

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2010

Volume 50, Number 7

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Alleluia Choir seeks director

Jennifer Pelletier, who has directed the Alleluia Choir for the past 2 and a half years, has stepped down from that position. She will be working to create a new chime choir for children in grades 4 and 5 this fall. The Alleluia Choir, made up of children in kindergarten and grade one, sang beautifully under Jenny's leadership and increased their frequency of singing in worship as well as added participating in the spring musical to their responsibilities. The congregation is deeply grateful for her work with this choir.

The Congregation Council, on the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, is posting the position of

Alleluia Choir director, to start in September, as a nine-month renewable contract. Given the work of the Challenge Team and strategic planning on budget, staff, and mission which is currently underway, the council felt it better to make a commitment for just this one school year. During the year, members of Personnel, together with Dan Fenn, Director of Music Ministry, will investigate other possibilities of staffing this position, including exploring whether it could be an internship site for St. Olaf music students. Those interested in applying for the position should contact Dan Fenn at the Church Office, 645-4429.



Apple Sunday is Aug. 8!

Apple Sunday is just around the corner. As is our custom, we will gather in St. John's Hall during our regularly scheduled coffee time and treat ourselves to some delicious apple delights! Apple bars, apple pies, apple brown Betty...come and see! Choose your desserts and join in the fellowship!



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

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

Every summer Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity team up to offer affordable housing in our area. The 2010 Thrivent Builds house is located in Lonsdale and St. John's members are scheduled to volunteer at the house on Saturday, Aug. 7. Our work day begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends around 4:00 p.m. This year we'll be painting and still need volunteers to help paint as well as provide the meal for the day's work crew. If you can serve in either of these ways please contact Regina Hassanally as soon as possible.

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

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office@stjohns-elca.org

website:

www.stjohns-elca.org

Church office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

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

Friday

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

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

Prayer and Care Ministry

Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word: Gathered in the Word: An informal time of prayer using Scripture as a guide. Meets Thursday, Aug. 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

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

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

Galatians 6:2



Providing one-to-one care and encouragement

The Caring Compass

In September a new session of Stephen Ministry training begins at St. John's. One



of the tools that guides both veteran caregivers and caregivers-in-training is the Caring Compass. With Christ at its center, the Caregiver's Compass names

four qualities of a Stephen Minister: Compassionate, Skilled, Trustworthy, and Full of Faith. Caregivers reflect on how those qualities are at work in their relationship with care receivers, and all human relationships. Since every relationship carries within it a mix of needs and support, being in a healthy relationship, with a family member or a friend, frees one to express needs and

count on support. When you are in need what qualities do you look for in a source of support? Consider the qualities on the Caregiver's Compass. A *compassionate* friend is present with you, traveling with you through hard times. He or she listens calmly and affirms you as you work through your decisions. A *skilled* friend accepts your feelings and acknowledges your struggles. He or she has patience to support you through a slow process of discovery and rebirth. A *trustworthy* friend knows you well and respects your privacy. He or she is always discreet and keeps information

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Save the Date: "The Healing Journey: Grieving and Grace" will be presented by Erin Barnett on Wednesday, Sept. 15 starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Northfield Hospital Conference Center. The event is sponsored by the Northfield Grief Support Coalition and is free and open to all. The next Grief Support Group in Northfield begins meeting at the Northfield Hospital starting Sept. 22; Contacts: Amanda Pettis, 646-1037 or Barb Knaak, 664-0444.



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."

July 30, 2009
Ralph H. Haugen

August 1, 2009
Mae E. Odette

August 21, 2009
John W. Distad

August 15, 2009
George L. Jones

From our pastors . . .

Prayer and Healing

"Is any among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord..."
James 5:13-14

This spring a group of St. John's members began meeting to learn more about prayers for healing - specifically the practice of prayer described in the book of James that includes anointing with oil and the laying on of hands - offered in Jesus' name.

While the central meaning of Christ's ministry is found in the cross and empty tomb, the healings that Jesus performs throughout his ministry are signs of how God is breaking into the world to free people from sin, evil, and all that afflicts humanity. The Christian practice of praying for those who are sick or suffering began when Jesus sent out disciples to heal in his name and with his authority.

