teachers. But this is the news: all passed. Their future is open before them, if only there was scholarship funding...I wish you could be here and see the anxiety in their eyes as they come to discuss what their future might hold. When the school first began in 1995 the completion of Form Four was the goal for students. Then the goal changed to help students complete Form Six. Now we need to help students get through to the next level of education - to help them find a vocation. At first the Maasai community questioned the value of educating girls, now the Maasai are looking to see if education has any potential to economically contribute to the well-being of the family. To be considered successful, our graduates must reach a position of influence and economic independence: there needs to be a collective mass of these young educated women in order for the culture to sit up and take notice. With the gracious help of God, the culture IS changing. Cultures change slowly...From the beginning of our assignment our vision

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

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

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

Looking Back

Saturday, May 2, women from the Northfield area churches gathered at Little Prairie United Methodist Church for brunch and to offer the yearly collections for the Fellowship of the Least Coin. Thanks go to the women of Little Prairie and Holy Cross Episcopal in Dundas for the home-made muffins and fruit, and the warm hospitality.

June/July Schedules

Knitters will not meet during the summer.

Mon., June 15, and Mon. July 13, 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship Hall. Getting the quilts ready for the following Thursday.

Thurs., June 18, and Thurs., July 16, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. - "Workmorning" for Quilting and other projects, every third Thursday in Fellowship Hall.

Additional helpers are always needed.

Mon., July 27, 9:30 a.m. - Executive Board of St. John's Women of the ELCA in the Fireside Room.

GREEN HINT-O-THE-MONTH

Coffee grounds are useful! Don't just dump them into the garbage. Mix them into soil or sprinkle them around plants for slow-release nitrogen, or add them to compost piles.

Looking Way Ahead

An invitation! Mark your calendars! Thursday morning, Aug. 6, 10:00 a.m.: Gather in St. John's Hall to celebrate everyone's birthday with treats, fellowship and a story of adventures in a different part of the world. Peace Corps volunteer, Michelle Yarmakov, will tell of her years in Turkmenistan - northwest of Afghanistan. All women of St. John's have birthdays - come and be part of the party.

Circle Summer Schedule

Lydia and Miriam Circles will not meet during the summer.

Sarah, Martha/Claudia, and Mary Circles will meet in June, but not July and August.

Elizabeth and Abigail/Rebecca Circles will meet during the summer.

Women's Breakfast Group plans are incomplete—call Kathy Mellstrom, 663-1451, for information regarding time and place.

WELCA MISSION ACTION REPORT

Thank you to those who have contributed toward the Hospice/Aids Kits. As of May 8 \$115.00 had been donated, which will be used to supplement donated items. The Kits will be assembled in early June and brought to Global Health Ministries along with several boxes of bandages and sheets. Thank also to those who have been rolling bandages. This is an ongoing project that you can participate in at the Project Day or do at home. Bandages and rollers can be picked up in the sewing closet off the Fellowship Hall in the basement.

One of our quilts was displayed at the ELCA Southeast Minnesota Synod Assembly in Rochester May 1-2. Thank you to Barb Knaak for bringing it there and back.

The quilting closet has been reorganized and made more user friendly. If you can't come to the Quilting days but would like to sew tops or cut squares at home please contact Kathy Vang, 645-4849.

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

Miriam ChristCare Women's Circle -

Bible study and conversation

Contact: *Cheryl Buck* 663-9056

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

Mission Partner Team

Contact: *Jane Rinehart* 663-1659

Noon Bible Study

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

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

Contact: *Judith Stoutland* 645-7842
Meets: 2nd Monday, 7-9pm

Praise and Prayer

Mondays, 10:00 a.m.

Contact: *Mary White* 645-4783

St. John's Knitters

Contact: *Bobbie Maakestad* 645-4397

St. John's Quilters

Contact: *Kathy Vang* 645-4849

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



Something is cooking for Small Group Ministry at St. John's.
Read about it in the August *Voice*.



Looking ahead to camp!!

Shores of St. Andrew and Green Lake

Camp is just around the corner – June 14-19. We can't wait to spend time with you at camp! Remember to do the following things:

- Fill out forms (St. John's forms and Camp forms) and turn in to Mike or Julie
- Pay your balance due (make checks payable to St. John's) and turn in to Mike or Julie – you all should have received a letter in the mail with your balance.

Departure: Sunday, June 14, 12:15 p.m. St. John's Parking Lot

Return: Friday, June 14, approximately 4 p.m. to St. John's Parking Lot.

Here are the people signed up to go:

Shores of St. Andrew,

3rd – 5th grade

Jonah Berthelsen
 Sydney Eddy
 Elizabeth Evenson
 Ellie Ims
 Cecilia Kryzda
 Daniel Langehough
 Olivia Riggins

Green Lake,

6th – 8th grade

Nathan Berthelsen	Carl Norquist
McKenna Boyum	Alexa Nutt
Kirstin Buck	Nicholas Pelletier
Kelsey Bull	Hunter Redfield
Andrew Dell	Rebecca Storlie
Irene Duba	Kristopher Swanson
Grant Erickson	Amelia Tjaden
Zach Evenson	Pastor Johnson
Amelia Kneser	Mike Sherman



Christikon

On July 30 these youth and chaperone will load a bus and head to McLeod, Montana (near Billings) for a week of hiking in the mountains.

