

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2010

Volume 50, Number 5

*on the
inside . . .*

Welcome New Members!

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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:

office@stjohns-elca.org.

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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.

Spring Musical: *All Nature Sings* - May 16

The Alleluia, Hosanna, and Jubilate choirs will join forces to present their annual spring musical at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, May 16 in St. John's Hall. *All Nature Sings* is a new work for children's voices composed by Aaron David Miller with texts by Herbert Brokering. All are invited to attend.

Sunday Morning Concert Series - May 9

Our last Sunday morning concert of the season will feature our own youth vocalists and instrumentalists in performance at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 9.

Easter Breakfast Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came to the Easter Breakfast. It was a great success! We had a net income of \$985.00! This money will be used to help our 6th - 12th graders get to camp this summer.

S · U · M · M · E · R ·

WORSHIP

Summer Worship Schedule begins May 30!

8:30 a.m. - First Service
9:30 a.m. - Coffee/Fellowship time
(St. John's Hall)
10:00 a.m. - Second Service

Senior Recognition is May 16

On Sunday, May 16, during the 10:45 a.m. service we will be recognizing our High School seniors as they prepare to graduate and move onto new things in their lives. After the service the seniors and their families are invited to a special lunch in their honor.

This year's graduating class from St. John's:

Beret Amundson

Leif Bade

Martha Crippen

Thomas Dunning

Mark Emmons

Nora Flynn

Hannah France

Leigh Langehough

Erin Legvold

Cheyenne Luckman

Martha Lundin

Katherine Peterson

Berit Seeberg

Martha Sudermann

Liv Thompson

Sonja Wermager

Morgan Zabel

Congratulations,
Graduates!

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word: Gathered in the Word: An informal time of prayer using Scripture as a guide. Meets Thursday, May 20 at 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.

A History of Caring

St. John's has been a Stephen Ministry congregation for twenty-nine years, equipping 119 people to serve as Christian caregivers in our congregation and community. Seventeen Stephen Ministers currently serve St. John's as caregivers to individuals who are in need of support from a Christian friend during times of challenge and transition. This fall St. John's will offer Stephen Ministry training for those who are interested in developing their gifts for caregiving and who are open to sharing those gifts as a Stephen Minister. The fifty hours of training and regular continuing education include topics such as listening, prayer, communication skills, community support resources, caring for those who are living with a chronic illness or grieving or going through a divorce, or struggling with any of life's difficulties. Are you looking for a way to nurture and use your gifts and to

give back to St. John's and the community? Do you feel the call to walk with others in faith as they face the challenges of life? If so, consider participating in Stephen Ministry training this fall. Whether you are ready to sign up for the training course or you are interested in learning more about Stephen Ministry but not ready to commit to being trained as a Stephen Minister, please come to an open house on Tuesday, May 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The open house will include a brief overview of Stephen Ministry and the training course with opportunity for questions and conversation with current Stephen Ministers. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. If you or someone you know could benefit from speaking to a Stephen Minister contact one of the pastors or Joan Halvorson (645-8445).

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

Galatians 6:2



*Providing one-
to-one care and
encouragement*

Two Grief Support Groups meet this month. The St. John's Grief Support Group is meeting Mondays this month at 1:30 p.m.. Barb Knaak, 664-0444, for more information. A Grief Support Group sponsored by Bethel Lutheran and First United Church of Christ begins meeting on May 26. Cathy Cammack, 645-7532

Care Notes are available in the Commons and "Journeying Through Grief" booklets are available for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact a pastor if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.

*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."

March 8, 2009
Gordon Rasmussen

From our pastors . . .

From Wind and Fire

"And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." Acts 2:2-4



The tall grasses in Hidden Valley Park and other Northfield parks and natural areas were burned last month as part of a prescribed burn program. The above-ground parts of grasses die each fall creating a thatch that keeps the ground cool and moist. In the spring plants need light and warmth to grow. Fire removes thatch and recycles nutrients from the thatch back into the soil, resulting in healthier grasses which, in turn, help filter water runoff, reduce soil erosion, and create habitat for all kinds of creatures. The prescribed burns are not without risk, however, and need to be monitored and controlled so that a gust of wind does not spread the fire beyond safe limits.

Wind and fire are a powerful combination that is hard to control. Wind and fire are two of the ways that the Bible describes the presence of the Holy Spirit. The story of the first Pentecost told in the Book of Acts is confusing and chaotic: noise like a strong wind, tongues of flame, speaking in different languages, and most important, inspired preaching of the Gospel in such a powerful way that it changed both the hearers and the speakers. In that confusion, God's Spirit was at work pushing the disciples beyond safe limits and causing the Church to grow. And it's still happening.

The presence of the Spirit brings commitment. Discouraged disciples, unsure of themselves and of what would happen next, were suddenly filled with purpose and confidence. They were alive with a vision. They had a story to tell and a love to share that produced a joy and hope that nothing could take away. That same story is ours to tell as we extend God's love at St. Jon's and into Northfield and around the world through our mission partners.

