

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2010

Volume 50, Number 4

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inside . . .*

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Needed

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Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt Apr. 3



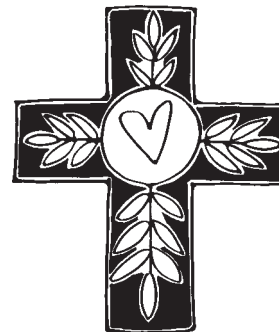
Children up to 5th grade are welcome to come and participate in the annual St. John's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m. Children will meet in the Commons at St. John's and will be separated by age groups for the hunt. Remember to bring a basket or bag for collecting eggs!

Easter Breakfast Apr. 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 starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends 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 (ham, sausage and veggie), muffins, fruit and juice and coffee. Thank you for supporting our youth!

Sunday Night Worship Moves to Saturday

This year, St. John's has been exploring different kinds of worship in a different worship space at a different time of the week. For the past six months the worship service has been held on Sunday evenings. This month all are invited to gather on Saturday, Apr. 24 at 5:00 p.m. for worship in St. John's Hall. All are welcome! If you have questions or if you have an interest in this new worship opportunity, contact one of the pastors, Director of Music Ministry Dan Fenn, or Worship and Arts Board Chair Judy Swanson.



Holy Week and Easter at St. John's

Sunday of the Passion, March 28
Procession with Palms and
Holy Communion,
8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 1
Holy Communion,
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 2
Liturgy of Good Friday,
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 3
The Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 p.m.
at Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College
(with area Lutheran congregations)

The Resurrection of our Lord,
Sunday, April 4
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

The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church of Northfield, Minnesota. Articles for the *Voice* must be submitted by the 15th of each month to the Church Office or by e-mail to:

office@stjohns-elca.org.

For information, contact the Church Office:

phone: 507-645-4429

fax: 507-645-9633

e-mail:

office@stjohns-elca.org

website:

www.stjohns-elca.org

Church office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

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

Friday

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

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

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word: Celebrate the days of Easter through prayer. Gathered in the Word is a time of silence and prayer guided by Scripture. Meets Thursday, Apr. 22, 7:00 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.

*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*

The People Called Stephen

“ . . . to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ . . . ” Eph. 4:12

Thirty-five years ago, this verse inspired a Lutheran minister to extend the reach of pastoral care beyond the limits of his available time. He trained nine parishioners to provide a Christian presence for people experiencing the “jagged edges of life.” Over the years, this one-to-one lay ministry has grown to embrace 10,000 congregations and 500,000 Stephen Ministers who have cared for more than one million people in need. Stephen Ministers commit themselves to weekly visits with their care receivers, compassionate, reflective listening, confidentiality, and spiritual support.

St. John’s has had an active Stephen Ministry for twenty-five years. The full fruits of this work are known only to care receivers and those with whom they choose to share. Here are a few quotes

from people whose lives have been touched by Stephen Ministers at St. John’s:

“I was going through a difficult time in my life, and I questioned whether God was there for me and my loved ones. During this period, I began meeting with a Stephen Minister who listened to my concerns. She prayed for me and shared God’s Word, reminding me that God is there for me and for everyone. My Stephen Minister helped me move on, and I am so grateful for that.”

“My elderly mother had a very special relationship with her Stephen Minister. With failing eyesight and limited ability to get around, it was an important part of her week when her Stephen Minister came to visit. The Stephen Minister would read to Mom, and they would also just talk. It comforted our family to know that someone besides us loved and cared for our mother.”

Northfield Grief Support Coalition:

The St. John’s Grief Support Group begins meeting this month beginning Monday, April 19, at 1:30 p.m. Contact Barb Knaak for more information, 664-0444.

Grief Booklets: Care Notes are available in the Commons and “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

To learn more about Stephen Ministry, come on Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. to the Fireside Lounge, when Pastor Johnson will talk about the work of a Stephen Minister. If you or someone you know could benefit from visiting with a Stephen Minister contact Joan Halvorson at 645-5544 or one of the pastors at 645-4429.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

From our pastors . . .

