

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2009

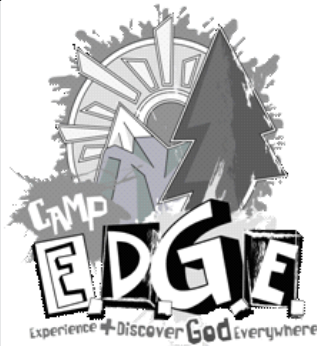
Volume 49, Number 7

*on the
inside . . .*

New things with
our youth choirs!
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Small Group
ministry changes
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Churchwide
Assembly meets
✦ back cover



Camp E.D.G.E.

*Experience and Discover
God Everywhere!*



It's time to make the trek to VBS!
Vacation Bible School will be held
August 10 – 13 from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. at
St. John's and is hosted by Bethel, St.

Peter's and St. John's Lutheran churches. VBS is for
children age 4 (by 7/1/09) to children entering 1st grade. If you are still interested
in registering your child please pick up a registration form soon or go online to
www.stjohns-elca.org.

Volunteers are needed in many areas. Most shifts are only two hours or fewer
from 9:15 – 11:45 in the morning. Can't be here every day? That's OK. Just tell us
what days work for you. Middle and High school youth can earn cubits towards
confirmation! If you have questions contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or
jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org.

"On The Road" Summer Camp for Kids

On The Road summer camp will be
offered for kids going into grades 1 – 4,
August 9 – 13 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Bethel, St. Peter's and St. John's
Lutheran Churches will be hosting the
event, which will take place at Bethel
Lutheran Church. "On the Road," a
program provided by Good Earth
Village Bible Camp, will kick off on
Sunday, August 9 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00
p.m. at Bethel. It is open to campers,

families anyone who would like to
come! For more information go online
to www.goodearthvillage.org and click
on "GEV On The Road".

Host homes needed, please! We need
host homes for the week of summer
camp for the counselors coming from
Good Earth Village. Please give Julie
Brehmer a call, 645-4429, if you can
help!

Cathy Rodland to direct Hosanna Choir

At the regular July meeting of the
Congregation Council on Jul. 28, the
Council voted, at the recommendation
of the Personnel Committee, to offer
the position of Hosanna Choir director
to Cathy Rodland. Cathy currently
directs our Jubilate Choir, and was

interim organist for St. John's for 2008-
2009. Carol Benson retired this spring
from Hosanna Choir after 25 years as
director.

Cathy brings a great deal of experience
to this position, not just with Jubilate

Hosanna Choir cont. on p. 6

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, August 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Contact one of the pastors for more information.

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.

Stephen Ministers receive at least 50 hours of training before they meet with care receivers. The training covers many topics, from "The Art of Listening" to "Dealing with Depression" to "Ministering to Those Experiencing Losses Related to Aging". To keep things in perspective, both veteran caregivers and caregivers-in-training refer regularly to a Stephen Minister tool called the Caregiver's Compass.

With Christ at its center, the Caregiver's Compass names four qualities of a Stephen Minister: Compassionate, Skilled, Trustworthy, and Full of Faith. Caregivers reflect on how those qualities are at work in their relationship with care receivers, and all human relationships. Since every relationship carries within it a mix of needs and support, being in a healthy relationship, with a family member or a friend, frees one to express needs and count on support. When you are in need, what qualities do you look for in a source of support? Consider the Caregiver's Compass.

A compassionate friend is present with you, traveling with you through hard times. She or he listens calmly and affirms you as you work through your decisions. A skilled friend accepts your feelings and acknowledges your struggles. He or she has patience to support you through a slow process of discovery and rebirth. A trustworthy friend knows you well and respects your privacy. He or she is always discreet and keeps information confidential. A friend who is full of faith brings a sense of hope to your relationship, and your life. You may see God in the face of that friend.

If someone you or someone you know could use a compassionate, skilled, trustworthy, and full of faith friend, a Stephen Minister, contact a pastor, 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson, 645-8445.

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

Galatians 6:2



*Providing one-
to-one care and
encouragement*

Save the Date! The Northfield Grief Support Coalition is sponsoring a presentation by Douglas C. Smith, a nationally known speaker on grief and grief support, on Wednesday Sep. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall. The title of the presentation is "Different Styles of Grieving, Different Ways of Healing". For more information on Douglas C. Smith visit www.dougsmith.com The event is free and open to the whole community.