The presence of the Spirit brings unity. On the first Pentecost there were people from at least sixteen different countries present – and all heard the Good News of Jesus Christ together. A teacher of mine described this as "the Tower of Babel in reverse." At Babel different languages separated people. At Pentecost, hearing the Gospel in different languages brought people together. It's the same with us. Despite our differences and no matter the variety of opinions we hold, there is a unifying force in our midst. It is the faith we share in Christ – the faith that is stirred up in us by the Holy Spirit who, as Martin Luther teaches, calls us through the gospel, enlightens us with his gifts, and makes us holy and keeps us in the true faith.

And the presence of the Spirit brings power. It is the power of God's Spirit that gives us courage to face the worst that can come in life and not to despair. It is the power to repent of our sin trusting in God's mercy and the power to forgive those who hurt us. It is the power to change what needs to be changed in our lives and the power to accept what cannot be changed. It is the power to look beyond ourselves and to serve our neighbors. It is the power to live the life we've been given because everything depends not on us but on God – and with God nothing is impossible.

For 141 years, the wind and fire of God's Spirit has accomplished much growth and renewal at St. John's. Much remains to be done. That the wind is still blowing and the fire is still burning, we give God our thanks and praise.

Mark

Music Life at St. John's

Music Ministry Schedule:

Sunday, May 2

8:30 – Alleluia Choir and Senior Choir
10:45 – Hosanna Choir and Jubilate Choir

Sunday, May 9:

8:30 – Laudate Choir;
10:45 – Senior Choir

Wednesday, May 12:

Last rehearsal for Laudate Choir (7:30 p.m.)

Saturday, May 15:

10:00 a.m. – dress rehearsal for musical (Alleluia, Hosanna, Jubilate)

Sunday, May 16 (high school senior recognition Sunday)

8:30 – Senior Choir and Rejoice Ringers;
9:45 – Spring Musical: *All Nature Sings*;
10:45 – Laudate Choir and Rejoice Ringers

Wednesday, May 19:

Last day and end-of-year activities for Alleluia, Hosanna, and Jubilate choirs
Last rehearsal for Senior Choir (7:00 p.m.)

Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost):

8:30 – Senior Choir;
10:45 – Jubilate Choir



April Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Sanford Haugen** by Marilyn Boschee,
Jean Larson, Joseph and Mary Shaw

St. John's Foundation College Scholarship

In memory of **Sanford Haugen** by Don Kimber

St. John's Foundation

In honor of **Sanford Haugen**: by Eugene and Joyce
Schrader, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Ulleland

Radio Fund

In memory of **Sanford Haugen** by Loretta Siler, Marilyn
McRae Raadt, Lois Rand

Other Actions

Funerals

Sanford 'Sam' Haugen, March 18, 2010

Jeffrey Pautzke, April 17, 2010

Frances Green, April 19, 2010

Valborg Fure, April 20, 2010

Radio Broadcasts

April 4, 2010, in memory of **Fritjof "Fritz" Christensen's** April 14 birthday, by Judy Christensen.

April 11, 2010, in memory of **Don McRae** on the anniversary of his birthday, by Marilyn and family.

April 18, 2010, in memory of **Roger Mahachek**, by Bev Mahachek and family.

April 25, 2010, in memory of **Marie DeWolfe**, by Leonard DeWolfe and family.

. . . 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.



from the broader ELCA:

Note from Pr. Crippen: We received this letter by e-mail on Apr. 20, after the day (Apr. 18) the bishops called for congregations to engage in prayer. Therefore, we included this in the prayers for Apr. 25. I commend this letter to all members of St. John's as we, Lutherans of all political persuasions, seek to be faithful citizens of this state and country as well. As the bishops say, "speak out!" (The study guide referred to by the bishops is at the website listed in the article, and copies are at the entrances to the sanctuary.)

A Call to Prayer, Conversation, and Action from the Lutheran Bishops of Minnesota

"You are the light of the world." (Matthew 5:14)

*How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?
(1 John 3:17)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Our state leaders are engaged in the most challenging legislative session in recent history. The projected state budget deficit of \$944 million for the current budget and more than \$7 billion for the next biennium is unprecedented and comes on the heels not of robust surplus, but following several rounds of painful cutbacks. The policy debate often moves between two poles: one seeking smaller government and further reductions in taxes and spending on the state level and one that seeks to recapture a larger role for state government by returning to previous levels of tax income and support for social programs and local governments. Partisan disagreements result in sound byte posturing rather than thoughtful engagement with significant and complex issues.

It's an important debate. People's lives are at stake. People who care deeply for the well-being of our state reach different solutions. And some thoughtful leaders and analysts say that neither pole has adequate answers and that we need to consider new ways to live and shape our lives together for the common good. It may even be that new ways might involve religious institutions like ours, long involved in caring for people directly.