Doing Justice

*God has told you,
O mortal, what is
good; and what
does the Lord
require of you
but to do justice,
and to love
kindness, and to
walk humbly with
your God?
Micah 6:8*



There's been a bit of fuss on the Internet and in the news during the past weeks among Christian bloggers and commentators. A few weeks ago a TV political host declared that "social justice" was just a code word for communism or Nazism, and then advised his listeners that if they ever heard their pastor speaking of social justice from the pulpit they should leave their church and find another, and report the pastor to the church authorities. Now, my first reaction, which I shared in an e-mail to a friend, was that I'd be happy to turn myself in as a Christian who believes social justice is something God calls us not only to preach but actually to do. The problem was that I couldn't reach my bishop that week because he was with the other five ELCA bishops from Minnesota, and they were all at the state capitol talking to legislators about the impact of the current budget deficit on the poor, our most vulnerable citizens, and calling for a more just society!

But back to the TV host. When I looked at what he said, and how he defended himself afterward, it was clear to me that what he meant was that churches had no business promoting a "justice" agenda politically, trying to influence the government to work to make the society and culture more just for all its citizens. He was fine with churches telling their people to live justly. But there's the problem, isn't it? Does our faith only call us to live our own private lives as God would have us live, or does the risen Lord in whom we live and move and have our being also call us to make a difference in the world? Because that means our involvement in the political life of our country, too. Here's what the Minnesota ELCA bishops said in a statement after their day on the hill in St. Paul: "As Lutheran Christians, we have a place in the public arena . . . we aspire to be thoughtful

citizens, holding our public leaders accountable for shaping public policy in a way that serves the neighbor, seeks a just society, and cares especially for the poor, the vulnerable, and the marginalized." In saying that, they are speaking consistently with the Scriptures, which constantly remind us of God's concern for the poor and marginalized, of our call to "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God," as the prophet Micah said. They are also speaking consistently with ELCA social statements which address these issues. The idea that we can somehow live justly, as God calls us, and not work to make a difference in our world to the best of our ability simply makes no sense.

The problem of our time is that we are so politicized as a culture that most dialog in the public square degenerates into name-calling and polarization. But maybe that's where we can find our role. Maybe we Christians can be ones who stand in the middle and say "there are clear calls to us to act with justice for all, to seek a just society. Can we all agree on that, and then talk about how we might achieve that?" Because what we lose in the political fist-fights is the idea that we are all responsible for the world in which we live, and that we cannot sit by while others falter and fail, not if we can do something to make this world, this society, better. One group which works very hard on this at St. John's is the Peace and Justice Group, an open gathering of members and friends of St. John's who meet monthly to talk about these issues and also to find ways to invite the congregation to the dialogue. They operate under the oversight of the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board, which is also charged by our bylaws to raise

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March Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Mary Jane Evenson** by Mary Jane Evenson Estate

In memory of **Peter Rappe** by Janice Rappe

In memory of **Harlan Blockhus** by Eleanor Blockhus, Henry and Jane Blockhus, Dennis and Jane Rinehart, I. Ruth Hansen, Darin and Nancy Hegland, Gerhard and Gloria Knutson, Arthur Bagaason, John and Louise Quam, Steven and Jane Amundson, Vernon and Billi Faillettaz, Eldon and Elaine Person, Marilyn Boschee

Building Fund

In memory of **Harlan Blockhus** by Otto and Laverne Reitz, H. Eulalie Smestad

Mission Fund

In memory of **Harlan Blockhus** by Walter and Thelma Nitz Lee

Other Actions

Baptisms

Micah Oliver Gershom Hassanally, son of Terrence and Regina; sponsors are Marissa Eastling and Douglas Dias; March 14, 2010

Radio Broadcasts

Mar. 7, 2010, in honor of our anniversary, by Eugene and Joyce Schrader

Mar. 21, 2010, in celebration of the March birthdays of grandchildren Bennett and Alaina Falck by Shirley Falck

Mar. 28, 2010, by Sharon Bishop

From our Pastors, continued from page 3

these issues among us. (Currently Peace and Justice have been working on a response to the health care debate in our country, and are going to be bringing that response to the council. See the article on page 10.) I'm grateful we have people here who make this part of their Christian mission, to help us hear the cries of those in need and in suffering throughout the world, and the call of God to us to do something about it.