Throughout the centuries the Church has prayed for healing in all kinds of situations trusting that healing is a gift from God and that whether a cure comes or not, God's promise to heal and to give wholeness is offered to every person. The Church affirms that God's healing comes in different ways. It comes through the work of doctors, nurses, counselors, and other health professionals. God's healing also comes when the Gospel is preached, when baptism and holy communion are celebrated, when the sins are confessed and forgiveness is offered and it comes when Christians gather for fellowship and for prayer.

At St. John's, prayers for healing are offered during Sunday worship, through the prayer chain; in small

groups, in hospitals, care facilities, and in homes; by Stephen Ministers, pastors and staff, and individual members. This fall there will be new opportunities for prayers of healing. The newly formed Healing Prayer Ministry Team, in partnership with the Worship and Arts Board and the Faith and Health Board, will offer prayers for healing along with the laying on of hands and anointing with oil once a month during communion on Sunday mornings and every Wednesday from 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. in the small chapel that has been created on the second floor of the education wing.

St. John's member Dick Beckmen, a retired pastor, has written extensively on prayer and healing. In an article entitled "The Church as Healing Community" Beckmen writes, "*The heart of the Gospel reveals the gift of forgiveness that is the center of the healing work of God for us in Christ. The Word and sacraments proclaim this forgiveness that signals reconciliation, restoration, and transformation for those who live in God's justifying grace. Martin Luther pointed to the broad implications of forgiveness when he stated that, "Where there is forgiveness of sins there is life and salvation." [from the meaning to the Sacrament of Holy Communion in the Small Catechism] Prayers for healing are an extension of that conviction into the physical, psychological, and relational life of people.*"

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June and July Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Bertrand Petrick** by: Marilyn Boschee, H. Eulalie Smestad, George, Beverly and Jeffrey Young, John and Louise Quam, George and Beverly Young

In memory of **Carla Muckey** by: Iva Dodson, Bob and Jane Gelle, David and Ruth Legvold, Charles Lunder, Van and Ruth Anna Miller, Myron and Arlene Dack

In memory of **David Batalden** by: Iva Dodson

In memory of **Valborg Fure** by: Millie Johnson

In memory of **Edgar Larson** by: Marilyn Boschee

In memory of **Lloyd Gunderson** by: Joan Kark, Mille Johnson

In memory of **Robert Seitz** by: Millie Johnson

New Furnishings Fund

In memory of **Bertrand Petrick** by: Richard and Joanne Dahlin

Radio Fund

In memory of **Valborg Fure** by: Pete and Debi Edmund Ellertsen, Charlotte Patriquin, Claudia/Martha Circle

In memory of **Bertrand Petrick** by: Marilyn McRae Raadt, Gregg and Janet Pederson

In memory of **Sanford Haugen** by: Millie Johnson

In memory of **Carla Muckey** by: Shirley Falck

In memory of **Edgar Larson** by: Don Kimber

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Bertrand Petrick** by: Kathryn Haugen.

In memory of **Edgar Larson** by: Beverly Mahachek

In memory of **Howard Vincent Hong** by: William Talen.

In memory of **Lloyd Gunderson** by: Marilyn McRae Raadt

Building Fund

In memory of **Bertrand Petrick** by: Ed and Rose Youngquist.

In memory of **Carla Muckey** by: Roger and Darlene Hand, Alice Nasby, Gordon and Delores Mickelsen

Other Actions

Baptisms

Wyatt Andrew Norrie son of Jonathan and Katherine Norrie; sponsors are Andrew Norrie, Felicity Vernon and Jill Enestvedt; June 13, 2010.

Roger Ross Grothe, son of Ross and Karisa Grothe; sponsors are Gena Bartlette and Pat McKinley; June 13, 2010.

Hudson James Blaisdell, son of Scott Blaisdell and Nikki Christophersen; sponsors are Beau Miller and Lynnea Lufi; July 25, 2010.

Weddings

Nick Chalmers and Bethany Johnson, June 19, 2010

Kyle Rudser and Annalisa Eckman, June 25, 2010

Funerals

Edgar Larson, July 2, 2010

Lloyd Gunderson, July 4, 2010

Robert Seitz, July 8, 2010

Minnie Ozmun, July 13, 2010

Radio Broadcasts

June 6, 2010, in honor of **Dorothy Wolff's** 93rd birthday, by her family.

June 13, 2010, in memory of **Val Fure** by friends of Val Fure.

