

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2009

Volume 49, Number 8

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WelcomeFest on Sunday, Sept. 20

WelcomeFest, including party at noon, kicks off St. John's fall program schedule on Sunday, Sep. 20. Fall worship schedule begins a week earlier, Sunday, Sep. 13, with worship services at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

Invite a friend to church - All members of St. John's are encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor to church and to the lunch at noon. WelcomeFest is an opportunity for guests to experience what St. John's has to offer. People will know they are welcome here if members invite them and make them feel welcome.

Sunday School - The Sunday morning education program begins Sept. 20 from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. By now your child(ren) should be registered for Sunday School. If not, please call the church office at 645-4429. Children who are three years old

before Sep. 1 are invited to begin Sunday School.

Festival at noon - WelcomeFest concludes with a picnic and festival following the second service. The entire congregation is invited to attend, and bring your friends and neighbors! Come to worship dressed casually, if you wish, and stay for the festival, which runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There will be games and activities for all ages. Burgers, hot dogs, chips, a beverage, plus other goodies, will be the picnic lunch. There will be a free-will offering. First service worshippers, come back for the festival, and bring your friends and neighbors, as well!

This Sunday will mark the official beginning of St. John's relationships with partner congregations in Tanzania

continued on back page

New worship opportunity begins in September

St. John's will have an evening worship service on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 5:00 p.m. that will be a new experience for many of us. Some members have requested the possibility of exploring a more informal, musically diverse experience at an evening time (not wishing to conflict or compete with our Sunday worship). This service will be held in St. John's Hall, and the plan will be to do three of them, once a month this fall as an exploration of interest. If they go well, the hope is to continue these on a monthly basis for now. A variety of musical styles will be considered for use at these services, including possibly gospel, jazz,

bluegrass, contemporary pop, and so on. The service will also be very informal, and will be geared to reach all ages, so all from childhood to adulthood are encouraged to come. Some months there may be a meal along with the worship.

The hope is that as worship is central to our life here at St. John's, this experience will enhance our already rich worship life. If anyone would like to be a part of planning these fall services, please contact Dan Fenn, Director of Music Ministry, or Pr. Crippen, at the church office, 645-4429. And, as Jesus said, "Come and see" - come and worship God!

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

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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, Sept. 17 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.

*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 Update

In addition to the Christian care-giving that Stephen Ministers provide to individual members of St. John's and the Northfield area community and the monthly supervision meetings, Stephen Ministers have been involved in other activities this past spring and summer. Here is a brief review: In April, Carolyn Nitz and Eulalie Smestad attended the Stephen Ministry Leaders Training Course in St. Louis. Carolyn and Eulalie join Jennifer Edwins, Pam Schwandt, Barbara Wilson, and Pastor Johnson as Stephen Ministry Leaders. This group coordinates monthly supervision meetings and continuing education as well as Stephen Ministry training at St. John's. The next training course is planned to begin in the Fall of 2010. In May, St. John's Stephen Ministers attended an ice cream social held at St. Dominic's Catholic Church for members of care-giving ministries in Northfield churches. The gathering was sponsored by the joint Befrienders group from St. Dominic's and Bethel Lutheran. The evening included conversation about the joys and challenges of providing intentional lay, Christian care-giving in a congregational setting. Also present at the ice cream social were Stephen Ministers from Emmaus Baptist and members of Care Ministry teams from First United Church of Christ, St. Peter's Lutheran, and the Northfield United Methodist Church. This Fall continuing education for Stephen Ministers will include sessions on grief and support for individuals who are caring for loved ones with Alzheimers Disease or dementia. These sessions will follow the Sept. 16 workshop on grief by Douglas Smith (6:30 p.m. St. John's Hall, free and open to the public) and the October 11 St. John's Forum presentation on Alzheimers Disease by Gerise Thompson, director of the Alzheimers Association – Southern Minnesota Regional Office (9:45 a.m., St. John's Hall). If you or someone you know could benefit from speaking with a Stephen Minister, contact a pastor, 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson, 645-8445.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Grief Support Group begins meeting this month. The Northfield Hospice Grief Support Group meets beginning Wednesday, Sept. 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Northfield Hospital, Meeting Room A. Sessions go through Oct. 28. For more information contact Amanda Pettis, 646-1037.

Sept. 16 Grief and Healing Presentation at St. John's All are invited to hear Douglas C. Smith, a nationally recognized speaker and author, speak on "Different styles of Grieving and Different Ways of Healing", Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall. Free and open to all. Turn to page 7 for more information.



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."

September 2, 2008

Richard Nasby

September 2, 2008

Ken Peterson

September 28, 2008

Peter Rappe

September 29, 2008

Jack Tripp

From our pastors . . .

Bearing With Each Other

*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.
Galatians 6:2*



Dear brothers and sisters at St. John's: By now most of you know of the decisions regarding ministry policies of the ELCA made at the ELCA's Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis Aug. 17-23. A brief summary is on page 8 of this *Voice* and extensive coverage is available at www.elca.org. (There were many other important decisions as well, including full communion with the United Methodist Church, and I encourage you to look at all of the actions.) One action of the assembly was that a social statement on human sexuality was adopted which powerfully witnesses to our Lutheran understanding of God's gift of sexuality, and speaks strongly against the misuse of this gift in our society, in families, in the media. It's well worth reading. However, on the issue of homosexuality the statement moves from prescriptive to descriptive. It states that as a church, the ELCA is not of one mind on the issue, and that people within this church have widely differing beliefs about this, and all are based on their reading of Scripture. Based on this lack of consensus, the assembly approved changes in policy for the ELCA which permit congregations to bless life-long, publicly accountable, faithful, same-gender unions if they believe this to be appropriate, and which also permit clergy in such unions to serve as pastors in this church.

