

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

June-July 2010

Volume 50, Number 6

*on the
inside . . .*

St. John's Campers
✧ p. 18

July Food Shelf
✧ p. 12

And After Church?
✧ p. 6

Magical Mystery
Tours
✧ p. 19

St. Olaf pastoral intern to work at St. John's this summer

Andrew Willis, serving his internship at St. Olaf College this past year as he prepares for ordination, will be doing some pastoral work at St. John's this summer to broaden his experience beyond that which he could do at the college. Andy will likely preach a few times and lead worship, but will primarily be doing pastoral visitation to shut-ins in coordination with Pr. Quam, visiting in the hospital in coordination

with all the pastors, and possibly working with the children, youth and family ministry programs.

Andy will be introduced to the congregation at worship on a Sunday in June. Andy is a native of Plymouth, Minnesota, is a 2003 graduate of St. Olaf College with a degree in religion and English, and plans to graduate from Luther Seminary in St. Paul in 2011.

Gift Received for Needed Beautification

Sometime this summer, probably in July, the sanctuary and surrounding areas of St. John's building will receive a much-needed make-over. David and Susan Hagen are giving carpeting in the sanctuary, narthex, stairways (to balcony and basement), and sacristies in memory of Maurice and Ruth Hagen, David's parents. Maurice was in the

carpet business his whole working life, and especially loved doing church sanctuaries, which he felt should be beautiful in thanks and honor to God. He also worshipped at St. John's in the last few years of his life, and loved his time here. The Environment and Arts ministry team will help make the choice of carpet.

In addition, there will be a couple changes to the front of the sanctuary that several boards have been considering and which will best be done before the carpet project. The Properties and Grounds Board, with the approval of the Worship and Arts Board, will be exposing the hardwood from the front of the first pew to the bottom of the chancel steps (except the center aisle, which will be carpeted all

cont. on pg. 6

Please Join Us for Worship!

Effective Memorial Day Weekend,
Sunday, May 30, the Sunday morning
schedule is as follows:

8:30 a.m. - Worship
9:30 a.m. - Coffee in St. John's Hall
10:00 a.m. - Worship, with nursery

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.

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word: An informal time of prayer using Scripture as a guide. Meets, Thursday Jun. 17 at 7:00 p.m. and Thursday Jul. 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fire-side 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

Stephen Ministry Training

We all find ourselves in the role of caregiver at some point in our lives – when a friend is going through a divorce, after a co-worker loses his job, when a spouse gets sick, or when someone you know is struggling after the death of a loved one.

Stephen Ministers are trained Christian care givers who provide care, in addition to the care that St. John's pastors provide, to those experiencing life's challenges.

St. John's Stephen Ministers will offer care giving training this fall. The training is open to those interested in being commissioned as Stephen Ministers and those who do not wish to be commissioned as a Stephen Minister but who would like to receive training in care giving skills. The training session includes fifty hours of class time learning and practicing skills in areas such as listening, assertiveness training, confidentiality, crisis theory, and use of scripture and prayer.

If you sense you have a gift for care giving or are searching for a new way to grow in faith, consider being part of this fall's training group. If you have questions about the training contact one of the pastors, Pam Schwandt 645-6120, or Jennifer Edwins 645-9653.

If you or someone you know would benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, contact Joan Halvorson at 645-8445 or one of the pastors.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

The Grief Support Group of Bethel and the First United Church of Christ meets Wednesdays through June 30 at Bethel from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Contact Barb Knaak, 646-0444, to register.

Grief Booklets: "Journeying through Grief" is a resource 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.



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."

May 16, 2009
Marion Finholt

May 28, 2009
Henry Helgen

June 6, 2009
J. Daniel Palm

June 6, 2009
Marcella Carrel

From our pastors . . .

*Change is
... good?
If Jesus is
there, yes.*

And remember, I
am with you
always, to the
end of the age.
Matthew 28:20



These words of Jesus are from Matthew's account of his ascension. Literally, Jesus' last words to us before returning to the Father, and before sending us the Holy Spirit. And I find them immensely comforting in many parts of life, but perhaps even more now. Because they suggest to me that even when things change, even when things seem moving too fast, even when we aren't ready for new things, Jesus is the constant. Jesus will be with us always, to the end of all things.

I've been thinking about this because of who won't be with us next year. And because of who hasn't been with us this past year. Hannah's been in England since September, and by the time many of you read this, she'll be home, thanks be to God. But it's been a long, long time apart from her for us. But then, just returned to us, she'll be off again to college for her senior year. And this is Martha's last summer with us before college. She will join her sister at Luther next fall.

Now, I understand that this is the way it is supposed to be. Our children are to grow, to become adults, mature, good people in the world. And to find their own paths. I just don't think we always have to like it. Mary and I and Rachel and Peter will have a much different family dynamic next fall. We will miss Martha, just as we missed Hannah. And in two years, Rachel will move on. It never seems to end, this change.

But "remember," Jesus says, "I will be with you always." That's our promise and our hope. Because life is constantly changing. People we love grow up and move out. People we love come to the end of their lives and are no longer with us as they were. People we love fall ill and everything changes. People we love lose jobs or find struggles. Life can be hard.