Grief Support Group meets in September: The Northfield Hospice Grief Support Group meets beginning Wednesday, Sep. 23 at the Northfield Hospital. Watch for more information in next month's Voice. For more information contact Barb Knaak at 664-0444 or bknaak4@charter.net

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

Matthew 5:4

Bereavement Ministry



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."

August 12, 2008

Helen Collins

August 22, 2008

Genevieve Odegaard

From our pastors . . .

Small Group Ministry at St. John's

"Now you are the
body of Christ
and individual
members of it."
1 Corinthians 12:27



In times of suffering and uncertainty Martin Luther offered this advice: *"Don't remain alone when you are assailed! Flee solitude!...So it's reported of Paul in the book of Acts [27:33;28:15] that he suffered for fourteen days from severe hunger and from shipwreck and afterward was received by his brethren and took courage. This is what I do too. I'd rather go to my swineherd John, or even to the pigs themselves, than remain alone."* (*"Table Talk", Luther's Works, volume 54, Fortress, p. 277*)

In the tradition of Luther and other reformers Dietrich Bonhoeffer, living in a time of chaos and danger in wartime Germany, wrote, *"...the Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged...The Christ in his own heart is weaker than the Christ in the word of his brother; his own heart is uncertain, his brother's is sure. And that clarifies the goal of all Christian community: they meet one another as bringers of the message of salvation. As such, God permits them to meet together and gives them community."* (*Life Together, Bonhoeffer, HarperSanFrancisco 1954, p.23*)

In baptism, God makes us members of the body of Christ and gives us the gift of community. Through Christian friends we come to know the forgiveness and healing and renewal that God offers to the world in Christ. And in this body we find our calling to proclaim God's salvation to one another.

"Extending God's love" is how the St. John's congregational council has described the work of Christian community. Every ministry that happens at St. John's is for the purpose of extending God's love so that more and more people will hear the good news of Jesus Christ. One of those ministries is small group ministry.

When small groups at St. John's meet for fellowship, learning, and prayer people receive the consolation, care, and challenge that can only come in Christian community. A small group is a place where we can hear God's word of peace, where trust in God's promises can grow, and where one's call to

discipleship and service can be strengthened.

For six years St. John's has participated in the ChristCare Small Group Ministry program developed by Stephen Ministry. ChristCare has provided St. John's with resources and training experiences that have resulted in more small group opportunities and more intentional support of small groups. Since 2003, 24 members of St. John's have received small group ministry training through ChristCare. In addition to the existing small groups at St. John's, 14 more small group opportunities have been offered since 2003 through the ChristCare program.

As this ministry has grown, however, ChristCare leaders and trainers have seen a potential for growth at St. John's that goes beyond the structure of the ChristCare program. This spring the ChristCare Leadership Team, along with members of the Adult Ministry and Education Board and St. John's staff affirmed a new vision for small groups at St. John's.

This change is exciting and carries with it the potential of extending God's love in new ways – including out into the community. While St. John's will no longer be formally affiliated with the ChristCare program the Small Group Ministry Team at St. John's will continue to work to provide leadership support for small groups, assist in forming new small groups and recruiting small group leaders, as well as to promote small group ministry in the congregation. You will hear more about the new direction for small group ministry in the months ahead.

We need to hear from one another God's Word of salvation and we've been given the gift of the Church to do just that. Thank you for the ways you bring the message of God's salvation to others. As you do this work, in the midst of suffering and uncertainty, take courage and be at peace – you are a member of the body of Christ; we are members of body of Christ together.

Marks

June - July Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Henry M. Helgen**: by Graham Frear, Richard and Lela Olson, David Anderson, Dorothy Rossing, Ivan and Pauline Fagre, Judith Christensen, Gerhard and Gloria Knutson, Paul and Deaun Peterson, Forrest and Virley Brown, Solveig Steendal

In memory of **Eric, Anna, and Talyda Wing**: by Burton and Mildred Mellum

In memory of **Al and Marion Finholt**: by Paul and Deaun Peterson, Basil and Kathy Mroz.

In memory of **Marion Finholt**: by Ralph and Marilyn Haugen, Mary White, Brynhild Rowberg, Solveig Steendal, Allen and Lorraine Hanson, Walter and Elizabeth Stromseth, Margaret Vanderkolk, Bob and Jane Gelle, Thomas and Joan Stroeh, Judith Stoutland, James and Judith Cederberg, and Kathleen Olson, Duane and Elaine Kringen.

