

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2010

Volume 50, Number 3

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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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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.

Midweek Lenten worship continues in March

The first four Wednesdays in March will continue Lenten worship using the series "Signs to Faith" begun in February. Soup supper begins at 5:30 p.m. each Wednesday through Mar. 24, and Evening Prayer is at 7:00 p.m. Each week the series will look at a sign through which Jesus reveals the nature of God and leads to deeper faith and trust in God.

Children process with palms March 28

Children are invited to participate in the Procession with Palms on Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), Apr. 5.

Children will meet in the Library prior to the first or second service to receive a palm and line up for the processional. Parents are welcome to participate along with their child(ren).

Easter Breakfast April 4

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



Holy Week and Easter at St. John's

Y~ukhi vm lol Vhzzpvu. Shyjo 4=
Procession with Palms and
Holy Communion,
8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sh~uk! Zo~yzkhi. Gwyys 3
Holy Communion,
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Mvvk Lypkhi. Gwyys 4
Liturgy of Good Friday,
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Nvsi Yhi~ykhi. Gwyys 5
The Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 p.m.
at Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College
(with area Lutheran congregations)

Zol Xlz~yyljhpvu vm v~y Rvyk.
Y~ukhi. Gwyys 6
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.
Holy Communion at all services
Easter Breakfast from
8:30 to 11:00 a.m.
9:30 service broadcast
on KYMN 1080 AM

Prayer and Care Ministry

Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word: Mark the days of Lent in prayer. Gathered in the Word is a time of silence and prayer guided by Scripture. Meets Thursday, March 25, 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome

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.

Pray Without Ceasing

Prayer is central to the Christian life, and yet many of us are “fainting in prayer.”* We feel inadequate in our praying. We need help and encouragement. Below is an excerpt on prayer from a daily devotional by Ole Hallesby, *God’s Word for Today*.

Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5: 17-18

Since ancient times prayer has been spoken of as the breath of the soul. This suggests something about prayer that many of us are quick to forget. Through breathing our bodies are *constantly* being renewed. We eat three or four times a day. But we *breathe* all day, and at night, too. Here we come in contact with an important aspect of prayer. We cannot breathe in the early morning in such a way that it will be sufficient until noon. Likewise, we cannot pray in the morning so as to suffice until noon. Therefore the apostle says: “Pray without ceasing!” Indeed, *this* is the secret of the Christian life!

The peace-filled, victorious, joyful Christian life is possible only to those who have learned the deepest secret of daily renewal: unceasingly to turn to God and receive new, fresh power from the realm of the eternal. Nothing is so blessed to the soul as this quiet, unceasing fellowship with the Lord. The sense of the Lord’s presence which then fills our souls exceeds all else that we can experience of peace and joy, inner satisfaction and security. Adversity and sorrow also lose their poignancy when we share them thus with the Lord.

From *God’s Word for Today* by O. Hallesby copyright © 1994 Augsburg Books. Reproduced by special permission of Augsburg Fortress Publishers. First published in 1937.

*The quotation comes from Ole Hallesby’s classic meditation, *Prayer*, first published in 1931. Both of Hallesby’s books are still available from Augsburg Fortress. Copies of both books are available for purchase this month in the church office. Contact Pr. Johnson for more information

Northfield Grief Support Coalition: The St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Grief Support Group meets this month beginning Mar. 22 at 7:00 p.m. Contact Jeannie Machacek for more information, 645-5480

Grief Booklets: “Journeying through Grief” booklets are available for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.

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

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry



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

February 28, 2009

Albert Finholt

March 8, 2009

Gordon Rasmussen

From our pastors . . .

Winning by Losing

*"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?"
Luke 9:23-25*



By the time anyone reads this, the 2010 Winter Olympics will be over. It's been a good games for the United States, who led in the medal count every day. But I'm always a little troubled by the medal count. I realize that winning a gold medal is, in part, the point of the competition. But the constant attention to which country's won more than the others seems counter to the spirit of the games. And the obsession media folks have with gold as opposed to any other medal is also problematic. To receive a medal of any kind at an Olympic Games is an incredible achievement, and I'm always most happy for those athletes who rejoice at their bronze for the accomplishment it is. Somehow we've gotten into the idea that only the top winner is worth anything.