But as we begin this long Pentecost season, we have this promise from our risen Lord Jesus. It's funny, but Matthew tells us at the very beginning of his gospel that Jesus will be called Emmanuel, which means "God-with-us." And then never in the gospel is he ever called Emmanuel. You might wonder if Matthew made a mistake. But then, in this last verse of Matthew's gospel, Jesus at last becomes Emmanuel, God-with-us. Jesus' death and resurrection broke the power of death over us, and restored us to a relationship of love and grace with God. But by returning to the life of the Trinity and leaving us physically, Jesus didn't abandon us at all. He just got out of the way so that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, could fill our hearts and minds. And so Jesus could keep this promise to be God-with-us. Always. To the end of the age.

And in a world where things change too fast, and endings come too quickly, and fathers find sadness in the midst of the joy of daughters leaving for college, this father is deeply grateful for this: If Jesus is always with me, then Jesus is always with those I love, no matter where we all are. And we are all therefore in the arms of the God who loves us, even if we can't see each other every day. And that makes all things good.

In Jesus' name,

May Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Sanford Haugen** by Bruce and Audrey Moe

In memory of **Carla Muckey** by Millie Johnson

In memory of **David Batalden** by Lloyd Brand, Dean Brand

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Sanford Haugen** by Edward and Anne Sovik, Lyla Arneson Paulson, Burt and Donna Paulsen, Duane and Elaine Kringen, Doris Nelson, Mac and Ruth Abeth McElrath, Merlin and Marilyn Dewar, Edgar and Helen Larson, Lorraine Larson, Nancy Gelle, Carol Johnson, Sherwin and Elna Hansen, Myrna Johnson, Robert and Jane Gelle, John and Patricia Ophaug, George Paulson, Brynhild Rowberg, Basil and Kathryn Mroz, John and Kathleen Holden, Chuck Lunder, David and Ruth Legvold, Thomas and Gloria Porter, Robert and Cora Scholz, Allen and Lorraine Hanson, Duane and Patricia Vincent, Michael and Elaine Anderson, Mavis Snyder, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Paul and Joann Jorgensen, Lorene Elg, Dagfinn Moe and Lydia Quanbeck, Wilmer and Gertrude Brosz, Van and Ruth Anna Miller, Shirley Munson

Radio Fund

In memory of **Sanford Haugen** by Maxine Halverson, Vi Jones, Curtis and Avis Reed, Leonard DeWolfe, Joyce Briggs, Jenna Eckholm, Sylvia Knutson, John and Irene Anderson, Virginia Anderson, Joanne Haugen, Barry and Kristi Holden, Sharon Anderson, Shirley Falck

In memory of **Valborg Fure** by Joan Kark, Freida Hodgkinson, Thomas and Barbara Brownworth, Orwoll and Jean Anderson, Valborg Hallan, Kirsten Johnson, Solveig Steendal, Charles Lunder, Lois Rand, Shirley Falck, Paula Lawrence, H. Eulalie Smestad, Elaine Feroe, Paul and Rita Day, William and Marjorie Gruszewski, John Mehrling, Kathryn Haugen, Brynhild Rowberg, Edgar and Helen Larson, Stephen and Christine Lamos.

St. John's Building Fund

In memory of **Sanford Haugen** by Roger and Darlene Hand, Roald and Shirley Kindem, Walter and Thelma Nitz Lee

Other Actions

Funerals

Carla Ann Muckey, May 9, 2010

David Loren Batalden, May 10, 2010

Radio Broadcasts

May 2, 2010, in memory of **Helen and Leon Ingram**, by the family of Helen and Leon Ingram

May 9, 2010, in memory of **Lorraine Lunder**, by Chuck Lunder

May 16, 2010, in honor of **our 58th wedding anniversary**, by Benny Blanness

May 23, 2010, in memory of **John and Frances Schlichting**, by their children, William, James and Evelyn

May 30, 2010, by Elvin Heiberg in memory of **Frederick Heiberg** who died 20 years ago. Frederick was a member of St. John's for nearly 90 years

Sunday School Offering

Thank you to our Sunday School children and their families for giving to the Sunday School offering this year. Offering was given to provide support to the following missions:

- Our Compassion International child, Romario Vasquez Polo, from Bocachica, Columbia. Our \$38/month sponsorship provides Romario with Bible teaching, medical care, nutritious meals, recreational activities, academic support, educational classes and literacy training.
- Almost \$386 was given to support the Minnesota FoodShare Drive to help benefit the Northfield Food Shelf.
- Our "Pennies for Peace" offering will continue through the summer months. The penny jar will be in the Commons every Sunday so feel free to keep bringing your pennies!

... from and around the greater Church

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

from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod:

The following is a summary of the 2010 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly meeting on May 7-8. St. John's voting members were Pr. Crippen, Pr. Johnson, Katie Bull, Tim Eklund, Carrie Duba, and Mike Sylvoester.

The 2010 Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly gathered on May 7-8 to join together in the work of the church. As always, the assembly featured worship and Bible study. The assembly was also an opportunity to recognize the work of individuals, congregations, and organizations throughout the synod, our communities, and the larger church. A number of stories were shared about the exciting ministries going on throughout the synod. Young people being integrated into congregational life, congregations reaching out to

unchurched neighbors, groups supporting ministry and education for the blind and deaf, individuals reaching across oceans to brothers and sisters in other lands, and many more. The assembly ended with a consecration of individuals representing 37 congregations in their work to share the news of the ministry of the ELCA. These individuals have committed themselves to telling this story in their congregations and communities. Karleen Sherman will fulfill this role at St. John's.