As Lutheran Christians, we have a place in the public arena. Though we might not be policy

wonks or political strategists, 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.

The difficult choices we make reflect the values that guide our decisions. Arising from our own faith are values that center on the well-being of our neighbors – all of them – particularly the neighbors most in need. In a culture that promotes "me first," our faith makes clear that caring for the poor contributes to the common good.

We believe the faith community – and particularly we as Lutherans – have a role to play in these decisions. Our leaders listen to their constituents. They pay attention to the political climate. We – the more than 800,000 Lutherans in this state – are part of that climate, though we are not all of one mind. We are Republican and Democrat, liberal and conservative, urban and rural, long-time residents and new arrivals. But we share a faith commitment that compels us to care for the well-being of all, not simply to get a big slice of the pie for ourselves. We can shape the debate and hold

Continued on page 6

the proposed solutions accountable to these principles.

Martin Luther, whose name we bear, is said to have written more than 1,000 letters to public officials of his day. It's in our tradition to seek to be responsible and engaged citizens. Our citizenship arises from our being claimed by the God we meet in Jesus Christ and sent into the world to bear Christ's love to the world. We are called to let our light shine.

So the six of us – the bishops of the six synods in Minnesota – join today in calling for **A Call to Prayer, Conversation, and Action** on Sunday, Apr. 18, 2010.

Prayer: We hope you regularly hold up our elected leaders in your public and personal prayer. We ask that on Sunday, Apr. 18, every congregation in the state participate in this common effort. The God we have met in Jesus Christ has called us to tend to people's needs. Government is the vehicle we use together to shape the life that affects us all and expresses care for people's need. So we pray for faithfulness and wisdom for those public leaders who serve the public good. Pray for them; they face difficult choices and even more difficult decisions.

Conversation: We invite groups of people in all our congregations to discuss together the decisions under consideration by our elected leaders. We suggest the week of Apr. 18, when the legislative process will have only a month to go and far-reaching decisions will be made. We will pose some questions (<http://www.spas-elca.org/news/DiscussionGuide2010.pdf>) for you to use in beginning that conversation, but you may shape it in ways that will be most effective in your setting. You may want to invite legislators from your community to be part of this conversation.

Action: Take time to communicate with your legislators your thoughts and concerns. You don't need to have all the answers. But many who are not powerful and who have little influence have much at stake in these decisions, and our faith calls us to be their advocates. Let your leaders know what kind of state you want this to be and how you want our communities to be healthy places for all of us. Speak your faith and your values. Over 25 percent of the 201 members of the House and Senate are Lutheran and most of our other legislators come from faith traditions that share these fundamental values. Speak up!

Minnesota has long been regarded as a state with a strong commitment to the quality of life that serves well all people across the economic spectrum. We have special concerns this year that in the midst of hard decisions, our common life together remains strong and those on the margins are not forgotten.

We call on Lutherans to be heard. To be seen. To let our light shine.

Grace and peace,

Bishop Tom Aitken, *Northeastern Minnesota Synod*

Bishop Jon Anderson, *Southwestern Minnesota Synod*

Bishop Craig Johnson, *Minneapolis Area Synod*

Bishop Peter Rogness, *Saint Paul Area Synod*

Bishop Harold Usgaard, *Southeastern Minnesota Synod*

Bishop Lawrence Wohlrabe, *Northwestern Minnesota Synod*



Shared Ministry

A monthly message from Regina Hassanally, Director of Shared Ministry

Paul teaches us in 1 Corinthians, and it is an idea repeated in Romans, that the church is a body. We are members of a single unit, each with a function to perform so that the whole may operate as it was created to. It is a teaching I have often referred to. The idea of the body of Christ is a foundational one for Shared Ministry, and in a larger sense, for our life together.

It is an idea I want to explore again because there is an aspect of being a part of the body I think we ought to address. It is the fact that members of the body are attached to one and other. That is, after all, how a whole body is made.

We, as members and attendees of St. John's, are individual parts of a larger body. We make up the entire congregation and our congregation is part of a global community of faith. As members of the body we have roles to fulfill. In light of this I'd like to directly say something I may have only alluded to before. If we want our congregation to be a whole and thriving body of believers then we, as individuals, must be thriving members.

If we want St. John's to be a life giving community of faith, if we want St. John's to grow, to welcome people in, to be a space in which we worship God than we must, as members of the body fulfill our roles as members.

The truth of the matter is, unless we, as individual members of the body, are fully alive in our faith the congregation as a whole will start to deteriorate and there will be no other reason for this deterioration than our own refusal to be active members of the body.

You have heard me say before that we have been given gifts by God in order to use them and I am saying it again because I'm not sure we've quite come to own that truth. In my first year as Director of Shared Ministry I fear I may have overlooked a foundational aspect of what Shared Ministry is. Before we can best participate in

ministry we must first be convinced that as members of the body of St. John's and the body of Christ our participation in ministry is essential. St. John's, and the church as a whole, will not thrive and grow if individual members do not contribute to the body as we have been gifted and created to do.