Which makes being a Christian very difficult, at least if we wish to follow Jesus with our whole lives and live as he lived, serve as he served. Because at the center of our faith is the belief that the God of the universe lost spectacularly on our behalf. It isn't only lip-service for us to say that the most important thing that ever happened to the world was the Son of God dying on the cross. Luther reminds us that it is the cross which most fully shows us God's love, most fully shows us God's true identity, most fully shows us God's plan. And while certainly Easter is a celebration of God's victory over death and over our willfulness which killed God's Son, it is still the cross which is emblematic of God's way with the world. God, who has all power, chooses not to use that power against us. Instead, God allows us to do what we will with Jesus, the Son of God from eternity, even if it means Jesus dies. In doing this, God shows us that the only way to life is not defeating others, but being willing to lose for the sake of others.

And in the verses above, Jesus invites us to the same way of life. And this plays out in small but powerful ways as much as in massively important ways like the cross. Losing one's life for another is as simple as asking forgiveness instead of insisting that we didn't mean to hurt, or offering forgiveness instead of insisting on acknowledgment and repair of a wrong. It's as simple as being the one who gives ground in an argument, out of love, instead of insisting on being right and being heard. It's as simple as taking far more seriously the log in our own eye than the speck in our neighbor's, to paraphrase Jesus. It's as simple living a life of self-giving, gracious love instead of self-centered, grasping self-interest. In other words, it's not simple at all, is it? It's hard. That's why Jesus calls it "losing life" and a sacrifice.

But as we enter Holy Week at the end of this month, it is what Jesus does for us at the cross which is far more powerful a witness than any gold medal or victorious accomplishment. He shows us what true love is, and what a true human is. Thanks be to God that it's likely none of us will be crucified, that our sacrifice will likely not be physical torture. But let's make no mistake and think that the sacrifice of love to which we are called is an easy thing. It's hard. It's a discipline. But the gift of Jesus is that we are strengthened and empowered for our lives – empowered so that we can give up power. Once we realize that life is the path Jesus led, all we need is God's help to walk that path ourselves. As we walk our Lenten journey this month, may God give us all the grace to live such lives as the love of Christ in the world.

In Jesus' name,

February Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Paul Tollefson**: by Shirley Tollesfon.

In memory of **Rev. Harlan Blockhus**: by Robert and Carol Carlson.

In memory of **Beverly Blanness**: by Bernard Blanness, Loretta Siler.

In memory of **Inez Mostrom**: by John and Louise Quam, Basil and Kathy Mroz.

In memory of **Beverly Blanness**: by Lee and June Jacobson, Julian and Elizabeth Trangsrud, Doug Lees, Mildred Johnson, Eldon and Elaine Person

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Jennings Feroe**: by Virginia Johnson

In honor of **Rev. Harlan Blockhus** by Noreen Benson.

In memory of **Beverly Blanness**: by Donald Kimber.

In memory of **Adeline Tallman**: by Sandford and Kathryn Haugen.

In memory of **Beverly Blanness**: by David and Martha Brown.

Music Fund

In memory of **Howard Lloyd**: by Jerome and Donna Loftus, Basil and Kathy Mroz, Donald Sward, Joan and David Halvorson, Arlene Carroll

Radio Fund

In memory of **Beverly Blanness**: by Marilyn McRae Raadt

In memory of **Beverly Blanness**: by Leonard DeWolfe, Jean Schrader, Georgia Braulick, Lester and Della Gunderson, Edgar and Helen Larson

Other Actions

Baptisms

Trevor William Volkert, son of Steve and Candice; sponsors are Holly Volkert and Amber Volkert; Feb. 14, 2010

Tegan Marie DeGrego, daughter of Anthony and Elisha; sponsors are Michael and Crystal Nurmela; Feb. 21, 2010

Funerals

Beverly Blanness, Feb. 7, 2010

Radio Broadcasts

Feb. 7, 2010, in memory of **Margaret Anderson**, by Archie Anderson and Family

Feb. 14, 2010, given by a grateful homebound listener

Feb. 21, 2010, in memory of **Jim Braulick**, by Georgia Braulick

Feb. 28, 2010, in memory of **Beverly Blanness**, by Bennie Blanness

From the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board:

Did You Know?

Your contributions to St. John's meet a wide variety of local, national and international needs. Over the coming months, the Benevolence and Social Concerns board will use these pages to highlight just some of the ways your gifts make a difference.