Friday afternoon assembly participants had the opportunity to explore techniques for being more missional. After the workshops, assembly goers gathered for a buffet supper and panel discussion on the ELCA's LIFT (Living Into the Future Together) initiative which seeks to develop and recommend options for future ministry in the ELCA in light of its current mission and environment. Of course business issues also were attended to at the Synod Assembly. Seven resolutions were presented to the assembly. Further details about the assembly and these resolutions are available on the synod's Web site <http://www.semnsynod.org>. Look for "2010 Synod Assembly Summary."



from the churchwide organization:

"We are not the sprinters...we are the long-distance runners." So begins the webpage for Lutheran Disaster Response. LDR, the combined efforts of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, rarely gets headlines because they never intended to be first responders. The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army have chosen that role. Rather LDR recognizes that recovery from disaster takes years, not days or weeks. Lutheran Disaster Response is modeled on the concept of long-term recovery and meeting the unmet needs of those affected. Despite the stories of terror and tragedy often heard on the news, our LDR

coordinators and volunteers bring great help to those who have suffered great loss. In turn, they meet disaster survivors filled with hope and perseverance.

The Lutheran Disaster Response Mission Statement reads: "To demonstrate Christ's compassion for people by promoting hope, healing, and wholeness for disaster survivors." A vital component of this holistic care is the spiritual and emotional well-being of those affected. There are many ways in which LDR offers Spiritual and Emotional Care to survivors of disaster, meeting them in their journey towards recovery.

cont. on pg. 6

...Continued

Needed Beautification, cont. from pg.1

the way to the steps). This will make it much easier to clean up spills from serving communion, and make the front of the sanctuary more acoustically pleasing for the music that is performed down in front. As part of this project, the pew in front of the pulpit will become a half-pew, like the one on the other side, and the second pew on the front side will become a three-quarters length pew, both to facilitate better movement of people and to make a couple more places for handicapped access.

St. John's is deeply grateful to the Hagen family for this generous gift, which will grace our worship life for years to come!



Churchwide Organization, cont. from pg. 5

LDR provides training and resources for local congregations and communities to be prepared for disasters and to respond when they occur. Minnesotans have become more familiar with this ministry partner of the ELCA than we might like with the recurring flooding of the Red River Valley in the northern part of the state and the floods in 2007 that devastated parts of southeastern Minnesota.

Though undocumented by the larger organization, local congregations have been and will continue to be an impressive part of Lutheran Disaster Response in local, national, and international disasters by their support in prayer, money and personnel.

This spring has been a devastating one for many parts of the southeastern United States. On April 24, a powerful tornado touched down and traveled across five counties — over 100 miles — in central Mississippi. Then, as May began, torrential rains brought flash flooding to four states, including heavy flooding around Nashville, Tennessee. In

all, these storms have been blamed for more than two dozen deaths, and thousands of homes have been damaged or destroyed.

The ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster Response, has provided two \$10,000 emergency response grants for work in Mississippi and Tennessee. These grants, issued to Lutheran Episcopal Services in Mississippi, help to strengthen the work of staff with affiliate agencies there, some of whom were directly impacted themselves and many of whom have been already working tirelessly in the unfolding response. LDR will also seek to serve the long-term needs of individuals, families, and communities affected by these storms.

For more information go to www.ldr.org.

Portions of this article were written by Shirley Gangstad, Mission Interpreter Coordinator, SE MN Synod, ELCA



Shared Ministry

I'll be honest. I am not typically a huge fan of John Piper. This is most likely due to the fact that my first exposure to him was the exhaustive work he edited, along with Wayne Grudem, entitled *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. This book, which I think may be longer than the Bible itself, makes an argument against women having any leadership in ministry. You may agree with Piper, and that's fine, it just so happens that I don't.

Several years after my first encounter with Piper I was required to read his book *Let the Nations Be Glad!*, which details his theology of mission. I was pleasantly surprised.

One of the things I found most helpful is Piper's argument that all of Christian mission exists for the sake and glory of God and more specifically to make God's name known throughout the world. He supports this idea with thorough references to scripture. To join him in reflecting on the breadth of scripture addressing that single concept makes the entire book a worthwhile read.

It is because the work we do in Christian ministry is for the sake of the kingdom of God that our work in ministry is decidedly different than the other altruistic volunteer activities we participate in.

The amount we're asked to give of our time and finances can be a bit overwhelming. There are many worthy causes that rely on outside support. It is easy to clump ministry opportunities together with every other organization clamoring for our attention but they are different.

The goal of Christian ministry is to glorify God's name and to spread the good news. We are called by God to participate in the work of the church in the name of God because the glorification of God is our ultimate goal. This is simply my opinion: I think we are called first and foremost to further the work of the church and to participate in Christian ministry. I believe the ministry opportunities we have take priority over the other volunteer endeavors we are invited to participate in. This is because the goal of Christian ministry, to glorify God, is the most important.