In a way, I'm also glad for the host's comments which inspired so much outrage. If we can be inspired to renew our commitment to God's way, God's call to us, God's mandate, by looking at our beliefs and how we have failed to live up to them not only personally but in our public lives, that would be a very good thing. Especially if the Spirit can lead us to find a path which leads us to the just society we have the ability to make for ourselves and for our children, a path that isn't found by political fighting but by working together for the good of all.

So let's keep talking about it with each other, regardless of our political affiliations. Because our identity as Christians called by God to be disciples in the world is a far higher priority than any other views or identities we might have. And together, led by the Spirit, we can be a part of God's mission to heal this world, just as God intends.

In Jesus' name,



St. John's ELCA Scholarship

High School seniors who currently attend or who are planning to attend an ELCA college, are eligible for \$100 scholarship from the St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation. Your college will likely match this scholarship amount. This is a non-competitive scholarship. Students can request this scholarship each year, up to four years for each year he/she is a full time student. Application forms, available in the church office, are due Apr. 15. You must submit an application each year you attend an ELCA college.

Music Life at St. John's

April Singing Schedule for Choirs:

Thursday, Apr. 1 (Maundy Thursday)
Jubilate (6-8) and Laudate women

Sunday, Apr. 4 (Easter Sunday)
8:00 – Laudate
9:30 – Senior, Alleluia, Hosanna, Jubilate (4-5)
11:00 – Senior

Sunday, Apr. 11	Sunday, Apr. 18
8:30 – Laudate	8:30 a.m. - Senior, Rejoice
10:45 – Senior	Ringers
	10:45 a.m. - Hosanna, Jubilate, Rejoice Ringers

Sunday, Apr. 25
8:30 a.m.– Senior
10:45 a.m. - Laudate



Summer Music

The summer season is just around the corner. If you would like to provide vocal or instrumental music on a Sunday morning during June, July, and August please contact Dan Fenn.

Jubilate Choir to participate in Choristers Guild Festival

Our 4th through 8th grade singers will participate in a choir festival sponsored by the Choristers Guild: an ecumenical, Christian organization that enables leaders to nurture the spiritual and musical growth of children and youth. The festival will be held on Saturday, Apr. 24 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Edina and is directed by Liz Shepley. Departure time for those involved is 7:30 a.m.

Concert Series - Youth Needed

Our final concert of the season (Sunday, May 9) features our youth vocalists and instrumentalists. If you are interested in performing, please contact Dan Fenn.

Singers Needed for Easter Vigil

If you would like to be a part of the choir for the annual city-wide Easter Vigil service, please arrive in Boe Chapel at St. Olaf College at 6:20 p.m. on Saturday, Apr. 3. The choir will be directed by John Ferguson and is open to all high school and adult singers. For more information, please call Dan Fenn at 645-4429 ext. 58.

News and Events

Parent Forum

On Sunday, Apr. 11 at 9:45 a.m. there will be a forum for parents of 6th-12th graders in room 09. Our topic of conversation will be how we can improve our youth program for the upcoming year. If you are unable to attend, the make-up forum is on Wednesday, Apr. 21 at 6:00 p.m., in St. John's Hall.

Dad's Time Out April 13

The Dad's Time Out time together this month is Tuesday, Apr. 13, beginning at 9:00 p.m., at the Contented Cow. Come and enjoy this time of fellowship and conversation. (Sometimes folks show up earlier, so feel free!)

Parents Night Out

This is a chance for parents to enjoy a night out with the church providing a "Kids Night Out" for your elementary age children.

