

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2009

Volume 49, Number 10

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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:

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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.

God's work. Our hands.

Stewardship Sunday is Nov. 8: support of all is needed

The St. John's Stewardship emphasis is in full bloom. While this time of year is traditionally a time of harvesting what was previously sown, it is also vital that we plant the seeds for future harvests at St. John's. As a congregation, we have focused on "Extending God's Love" and we have done so in a variety of ways... the generous giving of our time and talents; the reaching out to others in need; the invitation to friends and acquaintances who might be in need of a church home. In extending God's love, it is God's work we are called to do, and it is our hands which do the work. The truth is that God calls each of us to participate in using our gifts to better God's creation and be wise stewards of the resources with which we have been entrusted.

In today's economy, we recognize that times are tight. But, the ministries of St. John's Lutheran Church continue in good times and in bad. In fact, never has it been more important that we find the financial resources to effectively extend God's love. Enclosed with this issue of the *Voice* please find a pledge card. We invite you to prayerfully consider what you are able to give to the ministry of St. John's as we look to meet the needs of our congregation and those we serve in our community and throughout the world.

Some of you will be unable to contribute what you might have hoped given your current circumstance. We certainly understand that and empathize with you and your loved ones. Our hope is that others – those of you who have been blessed with

reasonable income in 2009 – will step up to pledge additional dollars for 2010. The needs in our world are great. Our ministry as a church is vital. Please go the extra mile this year to help us do what we all know needs to be done in the year ahead.

In our Lutheran heritage we all seem hesitant to talk about money. In one sense, it is quite charming and seemingly appreciated by the vast majority of us. But, the fact is that we can only avoid talking about money if we all step up to the extent we are able. We need to consider increasing our pledges to fulfill God's call for us as a congregation. Please complete the enclosed pledge card and bring it to a Sunday service in the next few weeks or mail it back to the church office. The emphasis will conclude on Sunday, Nov. 8, and we would like all pledge cards in by that time. There will be time at the service to fill out your card as well. Please pledge what you can today. Thank you.

David Neuger, Stewardship Board



The vision of St. John's: growing as disciples + becoming signs of God's love for each other and the world

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word: A time of silence and prayer guided by Scripture. Meets Thursday, Nov. 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Prayer Chain: Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included in Sunday morning prayers unless specifically requested. Contact Mary Cisar with a prayer request or to become a prayer chain volunteer: macisar@gmail.com or 663-1097.

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

Galatians 6:2



Providing one-to-one care and encouragement

Living with Memory Loss

As our population ages, memory loss and the stresses that accompany it will increase for more and more of us and our caregivers. Some changes in mental functioning are normal and they parallel gradual changes in physical functioning as we get older. Other changes, however, are diseases, like Alzheimer's, which progress and eventually disable the patient mentally and physically.

What is normal memory loss that comes with aging? What are signs that the loss is more acute, that the family needs to consult with a physician? Last month, Gerise Thompson, Rochester Regional Center Director of the Minnesota/North Dakota Chapter of the National Alzheimer's Association, introduced the congregation to several forms of dementia, the most common of which is Alzheimer's. There is no cure for Alzheimer's, but early diagnosis and treatment can slow the progression of the disease. Ms. Thompson suggested the following as some of the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease:

- +Memory changes that disrupt daily life (forgetting, and not remembering later).
- +Challenges in planning or solving problems (unable to retrace steps).
- +Difficulty completing familiar tasks (putting frozen foods in the cupboard).
- +Confusion with time or place (wearing summer clothes in winter).
- +Withdrawal from work or social activities (no longer initiating conversations).

Help is available. The Alzheimer's Association works to advance research and offer support to those affected by the disease. Contact the association at 1.800.272.3900 or ALZ.com. Watch for information about a support group in the planning stages through the Faith and Health Board here at St. John's. Do you know someone who is dealing with or caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia? If you think that he or she could benefit from the personal touch of a Stephen Minister, contact Joan Halvorson at 645-8445 or one of the pastors at 645-4429.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Grief Support Group begins meeting this month. A Grief Support Group begins this month at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Northfield. Sessions begin Monday, Nov. 9, and run through Dec. 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Contact Nancy Ludescher at 645-8816, ext. 203, for more information.

Grief Booklets: book series is available for those grieving the loss of a loved one. Contact a pastor if you'd like a copy for yourself or for a family member or friend.



There were no St. John's members that died in this month last year. We list them here each month, when we have names to list, so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."

From our pastors . . .

*Let us
give
thanks!*

Paul, to the
people of
Corinth:

You will be
enriched in every
way for your
great generosity,
which will
produce thanks-
giving to God
through us; for
the rendering of
this ministry not
only supplies the
needs of the
saints but also
overflows with
many thanksgiv-
ings to God.