Truthfully the things we do in ministry are very similar to the things we volunteer to do outside of ministry. So why does it matter? When we participate in ministry we do so as an extension of the body of Christ. Suddenly we aren't participating simply because it makes us feel good, it's the right thing to do, or we're required to give a certain number of volunteer hours. Rather when we engage in ministry it is a natural outpouring of God's love in us and the work we do is to glorify God's name.

Participating in the Adopt-A-Highway program as the member of the Bicycle Club is different than participating as a member of a Ministry Team from St. John's. The first furthers the name of the Bicycle Club; the second is a representation of God at work on earth.

The difference in activities may not seem significant but often the hoped for goals are eons apart. It is something worth considering as we decide where to spend our time and our talents

*Regina Hassanally,
Director of Shared Ministries*



News and Events

Challenge Committee: Survey

We have shared with you our charge approved by the Congregation Council. It is an aggressive timeline to gather a lot of information about the congregation, its programs, and its finances. We are working quickly to meet this obligation in preparation for a mid-year Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Jun. 27, 2010, 11:00 a.m., in St. John's Hall. At this meeting we will share what we have learned, a status report on current finances, and some initial recommendations to the congregation.

To prepare for this meeting, we believe that we need to learn more about our congregation from several perspectives: demographics; interests; satisfaction; and more. Toward this end, we have created a survey that we are asking you all to complete. It has fewer than 20 questions and is anonymous (the only record we are keeping is who has responded). This week, the survey will be emailed to everyone we have an email address for (if you have not given this to the church – we encourage you to do so to help us save money for mailing). We will also be at church on two Sundays, May 30 and Jun. 6 with both computers and paper versions encouraging you all to complete the survey. Due to the quickly approaching Congregation meeting, we encourage you to complete this as quickly as possible to help us meet our charge.

Respectfully, the Challenge Team

Yoga will resume in the fall!

Weekly yoga classes have been well-attended throughout this first year at St. John's! Participants have learned poses, breathing, flexibility, and spiritual components of this practice. Although many people started without previous experience, this beginner class has advanced and mastered many techniques and reaped the benefits of their involvement over time (increased flexibility and strength, focus, and circulation). This class was offered as a free class and open to St. John's members as well as others in the greater community as a way of Extending God's Love.

Thanks to the Faith and Health Board as well as Small Group Ministries and staff for their support of this class. The last spring session was held May 21. We will resume meeting on Friday afternoons beginning Sept. 18 from 4:15 p.m. -5:15

Dad's Time Out meets June 14

Dad's Time Out, the monthly fellowship time for dads, meets Tuesday, Jun. 14, at 9:00 p.m. at the Cow. Put your kids to bed and come and share some time with others from the congregation

Coffee Volunteers Needed for Summer

If you enjoy the fellowship and conversation had with friends during coffee



hour between church services, you are needed to volunteer this summer. For all Summer Sundays, June through August, volunteers are needed for coffee prepara-

tions. Sign-ups will be in the Commons or you can email Katie Helgen (helgen.katherine@gmail.com) or Regina Hassanally (reginah@stjohns-elca.org). If we do not have enough volunteers for each Sunday, no coffee hour will occur, so please join in.

p.m. Please contact yoga instructor, Patsy Ophaug (645-6231) for further information.

There will be an additional opportunity this summer to explore the spiritual aspects of yoga with physical practice and discussion. This 12 week class, taught by Gracia McKinley, will meet Wednesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at St. John's from Jun. 16-Sept. 1. (A free-will offering will be appreciated)

News and Events

Calling all fellowship fans!

If you enjoy gathering with others for the purpose of getting to know new people or hanging out with people you already know, St. John's need you! We are looking for people who enjoy participating in and planning fun activities, special events and opportunities for St. John's members to connect. Your mission, should you choose to accept it (and you should) will be come up with fun ideas for St. John's members to get together (or build on activities that already exist); work with your partners on the St. John's events team to make these activities happen (hire the bus, reserve the tickets, create the sign-up, advertise the opportunity); and have fun connecting with other St. John's members!

The St. John's Adult Ministry and Education Board is looking for a small group of people to plan social activities for St. John's members and their guests. Recent events include annual summer trip to the Twins game, a trip to the Science Museum to view the Dead Sea Scrolls, and a day at the Childrens Theater production *Mulan*, family camp at area Bible camps, and bike rides or hikes in the area.

Dead trees to be replaced

St. John's is in for some landscaping this summer due to the death of a row of pine trees. The trees which border the western edge of the southern parking lot have been suffering from disease for the past couple years and now are all dying and will be taken down this summer. Properties and Grounds Board will be working with Leif Knecht on this project, and the plan is to replace them with shade trees.



WelcomeFest is Coming!

Mark your calendars! Sunday, Sept. 19 we'll enjoy a congregation picnic, sno-cones, a bouncy tent for the kids, and fun and entertainment for all ages. Save the date and invite your friends and neighbors to this time of fellowship following the 10:45 a.m. service!

The possibilities are limited only by our imaginations.

Please contact an Adult Ministry and Education Board member or Regina Hassanally to express an interest in working with this team.