A few months ago I listened to a sermon given by a woman who had recently returned from a sabbatical. While on sabbatical she and her husband attended a church other than the one they ministered at. She spoke of her frustration with the lack of hospitality at the church they had chosen to temporarily attend. The longer she attended the church the more frustrated she became and she eventually lost any desire to attend at all. As she reflected on her frustration one Sunday morning before services she felt convicted. In her conviction came revelation as she realized rather than complain about the faults of her church she ought to participate in making it more faithfully reflect Christ. That morning she took it upon herself to extend hospitality to those around her. She determined she was called to "adorn the body of Christ" rather than critique it.

Her words resonated with me. As members of the body we are called to use our gifts and abilities to make the church what it ought to be. St. John's will never be perfect, and there will never be a moment in time when every member is completely satisfied with every aspect of our body. But if you are one who finds it easier to critique the body than to fulfill your role as a member of it I invite you to seek ways you can more faithfully be the member you were created to be. If you are simply one who relies on the rest of the members of the body to ensure we continue to live and grow then don't be surprised when we start to wither away. The body needs each of its members to operate as intended in order to function in a whole and

Regina, cont. on page 9

SERVING TO LOVE



LOVING TO SERVE

. . . from our Boards

From the Faith and Health Board:

The Right Thing This Spring

So you're feeling run down
And you're losing your youth?
There's an answer for that
And it's really the truth.

It's not a pill
And it isn't expensive.
It won't hurt a bit,
So don't be apprehensive.

You can do it alone,
You can do it in pairs,
Or in threes or in fours
But you can't be in chairs.

You can do it first thing
When you get out of bed.
Or at night after work
It can help clear your head.

"Are you nuts?" you may say,
"You've made a cute rhyme,
But in my crazy life,
I just haven't got time.

I know you are busy
With too much to do,
But even a little
Can really help you.

Start simply when you are
Beginning to walk.
It's perfectly fine
To just go 'round the block.

You don't have to walk
From here to Montana
Try walking at lunch
While you eat your banana.

Park farther away
At the grocery store.
You can use little tricks
To help you walk more.

"If you put it that way
I suppose that I could.
But do you think walking
Will do any good?"

There's research that proves it
And most people say
That as they're more active
They're better – each day.

It's good for your heart and
Your back and your breathing.
If babies could walk
It might even help teething.

It helps you relax
And is good for the blues,
And all you must get are
Some comfortable shoes.

Now that the flowers
Are blooming this spring,
To walk down the street
Is a marvelous thing.

You'll hear the birds sing
And you'll see the kids play.
It's better than
Watching TV any day.

So you pick the time
And the place and the rate.
You'll soon find that walking
Will help you feel great!

—With apologies to Dr. Seuss,
by Rod Christensen

Challenge Team Formed and Working

At the Annual meeting, a resolution was passed to form and charge a Challenge ministry team to help the congregation meet its financial challenge (creating a sustainable and balanced budget that now includes debt service for the addition). The Challenge Team has been formed and is working in partnership with the Congregation Council to formalize its charge and a workplan in preparation for a special congregational meeting mid-year to review the congregation's operational, programmatic and financial plans. Members of the committee include: Mike Berthelsen (chair), Bob Gelle, Wil Brosz, Cheryl Buck, Marilyn Raadt, Terrence Hassanally, Tim Eklund, Michael Sylvester, and Dave Neuger. The Challenge Team will be working to share with you what they are learning and thinking. We ask you to contact us as well with your thoughts and ideas.

News and Events

Dad's Time Out is May 11

The Dad's Time Out time together this month is Tuesday, May 11, 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!)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors - Food Shelf Update

1 in 10. That is how many residents of the Northfield School District received food in 2009 from the Community Action Center (CAC) of Northfield Food Shelf. Here are some more numbers to think about. Last year the Food Shelf provided 777 families (2,329 people) with food. The average number of 2009 visits to the Food Shelf per household was six. In 2009, more than 12 new households per month sought food assistance. Since last July, the CAC has distributed over 350,000 pounds of food to those in need. In addition, Cub Foods has begun donating 2,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables each week to the Food Shelf for distribution, greatly enhancing the nutrition and budgets of our guests.

The need is rising. The national organization Feed America projects that the number of people needing food assistance will not peak until 2011, and a number close to that one will continue until 2019. Thanks to everyone who donates. You are helping to feed our neighbors.

...cont. from Shared Ministry, page 7

healthy way. Every member of the body of St. John's must be an active, participating member in order for St. John's to be an active, thriving body.

Being a participating member of a body isn't really an option. Of course we can choose not to participate but then we are also choosing to be part of a weakened, distressed body rather than a healthy, thriving one. There is not a single member of the body that is not essential to its proper functioning. That means we are each, as individual members, responsible for the health and state of our congregation. That's really the crux of Shared Ministry, realizing that we are all essential members and then figuring out what we, as individual members, are called to contribute to the greater whole.