2 Cor. 9:11-12

November is a time for both
stewardship thinking for the coming
year, and for thanksgiving. And it's
probably no accident. Thanksgiving
and giving are inextricably tied.

What Paul says in these verses is very
helpful. Here Paul ties the thanksgiving
of the Corinthian Christians to their
giving to the offering he is raising.
Their generosity will "produce
thanksgiving to God" in those who
receive it, but the offering itself
"overflows with many thanksgivings to
God," therefore the offering itself is the
thanksgiving of the Corinthians. A few
verses later he helps them, and us,
recognize the "surpassing grace of
God" we've received, the
"indescribable gift," while encouraging
them, and us, to offer our thanks by
being God's gift to others.

Our theme for our work these past two
years at St. John's has been "Extending
God's love," and it has shaped our
thinking on all aspects of our ministry
together. This year we are adding
"God's work. Our hands." to the
theme, which is the theme of the
greater ELCA churchwide organization
for this year as well.

Extending God's love by doing God's
work with our own hands is all about
thanksgiving and giving. When we

recognize with joy what we have
received from God in abundance, the
only response we can make is "thank
you!"

And when we thankfully look at all
we've received, after we've said thank
you, Paul would suggest that the next
thing to do is offer these gifts to others.
To extend God's love in the world, to
do God's work with our hands.

The front page of this *Voice* has an
article from the Stewardship Board on
the emphasis this year. I hope that all
will read it carefully, take the pledge
card that is included in this *Voice*, and
prayerfully consider what thankful
response and promise each is able to
make.

We do this ministry together, and we
are richly blessed by God in that. As
we near Thanksgiving Day, let us also
open our hands to serve God with our
thanks. As Paul tells us, when we offer
thanksgiving to God by offering
ourselves back to serve God in the
world, there is actually a multiplication
of God's gifts and blessings on the
world and even back on to us. God
make it so with us as well. Come, let us
give thanks to the Lord!



October Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Bernice Messner**: by Myron and Arlene Dack.

In memory of **Becky Johnson**: by Roger and Darlene Hand

In memory of **Ralph Strand**: by Eulalie Smestad, Van and Ruth Anna Miller, Kay Sandeen, L. Berger, Clair Robinson, Dianne Star, Carl and Helen Peterson, Janet Gillespie, Shirley Briggs, Eldon and Elaine Person, Northfield Svenska Klubb, Georgene Johnson, Gerhard and Gloria Knutson, Kenneth and Joyce Madole, Dagfinn Moe and Lydia Quanbeck, Marilyn Boschee, Kenneth and Carolyn Jennings.

In memory of **Ralph Haugen**: by Jo Fletcher

In memory of **Bev Pinc**: by Francis, Denise, and Kayla Pinc

In memory of **Walt Johnson**: by Bernard and Beverly Blanness

In memory of **Eileen Reed**: by Edgar and Helen Larson

In honor of **Roger and Darlene Hand's 50th Wedding Anniversary**: by Friends at St. John's

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Ralph Strand**: by Lonna Tschann, David and Patricia Halsor, George and Lyla Arneson Paulson

In memory of **Arnild Wermager**: by Paul and Ann Gleason

St. John's Foundation World Mission Fund

In memory of **Ralph Strand**: by George and Lyla Arneson Paulson

Music Fund

In memory of **Ralph Strand**: by Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Richard and Jo Dahlin.

Building Principal Fund

In honor of **The Confirmation Class of 2009**: by Brian and Darci Boyum.

Lutheran World Relief

In memory of **Ralph Strand**: by John and Frances Evenson

St. John's Foundation ELCA College Scholarship Fund

In memory of **Ralph Haugen**: by Duane and Elaine Kringen, Ted and Margie Vessey, Bob and Jane Gelle, Mary White, George and Lyla Arneson Paulson, Solveig Steendal, Charles Lunder, Char Nelson, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Paul and Deaun Peterson, Dennis and Jane Rinehart, Eulalie Smestad, Ed and Rose Youngquist, Karen and Howard Wilson, Sally Erickson, Mary Eggen, Gene and Lois Bakko, Forrest and Virley Brown, David and Joan Halvorson, George and Gretchen Hardgrove, Carol Johnson, Gerhard and Gloria Knutson, Bruce and Audrey Moe, Basil and Kathryn Mroz, Bud and Loey Nelson, Omar and David Otterness, JoAnn Polley and Mark Ulmer, Mark and Susan Quinnell, Marilyn Raadt, Janet Thompson, Mary Westrem, Myrna Johnson, Jean Larson, Jennings and Elaine Feroe, Steve and Jennifer Edwins

Radio Fund

In memory of **Bev Pinc**: by Arthur and Betty Schuette, Leonard DeWolfe, Milo and Eloise Quinnell, Family and Friends.