What this means for some congregations is relatively simple. For congregations who disagree with this reading of Scripture and this understanding of sexuality, nothing need change, and congregations always retain the right to call the pastors they choose to call. For those who believe it is God's direction that welcome and blessing of such people be done, they have the freedom to move toward that ministry. What these policy decisions

mean for St. John's is likely more complicated. We, like the wider ELCA, are not of one mind on these issues. For some of us, I know this is a time of great joy and hope for the ELCA, and a sense of God's Spirit moving us. For others of us, it is a time of sadness and concern that the ELCA has moved in a direction perceived to be against God's will. How we live together as a congregation with such differences is going to be something we all must think and pray about. The challenge for all congregations and people of the ELCA is whether we believe that our unity in Christ is what holds us together, not our agreement on this issue. Our presiding bishop has urged a time of reflection and prayer on all of us as we ponder the implications of these decisions personally and collectively, and I would repeat that call and invitation as well.

I want to suggest a couple things to think about. The assembly voted to urge all members of the ELCA to bear each other's burdens (see Gal. 6 above) and respect those whose conscience holds them on another side. We are sisters and brothers in Christ, and nothing can change that, or separate us from God's love in Jesus, no matter what we broken human beings do or say. I encourage us all to bear with each other for Jesus' sake, especially those with whom we disagree. Because that's the base level for all of us: ask yourself, can you continue to be in fellowship in a congregation with a beloved friend of yours with whom you disagree profoundly on this issue? I pray we all say "yes." Many of us have found deep and abiding relationships in this community of faith, have worshipped for years with sisters and brothers, and yet if we were to talk with each other we'd discover these disagreements. How will we live with that? Paul would suggest it's part of

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August Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Mae Odette**: by Charles Lunder.

In memory of **Daniel Palm**: by James and Judith Cederberg, Charles Lunder, Paul and Deaun Peterson, Lois Ness Eisenbarth, Marilyn Haugen, Margaret Vanderkolk, I. Ruth Hansen, Edward and Anne Sovik

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Mae Odette**: by Lester and Della Gunderson.

In memory of **Daniel Palm**: by Jennings and Elaine Feroe, Howard and Julie Thorsheim, Solveig Steendal.

Radio Fund

In memory of **Mae Odette**: by Millie Johnson, Loretta Siler, Ed and Helen Larson

Other Actions

Baptisms

Lars Jonas Vezauskas, son of Tomas Vezauskas and Lena Gilbert Vezauskas; sponsors are Nathaniel Hein and Jennifer Gonzales; August 16, 2009

Saycia Lynn Johnson, daughter of Jason and Tricia Johnson; sponsors are Rebecca Niebur and Jeff Johnson; August 16, 2009

Weddings

Loretta Ramoo and Daniel Korba, August 15, 2009

Samantha McDonald and Torfinn Zempel, August 22, 2009

Funerals

Mae Odette, August 5, 2009

George Jones, August 21, 2009

John Distad, August 29, 2009

Ralph Haugen, August 30, 2009

Radio Broadcasts

August 23, 2009, with gratitude for the life of **Ralph Haugen**, by Judy and Steve Swanson.

August 30, 2009, in remembrance of **Roger Mahachek's birthday**, by Bev Mahachek and family.

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Synodical Convention

The Synodical Convention of the Southeastern Minnesota Women of the ELCA will meet at Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester MN, Friday, Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m., and Saturday, September 26, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ann Ness is our voting delegate and Norma Gilbertson is the treasurer of the group. Elections are Friday evening with workshops on Saturday. All are welcome to attend—if you have never attended one of these synod meetings before your registration fee can be covered by a scholarship. Contact Ann Ness, 645-5133 for information.

GREEN HINT-O-THE-MONTH

Recycle, recycle, recycle

WELCA Mission Action Report

Note from Marilyn Jacobson: Supplies have been purchased to augment the towels that were donated for health kits. We had enough money in the treasury to assemble 14 kits. A health kit was displayed at the meeting on Aug. 6. Some (or all) will go as an offering at the WELCA Assembly in Rochester. Sept. 23, I will be resuming my weekly trips to Minneapolis and will then deliver quilts, layettes, school bags, etc. - whatever is ready, to LWR.

... from and around the greater Church

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



Churchwide Assembly meets in August

The Eleventh Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was held Aug. 17-23, 2009, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. About 2,300 people participated, including 1,045 voting members. The theme was "God's work. Our hands." Here are some of the actions done by the assembly:

Full Communion with the United Methodist Church Adopted

By a vote of 958-51, the assembly adopted a full communion agreement with the United Methodist Church (UMC). This is the ELCA's sixth full-communion relationship and the first for the UMC. In 2008 the UMC General Conference adopted the same proposal. Full communion means, in part, that the two churches identify in one another a common Christian faith; agree to mutual recognition of Baptism and the sharing of Holy Communion; worship together and recognize each other's ordained ministers for service in either church.

HIV and AIDS Funding Proposal Adopted

The assembly voted 884-41 to approve a proposal to raise \$10 million over three years to support this church's HIV and AIDS strategy. A \$1 million goal encouraged by the 2007 CWA will be included in the \$10 million.

Development of Lutheran Malaria Initiative Approved

By a vote of 989-11, the assembly approved continued development of an initiative to fight malaria, particularly in Africa. The Lutheran Malaria Initiative

(LMI) is a shared effort with Lutheran World Relief (LWR), The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the United Nations Foundation

Social Statement, "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," Adopted

The assembly adopted by a vote of 676-338 — precisely two-thirds of those voting — "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," the ELCA's 10th social statement, with editorial amendments. It also adopted 15 implementing resolutions by a vote of 695-285. The social statement is a theological and teaching document that builds on the key Lutheran principles of justification by grace and Christian freedom to serve the neighbor. It emphasizes that central to our vocation, in relation to human sexuality, is the building and protection of trust in relationships. It therefore affirms that we are called to be trustworthy in our human sexuality and to build social institutions and practices in which trust and trustworthy relationships can thrive. The social statement addresses, among other topics, marriage, same-gender relationships, families, protecting children, friendships, commitment, social responsibility and moral discernment. Regarding same-gender committed relationships, the social statement recognizes that members of this church are not in agreement and identifies the different perspectives that are present among us.