In memory of **Dan Palm**: by Duane and Elaine Kringen.

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Henry M. Helgen**: by Millie Johnson, David and Patricia Halsor, John and Jeanne Lygre, Chris and Deanne Weber, Howard Julie Thorsheim, Wil and Gertrude Brosz, Tim and Carol Cowles, John and Patsy Ophaug, Carol Johnson, Solveig Steendal

In memory of **Marion Finholt**: by Carol Johnson.

In memory of **Gordon Rasmussen**: by Eugene and Joyce Schrader.

In memory of **Dan Palm**: by Eugene and Joyce Schrader.

Building Fund

In memory of **Oliver Messner**: by Roger and Darlene Hand.

Radio Broadcasts

In memory of **Don McRae**: by Edwin Gass.

Other Actions

Baptisms

Tobias Dominic Hebzynski, son of Jason and Kelly Hebzynski; sponsors are Neal and Michelle Finke, Jannifer Davidson, Brett Frayseth; July 12, 2009

Weddings

Suzanne Cowles and Steve Taggart, July 18, 2009

Funerals

Henry Helgen, June 1, 2009

Marion Finholt, June 13, 2009

Dan Palm, July 19, 2009

Marcella Carrel, July 22, 2009

Radio Broadcasts

July 19, 2009, in memory of **Adolph and Mary White's wedding anniversary**, by Mary White

Otterness celebration on Aug. 30 in Minneapolis

St. John's has received an invitation from Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church in Minneapolis for people come and celebrate on Aug. 30 with Omar Otterness his milestone of 65 years of faithful ministry as an ordained pastor. There will be recognition at the regular worship of the congregation that day, at 9:30 a.m., and immediately following worship there is a light brunch in the Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church is at 5300 10th Ave. S., in Minneapolis.

Music Life at St. John's

Lift Every Voice and Sing!

A new and exciting season of music-making is approaching fast! There are choirs for every age group from Kindergarten on up. The Alleluia Choir, directed by Jennifer Pelletier, is for children in Kindergarten and 1st grade. There is a wonderful new program involving singers in grades 2 through 8 developed and led by Cathy Rodland, who is directing both Hosanna and Jubilate Choirs this year. You can learn all about it from Cathy's letter below. There will also be opportunities throughout the year within the Wednesday afternoon schedule for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade to learn Orff instruments, percussion, drums, chimes, and handbell techniques. Our choir for High School students, the Laudate Choir, is directed by Ruth Legvold. Dan Fenn, St. John's new Director of Music Ministry, directs the Senior Choir which is open to anyone college-age and up. The Rejoice Ringers is our handbell choir and is directed by Jo Dahlin. If you would like more information on any of these groups, or if you have any other questions about how you can participate in the music and worship life of St. John's, please call Dan Fenn at the church, 645-4429.

New Wednesday Schedule (begins September 16):

- 3:30 – Alleluia Choir (Kindergarten and 1st grade)
- 3:30 – Hosanna Choir (2nd and 3rd grade)
- 4:00 – Jubilate Choir (4th and 5th grade)
- 4:30 – Jubilate Choir (6th – 8th grade)
- 7:00 – Senior Choir (College and Adults; **begins Sept. 9**)
- 7:15 – Laudate Choir (9th – 12 grade)

Thursdays (begins September 17):

- 5:15 – Rejoice Ringers

A Voice for Life - *Exciting Changes Coming for our Youth Choir Program*

There will be a new curriculum for our Hosanna and Jubilate Choirs in the fall. Our singers will be using a curriculum developed by Cathy Rodland which not only teaches bi-weekly anthems, but prepares our singers to be worship leaders. We'll be learning about liturgy, hymns, and some basic music theory and sight singing. This will be part of our weekly choir rehearsals. More information coming in the fall with an opening meeting for choir parents.

Due to changing demographics, we will also be shifting the ages of the choirs. Our "new" Hosanna Choir will include grades 2 and 3. This choir will work with me and also Jennifer Pelletier (director of Alleluia Choir). The curriculum will be focused on teaching the singers to use the hymnal and become healthy singers as they prepare to join the Jubilate and Laudate choirs.