In memory of **Ralph Haugen**: by Shirley Falck

In memory of **Walt Johnson**: by Loretta Siler, Millie Johnson

In memory of **Ralph Strand**: by Leonard DeWolfe, Jo Chambers

In memory of **Sylvia Johnson**: by Jean Schrader, Georgia Braulick

In memory of **Bernice Messner**: by Leonard DeWolfe.

In memory of **Eileen Reed**: by Loretta Siler.

Building Fund

In memory of **Ralph Haugen**: by Lorene Elg, Gordie and Delores Mickelsen, I. Ruth Hansen, Sharon Bishop, Dick and Jo Dahlin, Roger and Darlene Hand

In memory of **Bernice Messner**: by Gordon and Delores Mickelsen, Friends at St. John's.

In memory of **Nancy Slater**: by Roger and Darlene Hand

In memory of **Ralph Strand**: by Gordon and Delores Mickelsen

In memory of **Walt Johnson**: by Lorene Elg.

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... from and around the greater Church

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



from Benevolence and Social Concerns: ELCA World Hunger Appeal

November is a time to give thanks for the bounty of the harvest. It is also when we at St. John's make our annual offering for ELCA World Hunger. ELCA World Hunger is a ministry that makes a difference. It helps individuals, families and whole communities break the cycle of hunger and poverty. The outreach goes to people in over 50 countries around the world, focusing on homelessness and health, in addition to food and water. The global economic crisis has pushed hunger to the highest levels in years, so

our donations are even more urgently needed. Last year a record \$14,059 was raised at St. John's for ELCA World Hunger. It would be wonderful to match or exceed that amount this year. How can you contribute? Use the special November 1st World Hunger envelope in your offering packet. Or use the World Hunger Appeal envelope in the pews. Rev. Daniel Rift, the Director of ELCA World Hunger Appeal, reminds us, "We have the opportunity to be Christ to one another through our caring and sharing."

Other Actions

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Weddings

Jennifer Nelson and Jeffrey Mahoney, Oct. 24, 2009

Funerals

Rebecca Johnson, September 1, 2009

Juta Millert, September 12, 2009

Eileen Reed, October 18, 2009

Vernal Benrud, October 30, 2009

Radio Broadcasts

October 4, 2009, in memory of **Teddy Miller**, by Van Miller

October 11, 2009, in loving memory of **Arne Nelsen**, by Elsie Nelsen

October 18, 2009, in memory of **Beverly Pinc**, by Mary Ann Truax, Bette and Art Schutte

October 25, 2009, in memory of **Lorraine Kimber on her birthday Oct. 26** by her family

Thank You . . .

Dear St. John's,

We have felt surrounded by your love and support while our son Will has been going through surgeries and recoveries. Thank you so much for all the prayers, cards, emails, posts to our CaringBridge website, and meals. He is at home, happy, healthy and growing into the little boy we hoped we'd have. He'll be walking up to listen to the children's sermons soon. *Betsy and Jeff McLaughlin*

St. John's Extending God's Love

St. John's hosted over forty high school youth from Fargo, North Dakota on Wednesday October 21. The students from West Fargo High School were on a trip sponsored by Students Today Leaders Forever – a student volunteer-led non-profit organization that promotes servant leadership in colleges, high schools, and middle schools. Before traveling to Decorah, IA the group stopped at the Long Term Care Center in Northfield to visit residents and to lead special activities. The group also toured St. Olaf College.

Music Life at St. John's

Music Ministry Notes:

- If you would like to participate in the **Senior Choir** for the Advent and Christmas seasons, we would love for you to join us as we prepare for the four Sundays in Advent, a Service of Lessons and Carols at 5:00 pm on December 20, and our Christmas Day morning worship. If you do wish to sing, please join our Wednesday evening rehearsals (7:00 pm in Room 209) beginning November 18. Childcare is available by reservation. For any questions, childcare reservations, or for other short-term singing opportunities, please call Dan Fenn at 645.4429, ext. 58.
- November Singing Schedule for Choirs:
 - 1 – Senior (8:30); Alleluia (10:45)
 - 8 – Hosanna and Jubilate (8:30); Senior (10:45)
 - 15 – Senior (8:30); Laudate (10:45)
 - 22 – Senior (8:30); Hosanna and Jubilate (10:45)
 - 29 – Senior (8:30); Laudate (10:45)

A music curriculum for our young Sunday School children starts this fall

Each week, our pre Kindergarten through third grade students participate in a fifteen minute Sunday School "opening" time which includes music and an introduction to the day's lesson. Our children at St. John's do not have a regular music component to their Sunday School education apart from the songs sung at this opening unless they choose to participate in choir. It seems important, then, to give careful thought to the music we teach during this opening time, and how it might strengthen their understanding of God.

In August, following the recommendation of the Children's Ministry and Education board, Council approved a position to coordinate music programming for Sunday School. The St. John's Foundation grant will fund this position for the 2009-2010 school year as a test project. I was asked to take this role for the year. I'm excited to take it on, in addition to directing the Alleluia Choir.