If we want St. John's to continue to be a growing, thriving, community of faith then we must make it so.

Regina Hassanally, Director of Shared Ministry

Must See Artwork!

Don't miss seeing the ten beautiful artworks currently hanging in the Fireside Room. Most of them are of Biblical themes and scenes, all done in glowing color and incredible detail by California artist John August Swanson. They are on loan to St. John's from the Carter Avenue Frame Shop in St. Paul. It's another visual feast, another gift to you from Tim Smith (the Frame Shop) and the Worship and Arts board, with additional help from Jill Enestvedt, Julie Brehmer, and Scott, Lynette, and Steve Swanson.

Fair Trade Coffee for Fellowship!

We are making a switch from our present coffee brewing system to an



airpots system that uses Fair Trade and freshly ground coffee beans. The switch offers no additional cost burden to the church, in fact, all things considered, this is a cost effective

way to use our resources.

We will have less waste using the air pot system because we will brew less coffee at a time. The airpots are lighter to transport, and we will not use the energy that is currently required for the warmers. Not needing to set up close to electric outlets would allow more flexibility when choosing the location from which to serve. We are excited to be able to use Fair Trade coffee with this new system and are looking forward to getting the new system in place!

Serving on Sundays in May

Acolytes

- May 2** (8:30) Cecelia Kryzda, Madeline Miller; (10:45) Amanda Nelson, Emily Westerback
May 9 (8:30) Lydia Storlie, Greta Hummel; (10:45) Abby Collins, Ryan Buck
May 16 (8:30) Bennett Falck, Bjorn Bade; (10:45) Wylie Kimmes Kneser, Evan Heather
May 23 (8:30) Amelia Kimmes Kneser, Zachary Evenson, Chen Ye; (10:45) Dalton Skrove, Abby Collins, Mike DeCramer
May 30 (8:30) Cameron Judge-Backer, Kirstin Buck, Irene Duba; (10:45) Dalton Skrove, Abby Collins, Mike DeCramer

Coffee

- May 2** Jack and Pam Schwandt, Jim and Marnie Thompson, Carol Benson
May 9 Ginny and Joe Shaw, Need more three volunteers
May 16 Need four volunteers
May 23 Jenny and Brent Nystrom, Need two more volunteers
May 30 Need four volunteers

Communion preparers

- May 2** Sandie Gerdes, Alexander and Daniel
May 9 Otto and Laverne Reitz
May 16 Elsie Nelson and Shirley Falck
May 23 Gloria and Tom Porter
May 30 Sharon Bishop and Jill Enestvedt

Nursery

- May 2** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Kris Vatter
May 9 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Open
May 16 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Saul McBroom
May 23 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Amy McBroom
May 30 (9:50 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.) Julie Brehmer

Ushers

- May 2** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (10:45) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber
May 9 (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
May 16 (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
May 23 (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
May 30 (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

Need to Reach Someone at St. John's?

Church Office: 507-645-4429

Stephanie Aman, Office Manager

email: office@stjohns-elca.org

Children's Ministry: (ext. 25)

Julie Brehmer: jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org

Youth Ministry: (ext. 33)

Mike Sherman: msherman@stjohns-elca.org

Shared Ministry: (ext. 24)

Regina Hassanally: reginah@stjohns-elca.org

Music Ministry: (ext. 58)

Dan Fenn: dfenn@stjohns-elca.org

Parish Administrator: (ext. 30)

Shelly Keske: finance@stjohns-elca.org

General inquiries:

Stephanie Aman: office@stjohns-elca.org

Pastors:

Pr. Joseph Crippen, jcrippen@stjohns-elca.org (ext. 22)

Pr. Mark Johnson, mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org (ext 23)

Pr. John Quam, jequam@rconnect.com (645-0114)

Deadlines for Communication Pieces:

Want to submit an article for the *Voice* or weekly service folder? Below are the deadlines:

Service Folder: Wednesday by 4:00 p.m.

Voice: 15th of the month, for the next month's inclusion

Submit to: office@stjohns-elca.org

Where Has my Calendar gone?

Are you wondering where the trusty *Voice* calendar has gone? It's gone online! St. John's is now actively using a Google calendar that will better serve our population by being more accurate and not outdated within a few days of printing the *Voice*. The online calendar will update in 'real time', meaning when the change is entered on the calendar at the Church Office, it also will update the online version of the calendar. You will no longer need to open a PDF!

We realize many have enjoyed and used the monthly printed calendar, but we are hoping that this change will give you more accurate information. Printed versions of our weekly calendar are always available with your service folder on Sunday mornings as well during the week in the baskets in the Commons and Narthex. We also have a "This Week at St. John's" calendar located on the bulletin boards at both entrances on the main level. The Google calendar is printable, so you can still enjoy a monthly printed version if you choose to print.