AME Board members, who are liasons to this team: Katie Helgen (645-6600; helgen.katherine@gmail.com); Sandi Gerdes (645-2290; classysandi@yahoo.com) or Regina Hassanally, Director of Shared Ministry (645-4420, x 24, reginah@stjohns-elca.org).



Thank you Sunday School Volunteers!

Thank you to the Sunday School volunteers who faithfully gave their time and gifts to teach Sunday School this year! Thank you to Stephanie Aman, Berit Seeberg, Martha Sudermann, Dodie Mickelsen, Kim Norton, Jordan Cook, Katy Erickson, Lauren Ehlers, Deidre Kiefer, Deanna Tollefson, Grace Boynton, Katherine Peterson, Sonja Wermager, Hannah France, Julie Ims, Karleen Sherman, Kristy Mikula, Kirsten Gunn, Julie Becker, Martha Crippen, Beret Amundson, Liv Thompson, Ellen Iverson, Sue Brockman, Jenny Pelletier, Andrea Hoff, Susan Canon, Marvis Canon, Amy Christianson, Angie Gehring and Brian Evenson.

Serving on Sundays in June and July

Acolytes

June 6	(8:30) Jonah Berthelson, Bailey Dell; (10:00) Peter Crippen, Brandon Kimber
June 13	(8:30) McKenna Boyum, Katelyn Canedy (10:00) Lars Christianson, Nicholas Gonnerman
June 20	(8:30) Kelsey Bull, Hannah Cuddy; (10:00) Katharine Herrlich, Nicholas Pelletier
June 27	(8:30) Jessica Smith, Olivia Riggins; (10:00)
July 4	(8:30) Cecelia Kryzda, Amanda Nelson; (10:00) Emily Westerback, Madeline Miller
July 11	(8:30) Lydia Storlie, Rebecca Storlie; (10:00) Ryan Buck, Emma Kmoch
July 18	(8:30) Greta Hummel, Paul Hummel; (10:00) Nathan Berthelsen, Andrew Dell
July 25	(8:30) Grant Erickson; (10:00) Amelia Kimmes-Kneser, Wylie Kimmes-Kneser

Communion preparers

June 6	Rose and Ed Youngquist	July 4	Wes and Rae Pearson
June 13	Bill and Char Carlson	July 11	Darlene Hand and Judy Smith
June 20	Sharon Bishop and Ginny Shaw	July 18	Jack and Pam Schwandt
June 27	Nordis Christenson and Joan Kark	July 25	David and Sue Rudser

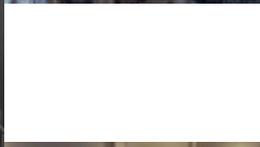
Nursery

June 6	(9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.) Todd and Connie Menssen	July 4	Need 2 Volunteers
June 13	(9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.) Barb Adrian, Adam Neuger	July 11	Amy Willkomm
June 20	(9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.) Steve and Shari Williams	July 18	Amy and Saul McBroom
June 27	(9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.) Kris Vatter	July 25	Nick Neeb, Roz Eaton-Neeb

Ushers

June 6/July 4	(8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Warren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (10:45) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber
June 13/July 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
June 20/July 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
June 27/July 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

St. John's in Pictures!



If you'd like to submit a picture for consideration for the *Voice* (as space allows), please email office@stjohns-elca.org

Mission Outreach



Hands & Feet for July: Food Shelf!

St. John's is once again staffing the CAC Food Shelf with volunteers through the month of July. We have forty-one volunteer slots to fill. Sign-ups began May 30 and will continue through the month of June or until all slots are filled. Volunteers should wear comfortable shoes and be able to lift 20-30 pounds if needed. Sign-up in the commons between Sunday morning services and contact Don Sahling or Regina Hassanally with questions.



Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity in August

Volunteers are needed to help at the Thrivent Builds house in Lonsdale this August. Watch for more details in the August *Voice* and in the bulletin. Along with other Lutheran congregations in Rice County, St. John's has been asked to contribute financially to the Thrivent Builds project. The goal is to raise \$1,200. Checks can be made out to St. John's with "Thrivent Builds" in the memo line.

Attend the Glocal Mission Gathering this Summer

Yes, that's "Glocal", a combination of global and local and the theme of this summer's ELCA mission events being held around the country. One of the Glocal Mission Gatherings is being held in Austin, Minn. on Friday, Jul. 16 and Saturday, Jul. 17 and all are invited. The gathering will include worship, music, global foods, and presentations and workshops on topics such as global mission, mission trips, stewardship, and hunger relief. Children and families are welcome. The registration fee of \$35 includes meals and program. Register at www.elca.org/globalevents. A group from St. John's plans to attend the July 16-17 event in Austin. Contact Jane Rinehart 663-1659 or Pastor Mark Johnson 645-4429 for more information.

News and Events

St. John's Members Organizing New Kids' Triathlon

St. John's members Angie McCarthy and Andrea Hoff are organizing the first Y Kids Triathlon in collaboration with the Northfield Area Family YMCA. This event will be held the morning of Saturday, Aug. 7.

The new **Y Kids Tri** is a fun, non-competitive triathlon that's all about getting kids excited to get fit! Kids ages 6-14 will experience a morning of encouragement, cheers and satisfaction of completing the swim, bike and run event. There's nothing like the excitement of crossing a finish line!