Here's how it works: sign up and bring your children (up to grade 5) on Saturday, Apr. 17 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Parents are encouraged to stay back one night each year to assist with activities at church. A sign up poster is in the Commons. Call Julie Brehmer if you have any questions.



Shared Ministry

Many of you know in early February Terrence and I entered the ranks of parenthood with the birth of our son, Micah. The weeks since he was born have been a blur of exhaustion and exhilaration. As more time passes I find I love him more fiercely and I am consistently overwhelmed by what a great gift God has given us. Terrence and I take very seriously our role as parents in passing on the faith. Having a child of our own has reminded us of how important it is to have a faith of action.

As I think about how much I desire for Micah to grow up to love and serve God I am reminded of how important it is that I be an example of that life for him. I am also reminded of the need to surround him with others who will serve as role models in living out the Christian faith.

This is, in large part, the work of Shared Ministry, living our faith in community. The goal of the ministry we do, within our congregation and in our extensions of love to the greater community, is to glorify God but wrapped up in that is a passing on of our faith. It is teaching one another what it means to live the Christian life.

There are many in our congregation who have years of experience of translating the commands of scripture into tangible expressions of God's love but there are those among us, especially the congregation's children, that are still learning what it means to live as a Christian. Part of the reason we participate in Shared Ministry is to teach them what it means to participate in God's kingdom work. It is easy for us to get caught up in the other responsibilities of life and to continually move active ministry farther down the priority list but to do so not only robs us of the full experience of our faith, it fails to offer our children the fullness of what it is we hope they will come to believe.

I am reminded of the children's song lyric, "be careful little eyes what you see..." We are in large part responsible for what the children of this congregation see, for how they witness what it means to be a follower of Christ. The charge wrapped up in that responsibility is to ensure they see those who claim to follow Christ doing so in word and deed. That is the crux of Shared Ministry at St. John's, following Christ not only in thought but also in action and in so doing to love God and to love God's people as we are commanded and to teach our children to do the same.

Regina Hassanally
Director of Shared Ministries
reginah@stjohns-elca.org

News and Events

Family Event to *Mulan*

Tickets available only until noon on Friday, Apr. 2

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

We will carpool to the theater.

St. John's has reserved 45 tickets at a reduced group rate for May 16. Tickets will be available for purchase now until Apr. 2 and will be sold on a first come first served 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*!

April 14 is the 2nd Wednesday Meal

This month's 2nd Wednesday meal will be April 14 and is being hosted by a group of St. John's families and all are invited! The meal will be served between 5:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall. A free will offering will be taken to help defray the costs. Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

Can you help? We need additional volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean-up with this meal. If you are able to serve in any of these ways please contact Regina Hassanally through the church office.



Spring Craft and Chat!

St. John's Gals!

Craft Day is Saturday, Apr. 17 at St. John's. Enjoy conversation and creativity with other gals! Watch for more details via e-mail and the bulletin.

2009 Ministry Coordinators Thank You Sunday

On Sunday, Apr. 25 we will thank our 2009 Ministry Coordinators for their service in Shared Ministry as part of our worship service. This gives us an opportunity to celebrate the work God is doing in ministry with us and through us and to look ahead to the ministry we are called to continue. Ministry Coordinators, please plan on participating in this special Sunday as we invite you to come before the congregation so we might pray for you and celebrate with you the ministry that has happened.

Serving for Special Services in April

Acolytes:

Apr. 1, Maundy Thursday: Kirstin Buck, Irene Duba **Apr. 2, Good Friday:** Cameron Judge-Becker

Ushers

Apr. 1, Maundy Thursday (12:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber; (7:00) Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid.