In 2009, St. John's provided more than \$3,100 to Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, which operates Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, Minn. St. John's

is one of the almost 200 Minnesota congregations that support this ELCA outdoor ministry. In addition to ensuring this ministry continues to serve children and families across the state, your contributions enable St. John's youth to attend Green Lake Bible Camp at a reduced cost.

Music Life at St. John's

March Singing Schedule for Choirs:

Wednesday, Mar. 3

7:00 p.m. – Jubilate

Sunday, Mar. 7

8:30 a.m. – Alleluia, Senior

10:45 a.m. – Hosanna, Laudate

Wednesday, Mar. 10

7:00 p.m. – Rejoice Ringers

Sunday, Mar. 14

8:30 a.m. – Jubilate

10:45 a.m. – Senior

Wednesday, Mar. 17

7:00 p.m. – Laudate



Sunday, Mar. 21

8:30 a.m. – Senior, Rejoice Ringers

10:45 a.m. – Laudate, Rejoice Ringers

Wednesday, Mar. 24

7:00 p.m. – Senior

Sunday, Mar. 28

8:30 a.m. – Senior

10:45 a.m. – Hosanna, Jubilate (6-8), Laudate women



Shared Ministry

Regina Hassanally has been on maternity leave for the month of February. Congratulations, Regina and Terrence on the birth of Micah! In Regina's absence, ministry still continues. If you haven't filled out a 2010 Time and Talent sheet, they are still available. Please fill yours out as soon as possible and return it to the Church Office or the basket on the Welcome Desk in the Commons. Blank Time and Talent sheets can be found at the Welcome Desk or picked up in the Church Office.

The Time and Talent sheets help Regina and our Ministry Coordinators to know in what ministries you are interested in participating and what gifts you have to offer the church. We fill them out annually, which gives you an opportunity to try new ministries, continue in the ministries you enjoy and withdraw from ministries you no longer wish to serve. Even if you filled out a 2009 Time and Talent sheet, please fill out a 2010 sheet.

St. John's Council 2010

The following is the Congregation Council for this year. In future months we may also list the boards and other committees, as time and space allow. In addition to these thirteen elected voting members of Council, Pastors Crippen and Johnson serve on the Council with voice, but no vote.

- Tim Eklund, President; term: 10-11
- Carrie Duba, President Elect; term: 10-11
- Deanne Weber, Secretary; term: 10-11
- Dave Neuger, Treasurer and chair of Business Management; term: 10-13
- Keith Homstad, chair of Adult Ministry and Education; term: 10-13
- Barbara Wilson, chair of Benevolence and Social Concerns; term: 08-11
- Sue Brockman, chair of Children's Ministry and Education; term: 09-12
- Paula Carlson, chair of Evangelism and Communications; term: 09-12
- Barb Knaak, chair of Faith and Health; term: 09-11 (2 years)
- Scott Swanson, chair of Properties and Grounds; term: 10-13
- Michael Sylvester, chair of Stewardship; term: 09-12
- Judy Swanson, chair of Worship and Arts; term: 09-11 (2 years)
- Brett Norgaard, chair of Youth Ministry and Education; term: 08-11

From the Faith and Health Board:

Vitamin D and Good Health

In the last few years, there has been increasing interest in measuring Vitamin D levels. There is evidence that Vitamin D is important in many areas of health, including bone health, insulin resistance, hypertension, chronic pain, autoimmune diseases, infections and even some cancers. Some studies have shown that low levels of Vitamin D are associated with higher overall mortality rates.

We are also learning that Vitamin D deficiency is very common, especially in Minnesota. One of the ways we obtain Vitamin D is through the sun's ultraviolet rays on our skin. In the winter, the sun is too low in the sky to have this effect, even if it is warm enough to have exposed skin; in the summer, cloudy days and the use of sunscreen limit the amount of Vitamin D produced in our skin. We also make less Vitamin D the older we get.

The recommended daily allowance of Vitamin D is 400IU, but many people need to consume 1000-2000IU daily to keep up. Dairy products like milk and yogurt contain Vitamin D, but the label will show a percentage calculated from 400IU and so the labels overestimate how much of the daily need is supplied.

Things you can do: Keep track of your intake; recognize that 15 minutes of sun exposure at midday from April to October counts for more than a daily dose; add a supplement if needed; have your Vitamin D levels tested if you have chronic health problems; prescription doses may be necessary to 'catch up'.