June 20, 2010, in honor of **Rev. George Pósfay's** 89th birthday from Éva Pósfay, Pepe Kryzda, and Cecilia Kryzda.

June 27, 2010, in honor of **Milo and Eloise Quinnell's** 60th anniversary.

July 4, 2010, in honor of **Edgar and Helen Larson's** 62nd wedding anniversary.

July 11, 2010, in **appreciation for T.V. and radio broadcasts** by a grateful listener.

July 18, 2010, in memory of **Bert Petrick**.

July 25, 2010, in memory of **Adolf and Mary White's** anniversary.

... 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 churchwide organization:

"The Bible does not refer to church members. It refers to disciples."

—Deaconess Marlys Waldo

My name is Karleen Sherman and I have been a disciple at St. John's for two years. My husband, Mike, is St. John's Youth Director. I am 24 years old, which puts me in a minority group when considering the age of most disciples in our congregation. My perspective on life and faith has been shaped by different experiences than many of you, but I think we have much to learn about each other as we work together to fulfill God's mission. I am writing this newsletter article because I have taken on the role of Mission Interpreter. What does this mean? It is my job to make sure that I inform the disciples of St. John's about the mission of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the greater churchwide ELCA organization.

On June 16 and 17, I attended an ELCA Glocal Mission Gathering along with Julie Brehmer (Director of Children's Ministries), Jane Rinehart and Gretchen Colby. We spent a day and a half learning more about the mission of the ELCA and how to help our congregations fulfill this mission. I attended a workshop session entitled "New and Renewing Congregations." It was led by Marlys Waldo, a deaconess who currently serves as the director for Support Networks within the ELCA.

There are many disciples at St. John's who have concerns about our current financial standings. My Glocal

experience cemented my belief that the solution to these concerns goes beyond budget cuts or simply asking for more money. I believe St. John's needs a renewal. I believe that many of you feel the same way, and that is why our church body voted to form the Challenge Team. In order to renew ourselves, we need to center on our relationships with both God and our neighbors. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus and stay open to Christ's presence and guidance in our own lives. We need to discern our purpose. What is your role to play in God's mission of reconciling people to God? Are you living out your baptism covenant?

We are called to a higher purpose than simply attending church. We need St. John's to be a welcoming place where people of all ages and backgrounds can come and join in our effort to be Jesus in the lives of others. Do you know the people sitting next to you in the pew on Sunday? Have you invited anyone to church lately or told them about how God has worked in your life? Have you asked the youth about their faith, or a young family about how God is working in their lives, or an elderly couple about what they have learned through their many experiences?

We are not called to be complacent. We are called to look *outside* of ourselves to determine the needs of our ever-changing community. I hope to share more information about the mission of our synod and the greater churchwide organization during a Sunday forum. I hope to see you there.

I would like to end this article with a prayer in the form of a song we sang at the Glocal gathering, *Enviado soy de Dios (The Lord now sends us Forth)*.

"The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give, to make of all the earth a better place to live. The angels were not sent into our world of pain to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name; that falls to you and me and all who are made free. Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today." ELW no. 538

Music Life at St. John's

Updated Fall Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesdays (beginning September 15)

- 4:00 p.m. Alleluia Choir (K-1st Grade)
- 4:00 p.m. Hosanna Choir (Grades 2-3)
- 4:45 p.m. Jubilate Choir (Grades 4-5)
- 4:45 p.m. Handbell Choir (Grades 6-8)
- 5:15 p.m. Jubilate Choir (Grades 6-8)
- 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir (College and Adults)*
***Senior Choir begins Sept. 8**
- 7:30 p.m. Laudate Choir (Grades 9-12)

Thursdays (beginning October 7)

- 5:15 p.m. Rejoice Ringers (College and Adults)

New this Fall: Bell Choirs for Kids!

Two instrumental groups will begin this fall, offering new opportunities for St. John's youth!

Grades 4-5

A tone chime choir will occur on Wednesday afternoons for 4th and 5th graders. Some experience reading rhythm and a desire to play in an instrumental group is helpful. The chime choir will participate in worship services a few times during the year, directed by Jenny Pelletier. Please check "chime choir" on the Sunday School registration form to express interest in the group!