Apr. 2, Good Friday (12:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary (7:00) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; Sylvester, Steve Williams

Serving on Sundays in April

Acolytes

- Apr. 4** (8:00) Zachary Evenson, Rebecca Storlie, Michael Gaisor; (9:30) Dalton Skrove, Alyssa Heather, Kristopher Swanson; (11:00) Andrew Dell, Chen Ye, Nicholas Gonnerman
- Apr. 11** (8:30) Nathan Berthelsen, Hunter Redfield; (10:45) Evan Heather, Alexa Nutt
- Apr. 18** (8:30) Jimmy Rowley, Ian Iverson; (10:45) Wylie Kimmes Kneser, Dylan Matson
- Apr. 25** (8:30) Bennett Falck, Paul Hummel; (10:45) Brandon Kimber, Olivia Riggins

Coffee

- Apr. 4** Coffee served as part of Easter Breakfast - Enjoy!
- Apr. 11** David and Kasia Gonnerman, DeAne Lagerquist and Richard Dunning, Jo Chambers
- Apr. 18** Six Volunteers needed to serve
- Apr. 25** Lynette and Alan Marks, Gert and Will Brosz

Communion preparers

- Apr. 4** (8:00 and 9:30) Gloria and Tom Porter, (9:30) Adam Neuger, (11:00) Jill Enestvedt
- Apr. 11** David and Cheryl Buck
- Apr. 18** Jim and Judy Cederberg
- Apr. 25** (8:30) Georgenen Johnson, (11:00) Barb Knaak

Nursery

- Apr. 4** (9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.) Todd and Connie Mennsen
- Apr. 11** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Amy Wilkolmm
- Apr. 18** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Adam Neuger
- Apr. 25** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Roz Eaton-Neeb

Ushers

- Apr. 4** (8:00) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens (9:30) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary; (11:00) Jonathan Norrie, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
- Apr. 11** (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
- Apr. 18** (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
- Apr. 25** (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

April Special Service Acolytes and Ushers listed on page 7

News and Events

Next meeting:
Monday, Apr. 12
7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

From the Peace and Justice group . . . **Extending God's Love—Responding to Basic Needs**

Jo and Dick Dahlin received an e-mail from a pastor in Haiti, forwarded by their friend Keith Beaver, a retired ELCA pastor who served in Rochester for many years and now is part of a congregation in Florida. That congregation helps to support this young Haitian, Pr. Joseph Livenson Lauvanus, who did his internship there in Florida and now serves back in Haiti.

Pastor Lauvanus's e-mail begins with words from Psalm 137: "By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept, when we remembered Zion."

"The earthquake that has devastated Haiti a few weeks ago could be considered an analogy to the Babylonian's invasion. People were deported and those who remain on the Island are deprived from everything that they call their own, their land, their house, their shop and so on. Being the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, it took them a lifetime to own the little that they have. Thus, everything they have is very dear to them. This Earthquake did not only kill a lot of people and destroyed most of the city, it also destroyed everything that they lived and worked hard for. Suffice to say what takes a lifetime to build could be destroyed in only a few seconds.

"Nonetheless, this tragedy did not deter them from their belief in God. If

there is a time the name of Jesus is being called on the most, it is during this time of crises. Every time they hear something like the ground shakes, they just call on the name of Jesus. They believe that in the midst of all these tribulations, God has something in store for them.... They know that a new day will come, even though they do not know when or how.

"Sometimes we feel helpless and even think that our contribution is too small to make a difference in this tremendous crisis. But every bit counts. Your help can make a big difference in their lives as we try to alleviate the damages and the heartaches caused by this earthquake. We as being the Lutheran church should ask ourselves this important question: What is the best way to help those who cannot help themselves? You and I are the agents of change who have been called on through our baptism to make our environment a foretaste of the kingdom of God by the way we help one another."

Learn more about this letter, the work of the ELCA and LWR in Haiti, and what we all are called to do to help one another, here and far away. Come to our meeting Apr. 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome!

As the country has been struggling to address the issue of health care, the Peace and Justice Group has invited the congregation to participate in conversations on the topic during its last two meetings. Those participating agree on several fundamental principles that they understand to grow out of Christians' call to live their faith. The group plans to engage pastors, the council, and more members of the congregation in the discussion in the coming months.