No experience is necessary! Kids are encouraged to train during the summer, so it's a great way for family to get fit together. If you want to learn even more, look for the optional YMCA Kids Triathlon class offered in July as an additional, fun way to prepare and learn about what to expect on the event day.

To register, visit www.northfieldymca.org or call 645-0088 with questions.

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Strangers in Their Own Land, Strangers in a Strange Land

The Peace and
Justice Group does
not meet in June
or July.

During the month of June there are two dates that bring our attention to the suffering that millions endure as a result of violence in their lands.

Jun. 20 is United Nations (UN) World Refugee Day, a time to remember and recognize the more than 14 million people who are refugees. Many are refugees within their own country, others are displaced to neighboring countries or farther away to distant places. Obtaining the basics, food, shelter, and security, is the first priority. Finding medical help, social support for adapting to new environments, schooling for children, and employment for workers are further challenges to those who have been uprooted. The size of the problem requires support from governments and other large groups as well as the generosity and empathy of smaller organizations.

Jun. 26 is the UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, a reminder that human torture is not only unacceptable, it is also a crime. Since

1985, The Minnesota Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), with headquarters in Minneapolis and offices in St. Paul and Washington, D.C., has provided services directly to torture survivors in the U.S. and around the world. CVT also trains and provides support to the professionals who work with the refugees, conducts research on the effects of torture and on effective treatment, and advocates for public policy measures in Minnesota, the United States and worldwide. A private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, CVT also operates healing centers in Jordan, Sierra Leone, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, extending its work to put an end to the practice of torture.

Overcoming the destructiveness of torture is a long process, requiring support and understanding, and the skillful help of many trained personnel. The CVT has accomplished much in this difficult work.

This is My Song

This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for lands afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
but other hearts in other lands are beating
with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,
and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine.
But other lands have sunlight too, and clover,
and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.
So hear my song, O God of all the nations,
a song of peace for their land and for mine.

-Lloyd Stone, 1912-1993
ELW no.887

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

How Pleasant It Is

by Barbara Eaves

Behold, how pleasant, how good it is!

*How pleasant and harmonious when God's people are together:
fragrant as the precious oil when running fresh on Aaron's beard;
refreshing as the dew upon the mountain of the Lord;
there the Lord God bestows a blessing—life forever more.*

ELW no. 649

This simple little song is based on Psalm 133, which is listed as one of the Psalms of Ascent, possibly sung by the Israelites as they made their annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Understanding that this psalm was written at a time when the people were widely dispersed, one might imagine the annual pilgrimage culminated in a great and joy-filled reunion.

This time of year is filled with reunion celebrations...of families, academic classes, and wedding anniversaries. We, too, are a dispersed people, and when we come together in reunion, joy and blessings follow...the blessings of belonging and connection.

There is a delightful story told by Jim Limburg in his book, *Psalms*. "The story is told about a Jewish man who never failed to attend synagogue services on Friday evenings. He often made the point, however, that he didn't really believe in God. And so it happened that one Friday evening when he returned from services, his children asked him, 'Dad, if you don't believe in God, why do you go to synagogue every Friday?' He answered, 'Garfinkel is my best friend. He goes to synagogue each week to visit with God. I go to visit with Garfinkel!'"

How good and pleasant it is when we come together in worship and gather for coffee and conversation and in small group settings; we connect...we belong...and we are blessed.

Are you interested in leading a small group? Is there a small group you would like to see formed at St. John's?

If your answer is yes to either of these questions, the Small Group Leadership Team (listed in the box at the bottom left side of this page) would like to hear from you. Most of the St. John's small groups recess for the summer. During this time, we will be preparing the menu of groups that will be available in the fall.

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

There is no WELCA general meeting in June or July. See you in August.

Jun. 9 & 10 – Circles meet. Check with Circle leaders for summer meetings.

Jun. 14 & 17– 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. Quilts are tied on Thursday.

Looking Ahead

The first Southeastern Minnesota Women of the ELCA Biennial Retreat, alternative years from the Churchwide Assembly, is Friday, Jul. 30 at 9:00 a.m. to Saturday, Jul. 31, at 4:00 p.m. at the Minnesota State University - Mankato. Women will stay in the new apartment-style dorm which is airconditioned. The program is focused on “balance” in life. They will be looking in depth at the Wholeness Wheel developed by the ELCA Board of Pensions several years ago as they continue the Triennial focus of *Raising Healthy Women and Girls*.

The cost is \$100 which includes 4 meals and one night's lodging. Send \$100 to Karen Myers, P.O. Box 330, Lake Crystal, MN 56055 with your name, address, home phone, email, and congregation.

Circles Meet

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 Aug. 5, Thursday, at 10:00 a.m. The program is the birthday coffee, election of Officers, and “Table Talk Mixers.” Note the morning time.

Announcements

Circle Leaders: Please inform Barbara Walters of changes in the WELCA yearbook as soon as possible. e-mail waltersb2@gmail.com or 663-1055.

Sarah and Abigail/Rebecca Circle

Members will provide a brief program and refreshments at Three Links in August. Beverages are provided.

Adult Ministry and Education

And After Church?