My goal is to help bridge the Sunday School lessons with the music and liturgy that our kids experience in every day worship. In devising a

music curriculum, we can carefully plan diverse music that will make sense to our kids and hopefully inspire them as well, while having continuity throughout the coming years. Our parent/family volunteers have always been a blessing, and I hope that we'll continue to have our musical members at St. John's lend a hand whenever possible. Your participation and enthusiasm is appreciated!

Certainly, we all have thoughts about what hymns, songs, and liturgy our kids should be learning. Our history with the church, our culture, and our generations contribute to a rich and diverse repertoire. In this light, I'm always interested to hear what parents and any member of our congregation feels about music our little ones should learn. Please contact me with any questions or input you'd like to offer.

It's a pleasure to be working with the children at St. John's!

Jennifer Pelletier; Home: 664-9296

E-mail: zachery9296@msn.com

CROP Hunger Walk a Success

Thank you to sponsors and walkers and all who supported the 2009 CROP Hunger Walk! Northfield area individuals, congregations, and businesses raised \$36,218 so far, to help fight hunger in Northfield through the Community Action Center and through Church World Service organizations around the world. Thank you to members of St. John's who walked and who contributed \$1,438.

Congregational care - looking after each other

You may have read in the Sunday bulletin a few weeks ago about the possibility of a new Ministry Team focused on Congregational Care. The hope is to establish a team of people willing to be contacted to meet the practical needs of families in the congregation dealing with a long term medical issue. My goal is to have a lengthy list of people (30 or so) who would be willing to be “on-call” meaning when the need arises those on the list are willing to be asked to prepare a meal, rake leaves, shovel a sidewalk, or help in whatever way their time and talents align with the needs of the family.

There are a lot of different ways this team could take shape but the first step is assessing whether or not members of the congregation are willing to serve one and other in this way. The Faith and Health board is supportive of this endeavor and members of the congregation have voiced their desire to see such a team take shape. Two things need to happen before a team can be established. First I need to know if you are interested and willing to add your name to this “on-call” list. Second, I need a group of people who would be willing to serve as a rotating coordinator: as needs arise help coordinate the schedules of our “on-call” volunteers. This would ensure that the same person does not end up coordinating in every case, enabling every individual’s work load to be kept fairly light.

The first two Sundays of November there will be, as there was a few weeks ago, a slip in the bulletin for you to place your name and contact information on if you’re interested in serving others in this way. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate, return it to the church office, or contact me directly via e-mail or phone.

A final thought about Congregational Care: it doesn’t always have to be formal. If you’re aware of a family in need, members of St. John’s or not, I encourage you to think of practical ways you can extend God’s love. At some point in our lives we all become the ones in need of someone else’s help. I have been that person and the practical ways in which my church body displayed Christ’s love to me in that season reminded me of the faithful love of God in a time when everything was uncertain.

I am speaking very practically on this matter: if your co-worker is moving this weekend perhaps you could stop by and carry a few boxes. If your neighbor’s leg is broken maybe you could rake the leaves. If you know the family sitting next to you on Sunday morning is in the midst of a medical crises look at them and ask “Can I bring you dinner tomorrow night?”

When my family was in the throes of a medical crisis lots of people said, “Call me if you need anything.” But the truth of the matter was I didn’t have the energy to pick up the phone. But the people who called me and said “Can I drop off dinner tonight?” were the people who helped me survive.

It is part of being the body of Christ, when one member is in need the rest of the members respond to restore that member, and the entire body, to wholeness and health. It is part of Shared Ministry at St. John’s, extending God’s love: Serving to Love, Loving to Serve.

Regina Hassanally, Director of Shared Ministries



Serving on Sundays in November

Acolytes

- November 1** (8:30) Dalton Skrove, Chen Ye, Michael Gasior; (10:45) Alyssa Heather, Karl Amundson, Jasmine Newman-Evans
- November 8** (8:30) Wylie Kimmes-Kneser, Paul Hummel; (10:45) Olivia Riggins, Jessica Smith
- November 15** (8:30) Evan Nelson, Ian Iverson; (10:45) Katharine Herrlich, Alexa Nutt
- November 22** (8:30) Cameron Judge-Becker, Kirstin Buck, Chen Ye; (10:45) Andrew Dell, Bjorn Bade, Alyssa Heather
- November 29** (8:30) Amelia Kimmes-Kneser, Rebecca Storlie; (10:45) Amelia Tjaden, Kristopher Swanson

Coffee

- November 1** Eric and Cynthia Lund, Dennis and Jane Rinehart, Carol Carlson
- November 8** Debbie and Buford Faust, Joe and Carol Nesheim, Alice Hanson
- November 15** Charles and Barbara Wilson, Mike and Suzanne Sylvester, Sandy Gerdes
- November 22** Chris Anderson, Carolyn Nitz, Gretchen and George Hardgrove, Doug Child
- November 29** Erik and Carol Hong **Note: two more volunteers needed for Nov. 29 - contact Pat Fick**