**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

Apr. 10, Saturday - 12:00 noon
Women of ELCA General Meeting and Spring Luncheon (note it is the 2nd Saturday of the month). All women bring a salad and Sarah Circle members host. Bethel women have been invited so be sure to come for this special event. Pastor Mark Johnson will share experiences from his trip to Tanzania.

April Schedule

- Apr. 1** – Executive Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m. at Jo Kleber’s home, 616 Meldahl Lane. Circle Chairpersons are invited.
- Apr. 5– Noon** - Bible Study leaders meet in the Fireside room.
- Apr. 6 and 20**– 9:30 a.m. – Knitters meet in the Library
- Apr. 7 and 8** – Circles meet
- Apr. 12 and 15** – 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.
- Apr. 29** – 9:30 a.m. WELCA Board Meeting in Fireside Room

Looking Ahead

- Apr. 10** – Cannon River Conference Spring Event at Lands Lutheran, 16640 Highway 60 Blvd., Zumbrota MN. See WELCA bulletin board for details. Theme: Act Boldly in Faith. Speaker: Arlene Nelson, author of “Crackers and Milk.”
- May 1, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.** - Women’s Ecumenical Meeting at Bethel Church in Northfield. See more details on WELCA bulletin board.

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 & 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 & Iva Dodson, Leaders
- Abigail/Rebecca** – Thurs., 2:00 p.m. Gert Brosz, Leader
- Mary** – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Rachel Stark, Leader
- Women’s Breakfast Group** - second **Saturday** at 8:30 a.m. in Fireside Room, Kathy Mellstrom, Leader

Lutheran World Relief Projects

The following items have been sent to
Lutheran World Relief:
45 health kits, 15 quilts and 13 layettes

Nominating Committee in Action for WELCA Board

Dorothy Ostlie, Jane Rinehart, and Rachel Stark have been appointed to the nominating committee for selecting officers for the Women of the ELCA Executive Board for Sept. 2010 to Sept. 2012. Members normally serve for two years although there can be exceptions. Now is the time to think about this commitment to serve. It’s fun to make new friends and be part of the worthy projects and activities planned by Women of the ELCA.

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@laurabaker.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

...To Life

by Barbara Eaves

Hopefully, by the time you read this article, the snow will be gone and rain will have begun to wash away the dirt and grime, leaving the ground clean, fresh and greening up. Many will be eager to get into their gardens and open up the windows to breathe in the crisp air and let it freshen rooms that have been closed up for months. A flurry of housecleaning projects often accompanies the coming of spring: dusting under furniture and in corners, washing and polishing almost everything, and sorting out what is no longer needed or useful.

Attitudes even seem to change with the coming of spring. People walk with more bounce in their steps, smiles are brighter, and conversation and chatter are more lively and energized.

Easter is like a perpetual spring. Each day brings an opportunity to celebrate life. Each day provides a time to give thanks for the gift of God's grace and the blessing of God's love. Our friends of the Hebrew faith offer a celebrative toast, L'Chaim!, that is, "to life." "L'Chaim! means that no matter what difficulty life brings, no matter how hard or painful or unfair life is, life is holy and worthy of celebration. 'Even the wine is sweet to remind us that life itself is a blessing.'" (Rachel Naomi Remen, My Grandfather's Blessings).

The voice of the Risen One declares, "See, I am making all things new." This promise cleans away the dust and grime that may have accumulated within us and dons us with a clean and fresh outlook on life. Easter gives us reason to walk with a bounce in our steps and gratitude in our hearts—for life. L'Chaim!

Become Part of a Small Group

Do you want to try something new this spring? Consider becoming part of a small group. The groups are listed on the side bar of this page and you can learn more about them by picking up a copy of the Winter/Spring catalog 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.

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

Apr. 4: Easter Sunday - No St. John's Forum. Breakfast served between services in St. John's Hall.

Apr. 11: St. John's Forum: Poems of Faith and Doubt, Part One: an exploration of poetry in the Old Testament and English poems from the 16th and 17th centuries. Copies of the poetry will be provided. Presenters are Lowell Johnson and Pamela Schwandt.