Ministry Policy Resolutions Adopted

Voting members adopted resolutions proposed by the Church Council based on those contained in a "Report and

Assembly, cont. p. 8

Music Life at St. John's

Senior Choir News

The St. John's Senior Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 7:00 pm in Room 209. Our first Sunday to sing in worship will be Sept. 20 at the 8:30 service. Beginning in November, the Senior Choir will sing at the 10:45 service on the second Sunday of each month and at 8:30 all other Sundays. New and returning members are welcome! Watch the next *Voice* for information on short-term singing opportunities in the Senior Choir in preparation for Christmas and Spring events. If you would like more information on the Senior Choir or any other groups, or if you have 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 ext. 58.

A New Handbell Opportunity

There is a possibility of developing another handbell group for those who wish to learn, as well as former ringers who would like to refresh their technique. Watch the *Voice* for future details. If anyone is interested, please contact Jo Dahlin at 645-5978.

Senior Choir Fall Picnic

- Saturday, Sept. 12, 5:30 p.m.
- 704 St. Olaf Avenue (the home of Cora and Bob Scholz)
- New and returning members and spouses are welcome
- Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share; meat will be provided

New Wednesday Schedule (begins Sept. 16):

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

Thursdays (begins October 8):

- 5:15 – Rejoice Ringers (meet in Sanctuary balcony)



News and Events

Grief Presentation at St. John's Sept. 16

A presentation entitled, "Different Styles of Grieving, Different Ways of Healing" will be presented at St. John's on Wednesday, Sept. 16 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall. The speaker is Douglas C. Smith, MA, MS, M.Div., a nationally recognized speaker and author on the subject. The event is free and open to anyone who has experienced a loss or who would like to learn about how to support those who are grieving. Continuing Education credits will be available to any professionals attending whose work touches on grief and loss issues. The presentation is sponsored by the Northfield Grief Support Coalition, the Northfield Hospice, and the St. John's Faith and Health Board. For more information contact Barb Knaak at 664-0444 or bknaak4@charter.net.

Emergency fund needs replenishing

It is no surprise that the economy has been a hard reality for many in this country and in this town. The pastors of St. John's continue to receive requests for help for many things, from gas vouchers or cards, to help with rent or utilities, or car repair, or any number of other things. These requests are covered by the Pastors' Emergency Fund, which is solely reliant on designated gifts for its balance. It's not part of the general budget. The pastors also do a great deal of referring to the Community Action Center, and distribute CAC's vouchers. Due to continued high use, the fund is at a very low level currently. If any feel compelled to help the poor and needy in the community in this way through St. John's, gifts to the fund would be more than welcome. Please simply mark the memo line "Pastor's Emergency Fund." Thank you very much!

Partner congregations, continued from page 14

Pastor Allan Kingu sent us this message from Iambi Lutheran: "We give thanks and glory to God as we are doing fine and even better, after reading from you the confirmation message on our new partnership. . . We welcome you to Iambi with all our heart, to stay together and share our love and experience in our Lord's Mission. . . Iambi Lutheran Church is 80 years old. It was founded by early Augustana Missionaries from Minnesota, U.S.A. When they first arrived at Iambi they fixed a Holy Cross on the peak of the Centre of a Rocky Hill as a sign of our longterm partnership between our churches, the partnership which is cemented by the precious blood of Jesus Christ." Iambi Church has a dispensary and five sub congregations, in addition to the main church. Pastor Charles Mwanja is assisted by five local "missionaries" who work in the subchapels. Once a month everyone comes to the main church at Iambi for communion, baptisms and other big events.

El Salvador Lutheran Church was founded by Lutheran missionaries from Canada in 1937, and was the first Lutheran church in Colombia. It is in a small town, El Cocuy, in the scenic mountains northeast of Bogota. As the founding Lutheran congregation, it has produced many leaders in the

Colombia Lutheran Church. One of those leaders, Pastor Lizarazo, is now a pastor at First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He visited St. John's last February and brought us greetings from his home congregation in Colombia.

Photos of our new partner congregations are displayed on a Mission Partner bulletin board in the Commons. St. John's Mission Partner Team will maintain contact with our new partners. Current members of the team are: Chris Anderson, Steve and Jennifer Edwins, Terry and Norma Gilbertson, Pastor Mark Johnson, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Jane Rinehart, Kathy Shea, Julie Thorsheim and Kristi Wermager. Let us know your thoughts and questions about our new partnerships.

News and Events

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what it means to be community in Christ.

Secondly, we need to have conversation here about the implications of these decisions for St. John's and our ministry. I've asked the Benevolence and Social Concerns board to start looking at this, and encourage all to share with them, or with me, your ideas, hopes, thoughts, concerns. Barbara Wilson is chair of that board and can put you in touch with other members as well. I will be leading the St. John's Forum on Sept. 27 to talk

about the whole Churchwide Assembly and the actions taken, so this subject will also be part of that conversation. If I can be of help to anyone, please let me know. Pr. Johnson is also ready and willing to listen and speak with people about this.