Communion preparers

- November 1** Grace and Marlon Madson
- November 8** Connie and Lloyd Gunderson
- November 15** David and Pat Halsor
- November 22** John and Mary Beth Bremer
- November 29** Jill Enestvedt

Nursery

- November 1** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Sheri Williams
- November 8** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Adam Neuger
- November 15** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Jenny Nystrom
- November 22** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Angie McCarthy
- November 29** (10:30 a.m. - noon) Amy and Saul McBroom

Ushers

- November 1** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Alice Bates, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen, Sandy Whitworth, Bill Whitworth; (10:45) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber
- November 8** (8:30) Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Guy Reid, Jon-Erle Reid, Steve Williams
- November 15** (8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:45) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Lowell Johnson, Todd Iverson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
- November 22** (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:45) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback
- November 25** (7:00, Thanksgiving Eve) Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid
- November 29** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Alice Bates, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen, Sandy Whitworth, Bill Whitworth; (10:45) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Next meeting:
Monday, Nov. 9
6:30 p.m.
St. John's Hall
(see column on
the right)

Extending God's Love: a fast and celebration for peace and justice

For many years the Peace and Justice Group has observed Nov. 11 with a day of individual fasting and prayer. At 6:00 p.m. we gather in St. John's Hall for a service followed by a soup supper to break the fast.

This year we will celebrate on Monday, Nov. 9, our regular meeting date. All interested persons are invited to participate in any part of the day to reflect on the costs of war and the ways of peace, nonviolence and justice. Resources for reflection during the day are available on the Peace and Justice bulletin boards.

Our focus for this month continues the broad theme of justice in our programs.

We will reflect on the fast that the Lord requires—the responsibility to “Loose the fetters of injustice, untie the knots of the yoke... to set free those who have been crushed....to share our food with the hungry, to take the homeless poor into our house, to clothe the naked, and never evade a duty to our kinfolk.” (*Isaiah 58: 6-10*) This, the prophet tells us, is the justice God wants from us.

The age-old discipline of fasting directs us not only into inner renewal and reflective action, but also outward, focusing our energy and resources to meet human needs that have been ignored or denied. Having increased our awareness of the dimensions of justice, we consider our responsibilities to nurture and protect and extend God's love. Justice is love applied to many neighbors.

In our daily lives, doing justice means that through programs and ministries,

Nov. 11 marks the end of World War I, now U.S. Veterans Day. It is appropriate that on the day we give special appreciation to those who fought for our freedom and peace we work to lessen the violence and the causes of war in our world.

Nov. 11 is also the commemoration day of Martin of Tours, the 4th cent. Roman army officer who renounced violence when he became a follower of Christ. He is remembered as a promoter of non-military solutions, a compassionate person to those in need and those with whom he differed. Martin Luther, born Nov. 10 and baptized Nov. 11, is named after him.

Extending God's Love: Our Stewardship of Justice

+

Monday, Nov. 9, 2009

A day of Fasting and Prayer

A celebration of Peace and Non-violence

+

During the day you may wish to fast by omitting a meal or two and/or by omitting an activity or distraction, so that you can focus on peacemaking and hunger.

At 6:00 p.m. we will come together in St. John's Hall for a service of prayer and reflection when we can share the insights of the day.

We will break the fast with a soup supper.

All are welcome!

we advocate dignity and respect for all people, that we speak for those who are voiceless, that we protect those who are powerless. We work to promote forces that are good and we participate in actions that relieve misery and that result in peace and reconciliation in our communities and among nations.

This work does not end. The grace of God sustains the work and the workers.

For those who hunger, give bread.
For those who have bread, give a
hunger for justice.

— Latin American Table Prayer

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

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

Our program theme for 2009-2010: Local Connections

November General Meeting is Nov. 5

On Thursday, Nov. 5, at 1:00 p.m. is our monthly general meeting. Daniel Fenn, Director of Music Ministry, will be the guest speaker. Bring your Thankofferings.

November 2009 Schedule

Nov. 9 – Noon - Bible study leaders meet, Fireside Room.

Nov. 3 and 17 – 9:30 a.m. – Knitters meet, Library.

Nov. 11 and 12 – Circles meet.

Nov. 16 and 19 – Women of the ELCA Workday for Quilting and other mission projects. Quilt preparation is the Monday before workday at 9:00 a.m. Quilts are tied on Thursday.

Dec. 3 – WELCA Executive Board Meets

Special Invitation Dec. 7

The women of St. Peter's WELCA invite the women of St. John's to their evening Advent gathering on Monday, Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m. They are hosting a dessert buffet including fruit, cheese and crackers. The speaker is Chaplain Dianne Goulson of the Northfield Retirement Center.