Exploring the Dynamics of Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's Disease (AD) is the second-most feared illness in America, affecting one out of eight people age 65 and older. But with increased knowledge, understanding and spiritual support, we can offer help and comfort to those facing this journey, their caregivers and families.

Toward that goal, all interested St. John's members and friends are invited to a showing of the superb HBO Documentary, *The Alzheimer's Project*. This enlightening series was developed and produced in cooperation with the National Institute on Aging, the National Institutes of Health and the Alzheimer's Association as a way of providing both insight and hope for anyone touched by, interested in or concerned about AD. The series will be presented in two parts, from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Mar. 13, and Saturday, Mar. 27, in the second floor St. John's Theater, next to the choir rehearsal room.

On Mar. 13 we will show *The Memory Loss Tapes*, a very personal glimpse into the lives of seven individuals as they move through advancing stages of dementia. The Saturday March 27 viewing includes *Caregivers*, portraying the sacrifices and successes of people experiencing a loved-one's

progression through AD, followed by *Grandpa, Do You Know Who I Am?* narrated by Maria Shriver, which captures the reality of the disease through the eyes of several grandchildren. At the end of both sessions, there will be time for discussion, questions and sharing about the illness.

Alzheimer's Disease is a difficult topic. Yet it also presents an opportunity for the St. John's community to assist and support our brothers and sisters who are confronting this disorder. Whether or not you have been impacted by AD, we encourage you to attend one or both of these compelling presentations. For more information about *The Alzheimer's Project* viewing, please contact Alan or Lynette Marks at 663-0802.

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

All conflicts can be resolved.

Wars and conflicts are not inevitable.

They are caused by human beings...

Peace is a Question of Will

Next meeting:
Monday, March 8
7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

Striving for
Peace Through
Art and Poetry

These idealistic words express the hopes and dreams of peacemakers all over the world. Can they possibly be true? Are they impossible goals? Written by Martti Ahtisaari, successful international peace negotiator, founder of Crisis Management Initiative, former President of Finland and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, they are based on more than 30 years of working to resolve complex international conflicts. These efforts moved peace forward in Namibia, Kosovo, Indonesia. These words have been tested in the real world.

The Twenty-second Nobel Peace Prize Forum at Augsburg College on Mar. 5-6 honors Martti Ahtisaari and his work. At the Peace and Justice meeting on Mar. 8 we will review the high points of the Forum. Some of the topics we anticipate hearing Ahtisaari and other distinguished speakers develop include:

- All conflicts can be resolved: Basic requirements for resolving conflict are trust, respect, and commitment to the process. Mediation can provide a suitable context, see ways to bring parties together, but the parties must make the agreements.
- Inequality breeds conflict: "I believe that the fight against poverty is also the most effective measure of countering terrorism in the long term." "Conflict settlement requires the injection of optimism and hope born from employment and economic opportunities. Otherwise, fragile peace agreements can rarely be sustained."
- Peace mediators do not work alone: "All my peace assignments have taught me that a peace process is largely a matter of cooperation and partnership between different actors..."

Ahtisaari recognizes that just a few become international peace mediators. But, he asserts, all of us can find ways to be peace mediators where we are; in our families, schools and neighborhoods, towns and cities, in the state or nation. He asks that we challenge ourselves: "We must all look in the mirror and ask ourselves, 'Have I done my best for peace?' " And he assures us: "If we work together, we can find solutions. We should not accept any excuses from those in power. Peace is a question of will.

Justice Calendar

March 5 and 6: Nobel Peace Prize Forum
Augsburg College, www.peaceprizeforum.com
March 25: Day on the Hill;
Justice we Pursue
Riverfront and Capitol, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
www.jrlc.org/dayonthehill

Serving on Sundays in March

Acolytes

- March 7** (8:30) Nicholas Pelletier, Emma Koch; (10:45) Peter Crippen, Jonah Berthelsen
March 14 (8:30) Lars Christianson, Hannah Cuddy; (10:45) Nicholas Gonnerman, Jessica Smith
March 21 (8:30) Abby Collins, Katharine Herrlich; (10:45) Katelyn Canedy, Bailey Dell
March 28 (8:30) Bjorn Bade, Mike DeCramer; (10:45) Rebecca Storlie, Amelia Tjaden