In our baptism we are all one in Christ Jesus – and that will always be true. God help us find ways to make that unity visible and strong here at St. John's and throughout the ELCA. In Jesus' name,



Assembly, cont. from p. 5

Recommendation on Ministry Policies.” The assembly determined on Aug. 17 that majority votes were required on each resolution for adoption. The actions direct that changes be made to churchwide policy documents to make it possible for people in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders in the ELCA. The assembly adopted the resolutions in the following order:

Resolution 3: Adopted by a vote of 771-230 as amended: “Resolved, that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another’s burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all.”

Resolution 1: Adopted by a vote of 619-402: “Resolved, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships.”

Resolution 2: Adopted by a vote of

559-451: “Resolved, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church.”

Resolution 4: Adopted by a vote of 667-307 as amended: This resolution called upon members to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree; declared the intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making about candidacy and the call process; eliminated the prohibition of rostered service by members in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships; recognized and committed to respect the conviction of members who believe that the ELCA should not call or roster people in committed same-gender relationships; called for development of accountability guidelines; directed that appropriate amendments to ministry policy documents be drafted and approved by the Church Council; and urged that this church continue to trust congregations, bishops, synods and others responsible for determining who should be called into public ministry.

Other decisions and memorials approved

Many other decisions and memorials were done by the assembly. A full report, including more of this brief summary of actions, can be found www.elca.org, and follow the tabs to Assembly actions. More information about the sexuality study and the related decisions can also be found at the ELCA website as well.

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 Sept. 27 and Oct. 24. The Board of Benevolence and Social Concerns will staff an information and registration table in the commons from Aug. 23 through Sept. 13. 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.

Joint VBS 2009!

We had a great week at the August Joint VBS this year! 130 children registered for "On the Road" summer camp lead by Good Earth Village and 71 preschool – kindergarten children attended "Camp Edge"! What a fantastic turnout! Many thanks to Bethel and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches and their volunteers for joining with us in providing a week of fun and fellowship for children in the Northfield community. Thank you to the families who brought mission supplies during the week for the four missions we sponsored: CAC Operation Backpack Hannah's Socks – A mission to provide socks for all! CAC Hygiene Kits PET Project, Personal Energy Transportation provides simple transportation carts to people in the world who need them to get around. And thanks to the following volunteers from St. John's: Stephanie Aman, Sue Brockman, Brian Evenson, Zach Evenson, Anne France, Hannah France, Daniel Gerdes, Alison Hartke, Andrea Hoff, Bergen Hoff, Elsa Hoff, Emma Knoch, Connie Menssen, Alexa Nutt, Kelly Lynn Stanton Nutt, Jessica Organ, Jennifer Pelletier, Nicholas Pelletier, Alex Rod, Brittany Sleeth, Amelia Tjaden and Kirsten Fjeld Zillmer.

Hope to see you next year!

Luther Seminary Professor Martinson opens 2009-2010 St. John's Forum

Sunday, Sept. 20 marks the first St. John's Forum of the 2009-2010 schedule. Presenting that day is Professor Roland Martinson, Academic Dean and the Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Children Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Martinson is a graduate of Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, Luther Seminary, and San Francisco Theological Seminary and has served as pastor in California and in Moorhead. He has written numerous articles and books on parenting, family ministry, and youth ministry and currently serves on the National Council on Family Relations. According to Dr. Martinson, "In our time, all primary relationships – the family, parenting, singleness, gender, and old age – are being re-invented.

Consequently, people feel a great sense of dislocation." His research shows two thirds of 16-19-year-olds baptized as Lutherans leave the church and that only half of those who leave return by age 35. To address this challenge, Martinson believes pastors and lay-leaders must, in part, learn to speak a new language. He has developed five degree programs and four new initiatives that prepare student to read contemporary culture and to minister to youth and their families in that context. Professor Martinson's presentation at the St. John's Forum on Sept. 20 is entitled, "Passing on faith with Children and Youth." The presentation begins at 9:45 a.m. in St. John's Hall. Everyone is invited.



Shared Ministry

The church where I interned while attending seminary in Philadelphia had a fifteen year long tradition of traveling to Mars Hill, North Carolina for an intergenerational mission trip. Every year at the end of July a motley crew of roughly 75 people – teens, adults, and children – would pile into their cars, along with all of their tools and make the twelve hour drive. Upon arrival we'd spend a week building and rebuilding homes, water wells, and schools in some of the most impoverished American communities. At the end of each day, hot and sweaty, we'd gather for an informal worship service. Each year there was a theme to the week and the second year I attended the theme was "Diggin' Talents" based on the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25.

That year the senior pastor also decided to write a theme song, one we sang at worship every evening. The lyrics went a little something like this: "Dig it on up! Don't bury your talents there's work to be done if the kingdom is to come... Dig it on up!" The tune was catchy, a little folksy. The lyrics were not profound but stuck with us throughout the week – and have stuck with me a bit longer. I think they did a fair job of capturing the meaning of the parable – there is work to be done for the kingdom to come.

And as the song, and more importantly, the parable, teaches us we must use the talents we've been given in order to accomplish the work. Strictly speaking, in the parable talents are a denomination of money but parables were not intended to be taken only at face value. In a broader, more interpretive sense, the parables are really what God has entrusted us with: our gifts, abilities, and resources.

The end of the parable makes it quite clear that doing nothing with the talents we've been given is not an option. Burying them, or simply ignoring them, accomplishes

nothing. It is also worth noting that every servant in the parable is given something. There is not a servant, that we know of, that isn't entrusted with some amount of talents. Every servant is given something and every servant is expected to accomplish something with what they've been given.

It is no different for each of us. As children of God we have been entrusted with some amount of talents and as such we are commissioned to put them to use, to do kingdom work with what we've been given. There are opportunities to use our talents within the ministries of this congregation, whether it be delivering meals with Meals on Wheels in September and October, using your abilities in AudioVisual technologies to serve during worship services, or investing your nurturing spirit in our youngest members through the nursery and Children's ministries. All of these aspects of Shared Ministry are currently looking for additional volunteers.