You and everyone else in the congregation are invited to be part of something new in adult education this summer – “And After Church?” conversations on Jun. 6, 13, and 20 in St. John’s Hall from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Grab coffee or lemonade after the second service and converse from the heart about some of the important issues that challenge us, as individuals and as a community. The first conversation on Jun. 6 will be a conversation about conversations: how do we as persons of faith talk with and listen to one another? Pr. Johnson will facilitate the June 6 conversation. Topics for Jun. 13 and Jun. 20 will grow out of the initial conversation but may include issues such as health care, immigration, and Islam. Whatever your views, your perspectives, and your concerns, please join other St. John’s members for one or more of these opportunities to reflect on being Christians in the world today.

Goals of these conversations are getting to know one another and enriching our lives of faith –not solving big problems or changing others’ minds. Please come without an agenda, prepared to talk honestly and listen respectfully. Bring a friend, especially if he or she has views different from yours.

Wondering how or whether you might participate? Be bold! Think of these conversations as sowing seeds; and as Paul advises in 2 Corinthians 9:6, “The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” See you there!



Youth Prayer

Sixth Grade Prayer

The Sixth Graders have met monthly since October to study the Lord’s Prayer using Martin Luther’s Small Catechism and to learn more about the gift of prayer. In April the Sixth Graders wrote an individual prayer using different types of prayer: prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, offering, and request, along with silence which is a way of praying that listens for God. In May the Sixth Graders wrote a class prayer. You are invited to pray the prayer yourself and see if you can identify the different prayer types:

Dear merciful and powerful God, We love and adore you. We confess all our wrongdoings and we ask for your mercy. Help us to live our lives in your awesome presence. Thank you for creation and for our lives. We pray for all who suffer... In your name we pray. Amen



Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School "Baobab Blast" will be held the same week as "On the Road". Kindergarteners have the option of going to either camp. The VBS program starts on Monday, Aug. 9 thru Thursday, Aug. 12 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at St. John's. The cost is \$10.00 per child with a \$20.00 family limit. VBS registration is due by Jul. 1.



Registration forms can be found at www.stjohns-elca.org under Children. Scholarships are available for all summer camp opportunities.

"On the Road" Summer Camp

For kids completing Kindergarten – 4th grade, Good Earth Village, "On the Road" will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield. The week begins on Sunday, Aug. 8 with a 1 ½ - 2 hour welcome. Monday – Thursday, the program runs from 8:00 – 5:00 p.m. Campers can be dropped off anytime between 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and picked up between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. A closing program, open to everyone, will take place beginning at 4:00 p.m. Thursday.

You may register online at www.goodearthvillage.com, click on summer programs, "GEV On the Road", and choose the Northfield site. The deadline is Aug. 1 or until the camp is full.



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, Jun. 5 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.



We Need Many Volunteers!

Volunteers needed for VBS
(9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.):

Camp Counselors – lead a small group of children to various stations

Station leaders and assistants– to lead music, crafts, games, Bible storytelling, snacks

Decorating and prep – prior to VBS

Help with registration on Monday, August 10 from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Nursery Care – help care for volunteer's children who are too young to attend VBS

Volunteers needed for *On the Road*
(8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.):

Provide an evening meal or housing for Good Earth Village camp counselors

Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org or fill out the Volunteer page in the registration packet

Children and Communion

Holy Communion is the meal of all the baptized children of God. If your baptized child has expressed an interest in receiving Holy Communion please contact a pastor. Preparation for children and parents is provided on an individual basis.

Looking ahead to camp!

Shores of St. Andrew and Green Lake

Camp is just around the corner – June 20-25.

We can't wait to spend time with you at camp!
Remember to do the following things:

- Fill out forms (St. John's forms and Camp forms) and turn in to Mike or Julie
- Pay your balance due (make checks payable to St. John's) and turn in to Mike or Julie – you all should have received a letter in the mail with your balance.

Departure: Sunday, Jun. 20, 12:15 p.m. St. John's parking lot. Return: Friday, Jun. 25, approximately 4 p.m. to St. John's parking lot.

Shores of St. Andrew, 3rd – 5th grade

James Bull	Cole Little
Liam Christianson	Logan Matson
Sydnee Eddy	Greg Pelletier
Timothy Gasior	Rikka Zillmer
Ellie Ims	

Green Lake, 6th – 8th grade

Jonah Berthelsen	Michael Gasior
McKenna Boyum	Amelia Kneser
Kelsey Bull	Wylie Kneser
Lars Christianson	Cecilia Kryzda
Mike DeCramer	Dylan Matson
Andrew Dell	Olivia Riggins
Bailey Dell	Pastor Johnson
Bennett Falck	Mike Sherman

Christikon - July 12-20

Our youth will discover the delights of living at the top of the world. We'll hike, stay in tents and carry our gear in a backpack. The following youth and chaperone will load a bus and head to McLeod, Montana (near Billings) for a week of hiking in the mountains.

Irene Duba
Zach Evenson
Adam Neuger
Carl Norquist
Mike Sherman



Youth Works – July 24 - 30

The following youth and chaperones will travel to Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. They will learn about the culture and history of the people, help lead a children's program and participate in service projects.