New Member Session: Shared Ministry - Part Two, Fireside Room.

Apr. 18: Reception for New Members, No St. John's Forum; St. John's Hall.

Apr. 25: St. John's Forum: Poems of Faith and Doubt, Part Two: an exploration of religious themes in English and American poems from the 19th and 20th centuries. Copies of the poetry will be provided. Presenters are Lowell Johnson and Pamela Schwandt.

Mission Outreach

Our Mission Partners: Update from Charity Hall

For the past three years Charity Hall has lived in Japan and participated in the ELCA's J-3 program, a joint ministry with the Lutheran Church in Japan. Charity has taught English and has been active at Koishikawa Lutheran Church in Tokyo. Charity's term with the J-3 program was completed last month. Following a few weeks of travel, Charity will return home to Minnesota later this spring. Charity hopes to visit St. John's sometime this summer or fall to give an update on her experiences and to thank the congregation for their support over the past three years. The following is a portion of Charity's Febr. 28, 2010 e-newsletter.

Greetings from Tokyo where the ume (plum) trees are blooming and a hint of spring is in the air...As classes finish at my respective schools this last week, I pray that our times in Bible study and prayer, discussions over Buddhism and Shintoism, and conversations about cultural traditions and customs might shine as a witness to them of the love and joy I have in my relationship with Christ. I also hope they are able to see the unique identity I have as a called

child of God and be encouraged in their own walk with the Lord. I also pray that as I move from this place the many lessons I've learned from students, friends, and neighbors might continue to take seed, root, and grow in my heart... I look forward to getting home and seeing family and friends and meeting with congregations – especially those congregations who have accompanied me on this mission and share with them the ways I see God moving in Japan. Thank you for your words of support and encouragement.

With love, Charity



Adopt-a-Highway

This month's Hands and Feet project is Adopt-A-Highway. St. John's members are needed for the spring clean-up of our section of State Highway 246. Meet in the High School Parking lot, across from the cemetery, on **Saturday, Apr. 24 at 10:00 a.m.** Wear comfortable but durable shoes. Safety vests and gloves will be provided along with water and a snack. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up in the Commons or call the church office. Thank you for helping to take care of this small part of God's creation.

Important Dates To Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

Apr. 4 - No Sunday School (Easter and Spring Break)
Apr. 11 - Sunday School
Apr. 18 - Sunday School
Apr. 25- Sunday School

Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt

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

Parents' Night Out (details on pg. 5)

Saturday Apr. 17, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Third Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday Apr. 28, 4:15 p.m.-5:45 p.m. - Youth Room

Family Event to Mulan (details on pg. 7)

Reserve tickets by Apr. 2. Show is on May 16 at 5:00 p.m.

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

The last retreat for 3rd grade CAT this year is Wednesday, Apr. 28 from 4:15 – 5:45 p.m. in the Youth Room at St. John's. The topic is The Sacrament of Communion.

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, Apr. 3 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

VBS and Day Camp - Summer of 2010!

Theme: Get Out of the Boat!

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

On the Road Summer Camp



s u m m e r

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 completing
Kindergarten – 4th grade
August 8 - 12

Good Earth Village, "On the Road!" will bring the fun of camp to Northfield. This 5-day program is filled with games, worship, crafts, Bible study and singing.

Baobab Blast



Where kids experience the joy of God's Community! *Vacation Bible School, Aug. 9 - 12 for kids age 3 by 9-1-09 – K at St. John's.*

Baobab Blast is a time for your kids to gather together as a community and grow in faith exploring connections with God, family, friends and others around the world.

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!

Registration forms available in April in the main office and in the Commons! Come join the adventure!

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Youth Sunday School Schedule

Middle School Line Up:

Apr. 4: Easter Breakfast

Apr. 11: Peggy Hanson, *Faith Talk*

Apr. 18: Jane Rinehart and Kristi Wermager,
Columbia Presentation

Apr. 25: John Quam, *Creation*

High School Line Up:

Apr. 18: Peggy Hanson, Room 04

High School Event - TBA

April's High School Event will be decided by the high schoolers who attended the Forums in March. Stay tuned to your e-mail, regular mail, Facebook, and phone for all the details.