Coffee

- March 7** Girl Scouts from the congregation are serving in honor of Girl Scout week and as a thank you to St. John's our for ongoing support.
March 14 Terry and Peggy Dell, Dagfinn and Lydia Moe, Barb Knaak
March 21 Ted and Tricia Peterson, Dick and Jane Nelson, Solveig Bailey
March 28 Char and Bill Carlson, David and Sue Hagen, Winnifred Alberg

Communion preparers

- March 7** David and Sue Hagen
March 14 Guy and Jonathan Reid
March 21 Jennifer and Steve Edwins
March 28 Paul and Joann Jorgensen

Nursery

- March 7** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Kris Vatter
March 14 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Angie McCarthy
March 21 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Jenny Nystrom
March 28 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Amy McBroom

Ushers

- March 7** (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
March 14 (8:30) Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
March 21 (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, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
March 28 (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

Special Services

- Wed., Mar 3** Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
Wed., Mar 10 Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback
Wed., Mar 17 Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens
Wed., Mar 24 Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Alice Bates, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen, Sandy Whitworth, Bill Whitworth
-

Mission Outreach



March Hands and Feet Project: Global Health Ministry

Global Health Ministries (GHM), based in Fridley, works to support the health care programs of Lutheran Churches around the world in places like Madagascar, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, and Tanzania. GHM gathers and ships donated health care equipment and medical supplies requested by Lutheran health care programs; recruits health care professionals for overseas service; funds approved health care projects, scholarships, and capital improvements; and advises synods on health care issues. This month St. John's volunteers are needed to help pack a sea container of medical supplies destined for Nkoaranga Hospital in Tanzania.

What: Loading a container full of medical supplies and equipment and providing lunch for volunteers.

When: Saturday, Mar. 27 – leave St. John's at 8:15 a.m., return around 2:30 p.m.

Where: Global Health Ministries warehouse in Fridley, Minn.

Who: Age 12 and up. 12 volunteers are needed. Sign up in the Commons or contact the Church Office.

March is Minnesota Food Share Month

This month St. John's joins other Minnesota congregations, synagogues, mosques, businesses, schools and media to help restock the food supplies of more than 300 food shelves across the state. St. John's supports hunger relief efforts around the world through ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief but this month we focus our attention and efforts here in Northfield.

According to the Northfield Community Action Center (CAC), an average of 1,279 people living in Northfield, representing 439 households, received food at the CAC Food Shelf each month in 2009. That's an increase of 13% over 2008. Of those receiving food last year in Northfield, 43% were children. In 2009 the CAC distributed 425,936 pounds of food. Many people in our community have lost their jobs or have had their hours and salaries cut. Those using the CAC food shelf do not have enough income to cover their basic needs.

Food and cash donations are welcome at the Northfield CAC Food Shelf throughout the year but especially this month as the community shows support during Minnesota Food Share month. **Cash donations are preferred due to the discounted food that food shelves are able to purchase. Every dollar donated to the CAC helps purchase 4 pounds of food.**

The support St. John's members give to the CAC Food Shelf is one way to mark the season of Lent – as we seek to grow in discipleship and servant love, remembering the words Jesus spoke, "...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." Matthew 25:35. Support of the CAC Food Shelf is another way St. John's is extending God's love in Christ.

Please use the special offering envelope you received in the mail to support the CAC this month. St. John's Sunday School students are also participating in the Food Share month with a special offering challenge. Watch their progress downstairs. Thank you for supporting this life-giving community resource!

Women of the ELCA Mission Statement:

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

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

Program Theme for Year: Local Connections

Upcoming Events

Mar. 4, Thursday 1:00 p.m.

Women of ELCA General Meeting: Mac Gimse, Professor Emeritus of Art at St. Olaf College will share his vision of life, Striving for Peace Through Art and Poetry. Mary Circle members will serve refreshments.

March Schedule

Mar. 2 and 16– 9:30 a.m. – Knitters meet in the Library.

Mar. 8 – 12:00 p.m. - Bible study leaders meet in the Fireside room.

Mar. 10 and 11 – Circles meet.

Mar. 15 and 18 – Women of the ELCA Workday for Quilting and other mission projects is Thursday at 9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Quilt preparation is the Monday before the Thursday workday at 9:00 a.m. Quilts are tied on Thursday.