If we refuse to invest our talents in the kingdom work it is not for lack of opportunity to do so, something else must be holding us back. Whatever that is I encourage you to read the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25 and see what God might have to say to you in that scripture today.

"Dig it on up! Don't bury your talents there's work to be done if the kingdom is to come... Dig it on up!"

- Regina



Serving on Sundays

Serving in September

Acolytes

September 6

September 13

September 20

September 27

Schedule coming

Coffee

September 6 Jack and Grace Huus, Herb and Pat Fick

September 13 Mike and Melissa Berthelsen and Rich and Gretchen Falck

September 20 Liz and Neil Rowley, Bron and Geniene Scherer, Elsie Nelsen

September 27 Jon and Jeanette Rondestvedt, Ed and Lou Gass

Communion preparers

September 6 Jane and Dennis Rinehart

September 13 Carrie and John Duba

September 20 Mary Cisar and David Suderman

September 27 Joe and Judy Smith

Nursery

September 6 (10:00) Julie Brehmer

September 13 (10:30) Todd and Connie Menssen

September 20 (9:30) Amy McBroom

September 27 (9:30) Steve and Shari Williams

Welcome Team Schedule

September 6 (8:15) Bob and Lois Werde, Andy Westerback; (9:45) Hoff family, Dick and Jo Kleber

September 13 (8:15) Dell family, Ruth Hansen; (10:30) Rod family, Lois and Tim Eklund

September 20 (8:15) Nick Neeb, Don Starkweather; (10:30) Nueger family, Kathryn Norrie

September 27 (8:15) Dave and Debby Nitz, Carolyn Nitz; (10:30) David and Gen Quarberg, Anne and Ed Sovik

Ushers

September 6 (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

September 13 (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

September 20 (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

September 27 (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

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

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

Struggle for
human rights in
Colombia,
Speaker - Justin
Remer-Thamert.
All are welcome!

Sunday Sept. 20 is a full day at St. John's. After our Welcome Fest services, dinner, and activities, St. John's will be host for the seventh Northfield Community Celebration of the International Day of Peace. The event is open to all and we hope many St. John's members can participate.

"Growing a Culture of Peace" is the theme chosen for this celebration on Sunday, Sept. 20 in St. John's Hall, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Planned by a committee representing many peace groups and actions in Northfield, the event will begin with a Justice Fair where specific concerns and actions are displayed. The UN designated 2009 as a Year of Reconciliation. In the program that begins at 4 p.m. Robert Flaten will lead a discussion on the challenges and opportunities of reconciliation after conflict as societies and individuals work to grow a culture of peace. Former Ambassador to Rwanda, Flaten has experience with the complexities of this Audience participation is expected and welcomed.

In addition to music and readings there will be an open mike for the sharing of justice stories and messages of peace. Following the program the Justice Fair will continue for further interaction. In addition to participating in the community event individuals and families can mark the day with special attention to justice issues and ways of peace making.

Since 1982, an International Day of Peace was observed on the opening day of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Realizing the advantages of a set date, the General Assembly declared Sept. 21 as the permanent date of the Day of Peace in 2002. Further recognizing the importance and strength of the spiritual beliefs of its members, the date has also been a Day of Prayers for Peace since 2006, with worldwide support. The Northfield planners have set the community celebration for Sunday, Sept. 20 as a date that makes it possible for more citizens to participate.

Christian Peacemaker Team Trip to Colombia

Justin Remer-Thamert, a St. Olaf student, is the featured speaker at the Peace and Justice meeting on Monday, Sept. 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. He will report on his experience with a Christian Peacemaker Team trip to Colombia last June. The St. John's Peace and Justice Group supported his trip with a donation. Justin gave this report to his supporters when he returned home: "Thank you once more for your kindness in loving and backing me. I returned a few days ago from my two week delegation with Christian Peacemaker Teams. . . . I was surprised by the depth of struggle in the lives of most Colombians. We spoke with many

displaced people (at the hands of transnational companies, paramilitary groups, and other over-privileged individuals). We also accompanied the communities of Nueva Esperanza and Garzal in a march from the mayor's office to the land titling building of Simiti. It was empowering to support individuals standing up for the rights they know they deserve, even in the face of danger and corruption." All are invited to hear more about the work being done by Christian Peacemaker Teams in Colombia. CPT stands in the way of injustice and walks with those communities who ask for international support.

Mission Outreach



CROP Hunger Walk starts at Bethel September 27

The 2009 Northfield Area CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, Sept. 27 beginning at 2:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. The theme for this year's walk is Enough For All. Enough food. Enough safe water. Enough jobs to support families around the world. The CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk is the name for Church World Service's annual fundraising event that takes place in communities around the country. Church World Service is a partnership of 35 Christian denominations (including the ELCA) and 11 affiliated organizations (including Lutheran World Relief) working in over 80 countries around the world. The mission of Church World Service is to eradicate hunger and poverty by aiding refugees and displaced people and victims of natural disasters, and funding sustainable self-help development.

Last year Northfield congregations, agencies, businesses, and colleges raised \$36,065. Money raised through the Northfield CROP Hunger Walk is

(75%) and local hunger efforts through Community Action Center (25%). How can you participate? First, you can walk on Sunday, Sept. 27 from Bethel Lutheran to Bridge Square. Walkers are encouraged to register and take pledges for the walk. Individuals who raise \$100 or more will receive a CROP Hunger Walk T-shirt. Registration/Pledge forms will be available in the Commons this month. Confirmation students who participate in the walk receive a Hands and Feet cubit.