Katie Bull	Adam Neuger
Rachel Crippen	Mike Sherman
Peter Duba	Mary Crippen

Camp for families with children and youth with special needs

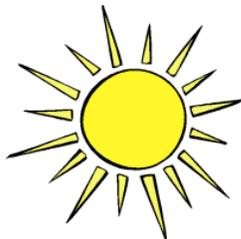
Green Lake Lutheran Ministries will be offering a unique camp Sunday, July 6 – Tuesday, July 9 at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN. If you are a family with children or youth with special needs we invite you to think about attending. You will get

to experience camp in a meaningful and personal way. Please contact Green Lake Bible Camp, www.gllm.org for more information

Mission Minneapolis – Aug. 6-7

Middle school youth will team up with our friends at El Milagro Lutheran Church to work on service projects, sing, play, worship together and build bonds between our two churches

Jonah Berthelsen
Nathan Berthelsen
Nicholas Pelletier
Olivia Riggins



Our prayers are with all of the campers this summer. And thank you St. John's for helping with the cost of camp by donating and participating in the fund raisers.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Magical Mystery Tours

Summer time is almost upon us folks, and that means its time for the Magical Mystery Tours (MMT's) to begin again! Our first MMT is taking place on Jun. 11, and the second one will take place on Jul. 9. Here are some things to know about the MMT's:

Magical Mystery Tours are for 6th – 8th Graders.

A few weeks before each event, parents will receive a letter, along with a permission slip. In the letter, we will disclose the mystery to you and also give you the trip details, cost, timeline, etc. Last year, we went to Cosmic Bowling, Feed my Starving Children in Eagan, and to Valley Fair.

We can't tell you what we're doing this year (it's a mystery!), but we can tell you that they will be lots and lots of fun. Feel free to invite a friend!

Magical Mystery Tour dates are: June 17, July 8, and August 12.



Lunch with Sherm - All Youth!

On June 15, at noon, Sherm is buying you lunch! Join Sherm at Hogan Brothers to eat some lunch, chit chat, and hang out for a bit. All youth are invited!

7th Grade Entrance Interviews

Over the summer, we want to meet with the upcoming 7th Graders and their families. We'll talk about Confirmation Class and other programs for next year, but mostly we want to hear what you're hoping to get out of Confirmation. We also want to share what we're hoping that you'll get out of Confirmation.

Sunday School Teacher Thank You!

Thank you so much to all of our Middle School and High School Sunday School teachers for this year. The work you've done helped our youth to learn about what it means to be a Christian, ponder their faith, and to follow Jesus in service. Know that your efforts had a very positive impact on our youth. Thank you again, and many blessings! Our teachers this year were Paul Peterson, Jenny Pelletier, Peggy Hanson, Kathy Vang, Terrence Hassanally, Mary Crippen, Jane Rinehart, Kristi Wermager, Rebecca Judge, and Tony Becker.

Parent Forum Follow up Meeting

There will be a follow up meeting to the Parent Forum on Sunday, Jun. 6, at 9:30 a.m. The Youth Board and Sherm will present a follow-up plan in response to the Parent Forum. We'll present a Youth mission statement, a communications plan, and discuss Sunday School and Confirmation. All parents of 6th -12th graders are invited to attend.

Sunday School Teachers

We are in need of Teachers for both Middle School and High School Sunday School. If you are interested in teaching Middle School Sunday School, you would be responsible for teaching one or two lessons based on your interests and passions. If you are interested in teaching High School Sunday School, you'd be responsible for teaching about once per month, following a curriculum. Contact Mike Sherman if you're interested.

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*

500 Third Street West

Northfield, MN 55057

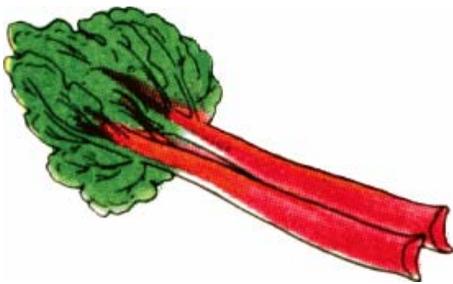
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3rd Annual Rhubarb Sunday is June 13!

It's time to cultivate that rhubarb in your garden and hunt for that favorite rhubarb dessert recipe! Rhubarb Sunday is just around the corner and is the first of our three summer celebration Sundays; Rhubarb Sunday in June, Strawberry Sunday in July, and Apple Sunday in August (always the second Sunday of each month). As is our custom, we will gather in St. John's Hall during our regular scheduled coffee time and treat ourselves to the most spectacular rhubarb desserts you can imagine. There will be rhubarb bread, rhubarb sauce, rhubarb cake, rhubarb bars, rhubarb muffins and rhubarb desserts topped with meringue. This is a festive Sunday planned to surprise and delight you! Come, choose your desserts, and join your friends for good stories about old recipes and old times. Also, this is a great time to bake with your children focusing on our delicious summer fruits, making memories for them. Rhubarb - a true Minnesota sign of spring.



Please be one of the 25 individuals/families to sign up and then bring your contribution to church Saturday, June 12, mid- afternoon or before the 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday morning. Sign-up poster will be in Commons two weeks prior to Jun. 13.

Questions? Call Guy Reid, 645-7984; Char Nelson, 663-0564; or Joan and Vern Koester, 645-5224.