April 1 – 9:30 a.m. WELCA Board Meeting in Fireside Room

Looking Ahead

Apr. 10, Saturday, 12:00 p.m. Salad Potluck luncheon. Everyone brings a salad. Bethel Lutheran Church Women will be our guests. Pr. Mark Johnson will share experiences from his trip to Tanzania.

Cannon River Spring Conference is Saturday, Apr. 10. Arlene Nelson, author of “Crackers and Milk” will speak. See WELCA bulletin board for details.

Circles Meet

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 – Thursday., 9:30 a.m. Eulalie Smestad, Leader

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

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

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

Miriam – Time to be decided. Cheryl Buck, Leader

Women’s Breakfast Group - second Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in Fireside Room. Kathy Mellstrom, Leader

Lutheran World Relief Projects

Health Kits are greatly needed because of Haiti. Items needed are listed in the Women of the ELCA yearbook. Donations of money are also needed.

Quilts: Fabric sized 60x80 or larger is needed for quilt backing. Sheets of any color or print are very useful for this purpose. Clean items can be put in the quilting room in Fellowship Hall.

Café, the Women of the ELCA monthly on-line magazine for young women, is edited and designed by Elizabeth McBride. Find it at www.boldcafe.org

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

Gathered in the Word

Contact: Pr. Johnson 645-4429

Grief Support

Contact: Barbara Knaak 664-0444

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Contact: Dean Ostlie 645-2597

Nurturing Prayer

Contact: Dick Beckmen 664-3882

Options Bible Study: Phillipians

Contact: Dave and Gen Quarberg 645-0089

Peace and Justice

Contact: Judith Stoutland 645-7842

Prayer and Praise

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's Bible Study at Parkview West

Contact: Dick Dahlin 645-5978

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

If you are interested in leading a small group or have a suggestion for a new small group please contact a member of the Small Group Leadership Team:

Sandi Gerdes 645-2290,

sandi@aurabaker.org

Cheryl Buck, 663-9056,

cabuck@charter.net

Barb Eaves, 645-4172,

pbeaves@hotmail.com

Mark Johnson, 645-4429

mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org

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

Signs of Spring...Signs of Grace

By Barbara Eaves

Soon we will be seeing early signs of spring. In the house where I grew up, we had grape hyacinths along the foundation and I remember how exciting it was to spot the first green stumps of those hardy little flowers as they poked their way out of the hard ground. Through the drab residuals of winter, the early flowers: hyacinth, crocus, tulip, irises send forth their brightly colored blossoms, confirming our hope that spring will return again.

When you read this, the goldfinches may be shedding their drab olive-gray winter coats for brilliant yellow robes with black sleeves. The chickadees will be singing their "phoe-bee" love songs, and it won't be long before many trees will sprout buds that swell until they finally burst open exposing the tiny leaves they are carrying.

Of course, not everything about spring is so pleasant. The thaw turns farm yards into mud baths, snow melt uncovers things that may have been left undone in the fall, and rapid snow melt often sets off unwanted and devastating floods. And yet, barring disaster, the "yesses" of spring usually outweigh the "nos" that may come with it.

So, you may ask, what is the connection between signs of spring and small groups? If you have been part of a small group that gathers regularly, most likely you have experienced times when that group has lifted your spirits, offered soothing comfort, and provided a word of support and encouragement. These gifts of blessing and belonging come to us again and again as signs of God's grace and loving kindness.

Dad's Time Out Mar. 9

The regular monthly fellowship and conversation for dads meets this month on Tuesday, Mar. 9, at 9 p.m. at the Contented Cow. This is a chance for dads to meet and talk about issues of importance and help each other grow in faith. Put your kids to bed, and then come up.

Adult Ministry and Education

Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

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

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

St. John's Forum focuses on the series "The Lenten Season in Theology and Art" this month. Presentations will include discussions of Lent in the life of the Church, in works of art, and in recent theology.

Mar. 7: *St. John's Forum: The Lenten Season in Theology and Art – "Keeping Time: Some Reflections on the Practice and Purpose of Lent,"* presented by Thomas Schattauer.

Mar. 14: *St. John's Forum: The Lenten Season in Theology and Art – "The Passion of Christ in Fine Art: King to Crucified,"* presented by Jon Rondestvedt.