Monthly Mission Project Report:

15 layettes and 93 school kits were delivered to LWR

School Bags for LWR are cut and ready to assemble. Pick them up in the Commons and you can work at home.

Come to Workday Nov. 19 at 9:00.

Community Action Center of Northfield United Christmas Sharing Program: Pajama Cutting Sessions are on **November 10 and 17** from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the United Methodist Church 1401 Maple Street. Bring scissors if you have them. **Sewers** can pick up pajama kits ready to sew at the Clothes Closet.

Circles

Women interested in joining a Circle, please contact Ann Ness at 645-5133 for further information and to make contacts.

Circle Bible Study Regular Meeting Times each month are the second Wednesday or Thursday at the times below:

Lydia – Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. Marilyn Boschee and Judy Smith, Leaders

Sarah – Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Carole Nesheim, Leader

Martha/Claudia – Thurs., 9:30 a.m. Eulalie Smestad, Leader

Elizabeth – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Darlene Hand and Iva Dodson, Leaders

Abigail/Rebecca – Thurs., 2:00 p.m. Gert Brosz, Leader

Mary – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Rachel Stark, Leader

Miriam – Time TBD, Cheryl Buck, Leader

Womens' Breakfast Group - second **Saturday** at 8:30 a.m. in Fireside Room, Kathy Mellstrom, Leader.

Looking Ahead:

Advent Brunch is Saturday, Dec. 12, at 9:30 a.m. – this is sponsored by Women's Breakfast Group and Miriam Circle Women in St. John's Hall. This is always a special event! It takes the place of the December General Women of the ELCA meeting.

Adult Ministry and Education

Small Group Ministries

Providing opportunities for fellowship, Bible study, health and wellness, faith in daily living, learning, and service.

Connections

Contact: Carol Schoen 645-6840

Dad's Time Out

Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271

Everyone Has a Story

Contact: Phil Eaves 645-4172

Grief Support

Contact: Barbara Knaak 664-0444

Men's Breakfast Bible Study - Food, fellowship,

Contact: Dean Ostlie 645-2597

Meets: Every other Thursday, 7:30-9:00 a.m.

Nurturing Prayer

Contact: Dick Beckmen 664-3882

Options Bible Study - Gospel of Luke

Contact: Dave and Gen Quarberg 645-0089

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

Contact: Judith Stoutland 645-7842

Meets: 2nd Monday, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Prayer and Praise, Mondays, 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Mary White 645-4783

Tuesday Noon Bible Study

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

Women of the ELCA Circles

Contact: Ann Ness 645-5133

Women of the ELCA Knitting

Contact: Bobbie Maakestad 645-4397

Women of the ELCA Quilting

Contact: Kathy Vang 645-4849

Women's Breakfast Group

Contact: Kathy Mellstrom 663-1451

Yoga

Contact: Patsy Ophaug 645-6231

Young Professionals' Book Group

Contact: Terrence Hassanally 612-819-0605

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



Taste and See

As a child, I was a very finicky eater who didn't want to try anything new, knowing it would be awful. Of course, my mom would reply, "How do you know if you don't try it?"

Perhaps you have heard similar words, whether the subject was food, an activity, experience or adventure. With maturity, some of our apprehensions go away, while others may remain...at least they do for me.

The small group leaders at St. John's invite you to come...*taste and see*...and experience a small group. As you can tell by the side bar, there are different types of groups to meet a variety of interests and needs.

Our small group ministry continues to grow, with three new groups in the forming process. They are:

Young Professionals' Book and Discussion Group. This group meets for discussion of Christian literature, prayer and fellowship. They meet twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Friday, from 7:30-9:00 p.m., in private homes. Contact person is Terrence Hassanally, 612-819-0605

Prayer: Nurturing Your Relationship with God.

Participants in this group will examine their prayer journeys and explore prayer disciplines to deepen an awareness and vocation of prayer. Resource book by same title as group name costs \$10.00. The group will meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., beginning Nov. 17. Contact person is Dick Beckmen, 664-3882.

Alzheimers/Dementia: Navigating the Pathways. If you have an interest in exploring this topic, want to learn more, or have questions, please contact Alan or Lynette Marks 663-0802 (evenings) or email lynmarks@deskmedia.com.

Barbara Eaves

Copies of the Fall Catalog
are available at the
Small Group bulletin board display
in the Commons

Adult Ministry and Education

Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Education Hour is at 9:45 a.m. Coffee is in the Commons between services.

Nov. 1: *St. John's Forum: Global Issues: Climate Change* presented by Kathy Shea and Kristi Wermager, St. John's Hall. Kathy and Kristi report on their participation in the Ecumenical Advocacy Days meetings held in Washington D.C. last March.