Grades 6, 7 and 8

St. John's middle schoolers will have the exciting opportunity to play handbells! This group will meet every Wednesday from 4:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.. Join 8 to 12 of your peers and learn to play 2 and 3 octave handbell pieces using the same bells as Rejoice Ringers. (Please note that consistent attendance is important in any handbell group; if you're not there, the part can't be played!) Students need to be able to read notes and rhythms, but if this is not a strength, come ready to learn! The middle school handbell choir, directed by Zach Pelletier, will contribute to various church services throughout the year. To participate in this group or to ask questions, please contact Zach at zachery9296@msn.com



Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Only two left for the 2010 season!

Wednesday, Aug. 4, 12:15 p.m. – Dan Fenn on the Holtkamp organ at Boe Memorial Chapel (St. Olaf College campus)

Wednesday, Aug. 11, 12:15 p.m. – Mike and Susan Powell on the Dobson organ in Studio A (St. Olaf College Campus)

Vintage Band Festival – Aug. 5-8

Over 75 concerts by 25 bands from the United States and around the world will take place in and around Northfield Aug. 5-8. For more information visit www.vintagebandfestival.org.

The **Gargoyle Brass** from Chicago will play at our worship at St. John's at the 10:00 service on Sunday, Aug. 8.

WelcomeFest!

WelcomeFest is coming! On Sunday, Sept. 19 we'll kick off another program year at St. John's with the start of Sunday School, a picnic lunch, and activities for all ages.

WelcomeFest serves several purposes. The first is to celebrate the beginning of another program year as Sunday School and St. John's Forum start up again. We celebrate with lunch following the second service, games and activities, and congregational fellowship.

WelcomeFest also serves as a means of outreach to our community. One of the goals of this special Sunday has always been to provide an event for members of the congregation to invite members of the community to. WelcomeFest offers a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to church for lunch and family friendly fun. One of the Challenge Team's interim recommendations was to make an effort at increasing our membership. The way we get more people to join our community at St. John's is by inviting them to do so! Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for lunch.

WelcomeFest also serves as an opportunity to learn about all of the exciting things we have happening at St. John's. There are more than sixty active ministry teams. WelcomeFest offers these ministry teams, as well as other groups at St. John's to use WelcomeFest as a platform to introduce the work they do to the congregation at large. If you are a board chair, ministry coordinator, small group leader, or have another aspect of ministry you'd like to share with the congregation at WelcomeFest please let me know. Often boards, ministry teams, or other groups will sponsor an activity or have information on hand to let other members of the congregation know of the ways they can be involved in our life together at St. John's.

WelcomeFest is an important and fun annual activity and we need volunteers to help make it happen. If you're willing to help set-up, prepare or clean-up for lunch, run an activity table or help in another way please let me know.

WelcomeFest offers our congregation a wonderful opportunity to share with others the ways in which God is at work in this place. Thanks, in advance, for your work in helping make WelcomeFest 2010 a success!

Regina Hassanally, Director of Shared Ministries

SERVING TO LOVE  LOVING TO SERVE

Stephen Ministry, continued from page 2

confidential. A friend who is *full of faith* brings a sense of hope to your relationship, and to your life. You may see Christ in the face of that friend.

If you or someone you know could benefit from talking with a compassionate, skilled, trustworthy, and full of faith friend contact a pastor, 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson, 645-8445. If you would like to explore and develop your gifts of

caregiving there is still time to sign up for Stephen Ministry training. Contact one of the pastors, Pam Schwandt 645-6120, or Jennifer Edwins 645-8445.

Serving on Sundays in August

Acolytes

- August 1** (8:30) Bennett Falck, Cecilia Kryzda; (10:45) Peter Crippen
August 8 (8:30) Michael Gasior, Ryan Buck; (10:45) Alexa Nutt, Bailey Dell
August 15 (8:30) Ian Iverson, Jonah Berthelson; (10:45) Evan Heather
August 22 (8:30) Hunter Redfield, Amanda Nelson; (10:45) Amelia Tjaden, Madeline Miller
August 29 (8:30) Kristopher Swanson, Emily Westerback; (10:45) Brandon Kimber, Olivia Riggins

Communion preparers

- August 1** Marilyn Boschee and Rachel Peterson
August 8 Joe and Carole Neshiem
August 15 Loise and Eugene Bakko
August 22 Carolyn Nitz and Christine Anderson
August 29 Alan and Lynetter Marks

Nursery

- August 1** (9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.) Todd and Connie Menssen
August 8 (9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.) Saul and Amy McBroom
August 15 (9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.) Steve and Shari Williams
August 22 (9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.) Kris Vatter and Barb Adrian
August 29 (9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.) Amy Wilkolmm and Kristen Partlo

Nursery Cleaning Party!