6th Grade CAT

6th Grade CAT meets Apr. 7 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. We'll be creating our own personal prayers based on what we've learned about the Lord's Prayer. Meet in the Fireside Room and we will share a meal together (pizza).

Confirmation Resumes

The regular confirmation class schedule resumes on Apr. 7. 7th and 8th Grade will meet in Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m.. 9th Grade will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. Ruth Hanson will give a Faith Talk.

9th Grade Confirmation

Ninth graders will meet Sunday Apr. 11 at noon for a make-up session followed by lunch at Hogan Brothers.

Middle School Grand Slam

On Saturday, Apr. 17, all Middle School youth are invited to come to Grand Slam in Burnsville. There will be mini-golf, bumper cars, laser tag, and arcade games. Stay tuned to your e-mail, regular mail, Facebook, and phone for the details.

7th Grade Synagogue Trip

Heads up for all 7th grade parents and students! There is no class on Apr. 28. Instead, we're going up to St. Paul for a visit to The Temple of Aaron on Friday, Apr. 30. Look for details in the mail. Students will also receive details in confirmation class.

... from our Boards

Healing Ministry Team Being Formed

A new ministry team is being developed at St. John's that will provide a ministry of healing and wholeness. The focus of the ministry team will be one-on-one prayer accompanied by the laying-on-of hands and anointing, which may take place on Sunday mornings or during other times of worship including special services for healing prayer. The ministry team is being developed as part of the ministries supported by the Faith and Health Board and the Worship and Arts Board and will complement the prayer ministry that is already happening through the prayer chain and other caring ministries.

A gift of compassion combined with an interest in praying for healing are clues for discerning a call to

this kind of ministry. Those who have these gifts or those who want to explore whether they'd like to serve in this area of ministry are invited to take part in a six-week training course that will be offered from mid-April through May.

Contact Dick Beckmen at 664-3882 (dickbeck32@q.com), Jane Rinehart at 663-1659 (djrinehart@charter.net), or Regina Hassanally at 645-4429 (reginah@stjohns-elca.org) for more information, or to sign up for the training. There will be an information and sign-up table in the Commons between services on Sunday, Mar. 28, Sunday, Apr. 11, and Sunday, Apr. 18.

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 Eklund*

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Thank you to the Kitchen Ministry Team

St. John's is blessed with a group of hard working volunteers on the Kitchen Ministry Team. The Kitchen Ministry Team is divided into different groups: monthly monitors, weekly checkers, deep cleaners and laundry specialists. The following people volunteer in the kitchen to keep it clean and running efficiently:



Lois Bakko, Sherry Benson, Marilyn Boschee, Gert Brosz, Martha Brown, Betsy Busa, Cheryl Buck, Brian Evenson, Shirley Falck, Anne Fitzgerald, Jane and Bob Gelle, Mary Gasho, Susan Hagen, Marilyn Haugen, Michelle Knutson, Nancy Moe, Kathy Mroz, Alice Nasby, Elsie Nelsen, Char Nelson, Richard Nelson, Debra Nitz, Audrey Pleschourt, Mary Polzin, Gloria Porter, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Bette Quinnell, Jenni Redfield, David Rudser, Loretta Siler, Mike Sylvester, Charlene Volkert, Barbara Walter, Kristi Wermager and Rose Youngquist.

To join the Kitchen Ministry Team please contact Alice Nasby at 645-7398 or ran610@charter.net.

The Kitchen Ministry Team and the Adult Ministry and Education Board are recommending the following new sanitation rule for St. John's kitchen: Please do not bring used empty containers to St. John's kitchen for sanitation reasons. If you would like to donate new plastic containers (2-4 cup size) in the original packaging for the purpose of taking home leftover, it would be appreciated. We have labeled pint fruit jars; jars should be returned to the church kitchen.

Thank you for your cooperation on this sanitation issue.