Katie Bull
 Kristin Beck
 Erik Berthelsen
 Rachel Crippen
 Peter Duba
 Colton Kastner
 Rachel Langehough
 Isaak Tjaden
 Mike Sherman

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries will be offering a unique camp Sunday, July 6 – Tuesday, July 9 at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN. If you are a family with children or youth with special needs we invite you to think about attending. There will be enough staff to work one-on-one with your child if needed and a pastor will lead parents and family members in Bible study and discussion. You will get to experience camp in a meaningful and personal way. Please contact Green Lake Bible Camp, www.gllm.org for more information

National Youth Gathering

On July 21 these high school youth and chaperones will head to New Orleans to attend the National Youth Gathering:

Leif Bade	Molly Polzin
Martha Crippen	Berit Seeberg
Rachel Crippen	Betsy Sorensen
Hannah France	Kelsy Sorensen
Alex Gerdes	Martha Suderman
Dan Gerdes	Liv Thompson
Leigh Langehough	Sonja Wermager
Erin Legvold	Pastor Crippen
Cheyenne Luckman	Mike Sherman
Andrew Mikula	Paula Seeberg
Kevin Moore	
Hunter Pleshcourt	



Our prayers are with all of the campers this summer. And, thank you St. John's for helping with the cost of camp by donating and participating in the fund raisers!

Thank you Sunday School Teachers!

Thank you to the Sunday School teachers and assistants who faithfully gave their time and gifts to teach Sunday School this year! Thank you to Stephanie Aman, Kim Norton, Dodie Mickelsen, Sue Brockman, Kristy Mikula, Katherine Peterson, Sonja Wermager, Hannah France, Julie Ims, Maia Horsager, Kirsten Johnson, Kirsten Gunn, Julie Becker, Martha Crippen, Beret Amundson, Liv Thompson, Michael Berger, Darlene Hand, Emilie Judge Becker, Ellen Iverson, Cheryl Buck, Karleen Sherman, Jenny Pelletier, Andrea Hoff, Doug Bratland, Amy Boxrud, and Susan Canon.

Looking Ahead – Wednesday Programming for Kids!

With the Wednesday early release for elementary schools happening this fall, we are excited about a new Wednesday afternoon schedule for kids at St. John's! Bus transportation will be provided from school (at the early release time) to church, with a new schedule to include CAT, choirs, dinner and new activities! Watch for details in the August *Vo*ice!

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, June 6 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Children and Communion

Holy Communion is the meal of all the baptized children of God. If your baptized child has expressed an interest in receiving Holy Communion please contact a pastor. Preparation for children and parents is provided on an individual basis.

One Great Week, Two Great Programs!

Programs hosted by Bethel Lutheran Church, St. Peter's Lutheran Church and St. John's Lutheran Church

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School "Camp Edge", will be held the same week as "On the Road". Kindergarteners have the option of going to either camp. The VBS program starts on Monday, Aug. 10 thru Thursday, Aug. 13 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at St. John's. The cost is \$10.00 per child with a \$20.00 family limit. VBS registration is due by July 1.



Both registration forms can be found at www.stjohns-elca.org under Youth and Children. Scholarships are available for all summer camp opportunities.

"On the Road", Summer Camp

For kids completing Kindergarten – 4th grade, Good Earth Village, "On the Road" will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield. The week begins on Sunday with a 1 ½ - 2 hour welcome. Monday – Thursday, the program runs from 8:00 – 5:00 p.m. Campers can be dropped off anytime between 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and picked up between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. A closing program, open to anyone, will take place beginning at 4:00 p.m. Thursday. You may register online at www.goodearthvillage.com, click on summer programs, "GEV On the Road", and choose the Northfield site. The deadline is August 1 or until the camp is full.

WE NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS for our summer VBS/ "On the Road" program!

Volunteers needed for VBS (session held from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)

Camp Counselors – lead a small group of children to various stations

Station leaders and assistants – to lead music, crafts, games, Bible storytelling, snacks

Decorating and prep – prior to VBS

Help with registration on Monday, August 10 from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Nursery Care – help care for volunteer's children who are too young to attend VBS

Volunteers needed for "On the Road" (sessions held from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.):

Provide an evening meal or housing for Good Earth Village camp counselors

Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet!

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday School Offering

Thank you to our Sunday School children and their families for giving to the Sunday School offering this year. Over \$1,300.00 was given to provide support to the following missions.