Please come and help clean the nursery on Aug. 28 at 9:00 a.m. Coffee and treats will be provided. With several volunteers, this work goes quickly and provides a safe environment for our littlest members. Anyone interested is invited to help! Let the Church Office know if you can attend.

Ushers

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

News and Events

Looking for a church home?

You are invited to become a member of St. John's – a congregation seeking to grow as disciples of Christ and extending God's love. St. John's will formally receive new members on Nov. 21 and May 1, 2011. A fall session of gatherings for those considering membership at St. John's begins on Sept. 26. Contact a pastor or the Church Office if you would like to join St. John's or if you would like more information about life and ministry at St. John's. Everyone is welcome to participate in worship and all church activities, whether a member or not!

Mission Outreach

School Kit Donations

What does it mean to a child to own his/her very own school supplies? For children in Peru, it could mean the difference between receiving an education or not. Although public education is free in Peru, families are expected to provide the necessary school supplies for their children. If a family can't afford basic supplies, their children can't attend classes. Last year, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) sent 14,000 school kits to Peru, and 194,825 school kits to 17 countries. Alica, in Peru, said of the kit she received, "It's everything my mother could not buy me." "I have enough pencils for more than two years!" said Jorge.

Each year St. John's members send 60 - 90 school kits to LWR. You can help by purchasing items from the school supply list, sewing a bag, or contributing cash (make checks to Women of the ELCA and put in the offering plate or leave in the Church Office). You can find the fabric and patterns for the bags, and turn in purchased supplies at the school kit display in the Commons.

School Supply list:

- Spiral notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" x 10 1/2"
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- Six new, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- One pencil sharpener
- One eraser approximately 2 1/2" long
- 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons



Coming Soon!

Check here in the coming issues of the *Voice* for the weekly Wednesday meal menus. It's sure to be tasty and exciting!

All are welcome to come, it's a fantastic time for fellowship for ALL ages!

Come, share a meal!

ELCA Missionaries Visit St. John's this Month

ELCA missionaries Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen will visit St. John's on Sunday, Aug. 22 to thank the congregation for helping to support their ministry in East Africa. Jean and Marv will retire this fall after serving the Maasae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania for twelve years. Following visits to sponsoring congregations this summer Jean and Marv will return to their home in Washington state. With thanks to God for Jean and Marv's ministry, St. John's has recently sponsored a student at the Maasae Girls Lutheran Secondary School through Operation Bootstrap Africa.

... from our Boards

From the Faith and Health Board: Visiting your Doctor

by Rod Christensen

Many of us have had the experience of coming back from an appointment and realizing we forgot to ask one key question, or perhaps still be wondering about something we were worried about before we went. Here are some ideas to try and make your doctor visits as usefull as possible.

1. Make a list. Most doctors like it, especially if it is brought out early. Lists can help us avoid forgetting a concern until the last minute. Seeing all the issues can help the doctor look for patterns.
2. Prioritize. List the problems in order. The doctor may have more concern about a certain topic than you do, but together, you can figure out how to use the time most productively.
3. Bring a list of all the medications, including over-the-counter. If that is difficult, just bring the bottles.
4. Ask questions. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't understand" or "could you explain that again?" It

is far better to get the answers face to face than to have to call back later.

5. Don't keep secrets. Let the doctor know about the article you read, or what your neighbor told you, or what you are lying in bed worrying about. Believe it or not, most doctors can't read your mind! If you say what you are most concerned about, the doctor can address it much more effectively.
6. Know the plan. Be sure to understand what to expect next. If you need tests, how should you schedule them? When is the next appointment? What kinds of symptoms should lead to a phone call?
7. Get it in writing. It is too easy to forget details, so written instructions are best.

Planning for an appointment is worth the effort. You'll be much more likely to get your questoins answered.

From the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board:

Did you know that St. John's contributes \$1,750 each year to help support Lutheran Volunteer Corps?

Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) is a national volunteer service program for people who want to explore their spirituality while working for social justice. Volunteers serve for a period of one year and receive a monthly stipend to cover living expenses. Volunteers live with other several other volunteers, and practice sustainability in all aspects of their lives.

Placements include schools, environmental organizations, shelters, programs for women and youth, medical and legal

clinics, refugee services, public policy organizations, community organizers, senior service providers, food banks, and general social services.

LVC was founded in 1979 by Luther Place Memorial Church (Washington, DC). Since its beginning, Lutheran Volunteer Corps has matched over 1,800 volunteers with social service organizations in sixteen cities across the country.

Pastor's page, continued from page 3

In the same article, Beckmen also writes about how prayers for healing are evangelical. In the Gospels and throughout the history of the Church, prayers for healing in Jesus' name have been an important way of opening the door to sharing the Gospel. Sometimes people come to healing services or come forward for individual prayer at worship service who are not connected to the church. As they experience the praying community of the church, the Spirit is at work to open their hearts to experience God's love and compassion in new ways and to draw them to Christ.

Watch for more details about the healing prayer ministry at St. John's in the coming months. If you would like to become part of the Healing Prayer Ministry Team or if you have questions contact one of the pastors, Jane Rinehart, 663-1659 or Dick Beckmen, 664-3882.



News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

In August, sunflowers brighten local gardens and spread their gold on fields in many parts of our state. Their beauty includes a striking design of green around the petals, all supported by a sturdy, fuzzy stem. Beautiful now, and through this month, they will ripen into sources of seeds enjoyed by birds and people, plus being ingredients we are not aware of in products we use or consume.

In addition to its beauty, the sunflower has become an international symbol of peace. Following the development of the atomic bomb in 1945 and other nuclear weapons in the years that followed, the United States and the USSR controlled the development and production of nuclear arsenals with unimaginable destructive power. The atmosphere of threats and fears continued until, through many efforts to diminish the toxic weapons race, the two nations agreed to destroy a portion of the arsenals.

When Ukraine disassembled its nuclear missiles in 1995, sunflower seeds were planted by Ukrainian and U.S. generals in the missile silos. We are told that the sunflower is popular there for its beauty, its products, and as a symbol of peace, much like the lily is in our culture. So the sunflowers in the silos were a symbol of beauty and peace replacing a destructive device. Since then the sunflower has been adopted as a symbol of Abolition 2000, the global movement for nuclear disarmament.

Sunflowers have become a popular flower in bouquets and flower arrangements in recent years. They are used on many products. Cheerful and upbeat!

When you see sunflowers, remember their role in a significant step for peace.



**"I will write peace on your wings,
and you will fly all over the world."**

---Sadako Sasaki: suffering from radiation, folding 1,000 cranes

On Aug. 6, 1945, the USA exploded an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. On Aug. 9 a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. Both events caused an extraordinary number of deaths and extraordinary suffering that continues to this day in civilian survivors. Not all consequences of the blasts were anticipated or known.

In September 2006 many Northfielders heard the urgent message of peace from four Hibakusha, survivors of the Hiroshima blast. Through the experience of Sakako, the young girl who suffered

consequent fatal effects of the blast, we have the story of the origami cranes that are now a universal symbol of peace. They are folded regularly in remembrance of those suffering from nuclear exposure and in hopes of peace for all.

During this month you may find time to make a crane and to reflect on the actions of one young girl that have had an effect around the world.

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 womenofthelca.org

Program Theme: Local Connections

Thursday, Aug. 5 at 10:00 a.m. is the next general meeting of WELCA. The program is birthday coffee, election of officers and "Table Talks About the Coming Year." Note the morning time. All women are welcome!

Upcoming Events

Aug. 11 & 12 - Circles Meet

Aug. 19 – Special workday for Mission Projects 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 26, 9:30 a.m. Board Meeting

Special Event: Work, Lunch, Friendship, Aug. 19 : "Many hands make light work"

All women are invited to a special workday on Aug. 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. A salad lunch will be available at 12:00 noon in St. John's Hall. You can choose from many opportunities: tie quilts, cut or sew quilt squares for size (62 by 82 quilt), cut or sew school bags and layettes, sort fabric, roll bandages or tear strips. Come all day or part of the day. There are 4 sewing machines available but feel free to bring your own. Sign up in Circle or on the WELCA bulletin board.