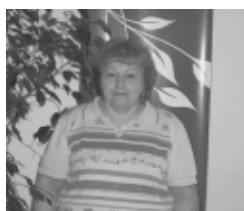
Here is the link to St. John's calendar:

<http://stjohns-elca.org/calendar/>

Check it out and enjoy!

Hip
Hip
Hooray!

Welcome to St. John's!



Jean Chamley
1311 Presidential Drive
Northfield, MN 55057
(507) 301-3075
Host: Carol Carlson



Roger Hanson
513 West First Street
Northfield, MN 55057
(651) 303-7044
Host: Alan and Winnifred Alberg



Tony and Elisha DeGrego
Natalie, Tegan
3309 Millersburg Blvd
Faribault, MN 55021
(612) 756-4224
Hosts: Terry and Peggy Dell



Kristy Harms
12008 168th Street West
Lakeville, MN 55044
(952) 892-1974
Hosts: Steve and Jennifer Edwins



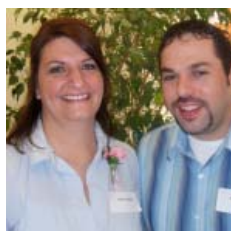
Dan and Jo Franklin
1001 Freedom Court
Northfield, MN 55057
(720) 281-5107
Hosts: Dave and Sue Hagen



Loren and Chris Lee
216 Ames Street
Northfield, MN 55057
645-7040
Hosts: Wil and Gert Brosz



Olaf and Christy Hall-Holt
Viveka, Annelise
806 St. Olaf Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057
664-0213
Hosts: Michael and Kayla Berger



Jeff Morrell and Barb Adrian
1723 Hickory Hill Drive
Eagan, MN 55112
(612) 961-3875
Hosts: Todd and Connie Messen

Pictures not Available:

Aaron and Andrea Lundebrek
Abby, Muriel, Sophie

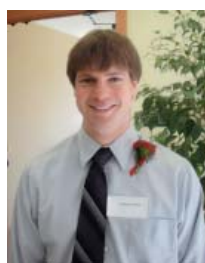
610 2nd Avenue West
Northfield, MN 55057
645-8137

Hosts: Chris and Deanne Weber

Scott and Nikki Blaisdell
Carson, Hudson

1121 Highland Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057
(612) 860-7757

Hosts: Dale and Angie Gehring



Adam Solyst
2230 Hidden Valley Road #87
Northfield, MN 55057
(608) 797-6654
Hosts: Dave and Ruth Legvold

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Next meeting:
Monday, May 10
7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

Business Meeting

Discussion:
Growing Peace
and Justice

Bread for the World

Offering of Letters
Urge members of
Congress to
protect and
strengthen pro-
grams that raise
families out of
poverty

Sunday, May 2
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
The Commons

Growing Peace and Justice

Several exciting ideas came out of the April meeting of your Peace and Justice Group. With Pastors Johnson and Crippen contributing to the discussion, the group continued to affirm the many ways that St. John's members live their faith in actions for others, and also began exploring new ways to engage the congregation in justice activities. For example, representatives will work with others from the Adult Ministry and Education Board as well as the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board to plan a series of open conversations

Bridging the Gap for Working Families

Meeting basic human needs has become harder for a greater number of U.S. citizens this year. In many families, the food budget has been the most vulnerable to these pressures. Yet experience has shown that progress against hunger requires broader efforts to reduce poverty than the vital food assistance programs that are in place.

Recently Congress has offered some help through important improvements made to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) in 2001 and 2003, 2008, and 2009. However, these important improvements expire this year unless they are renewed. Our Offering of Letters through Bread for the World will ask our legislators to protect and strengthen key tax credits that can make a big difference for low-income workers and their families. The funds that are accessible to eligible families help more than those groups. According to evaluations of the program, recipients usually spend their credit refunds immediately and locally, helping those economies. The benefits of these

on lively topics this summer. One of the goals of those conversations will be to nurture an environment in the larger Northfield community for honest exchanges of opinion on challenging issues.

Come to the May meeting with more ideas for ways that the whole St. John's family can extend God's love in these times defined too often by tension, fear, and conflict as well as great need. Everyone is welcome!

programs is reflected also in the fact that most EITC recipients receive the credit for only one or two years.

In 2009, it is estimated that the EITC and CTC lifted 9.6 million people, including 5 million children, above the poverty line. Combined, the EITC and the CTC reduce the poverty rate by 20% and the child poverty rate by 33.333%. A third program Bread for the World supports is the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that provides free tax preparation services to low income working families. This financial support also helps them balance their budgets.

On the Peace and Justice bulletin boards you can read stories from some who have benefitted from these programs. Seize the opportunity on May 2 during the Education Hour to urge our representatives in Congress to continue the programs that protect and strengthen families. We hope to have an abundance of letters.