New Member Session: New Member Beginnings, **Fireside Room**

Mar. 21: *St. John's Forum: The Lenten Season in Theology and Art – "New Meanings of the Death of Jesus,"* presented by Charles Wilson

New Member Session: New Member Connections, **Fireside Room**

Mar. 28: *St. John's Forum: Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH),* a program designed to help increase graduation rates and encourage college attendance among ESL students and low income homes. Presented by Beth Berry and two student participants.

New Member Session: Shared Ministry - Part 1, **Fireside Room**

News and Events

Family Event to *Mulan*!

Travel to the legendary days of ancient China to enjoy a musical celebration of honor, the fighting spirit and the power of one young girl. Please join other St. John's families for the stage adaptation of *Mulan* at the Children's Theater in Minneapolis.

When: Sunday, May 16

Time: 5:00 p.m. show

Cost: \$16.00/Child, \$25.00/Adult

St. John's has reserved 45 tickets at a reduced group rate for May 16. Tickets will be available for purchase now until April 14 and will be sold on a first come first serve basis. All tickets must be paid for in advance and we will carpool to the theater. Please contact Julie Brehmer if you are interested in attending. By the way, Karl Amundson, a member of St. John's, is part of the cast of *Mulan*!

Get Your HoneyBaked Ham and Help Our Youth!

St. John's Youth and Children will be having a HoneyBaked Ham Fundraiser Mar. 3 through Apr. 3. You may order your ham one of two ways:

◆ Pick up a flyer located in the Commons by the Youth bulletin board and take it with you to the Honeybaked Ham store. St. John's will get credit for all purchases made at the store.

◆ Sign up on Sunday mornings at the table in the commons. Pay at the time of order (payable to St. John's). Hams will be delivered to the church and available for pick up the weekend before Easter.

St. John's Youth and Children will receive twenty percent of sales and the money will be used to help our youth with the cost of summer camps and trips.

Important Dates To Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

- Mar. 7 - Sunday School
- Mar. 14 - Sunday School (*daylight saving time*)
- Mar. 21 - Sunday School
- Mar. 28 - Sunday School (*Passion/Palm Sunday*)
- Apr. 4 - No Sunday School (*Easter and Spring Break*)

CATechism for Grades 4 and 5

Wednesdays, Mar. 3, 10 and 17

Lenten Soup Suppers

Begins on Wednesdays, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24 from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

Lenten Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Parents' Night Out

Mar. 6, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, Apr. 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt



Children up to 5th grade are welcome to come and participate in the annual St. John's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m. Children will meet in the Commons at St. John's and will be separated by age groups for the hunt. Remember to bring a basket or bag for collecting eggs!

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

The Sacrament of 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, March 6 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

CAT Resumes March 3

4th and 5th graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, Mar. 3. CAT classes meet in the lower level of St. John's; 4th grade in the Youth Room and 5th grade in Fellowship Hall from 3:15 - 4:00 p.m., Mar. 3, 10, 17

Sunday School Helps March Food Share Campaign

This month, Northfield Community Action Center (CAC) has its annual Minnesota Food Share Campaign. St. John's Sunday School classes will be participating in the drive to help benefit our local food shelf. During March, we are asking for donations from St. John's kids in one of two ways:

With cash donations - The CAC has the ability to purchase food items at a much lower cost per pound than the average consumer can, so cash is preferred. For every \$2.00 donated by a class, a donation sheet will be posted on their classroom door. On Sunday, Apr. 11, we will find out which class has the most cash donations. Donuts will be given to the class with the highest total and donut holes to the second highest! (March's Sunday School offering will be donated to this drive.)

With food items - Classes can place their donations directly in the grocery cart that will be displayed across from the Nursery. Items most needed: cooking oil, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned meat, meal helpers, healthy snacks, dry milk, pasta, spaghetti sauce, canned beans, dry pinto beans, and rice. Hopefully our cart will be overflowing by the end of the drive!

This is a great opportunity to talk with your children about how they can help their neighbors! If you have any questions, please call Julie at 645-4429, ext. 25.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Senior High Sunday School

Peggy Hanson and the Judge-Beckers are back this month for another round of High School Sunday School. Peggy is teaching on Mar. 14. Tony Becker and Rebecca Judge are teaching on Mar. 28. Class meets in Room 04, next to the Youth Room. See you there!