New Members: Shared Ministry – Part 1: Exploring spiritual gifts and how Shared Ministry shapes life at St. John's, Fireside Room.

Nov. 8: *St. John's Forum: Global Issues: War, The Religious Sensibility of Abraham Lincoln*, presented by Ed Santurri, St. John's Hall.

New Members: Connection: fellowship time with hosts, St. John's members who help to welcome and help to connect new members with the congregation, Fireside Room.

Nov. 15: *St. John's Forum: Poverty: Global Causes and Individual Responses*, presented by Tony Becker and Beckie Judge, St. John's Hall.

New Members: Shared Ministry – Part 2: Exploring the call of belonging to a congregation and sharing gifts, Fireside Room.

Nov. 22: *New Member Reception:* St. John's Hall

Nov. 29: *Sunday Morning Concert Series:* Members of St. John's perform a recital in the sanctuary.

St. John's Forum: Global Issues in November

This month the St. John's Forum presentations will focus on three areas of global concern: climate change, war, and poverty.

On Nov. 1, Kathy Shea and Kristi Wermager will highlight issues discussed at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days meeting in Washington D.C. last March. The theme of the event was "Enough for all Creation" and the specific focus was on climate change. The presentation will outline scientific background on climate change, discuss ethical issues, give examples of people affected by climate change, and lift up ways that people of faith can care for creation through responsible and sustainable use of resources.

2009 is the 200th Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth. On Nov. 8, Ed Santurri, professor of religion and philosophy at St. Olaf College, will speak about how religion and ethics shaped President Lincoln's leadership during the Civil War and how those ideas and concerns might have relevance for the time of war that we are living in. "The Religious Sensibility of Abraham Lincoln" is the title of Professor Santurri's presentation.

On Nov. 15, St. Olaf economists Tony Becker and Beckie Judge explore the causes of poverty across the globe with an emphasis on how economic and political systems contribute to both the problem and the solution. Together with those in attendance, Professors Becker and Judge will explore how others have responded to the call to love one's neighbor that compels us to consider each other's needs in light of our own actions and resources.

All are welcome to the St. John's Forum on Nov. 1, 8, and 15 beginning at 9:45 a.m. in St. John's Hall.

Good News Gang Bowling Nov. 9

Are you in 3rd – 5th grade? Do you like to bowl? Join your friends for bowling in November!



Where: Jesse James Lanes in Northfield

When: Friday, November 9 – **NO SCHOOL DAY!**

Time: 12:30 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Parents: Please drop and pick up your child at the bowling alley. If you need a ride, let Julie know. Friends are always welcome! The cost for two games and shoe rental is \$10.00. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons. *Parent or high school chaperones are needed.*

Youth Blast 2009!

We had a fantastic weekend at Youth Blast, a retreat for 3rd – 6th graders, at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, Minnesota. Thanks to Kim Little, Rob Nutt and Jenny Pelletier for chaperoning with Julie at Youth Blast.

Baptism Preparation Session

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. The next session is Saturday, Nov. 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Please call the office if you plan to attend.

Advent Fair is Coming!

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming Advent Fair at St. John's on Dec. 6! Volunteers are needed to help with lunch, crafts and *Mission Possible* – selling handcrafts from around the world with proceeds going to Lutheran World Relief and SERVV International Fair Trade Project, and coffee and chocolate with proceeds going to Lutheran World Relief. Look for a sign-up in the Commons soon!

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

Nov. 1 Sunday School – (*Daylight Savings Ends*)
 Nov. 8 Sunday School
 Nov. 15 Sunday School
 Nov. 22 Sunday School
 Nov. 29 No Sunday School (*Thanksgiving break*)

Good News Gang Bowling

Monday, Nov. 9, (No School!)
 12:30 – 2:15 p.m., Jesse James Lanes
 Cost: \$10.00 / child (see article)

Second Wednesday Meal

Nov. 11, 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. (*see article on back page!*)
 St. John's Hall - Everyone is welcome!

Advent Fair



Sunday, Dec. 6
 Lunch, Christmas crafts, food demonstrations,
 Fair Trade Fair, fun, fun, fun!

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 14, 3:00 p.m.

Congratulations to Third Graders

The Bibles are purchased using money from the Johnson Bible fund. Receiving Bibles this year were: Andrew Becker, Nikita Benson, Halvor Bratland, James Bull, Trey Coudret, Cody Creighton, Creegan Croone, Erin Gunn, Isabele Hessian, Madelyn Hessian, Elsa Hoff, Grant Huston, Jack Kelly, Trevor Keske, Colby Klotz, Willa Kmoch, Siri Lindell, Logan Matson, Samuel Mikula, Alison Nelson, Cole Newman, Aidan Nutt, Emily Ortiz, AJ Pahs, Sydney Poquette, Isaac Riggins, Anna Weber, Rikka Zillmer.