If you're not able to walk you can contribute directly. Make checks to CWS/CROP. (If you'd like a portion of your gift directed to Lutheran World Relief put LWR/CAC in the memo line.) Sign up to walk or to contribute in the Commons on Sundays in September. Join this ecumenical effort to help our neighbors both in Northfield and around the world! Contact Ginny Shaw 645- 5777 or the church office for more information.

Extending God's Love to Partner Congregations in Colombia and Tanzania

WelcomeFest Sunday will mark the formal beginning of our relationship with our mission partner congregations, El Salvador Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia, and Iambi Lutheran Church in Iambi, Tanzania. The Sunday morning services will highlight these new relationships with songs and prayers. We enter into these relationships with joy and anticipation, trusting that we will grow in spirit and mission as we share in this new way with the body of Christ.

Our church has already had formal contact with each of these congregations. We have sent each congregation a packet of information about St. John's congregation, including letters of greeting from our pastors, our church photo directory and recent issues of the Voice. Each has also received the gift of an "Extending God's Love" banner, sewn especially for these churches by Lynette Swanson.

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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

Thursday morning, Sept. 3, 1:00 p.m..

Regular Meeting, Fellowship Hall—

A new year begins with new programs and new officers, but good times and good friendships will continue. If WELCA hasn't been part of your monthly schedule now would be a good time to mark it in. These gatherings are for **ALL THE WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S!**

Theme for 2009-2010 Local Connections:

We begin the year with visits from several women who work toward a better Northfield and a better world. Lou Whitman will describe the Operation Backpacks project of the United Methodist Church women; and Jane Greenwood, who is in her 17th year working at the local Clothes Closet, will report on this large and longstanding community project. And Jane Rinehart will update us on our own School Kit project for Lutheran World Relief.

New officers will be installed—Ann Ness and Jo Kleber will work together on the presidency; Barbara Walters will be vice president – (we are looking for a person to share this job with her). Continuing are Emelda Rasmussen, Secretary; and Norma Gilbertson, Treasurer. Mission Community person will be Ruth Coffman. Marilyn Jacobson continues in Mission Action and Marilyn Boschee will join her. Mission Growth (in charge of programs) will be Bette Quinnell and Alice Nasby.

Many thanks to Jean Larson and Carroll Flaten for good programs this past year, to Winnie Alberg for taking care of Mission Community, to Sharon Bastian for Mission Action and to Barbara Walters and Rachel Stark for their good work as co-presidents.

September Schedule:

Knitters will not meet in September

Questions? Contact: Bobbie Maakestad 645-4397

Mon., Sept. 14, 9:00 a.m.

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

Thurs., Sept. 17, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

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

Mon., Sept. 28, 9:30 a.m.

Executive Board Meeting of Women of the ELCA in the Fireside Room.

Looking Ahead:

Program for '09-'10

Mark your calendars!

Thurs., Oct. 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Excursion to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts for a tour led by the Rev. Dr. Sarah Henrich, Luther Seminary professor and author of this year's WELCA Bible study on Romans. Lunch available at a sandwich counter or their nice cafeteria. Excursion cost \$25.

Thurs., Nov. 5, 1 p.m. Daniel Fenn, our Director of Music Ministry, will speak.

Sat., Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast Group and Miriam Circle invite all to an Advent Brunch

Thurs., Jan. 7, 11:30 a.m. St. Olaf Kings' Room Buffet lunch with music by St. Olaf students.

Thurs., Feb. 4, 1 p.m. A “Love Story” by a serenading musical group.

Thurs., Mar. 4, 1 p.m. Mac Gimse, St. Olaf Art Professor Emeritus, shares his vision of life through his “Sculptural Expression.”

Sat., Apr. 10, Noon Potluck Salad Luncheon, Bethel Church women invited. Pastor Mark Johnson will share experiences from his trip to Tanzania.

Sat. May 1, 9:30 a.m. Northfield Ecumenical Women's meeting at Bethel Church, which includes the offerings of the “Least Coin.”

June and July No regular meetings, some circles meet.

Thurs., Aug. 5, 10 a.m. Birthday Party with election of 2010-2011 officers.

Circle Leader and schedules for 2009-10:

Circle Meetings, Wed, Sept. 9, and Thurs, Sept. 10

Time	Leader
Lydia: Wed., 9:00 a.m.	Marilyn Boschee
Sarah: Wed., 9:30 a.m.	Carole Nesheim
Miriam: tentative.	Cheryl Buck
Martha/Claudia: Thurs., 9:30 a.m.	Eulalie Smestad
Elizabeth: Thurs., 1:30 p.m.	Iva Dodson & Darlene Hand
Abigail/Rebecca: Thurs., 2 p.m.	Gert Broz
Mary: Thur., 7:30 p.m.	Rachel Stark
Women's Breakfast Group:	Kathy Mellstrom
Second Saturday at 8:30 a.m.	

Adult Ministry and Education

Small Group Ministries

Bible Study Options

Contact: David and Gen Quarberg 645-0089

Celebrating the Gift of our Humanity

Contact: Phil Eaves 645-4172

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

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

Womane of the ELCA Knitters

Contact: Bobbie Maakestad 645-4397

Women of the ELCAQuilters

Contact: Kathy Vang 645-4849

Women of the ELCA Circles

Contact: Ann Ness 645-5133

Women's Breakfast Group

Contact: Kathy Mellstrom 663-1451

Yoga

Contact: Patsy Ophaug 645-6231

Dad's Time Out meets Sept. 9

Dads are invited to the Contented Cow any time after 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8 for Dad's Time Out. This is a chance to have fellowship and conversation with other men in the congregation about life, faith, and the challenges of parenting. Come as you are, stay as long as you are able.