Mission Outreach



Adopt-A-Highway - Take 2!

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, May 22 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.

Raise the Roof Dinner

Help support Rice County Habitat for Humanity by attending the Raise the Roof Dinner on Sunday, May 2, 5:30 p.m. at the Legion Club in Faribault. The event also includes a silent and live auction. Tickets are \$25. Call 507 330-0740 for tickets or to donate auction items. Rice County Habitat for Humanity partners with families who otherwise may be unable to achieve the dream of home ownership by establishing partnerships among God's people to build simple, decent, affordable homes. In 2010 Rice County Habitat for Humanity is building four houses – two in Faribault, one in Dundas, and one in Lonsdale.

Special Offering this month to Lutheran World Relief

The special giving envelope in May is designated for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The goal for St. John's this year is to raise \$6,000. Although some may have made donations to LWR for the disaster relief in Haiti, the on-going work of LWR needs our support. The LWR web page gives this summary of their continuing work around the world:

"Every day in 35 countries, Lutheran World Relief works to combat the causes of poverty and the dignity it robs from people's lives. We advocate for Fair Trade that helps farming

families and artisans earn a better income. We teach people to better care for themselves, their communities and the environment. We teach people how to be less vulnerable to natural disasters. We advocate with and for them for policy change that more fairly represents them. We counsel them after manmade and natural disasters, and help them recover with material aid. We do all of this exclusively with partners from the communities we serve. Our partners help us remain incredibly efficient and effective. Our partners let us help people help themselves, for a day when they won't need us at all."

Please note the envelope marked "ELCA World Relief" will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you for your support of LWR.

Did you know?

As part of our benevolence giving, St. John's makes a donation each year to the Northfield Retirement Community (NRC). In 2010 it is budgeted at \$750. The NRC is surely one of the finest complexes of its kind in the state of Minnesota, providing a wide array of choices and options in living arrangements for older adults.

Among the seven types of living environments it offers are: owning your own house or apartment with access to assistance for outside maintenance and other help on a contract basis, independent apartment and townhome living with a meal service option, assisted living apartments, memory care residence, and full-time, loving skilled nursing care. The NRC is not all under one roof, but it is under unified management. That makes movement from one level to another easy.

An ecumenical group of churches in the Northfield area supports the NRC in order to offer a Christian environment. A full-time pastor is on site, and regular church services are provided.

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: Local Connections

Upcoming Events

May 1, Saturday - Ecumenical Meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church at 9:30 a.m. Please bring Least Coin Offerings.

There is no WELCA general meeting in May, June or July.

May 4 and 18 - 9:30 a.m. - Knitters meet in the Library

May 10 - Noon - Bible study leaders meet in the Fireside room.

May 12 and 13 - Circles meet.

May 17 and 20 - 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

Looking Ahead

The first Women of the ELCA Biennial Retreat, alternative years from the Synod Convention, is Friday, July 30 at 9:00 a.m. to Saturday, July 31 at 4:00 p.m. at the University of Minnesota Mankato. Women will stay in the new apartment-style dorm which is air conditioned. The program is focusing on balance in your life.

Sarah and Abigail/Rebecca Circle Members will provide a brief program and refreshments at Three Links in **August**. Beverages are provided

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

The next General Meeting of the Women of the ELCA is **Thursday, August 5, at 10:00 a.m.** The program is the birthday coffee, election of Officers, and Table Talk Mixers. Note the morning time. All women are welcome!

Announcements

Circle Leaders: Please inform Barbara Walters of changes in the WELCA yearbook for next year by June 1. e-mail waltersb2@gmail.com

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

Tell me a Story

by Barbara Eaves

Riding on the train to a Twins game recently, one could see strangers engaged in conversation with one another, telling stories about the game, the players and the ballpark they were about to experience. While these brief exchanges probably would not result in any lasting relationships, nevertheless they exemplified the effectiveness of story as a medium for linking people.

Think about the stories that have helped to define who you are—the home where you grew up, the schools and churches you attended, the events you experienced, along with family members, friends, and mentors who made an impression or impacted you one way or another.

Our personal stories reveal both our uniqueness as well as our commonality. As we share them with others, connections are made, understandings evolve, relationships grow, and community is formed. This kind of knowing and being known is one of the rich treasures often experienced in a small group setting. Where did you live...the house, the neighborhood, the people... in your formative years?

The house where I grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, is vivid in my memory. It was a one and a half story bungalow and my sister and I had our bedrooms on the second floor. My dad was an avid gardener and we had beautiful rose bushes and a large garden in the back yard that produced wonderful vegetables, strawberries and raspberries.

There were about 30 kids who lived and played together on our short city block. The street was lined with huge maple trees whose leaves turned into a blaze of yellow, red, and orange in the fall. The house, street, and neighborhood were very large in my mind; however a trip back some 20 years later revealed that house, street, and neighborhood were all quite small and the maple trees were gone, victims of disease. Stories related to this place are too numerous to count, but given a little prompting they come bubbling to the surface of fond recall.