The choir will sing in worship with primarily Alleluia Choir, but occasionally join Jubilate Choir for special services. The Jubilate Choir will now encompass grades 4-8. Older singers in grades 6-8 will continue to rehearse separately and become a leadership group within the choir, as well as join the older choirs for special events.

Rehearsals will be on Wednesday for all groups – please see Wednesday schedule for final rehearsal times. We're looking forward to a wonderful season of singing!

- Cathy Rodland



News and Events

Delivering Dignity to our Neighbor's Doors

Each fall, members of St. John's serve as delivery drivers for Meals on Wheels in Northfield. As many of you know, serving through this organization provides so much more than just a meal. Volunteers deliver nutritious food, a smile, a safety check, and a chance at a more independent life.

This year, St. John's has been asked to provide drivers each day between

Worship at El Milagro

A group from St. John's is planning on visiting/worshipping at El Milagro Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on Sunday, Aug. 23 at 12 noon. Please come if you can! We hope to have more opportunities to connect with our friends at El Milagro throughout the coming year. Contact Jenny Pelletier (664-9296) with any questions. Visit www.elmilagrothemiracle.org to learn more about their vibrant church community!

Save the Date!

Roland Martinson, Professor of Children Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul will present "Passing on the Faith with Children and Youth" at the St. John's Forum on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 9:45 a.m. in St. John's Hall.

Check out the new books in the Library!

New children's book are in the Library about children in the war zones.

Silent Music, a story of Baghdad by James Rumford - 261.8 Rum

Three Cups of Tea, Young Readers Edition by Greg Mortenson - 371.8 Mor

The Peace Bell, by Margi Preus and Illus. Hideko Takahashi - 261 Pre

One City, Two Brothers, by Chris Smith - 398.2 Smi

September 27 and October 24. The Board of Benevolence and Social Concerns will set up an information and registration table in the commons beginning on Sunday, August 23rd. The delivery calendar will fill up quickly, so sign up soon! Please feel free to contact Jonathan Norrie (664-9488) if you have any questions. Thank you.

Looking for a church home?

You are invited to become a member of St. John's – a community where we seek to grow as disciples of Christ, and to be signs of God's love to one another and in the world. St. John's will formally receive new members on Nov. 22 and Apr. 18. A fall session of gatherings for those considering membership at St. John's begins on Oct. 4. Contact a pastor or the church office if you would like to join St. John's or if you would like more information about life at St. John's. Everyone is welcome to participate in worship and all church activities, whether a member or not!

Hosanna Choir, cont. from p. 1

Choir. She has worked extensively with children's choir programs in previous positions, and has developed a curriculum for children's choirs that she will be adapting for St. John's use, working with Jennifer Pelletier, director of Alleluia Choir. There are also a couple other changes for the choirs that are exciting. Please see the article on p. 5 for more information about our children's choir program this fall. Cathy will also continue to direct Jubilate Choir.

There are moments in our lives in which parts of us that had previously been dormant come alive, as though new breath is breathed into us. They are often seconds within the monotony of daily life that take us by surprise, and give us greater glimpses into who we were created to be.

I had one of those moments when I was twelve years old. My church was having an outdoor work day. I forget all of the details but as I remember it, a member of the congregation needed help tending their yard and so one day the whole congregation showed up.

I distinctly remember a few things about that day. It was the middle of summer, the sun was shining brilliantly and it was one of those hot Kansas prairie days. I was transferring the crumbling bricks of a retaining wall into a wheel barrow. I picked up one of the last bricks, one that had been sitting on bare earth of a number of years, turned it over and found that it was covered in creepy-crawly bugs. I thought to myself *I love this*.

I do not like bugs. I acknowledge that they are part of God's creation. I accept their necessary place in the ecosystem but coexistence is about all I can handle. I just don't like bugs.

So what about moving bug infested bricks from one place to another did I love that day? There was something in me that came alive in that moment in both my mind and spirit. It was the first time I cognitively understood the joy of service. And there was a movement of the Spirit of God within me that told me *this is what you were created to do*.