Welcome, Dory! We welcome St. Olaf student, Dory Liem, to St. John's. She is a work study student who is helping with childcare in our Nursery on Sunday mornings during both worship services and the Education Hour. This is the second year St. John's has employed a work study student to help in the Nursery. We are happy to have her here - please stop by and say hi!

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Hands and Feet Nov. 14



St. John's is fighting hunger this November, and all are invited to help. On Saturday, Nov. 14, the organization Feed My Starving Children will be coming to Northfield. Groups from Northfield will be volunteering with them by packaging meals that will then be shipped to starving people around the world. St. John's has a time slot from noon to 2:00 p.m. You can sign up to volunteer by contacting Mike Sherman. Hurry, there are only a couple of spots left! Remember, Hands and Feet projects are for all ages!

Romans and Christians for Middle School Nov. 21

You asked for it! On Saturday, Nov. 21, we'll be playing another round of Romans and Christians. Contact Sherm if you need more information. Friends are invited as always, but remember, we need a health form for everyone who participates.

Here are the details:

When: Nov. 21, from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Where: St. John's **Cost:** Free!

RSVP: Parents can let Mike Sherman know that their child is coming to this event by calling him at church, e-mailing him, (msherman@stjohns-elca.org), or simply by letting him know in person. If I don't have one from you yet, I will need a completed St. John's health from you.

Other: *We need at least two of chaperones to make this happen. Let me know if you're able to come. (It'll be lots of fun!)*

Concert for High School Nov. 7

On Saturday Nov. 7, Agape, Lost & Found, and Rachel Kurtz will be performing at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. Our youth were able to see all three of these musical groups this past summer at the ELCA National Youth Gathering, in New Orleans. Their goal for this tour is to raise a total of \$50,000 to help fight world hunger. The cost for this event is \$10.00 per person. If you wish, you are free to bring extra money to donate. Contact Mike if you want to be in on this great concert!

MS Sunday School

Howdy Folks! Here's this month's Sunday School line-up for Middle School:

Nov. 1 - Sherm: Stretch and Pray

Nov. 8 - Kathy Vang: Quilting / Bandage Rolling

Nov. 15 - Peggy Hanson: TBA

Nov. 22 - Peggy Hanson: TBA

Nov. 29 - Thanksgiving Break

HS Sunday School

Watch for details about a new Sunday School option for 9th-12th graders in the weekly bulletins and on the St. John's website!

Sixth Grade CAT

6th Grade CAT meets Wednesday, Nov. 4, from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. We'll be discussing the 1st Petition of the Lord's Prayer, and reviewing the acronym for prayer, ACTORS. We meet in the Fireside Room, and we will be sharing a meal together (pizza). Looking forward to seeing you there!

No Confirmation Thanksgiving Week

This is a reminder that there will be no Confirmation on Wednesday, Nov. 25, due to Thanksgiving Break. Come to worship that night and give thanks to God, though! 7:00 p.m. is St. John's Thanksgiving worship service. Happy Turkey Day everyone!

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

Parish Administrator

Shelley Keske

Parish Nurse

Lynette Marks

Shared Ministry

Regina Hassanally

Youth Ministry

Mike Sherman

Congregation President

Betsy McLaughlin



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Nominating Committee seeks names, seeks people!

The Nominating Committee will be meeting in mid-November to begin finding nominees to fill council and board positions for the ballot at the annual meeting next year. There will be at least two positions open on each board, as well as the following council positions: President-elect (according to our usual pattern we'd be looking for a woman to fill this in 2010), Secretary, and chairs of three boards: Treasurer/Business Management, Adult Ministry and Education, and Properties and Grounds. If you are interested in serving in this way, or can think of people whom you feel have gifts for this, please contact Pr. Crippen or members of the Nominating Committee. They are: Guy Reid, Scott Swanson, Carrie Duba, Ruthie Neuger, Greg Kneser, and Katherine Norrie.

Open forum on ELCA sexuality statement Sunday, Nov. 8

On Sunday, Nov. 8, at 6:00 p.m., members are invited to an open forum in St. John's Hall to continue our conversation about the human sexuality statement passed at August's Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis, and implications for policy. The meeting will last two hours, and Pastors Crippen and Johnson, and President Betsy McLaughlin and President-elect Tim Eklund will be in front to field any questions that might come. In the interests of honest discourse, please take the time to read the statement and policy resolutions before coming. They may be found at www.elca.org.

Second Wednesday Meal is November 11!

Youth Ministry and Education board serves up some chili

On Wednesday, Nov. 11, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. our Second Wednesday meal will be served. This is a meal for the whole congregation to enjoy fellowship and time together (much like we do in the Lenten Soup Suppers.) All are invited to come and share in this intergenerational time of food and fellowship. The Youth Ministry and Education Board is serving chili with all the fixings for this night. If you would like to help, please give Regina Hassanally a call at 645-4429, ext. 24.