A **Women of Faith Conference** will be held at the **Excel Center** Friday, Oct. 22 through Saturday, Oct. 23. Women across America gather to hear inspirational speakers and authors. The cost is \$99.00 which includes lunch. 50 seats have been reserved for Northfield women to sit together. For more info: www.womenoffaith.com or call Jeanette Frahm from Northfield Free Church: 612-599-8527

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. Char Nelson, Leader

Martha/Claudia – Thursday, 9:30 a.m. at Parkview West; Eulalie Smestad and Joyce Shrader, Co-leaders

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

Abigail/Rebecca – Thursday, 2:00 p.m. at Parkview West, 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

Looking Ahead

Sept. 2, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. is the first fall meeting of Women of the ELCA with installation of officers and a Bible Study introduction. Our speaker is Beverly Nestingen-Lundeen, the Bible Study leader for 2010-2011. Her topic is "Who Cares about Diversity?" The study is based on Amos 3:3: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

Oct. 7 is a field trip for the WELCA general meeting to Assisi Heights in Rochester, Minn. We will visit the Italian Romanesque structure as well as the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Office. Sign up will begin at the September meeting for the bus and the tour. Times to be announced.

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

School Days, School Days

by Barbara Eaves

Recent issues of the newspaper have carried ads for back-to-school specials which brought to mind how I couldn't wait for school to start each fall. Even now when the school supplies are put out in the fall, it is hard to resist the urge to buy pens and pencils, notebooks and paper, and especially crayons. There is a magnetism to crayons...the smell of them or the beautiful colors all lined up or the fun they are to use...that still finds me buying a new box every once in awhile. Fortunately, each fall at St. John's we have an opportunity to buy school supplies and bring them to the church where they will be sent to children who need them and are delighted to receive them as they head off to school, maybe for the first time.

The benefits of school, of course, went way beyond pencils and crayons. Upon reflection it is easy to realize that school was a place to build friendships and learn to accept and respect one another. It was a setting that provided an opportunity to learn, to discover one's interests and to develop new skills and abilities.

In a sense, school days continues throughout our lives, since learning doesn't end just because our formal education is over. As our communities become more and more global and diverse, our opportunity to understand and respect others broadens as well. And we are continually challenged to develop new skills, abilities and insights. How exciting—like a box of crayons with which to color in a future of blessings.



During the months of September and October, small groups will resume. As you begin to think about fall, why not consider participating in a small group. It is a great way to meet people, build relationships—and to grow. If you would like to lead a small group, please call a member of the leadership team listed at the bottom of the sidebar.

Browse through the small group displays at the
Small Group Expo
Sunday, Oct. 3 -- 9:30 a.m. - 10:30am
St. John's Hall

Important Dates To Remember!

Sunday School Registrations

Due Aug. 1

Sunday School Teacher Orientation

Wednesday, Sept. 1

Open House for Preschool

Wednesday, Sept. 15

ROCK Wednesday Afterschool Programming

Begins Wednesday, Sept. 15

WelcomeFest!

Sunday Sept. 19

Sunday School begins

9:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Teacher Installation

10:45 a.m.service

Do you have enough children in your life?

For children to feel connected to their church, it's important for them to build relationships with at least 5 adults, other than their parents. With that in mind, please consider how you can help with Children's programming by volunteering with Sunday School or Wednesday afternoon programming this year! Volunteers are needed to teach and/or help with a variety of activities. If you are interested, please talk with Julie Brehmer or check out the volunteer opportunities in the Sunday School registration packet. **P.S. High School students:** talk with Julie how you can connect with our younger kids Sundays and Wednesdays too!

Pool Party!

Dive in Aug. 18!

Northfield area churches invite families with children in grade 5 and younger to our annual Pool Party at the Northfield Outdoor Pool on Wednesday, Aug. 18 from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. The cost for admission is \$2.75 per person or you may use your pool pass. Churches will be providing free food at the event so come eat, swim and enjoy! (If the pool is closed due to weather, the event will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 25.)

Is your 3 year old starting Sunday School?

Children who are three years of age by Sept. 1, 2010 are welcome to begin Sunday School this fall!



Parents are invited to bring their preschooler to an Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m. to meet the teachers and get acquainted with their classroom before Sunday School begins on Sunday, Sept. 19.