I believe that God calls us uniquely and vocationally. I also believe God calls us commonly: there are some callings placed upon the entire people of God. Service, an extension of servanthood, is one of them. If we are children of God we are called to serve God and to serve others. If we are followers of Christ we ought to serve as he did, exemplified in the thirteenth chapter of John's gospel as Jesus knelt before his followers and washed their feet giving them this exhortation "I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done for you." (*John 13:15*)

It is easy to claim we're too busy and our days might legitimately be full. It does not take much to convince us someone else is better suited to complete the task we're being asked to do. Those things do not change the fact that we are called by God to serve God and to serve others – to love God and to love our neighbors.

There are numerous and varied opportunities to serve within this congregation: to serve St. John's and to serve our greater community. It is not for lack of opportunity we choose not to serve. Indeed the reasons we neglect service are as varied as we are. Some of the opportunities are highlighted in this month's *Voice*, others can be found in the bulletin each Sunday, or the occasional sign-ups in the commons. Service is not about filling open slots on volunteer sign-up sheets. It is about finding those things that make us come alive in new ways as we seek to glorify God and tangibly love our neighbors.

As summer gives way to fall there are new opportunities to serve, especially in the new Children's Ministry Year. Wednesday night programs are going to look slightly different this year and new opportunities for service are part of that. A new AudioVisual team is being developed, the CROP walk is just around the corner, as is WelcomeFest, and we still need people to join our work crew for the Habitat Build on August 19.

If you enter these service times expecting God not only to use you but to bless you you will find that God's call to love others – to serve others is not only one of God's greatest commandments its also one of God's greatest gifts.

Regina Hassanaly, Director of Shared Ministries

Serving on Sundays

Serving in August

Acolytes

- August 2** (8:30) Katherine Hirdler, Amelia Kimmes Kneser; (10:00) Michael Gasiior, Ian Iverson
August 9 (8:30) Alexa Nutt, Hunter Redfield; (10:00) Evan Nelson, Noah Parker
August 16 (8:30) Rebecca Storlie, Amelia Tjaden; (10:00) James Rowley, Kristopher Swanson
August 23 (8:30) Billy Seeberg, Isaak Tjaden; (10:00) William Swanson, Rachel Crippen
August 30 (8:30) Kristen Beck, Katie Bull; (10:00) Michael Anderson, Erik Berthelsen

Coffee

- August 2** Kristin and Dan Hummel, Norma and Terry Gilbertson
August 9 Darin and Amy Christenson
August 16 Bob and Jane Gelle, Mark and Kathy Granquist
August 23 Larry and Nordis Christenson
August 30 Chris and Martha Erickson

Communion preparers

- August 2** Paul and Maribeth Beck
August 9 Brian Evenson and Sue Brockman
August 16 Christine Anderson and Carolyn Nitz
August 23 Mark and Kathy Granquist
August 30 Sandra, Alex and Dan Gerdes

Nursery

- August 2** (10:00) Roz Eaton
August 9 (10:00) Kris Vatter
August 16 (10:00) Steve and Sheri Williams
August 23 (10:00) Todd and Connie Menssen
August 30 (10:00) Jeff and Betsy McLaughlin

Ushers

- August 2** (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
August 9 (8:30) Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:00) Jonathan Norrie, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Guy Reid, Jon-Erle Reid, Steve Williams
August 16 (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
August 23 (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
August 30 (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

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Be a Messenger of Peace

Next meeting:
Monday, Sep. 14
7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

Justin Remer-Thamert will report on his delegation trip with Christian Peacemakers in Colombia.

You are invited to join Hiroshima Peace Day Activities at Just Food Event Space & the Peace Pole on Aug. 6.

"I will write peace on your wings, and you will fly all over the world." With these words, 12-year-old Sadako Sasaki wrote her legacy and opened new avenues in the quest for peace in the world.

You are invited to share in this legacy by writing your message of peace, folding it into a paper crane and sharing it with others at the Hiroshima Peace Day event on Thursday, Aug. 6 at the Just Food Event Space from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

After folding the paper cranes, the group will walk down Water Street, cross the bridge and conclude the ceremony at the Peace Pole.

Sadako was two years old when she was exposed to radiation during the bombing of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. This exposure led to leukemia which was diagnosed ten years later. She

began to fold origami paper cranes after her friend reminded her of the legend about folding a thousand paper cranes in order to live to be very old. Sadako did not live to fold 1,000, but her friends completed the task. Students throughout Japan were moved by her story and began to fold paper cranes too.

The story and the custom has spread to all the corners of the world - including Northfield. As Sadako wrote, "I will write peace on your wings, and you will fly all over the world."