Providing small group study and fellowship opportunities

Small Groups Ministry

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Matthew 18:20

Small Group Ministry at St. John's – A place for you

As St. John's grows larger, the need for intimate community becomes greater and that's where Small Group Ministry comes in. A small group is a regularly scheduled gathering of three to twelve people whose chief purpose is to experience Christian community through conversations, enriching activities, study relevant to daily living, care and support of one another, and through prayer. Small groups include people of various ages. Small groups focus on a variety of topics such as a book of the Bible or a book study connecting faith and life. Some groups are formed around a shared interest like knitting or doing small repairs. Some small groups meet monthly and others meet more frequently. And there is an opportunity for you to turn your gifts or interests into a small group experience that can be shared with others. There is a place for you in a small group at St. John's. You are invited to St. John's Hall on Sunday, Oct. 4 at 9:45 a.m. to have some refreshments and to take a look at the groups forming this fall at St. John's. There's a place for you!

Pat Fick, Adult Ministry and Education Board Chair

St. John's Forum

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

September 20: Passing on Faith with Children and Youth, Dr. Roland Martinson, Luther Seminary, St. Paul.

September 27: 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Review, Pr. Crippen

Full St. John's Forum schedule for the year is on page 17.

Adult Ministry and Education

St. John's Forum 2009-2010

Date	Topic/Event	Presenter	St. John's Contact Person
Sep 20	Passing On Faith With Children and Youth-Roland Martinson		Pastor Johnson
27	Church Wide Assembly Report-Pastor Crippen		Pastor Crippen
Oct 4	Small Group Ministry Fair		Small Group Ministry Team, Sandy Gerdes
11	Alzheimer and Dementia-Gerise Thompson. Director of SE Minnesota Alzheimer's Association		Faith & Health Board, Lynette Marks & Barb Knaak
18	Sunday Morning Concert Series # 1		Dan Fenn
25	Bread For The World		Benevolence & Social Concerns Board, Paul Peterson
Nov 1	Global Issues: Part One: Climate Change-Kathy Shea and Kristi Wermager		Pastor Johnson
8	Part Two: Religion/Morality/Lincoln-Ed Santurri		Eric Lund
15	Part Three:Poverty-Becky Judge and Tony Becker		Guy Reid
22	New Members Reception		St. John's Staff
29	Sunday Morning Concert Series #2		Dan Fenn
Dec 6	New Testament: Papyrus to Print to CD Part One-Steve Reese		Joe Shaw
13	Part Two-Steve Reese		Joe Shaw
20	Part Three-Steve Reese		Joe Shaw
27	Christmas Hymn Sing-John Ferguson		Dan Fenn
Jan 3	St. Olaf Choir Reception		Sue Boxrud
10	Popular Culture & Faith-To Be Announced		Eric Lund
17	Visiting Luther Seminary International Student		Pastor Johnson
24	Annual Meeting Preview		Congregational Council
31	Report from the Bishop-Bishop Usgaard		Pastor Crippen
Feb 7	HealthFinders of Rice County-Angela Koch		Guy Reid
14	Health Topic-To Be Announced		Faith & Health Board
21	Northfield Alliance Grief Coalition-Barb Knaak		Faith & Health Board
28	**		
Mar 7	Lenten Season in Theology and Art: Part One:To Be Announced		Joe Shaw
14	Part Two: Focus on Art-John Rondestvedt		Joe Shaw
21	Part Three:To Be Announced		Joe Shaw
28	Sunday Morning Concert Series #3		Dan Fenn
Apr 4	Easter		No Forum
11	Poetry in Old Testament: Part One:16 th and 17 th Century-Lowell Johnson and Pamela Schwandt		Guy Reid
18	New Members Reception		Pastor Crippen
25	Part Two:Poetry in 19 th and 20 th Century-Lowell Johnson and Pamela Schwandt		Guy Reid
May 2	**		
9	Sunday Morning Concert Series #4		Dan Fenn
16	Musical Event		Dan Fenn
23	**		

** Saved for ideas/topics from the congregation; contact any member listed below.

St. John's Forum Ministry Team-

Guy Reid, Coordinator Pastor Johnson Eric Lund Doug Schuurman Keith Holmstad Joe Shaw
 Kristi Wermager Karl Hella Mark Gleason Katie Helgen

Important Dates to Remember!

Wednesday, Sept. 2

Sunday School Teacher Orientation
6:30 Fireside Room

Sunday, Sept. 13

CAT Orientation for grades 3-6, St. John's Hall, 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 16

"ROCK", *Reaching Out to Christ's Kids*,
Wednesdays Night Programming for K – 5th grades begins!

Open House for Preschool 1
Sunday School, 6:30 p.m., rm.15

Sunday, Sept. 20

WELCOMEFEST!

Sunday School Begins,
9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
Installation of Teachers 10:45 a.m. Service

Sunday, Sept. 28

4th Grade Receives
Catechisms 10:45 Service

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, Sept. 12 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

CATechism Orientation

Catechism Orientation for 3rd – 6th grade students and their parents will be held in St. John's Hall on Sunday, Sept. 13 at 9:45 am. If you are unable to attend, please call the church office at 645-4429.

Open House for the Preschool 1 Sunday School

All preschool children who are 3 by 9-1-09 are invited to come to Sunday school this fall. An Open House will be held on Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Preschool 1 classroom to meet the teachers and help with this transition. Please register your child by Sept. 1.

Registration for Sunday School, Presc. – Grade 5

Sunday School begins on Sept. 20 from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. for children who are age 3 by 9-1-09 – grade 5. If you have not yet registered your child for 2009 –2010 Sunday School year, it's not too late! Please fill out a Registration and Health form as soon as possible. A timely response is one of the best ways to support Children's Ministry at St. John's. Forms are available in the Commons and the Church Office. Volunteer opportunities are included, so please consider how you can support St. John's programs. If you have questions, please contact Julie at 645-4429, ext. 25.