If you have questions, please call St. John's at 645-4429 and speak with Julie Brehmer.

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, Aug. 7 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Sunday School begins on Sept. 19

Sunday School will begin on WelcomeFest Sunday, Sept. 19 from 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. for children who are age 3 by Sept. 1, 2010 - grade 5. For planning purposes, we would love to have all registrations in by Aug. 1. Registration forms are available in the Church Office and online at www.stjohns-elca.org. If you have questions, please feel free to call Julie at 645-4429.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Mission Minneapolis

A team from St. John's has been working on furthering and strengthening our partnership with El Milagro (the Miracle) Lutheran Church, up in Minneapolis. After some discussion,

WALK
in the
LIGHT
of the
LORD



we've decided that a good starting point in doing this would be to do a mini mission trip where middle schoolers from St. John's can get together with the middle schoolers from El Milagro. We'll spend time serving, being the hands and feet of God, and we'll also work on building bonds between our two churches.

This event takes place on Aug. 6 and 7, and is open to all youth who have completed 6th - 8th grade. Parents, you should already have the info and permission slip. Contact me ASAP if this is not the case. I hope you can make it! You won't be disappointed!

9th Graders (soon to be 10th Graders)

To all you 9th Graders out there... this is a friendly reminder for you to be finishing up your faith statements, and schedule your meeting with your pastor. Remember, if you need any sort of help with your statement, you can always talk with Sherm or one of the pastors.

Magical Mystery Tour III

Hey everybody, the third Magical Mystery Tour is coming up on Aug. 12, and it's going to be a blast! We'll be going to... oh wait, I can't tell you! It's a Mystery! I can tell you however, that this one is great and you'll want to come. Parents, you'll be receiving a letter with the details in the near future.

THE **Vo**ice OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
...continued

R.O.C.K. - Reaching Out to Christ's Kids, begins Wednesday, September 15

ROCK is right around the corner on Wednesday nights this fall! Northfield's elementary school are back to regular Wednesday release time this year and bus transportation will be offered to kids from Bridgewater, Greenvale and Sibley so they can jump right into Wednesday events. The afternoon includes a mission component, recreation, choirs, chime choir, and CAT/DOG along with St. John's Wednesday meals starting at 5:15 p.m. Check out the registration packet for specific details! If you did not receive a registration packet in the mail last month please give the office a call or you may download it from St. John's website under the "Children's" tab.

An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members—parents, grandparents, anyone! Are you available to help out with one or more Wednesdays this year? Check out the volunteer page in the registration packet or contact Julie Brehmer if you are interested!

Open Door Nursery School is Enrolling

Open Door Nursery School (ODNS), located in the lower level of St. John's Church, has openings for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year. Once again ODNS will be teaming up with St. Olaf College Biology department and offering seasonal visits to the St. Olaf Prairie as well as on-site monthly visits from the students who will provide environmental/nature lessons. For further information or to register: opendoornurseryschool.org or call Sue Anderson, 952-652-2937; or Barb Howe, 507-645-5786

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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Boobab Blast! God's Great Get Together!

It's time for VBS! Vacation Bible School will be held Aug. 9 – 12 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at St. John's and is hosted by Bethel, St. Peter's and St. John's Lutheran churches and Emmaus Baptist Church. VBS is for children age 3 (by Sept. 1, 2009) to children entering 1st grade. If you are interested in registering your child please pick up a registration form soon or go online to www.stjohns-elca.org.

Volunteers are needed in many areas. Most shifts are only two hours or less from 9:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Can't be here every day? That's OK. Just tell us what days work for you. Middle and High school youth can earn cubits towards confirmation! If you have questions contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org.

"On The Road" Summer Camp for Kids

"On The Road" summer camp will be offered for kids going into grades 1 – 4, August 8– 12 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Bethel, St. Peter's and St. John's Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Baptist Church will be hosting the event, which will take place at Bethel Lutheran Church and Emmaus Baptist Church. "On the Road", a program provided by Good Earth Village Bible Camp, will kick off on Sunday, August 8 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Bethel. It is open to campers, families anyone who would like to come! For more information go online to www.goodearthvillage.org and click on "GEV on the Road".

We need host homes for the week of summer camp for the counselors coming from Good Earth Village. Please give Julie Brehmer a call if you can help out!