You can be a part of Sadako's hope for peace. The cranes of peace remind us all that each one of us can do something to make that peace.

For more information, call Sharon Gates-Hull at 645 0020 or gateshul@yahoo.com.

Mission Outreach



Save the Date

CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, September 27!

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity are teaming up to build a house in Rice County. This year's Thrivent Builds house is in Dundas and the congregations in the North Rice Chapter of Thrivent are needed to help raise a portion of the building costs. St. John's is challenged to raise \$1,200.00 by Aug. 19. (Checks can be made out to St. John's. Put *Habitat for Humanity* in the memo line.)

As of print time St. John's needed \$500.00 more to reach its goal.

In addition to financial contributions, congregations are asked to provide a work crew and meal one day this summer. The St. John's work day is Wednesday, Aug. 19 from 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Sign up in the church office if you are able to work that day – even if it is only for a few hours.

Update from Charity in Japan

This is a portion of the June newsletter from Charity Hall. Charity, a St. Olaf graduate, teaches English and serves at Koishikawa Lutheran Church in the ELCA's J-3 program. St. John's has helped to support Charity's work since 2007.

Konichiwa from Japan,

It's officially the rainy season in Tokyo and this year has seen its fair share of rainy days. During a particularly heavy storm recently a friend told me that rain, in her mind, is a blessing. Our earth needs the rain and our bodies need the water. The refreshing air, the relief from the heat, and the pause rain forces in the midst of a busy day are in her eyes, all blessings...In the middle of May, I had the chance to go strawberry picking. The event was organized to draw church members from across our five-church district for a day full of events including strawberry picking, a museum visit and a trip to a local hot

spring. There were young mothers and fathers with babies in tow, grandparents, junior high girls, business men and pastors from all generations. It was a wonderful day of fellowship as a "family" in Christ...Many of my young students outside the church associate Christianity with the elderly and consequently feel like it's not something for them or for their generation. Many young people in the churches feel isolated and even lonely in the church setting without peers to worship and learn with. It's a challenge for the Church in Japan – reaching out to the young, connecting them to one another and welcoming people of all ages...If we think of the Church as a body, I think it needs all ages and generations represented, connected, and supporting one another in order to serve. In your prayers please ask that God's Church might strive for this unity and seek Christ as the head in our ongoing ministry and work.

Drought in East Africa

In their June 2009 newsletter ELCA missionaries Jean Wahlstrom and Marv Kananen serving in Monduli, Tanzania report on severe drought conditions in the north of Tanzania and southern Kenya – the home of many of the girls who attend the Maasae Girl's Lutheran Secondary School. Food prices are increasing and food supplies are decreasing. People and animals are competing for the dwindling water sources which cause conflicts. The churches in Tanzania are taking offerings to help provide food and water. Jean and Marv urge prayers for hope and for action. Contributions are encouraged to Lutheran World Relief, www.lwr.org which helps to provide drought relief in Africa or to Operation Bootstrap Africa, www.operationbootstrapafrica.org which provides scholarship money to help drought-stricken families in East Africa send their children to school.

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

Thursday morning, Aug. 6, 10 a.m.

Regular Meeting, St. John's Hall: A Birthday Party! We will 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 festivities.

August Schedule:

Knitters are not meeting during the summer.

Mon., August 17, 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall. Getting the quilts ready for the following Thursday.

Thurs., August 20, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

"Workmorning" for Quilting and other projects. (Every third Thursday in Fellowship Hall.) Additional help always needed.

Mon., August 31, 9:30 a.m.

Executive Board Meeting of Women of ELCA in the Fireside Room. (New and Present board members)

Circle schedules:

Elizabeth Circle has lunch at Beef O'Brady's on Thurs., Aug. 13, 11:30 a.m.

Lydia and Miriam Circles are not meeting during the summer.

Sarah, Martha/Claudia, Abigail/Rebecca and Mary Circles will not meet in Aug.

Women's Breakfast Group: call Kathy Mellstrom, 663-1451, for info. regarding time and place.

Looking Ahead:

Mark your calendars!

Thurs., Sept. 3, 1:00 p.m. Regular meeting of the St. John's Women of the ELCA.

GREEN HINT-O-THE-MONTH:

This is locally grown fresh vegetable and fruit season—the next two months provide the most healthful delicious food possible. Check out the Farmers' Market.