Middle School Line up!

March 7: Kathy Vang; *Quilting/Bandage Rolling*

March 14: Mike Sherman; *Affirming One Another*

March 21: Jane Reinhart; *Tanzania Talk*

March 28: Peggy Hanson; *Faith Talk*

High School Forum

On Wednesday, Mar. 17, at 6:00 p.m., there will be a forum for high school students in room 09. We'll talk about the high school youth program, and set the schedule for the upcoming year. If you are unable to attend, the make-up forum will take place on Sunday, Mar. 28, at 9:45 p.m. in room 09.

Continued from Children's Ministry, page 14

VBS and Day Camp - Summer of 2010!

This summer St. John's, along with Bethel and Emmaus Lutheran churches, will be offering a joint Vacation Bible School/Summer Camp experience for children age 3 - 4th grade the week of August 8 - 12

For kids completing K- 4th grade:



Good Earth Village, "On the Road!" will bring the fun of summer camp to Northfield. This 5-day program is filled with games, worship, crafts, Bible study and singing. Registration is through Good Earth Village. Campers can register on-line at www.goodearthvillage.org or by completing a registration form available in the Commons. Since this is a community-based event please send your registration in early. Good Earth Village can accommodate about 125 campers.

For kids age 3 (by 9/01/09) - completing kindergarten:

Vacation Bible School will be held the same week as "On the Road". Kindergarteners have the option of going to either VBS or "On the Road". The VBS program will be half days whereas "On the Road" is a full day experience. You decide which camp works best for your child! More information about VBS will be coming in April!

Romans and Christians!

On Saturday, March 20, we'll gather here at St. John's to play one last round of Romans & Christians for the year. We'll play from 7:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. Sherm even threw in an extra half hour for us to play! Snacks and beverages will be served while we play. This event is free, and all Middle School youth are invited. Bring a friend, and get excited for your last Romans & Christians fix until September!

Lock-In Mar. 12

We are going to reattempt the high school lock-in on Friday, Mar. 12. The night will be hosted by the St. Olaf Christian Outreach team, and of course, Sherm will be there too. Stay tuned to your e-mail, regular mail, phone, facebook, and the bulletin for more info.

Fundraiser Thank You

Many thanks and blessings to all who came to the youth fundraiser. It was a great success! All proceeds will be used to help our youth participate in camps this summer. Thank you, also, to everyone that worked during the fundraiser.

Family Event to the Science Museum!

The Dead Sea Scrolls will be visiting the Science Museum of Minnesota and St. John's is organizing a trip for Mar. 21 to go and see them. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity!

Cost: \$22 for adults; \$18 for children and seniors.

We'll leave at 1:00 p.m. and return around 6:00 p.m. Deadline for sign up is Mar. 14. There is a sign up sheet on the Youth Board in the commons with all the details.

All are welcome! Contact Mike Sherman with 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***Stephanie Aman***Parish Administrator***Shelley Keske***Parish Nurse***Lynette Marks***Shared Ministry***Regina Hassanally***Youth Ministry***Mike Sherman***Congregation President***Tim Eklunch*

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Spring New Member Session Announced

St. John's formally welcomes new members in the fall and spring. This spring, new members will be received on *Sunday, Apr. 18, at the 10:45 a.m. service*. To help new members become better acquainted with St. John's, with staff, and others in the congregation, there are the following sessions:

- New Member Beginnings: Sunday, Mar. 14, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room; *Getting acquainted and building connections at St. John's*
- New Member Connection: Sunday, Mar. 21, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room; *Fellowship time with hosts – St. John's members who help to welcome and to connect new members with the congregation*
- Shared Ministry – Part One: Sunday, Mar. 28, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room; *Exploring spiritual gifts and how Shared Ministry shapes life at St. John's*
- Shared Ministry – Part Two: Sunday, Apr. 11, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room; *Exploring the call of belonging to a congregation and sharing gifts*
- New Member Reception: Sunday, Apr. 18, 9:45 a.m., St. John's Hall; *Fellowship time with congregation between worship services*
- New Member Litany: Sunday, Apr. 18, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary; *New members are formally received during the 10:45 worship service*

Those wishing to join St. John's are asked to complete and return a Member Information Form by Sunday, Mar. 7. Forms are available in the church office. If you have questions or need more information contact one of the pastors.