Youth Blast! Overnight Retreat

Who: Kids in grades 3 – 6
When: Friday – Saturday, Oct. 9-10
Where: Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN
Cost: \$40.00 (*scholarships available*)
(No charge for chaperones)

Youth Blast invites kids in grades 3 – 6 for an overnight adventure at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. The 24 hour camp experience is filled with games, hikes, good food and Bible time. This is a great introduction to what a week long summer camp is like. We will carpool from St. John's on Friday around 5:30 p.m. and arrive back on Saturday around 9:00 p.m. Feel free to bring a friend and join us for Youth Blast!

Register by calling Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org. Chaperones are needed! **Registration deadline: Sunday, Sept. 27th.** (*Space is limited*)

Can you help teach Sunday School?

Sunday School begins on Sept. 20 and we still need a few more teachers! Many volunteers come into this position with some hesitation, but few have regretted their decision to share of themselves and their time. If you are willing to teach, to team-teach every other week with another teacher or assist with a class, please contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.

ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids, begins on Sept. 16

ROCK, is the new name for the Wednesday afterschool programs offered to children from kindergarten to grade 5 at St. John's.

Wednesday afterschool programs for all grade levels consist of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, music opportunities (Alleluia, Hosanna and Jubilate Choir plus bell chime and Orff instrument ensembles) art, service projects and more!

This year St. John's, along with other area churches, will be providing a bus to pick up children at the early release time from Greenvale, Bridgewater and Sibley who are interested in participating in our Wednesday afterschool programs. For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes an insert you may use to register your child. Registrations are needed as soon as possible.

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YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Confirmation Orientation for 7th – 9th graders and Parents

Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. in St. John's Hall. It is required that you come to this gathering. Not only will you get important information about Confirmation and have a chance to meet other people in Confirmation you'll also get to make your own ice cream sundae! You'll all be done by 7:15 p.m.

10th Grade Confirmation Retreat

All tenth graders will be going to Gustavus on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. for your final Confirmation retreat. While there you will read your faith statements and work on your Confirmation banner. Watch the mail for details.

6th – 8th Grade Sunday School

This year, we'll be bringing in folks from the congregation to teach short lessons, share stories, and participate in service with our Youth. Sherm will also be there every Sunday, and of course will be teaching some of the lessons. Our first day of Sunday School is on Sept. 20, and goes from 9:45 – 10:30. We'll be starting with an introduction to the year and spending some time to get to know each other a little better. Then we'll be moving into something called Peer Ministry, where we'll learn how listen and talk to one another.

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St. John's Wednesday Night Meals Begin on Sept. 16

Put your pots and pans away and join us Wednesday evenings for dinner! Dinner starts at 5:15 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall. We will be alternating between pizza, sub sandwiches except on "2nd Wednesdays" when a variety of different entries will be served.

Morning Devotions at the Tavern (9th-12th)

Highschoolers, there is no Sunday School for you! However, you're invited to come to the Tavern at 7:45 a.m., starting Wednesday, Sept. 9. Come for breakfast, and stay for devotion and discussion led by Sherm.

Youth Gathering

This summer, 18 youth and 3 adults from St. John's went down to New Orleans for the ELCA National Youth Gathering, along with 38,000 other youth from around the country. We read to school children, we painted, we learned in the Learning Center, we saw the French Quarter, we worshipped together with everybody in the Super Dome, and we had tons of fun doing it! It was an incredible experience and thank you again to all you folks who helped get our kids down there. **Stay tuned to The Voice to hear about the experiences that our youth had while down in New Orleans.**

Christikon

Eight Youth went out to Christikon this year. For those not in the know, Christikon is a Bible camp in Central Montana, in the Bear Teeth Mountains. Our group backpacked through beautiful mountain country for 5 days, all the while learning and talking about God and our faith. Be sure to check out the pictures on the Youth Board!

Parent's Night Out Is Back!

Back by popular demand, Parent's Night Out is coming in October! This is a chance for parents to enjoy a night out with the church providing a "Kids Night Out" for your elementary age children. The first night will be Saturday, Oct. 24 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Here's how it works: sign up and bring your children (up to grade 5) on any / all of these nights. Parents are encouraged to stay back one night each year to assist with childcare/activities at church. Confirmation students can earn cubits by helping! The next 3 dates are scheduled for Jan. 9, Mar. 6, and Apr. 10. A sign up poster is in the Commons. Please call Julie Brehmer at St. John's 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***Shared Ministry***Regina Hassanally***Youth Ministry***Mike Sherman***Congregation President***Betsy McLaughlin*

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Considering joining St. John's?

Any who are considering joining St. John's are invited to an informational lunch on Sunday Oct. 4, at noon in St. John's Hall. There will be opportunity to meet St. John's members and staff, learn about ministries at St. John's, and hear about the new member process. Contact the church office for more information, 645-4429 or office@stjohns-elca.org.

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September 20 will mark the official beginning of St. John's relationships with partner congregations in Tanzania and Colombia. Letters of greetings from Iambi Lutheran Church in Tanzania and El Salvador Lutheran in Colombia will be read during worship. Turn to page 14 for more information.

WelcomeFest Sunday is also the beginning of the 2009-2010 St. John's Forum season. St. John's Forum presentations are held on Sundays in St. John's fall beginning at 9:45 a.m. The first presentation entitled "Passing on faith with Children and Youth," given by Luther Seminary professor Roland Martinson. Turn to page 9 for more information.)

Fall Worship Schedule starting
Sunday, Sept. 13!

First Service: 8:30 a.m.

Education Hour: 9:45 a.m.

Second Service: 10:45 a.m.

Nursery starting during Education Hour -
Second Service