WELCA MISSION ACTION REPORT

What a tremendous response we had to our appeal for donations for Hospice/Aids Kits to be sent to Tanzania! Thank you to all who gave so generously. We received \$902.50 in donations, plus some supplies, which enabled us to put together 87 Kits. 78 Kits were delivered to Global Health Ministries warehouse in Fridley in June, along with 8 sheets and about 1000 rolled bandages. A container was leaving for Tanzania just a few days later, so we were happy to get them there in time. Since then, we have received enough devotional booklets and had funds left to be able to put together 9 more Kits, which will be delivered at a later date, along with more bandages. Also in June, 14 layettes and 21 quilts were delivered to Lutheran World Relief. Through an ecumenical effort, 3 quilts, along with 35 sweaters were sent to Moose Pass, Alaska, to a retreat center. Thank you to all who helped with these projects.

School Kit Donations: What does it mean to a child to own his/her very own school supplies? For children in Peru, it could mean the difference between receiving an education or not. Although public education is free in Peru, families are expected to provide the necessary school supplies for their children. If a family can't afford basic supplies, their children can't attend classes. Last year, Lutheran World Relief sent 14,000 school kits to Peru, and 194,825 school kits to 17 countries. Alica, in Peru, said of the kit she received, "It's everything my mother could not buy me." "I have enough pencils for more than two years!" said Jorge.

Each year St. John's members send 60 - 80 school kits to LWR. You can help by purchasing items from the school supply list, sewing a bag, or contributing cash (make checks to Women of the ELCA and put in the offering plate or leave in the Church Office). You can find the fabric and patterns for the bags, and turn in purchased supplies at the school kit display in the Commons.

School Supply list:

- Spiral notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approx. 8" x 10 1/2"
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One eraser approximately 2 1/2" long
- 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One sturdy cloth bag approximately 12" X 14" with cloth handles (No pencils are needed. We have many left from last year)

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

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

Contact: *Dean Ostlie* 645-2597

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

Miriam ChristCare Women's Circle - Bible study and conversation

Contact: *Cheryl Buck* 663-9056

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

Mission Partner Team

Contact: *Jane Rinehart* 663-1659

Noon Bible Study

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

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

Contact: *Judith Stoutland* 645-7842

Meets: 2nd Monday, 7-9pm

Praise and Prayer

Mondays, 10:00 a.m.

Contact: *Mary White* 645-4783

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

Contact: *Barb Anderson* 663-7941

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 7-8pm

St. John's Knitters

Contact: *Bobbie Maakestad* 645-4397

St. John's Quilters

Contact: *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



Connect and belong through Small Group Ministry at St. Johns!

Small group ministry is undergoing a transformation and we want you to join us. Please watch for continued announcements about your opportunity to participate in a group, lead a group, or host a meeting at your home.

As a first step, leaders of any small group at St. John's are encouraged to attend a meeting of the Small Groups Ministry at St. John's on Thursday, Aug. 20, at 7:00 p.m. Leaders should have received a letter from the pastors late in July. If you are a small group leader and did not receive a letter, you are encouraged to attend the meeting. Please let us know to add your name to the list.

If you have questions, please contact Barb Eaves (645-4172), Cheryl Buck (645-9056), Sandi Gerdes (645-2290) or Pastor Johnson (645-4429).

Important Dates to Remember

Sunday School Registration

Sundays, August 16 & 23
9:30 – 10:00 a.m., Commons
Registration deadline is August 31!

**Sunday School
Teacher Orientation**

Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 p.m.

Open House for Preschool 1

Wednesday, September 16, 6:30 p.m.

**ROCK, Wednesday Afterschool
Programming**

Begins Wednesday, September 16

WelcomeFest!

Sunday, September 20
Sunday School Begins
9:45 – 10:30 a.m.

Teacher Installation
10:45 service

**Is your 3 year old
starting Sunday
School?**



Children who are three years
of age by
9/1/09 are welcome to begin
Sunday School this fall!

Parents are invited to bring their
preschooler to an Open House on
Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m. to
meet the teachers and get acquainted
with their classroom before Sunday
School begins on Sunday, Sept. 20.

If you have question, please call St.
John's at 645-4429 and speak with
Julie Brehmer.

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, Aug. 1 at 10:30 a.m. Please call
the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Dive in on August 19!