What stories come to mind when you remember the places, people and events that have been part of your life and have helped to shape who you are and what you value today.

Next time you would like to become acquainted with another person, consider asking them to tell you about the home or community where they lived as a child.

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.

May 2: *St. John's Forum:* The Practice of Meditation in Catholicism and Lutheranism: The practice of meditation (focused spiritual reflection for spiritual growth) has a long history in the Christian tradition. This session will provide some background on the history of this practice and then describe the various forms of meditations that were used by Lutherans in the 17th century. This is based on a book recently completed by Eric Lund, the presenter.

May 9: Sunday Morning Concert Series – Youth Recital, Sanctuary. No St. John's Forum

May 16: Sunday Morning Concert Series - Youth Musical – “All Nature Sings”, Sanctuary. No St. John's Forum

May 23: *St. John's Forum:* The Transforming Power of Prayer, presented by Richard Beckmenn, St. John's Hall

St. John's Easter Egg Hunt - 2010



THANK YOU

Thanks to all who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt by donating candy, filling and hiding eggs. We had a big crowd and lots of fun!!!

Special thanks to Goodbye Blue Monday for donating coffee and to Zach Evenson, Bailey Dell, Andrew Dell, Grace Boynton, Alexa Nutt and Hannah France for their help on the day of the hunt!



Important Dates To Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

May 2 - Sunday School

May 9 - Sunday School (Youth Recital)

May 16 - Sunday School (Ice Cream treats and Musical)

End of Year Celebration

Wednesday, May 12 (see article on back page of *Voice*)

Choir Musical - All Nature Sings

Sunday, May 16 at 9:45 a.m.

(see article on pg. 1)

Other Important Dates:

Wednesday, May 19 - Last Wednesday of children's programming and afterschool bus

June 20-25 - Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp for grades 3-5

August 8-12 - Vacation Bible School and "On the Road" Summer Camp

3rd Grade CAT Projects

In April, a Catechism retreat for 3rd grade students was held to talk about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This year's retreat included an at-home project that asked parents and students to create something that shows what the Sacrament of Holy Communion means to their family. The projects will be on display in the Commons starting Monday, May 3 – Sunday, May 16.

Summer Nursery Schedule

Starting on Sunday, May 30, the Nursery will be providing childcare during worship for the 10:00 a.m. service during the summer months. The change was made due to fewer families using the Nursery for first service and the number of volunteers interested in helping with childcare. Questions, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer.

Are You Ready?

Are you ready for the difficult questions your children will ask about sex? St. John's has purchased a series of books, *Learning about Sex*, that will boost your confidence and prepare you for the difficult questions children will ask as they grow in age.

The series consists of five books; one set for boys and one set for girls. *Why Boys and Girls Are Different* for ages 4 to 6; *Where Do Babies Come From* for ages 7 to 9; *How You Are Changing* for ages 10 to 12; *Sex & the New You* for ages 13 to 15; and *Love, Sex and God* for teenagers and young adults over the age of 15.

The books are located in the lower level of St. John's by the Resource Room and are available for check out.

Celebrating 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, May 2 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Youth Sunday School Schedule

Middle School Line Up:

May 2: Sunday School Celebration

May 9: Youth Concert

May 16: Youth Musical

High School Line Up:

May 2: Tony Becker and Beckie Judge

May 16: Peggy Hanson

6th Grade CAT

6th Grade CAT meets May 5 from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. We'll be creating a special class prayer based on what we've learned about the Lord's Prayer. We meet in the Fireside Room, and we will be sharing a meal together (pizza). We're looking forward to seeing you!

High School Sunday School

There are only two High School Sunday School's left! Tony Becker and Beckie Judge are teaching on May 2, and Peggy Hanson is teaching on May 16. They will be leading a Bible Study based on topics and issues relevant to teens.

NAYW Event!

This month's event is a NAYW event, meaning it's an event involving all the other churches in town. The plan now is to do an Amazing Race / town wide scavenger hunt. We're still working on the details, so stay tuned to your e-mail, regular mail, and Facebook for updates.

...Children's Ministry, cont. from page 18

VBS and "On the Road" - Summer 2010!

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 Theme: Get out of the Boat!



For kids completing
Kindergarten – 4th grade
August 8 - 12

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.

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!

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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End of the Year celebration at St. John's!

The 2nd Wednesday meals have been a wonderful time for fellowship of all ages. May's 2nd Wednesday meal will be picnic style dinner starting at 5:15 p.m. on May 12.

Be prepared to be wowed and amazed by the St. Olaf Juggling Club as they provide the entertainment for the evening! Make sure you stay, because we'll end the evening with a delicious ice cream sundae. The end of year celebration will be our 2nd Wednesday Meal, with a reminder to parents that children's programming continues through to May 19.

Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to come and celebrate a wonderful programming year together!