- Our Compassion International child, Romario Vasquez Polo, from Bocachica, Columbia. Our \$32.00/month sponsorship provides Romario with Bible teaching, medical care, nutritious meals, recreational activities, academic support, educational classes and literacy training.
- Almost \$600 was given to support the Minnesota FoodShare Drive to help benefit the Northfield Food Shelf.
- Over \$300 was given to ELCA's God's Global Barnyard. Our offering will purchase animals to provide hungry families with food, funds, and fertilizer-all for better futures.

Fundraising

We're still short on our fundraising goal for the National Youth Gathering! Donate at least \$20.00, and come to a dinner in August where you'll see the impact that you helped to make in the lives of our high schoolers. Contact Mike Sherman or Pastor Johnson if you can help us out. We could also use donations to help our youth going to Christikon!



Hosanna Musical: "By the Sea"

Here are some photos from the Hosanna Musical "By the Sea" and the recognition of Carol. Thank you Carol Benson for 23 years of service at St. John's!



YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATION SCHOOL

Dear St. John's Folks,

Many of you know that I've spent the last few weeks down at Wartburg Theological Seminary, in Dubuque, Iowa. I participated in an intense, three week, Youth & Family Certification course put on by the Seminary and the Youth and Family Institute.

We covered lots and lots and it there just isn't enough space to write it all down, so you'll have to come and ask me about what I learned. For those of you who want a taste, here you go: We had some Peer Ministry training, we had a one day whirlwind overview of the Bible, we had a few days of theology, we discussed family structure, and we also created long range plans to take home and show our church.

For those of you seeking a formal presentation of the long range plan that I drafted, I'll be showing it to the Youth Ministry and Education Board at our next board night, and I invite you to come and offer your thoughts on what I've got to say.

- Mike Sherman

THE MEGA MIX

All high schoolers are invited to the "Mega Mix" on June 10. It's at the Estenson farm, at 10541 Ibson Ave, Northfield; and it starts at 6:00 p.m. There will be a concert put on by Agape, a Christian hip-hop artist. Sherm's seen him lots of times, he's very good.

This is a NAYW (Northfield Area Youth Workers) event, so your friends from other churches will be there. The cost is \$5.00, which includes the concert, and food provided by the Knights of Columbus. Call Sherm if you have any questions, or just watch for the postcard in the mail!

Magical Mystery Tours

Summer time is almost upon us folks, and that means its time for the Magical Mystery Tours (MMT's) to begin again! Our first MMT is taking place on June 11, and the second one will take place on July 9. Here are some things to know about the MMT's: A few weeks before each event, parents will receive a letter, along with a permission slip. In the letter, we will disclose the mystery to you, and also give you the trip details, cost, timeline, etc.

Last year, we went to a St. Paul Saints game, Feed my Starving Children in Eagan, and to Camp Snoopy in the Mall of America. I can't tell you what we're doing this year (it's a mystery!), but I can tell you that they will be lots and lots of fun. Feel free to invite a friend!

Mission Minneapolis

A team from St. John's has been working on furthering and strengthening our partnership with El Milagro (the Miracle) Church, up in Minneapolis. After some discussion, we've decided that a good starting point in doing this would be to have a Youth event, where the high school youth from our churches can get the chance to meet and form relationships.

Hence, we have *Mission Minneapolis*. This event, taking place on June 25, 26, and 27, is a mission opportunity where high school youth from our church work along side the youth from El Milagro, while at the same time getting to know each other and building relationships.

Here's a taste of what will be happening:

- We'll be serving together, ranging from painting to feeding the homeless.
- We'll experience worship together.
- We'll get the chance to make new friends.
- We'll get drum lessons from Warren Croft, the Youth Director at El Milagro.
- We'll work to create a work of art which we'll take home and display in St. John's.
- There will be time for one on one conversation with new friends.
- We'll play games!

Watch for letter / e-mails coming in the near future! Call Sherm, if you have any questions.

Pastors

Joseph G. Crippen

Mark E. Johnson

John E. Quam

Building Manager

Rich Kleeberger

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

Music Ministry

Daniel Fenn

Music Staff

Jenny Pelletier - Alleluia

Cathy Rodland - Jubilate

Ruth Legvold - Laudate

Jo Dahlin - Rejoice Ringers

Office Manager

Laurie Prior

Parish Administrator

Shelley Keske

Parish Nurse

Lynette Marks

Youth Ministry

Mike Sherman

Congregation President

Betsy McLaughlin



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Shoe Recycling at El Milagro

The Mission Partners Ministry Team at St. John's received a request from El Milagro to participate in their Shoe Recycling fundraiser to benefit La Conexion. La Conexion is a social ministry at El Milagro, aimed to help the Latino community in South Minneapolis. All kinds of shoes, boots and sandals can be dropped in the collection boxes at the southwest entrance of St. John's. The youth will bring them to El Milagro on June 25 when they go up for "Mission Minneapolis". The recycled shoes will be used for things like t-shirt material, highway bumps, and swimming pool surfaces.