Northfield area churches
invite families with
children in 5th grade and
younger to our 2nd Annual
Pool Party at the Northfield
Outdoor Pool on Aug. 19
from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. The
cost for admission is \$2.75

per person or you may use your pool pass.
Churches will be providing free food at the
event so come eat, swim and enjoy!



NEW THIS FALL!

R.O.C.K., Reaching Out to Christ Kids, begins Wednesday, September 16!

ROCK is rolling out a new format for Wednesday nights this fall! With the Wednesday one hour early release happening at the elementary schools, we plan to offer bus transportation for kids (along with other area churches) so they can jump right into Wednesday events at St. John's. The new schedule will include a mission component, recreation, choirs, instrumental opportunities and CAT at an earlier time with all programming ending by 5:15 p.m. when our meal begins. Check out the registration packet for specific details! Packets will be mailed to your home early August or you may download it from St. John's website.

An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members—parents, grandparents, anyone! Are you interested or able to help out one or more Wednesdays this year? Contact Julie Brehmer if you are interested!

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YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

9th Graders (soon to be 10th Graders)

To all you 9th Graders out there... this is a friendly reminder for you to be finishing up your faith statements, and schedule your meeting with your pastor. Remember, if you need any sort of help with your statement, you can always talk with Sherm or one of the pastors.

Youth Gathering Dinner

On Aug. 16, at 6:00 p.m., we are having a thank-you dinner to all those who helped our youth get down to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering this summer. This includes parents of the youth, and all the donors who donated more than \$20.00.

The dinner is going to be a New Orleans style shrimp boil, prepared by Zack Pelletier. While we eat, we'll play a video, filmed at the Gathering, which will have documented the experiences of the youth as they happen on the trip. We'll also be inviting the youth to the dinner, so they can share their experiences with parents and donors, first hand.

If you are a donor or a parent, you should have received an invite by now. If, for some reason, you have not received one, that does not mean we don't want you to come! You can RSVP for the dinner by contacting Pastor Johnson. Please RSVP no later than Aug. 2, and thank you very much for supporting our Youth!

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Sunday School Registration for 2009 – 2010 School Year

Sunday School will begin on

WelcomeFest Sunday, September

20th from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. for children who are age 3 by 9-1-09 – grade 5. For planning purposes, registration will be held Sunday, Aug. 16 and Sunday, Aug. 23 from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. in the Commons. Registration forms will be available early August in the Main Office and online. If you have questions, please feel free to call Julie at 645-4429.

Magical Mystery Tour III

Hey everybody, the third Magical Mystery Tour is coming up on Aug. 13, and it's going to be a blast! We'll be going to... oh wait, I can't tell you! It's a Mystery! I can tell you however, that this one is great. You'll want to come to this one! Parents, you'll be receiving a letter with the details in the near future.

Won't you join us?

Thank you to the teachers from last year that will be returning to teach again this year! But...we do have openings in the program and would love to have others enjoy the experience of teaching either as a team or having a class of your own. If you are interested, please give Julie Brehmer a call at 645-4429 or check out the volunteer opportunities in the Sunday School registration packet.

P.S.: Middle and High School students – consider teaching or helping in a classroom.



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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Churchwide Assembly meets Aug. 17-23

Every two years voting members from all 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for an assembly which, like our own congregational annual meetings, directs and guides the work of this church. 1,000 ELCA Lutherans from all over the United States and the Caribbean will be present in Minneapolis from Aug. 17 through Aug. 23 to discuss matters of importance to the future of the ELCA.

On the agenda are an agreement for full communion relationship with the United Methodist Church, a social statement on human sexuality and resolutions related to that statement, the budget for the churchwide organization for the next biennium, and many other things related to the mission of this church.

Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson has asked the whole of the ELCA to pray

for this assembly before and during their time of deliberation. Voting members have been engaged in 50 days of prayer leading up to this assembly, with Scripture and prayers suggested by Bishop Hanson, and congregations and individuals are also encouraged to pray for this church in the next weeks. St. John's will include the assembly in its weekly prayers each Sunday in August leading up to the assembly, and through it, until Sunday, Aug. 23.

For more information on the assembly, its agenda, and all things related to its work, please go to www.elca.org, and follow the links to the assembly pages. Pr. Crippen is a voting member from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod this year, and also can answer any questions.

All St. John's members are urged to join these prayers in the next weeks!