

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2010

Volume 50, Number 8

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A Time of Transition

*A letter from the president of the
congregation:*

As you most likely now aware, Pr. Crippen has accepted a call to become the new pastor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. We offer thanks to God for the ministry that Pastor Crippen has provided to St. John's for the past 14 years and thanks to God for Mary, Hannah, Martha, Rachel and Peter Crippen, for their time at St. John's and their contributions to a number of the ministry activities at here.

Pastor Crippen's last Sunday will be Sept. 12. There will be a reception of Thanks and Farewell from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall on Sunday, Sept. 12, and I hope that you can be a part of this celebration. A brief program will start between 12:30 p.m. and 12:45 p.m.

St. John's will soon be entering a time of transition as we begin the process of

discernment and decisions about future pastoral leadership in this place.

As we move forward into this time of transition, several initiatives will take place:

- The Executive Committee of the Council will be receiving names from the Synod of potential interim pastoral candidates for consideration. In due course, we will be conducting interviews with those candidates deemed most appropriate to our needs and ministry requirements, with the hope that the position of Interim Senior Pastor can be filled by the end of September. I ask, on behalf of the Executive Committee and potential interim pastoral candidates, for your prayers of support and discernment as we seek to fill this important transitional role.

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WelcomeFest is Sunday Sept. 15!

WelcomeFest has a different format this year - come and check it out! A big church picnic in the St. John's parking lot will kick off fall programming including Forum and Sunday school! Join us after second service for an outdoor picnic, lunch, games and festivities for all ages!

All members of St. John's are encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor to church and to the lunch at noon. This is an opportunity for guests to experience what

St. John's has to offer - invite them and make them feel welcome. Burgers, hot dogs, chips, a beverage, plus other goodies will be served and various St. John's groups will be set up in the parking lot with information booths and fun! See how you can participate in the different areas of our ministry.

If you're willing to volunteer for a shift please contact Regina Hassanally in the church office.

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: an informal time of prayer using Scripture as a guide. Meets Thursday, September 16 at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Contact Pastor Johnson for more information.

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*

Here to Help

No life is free of hardship. Although we can walk along smoothly for a time, one event can change our direction and sense of stability for months or even years. A spouse or other loved one dies; a marriage ends; a serious illness changes the pattern of life. These or other crises can make us feel lost, alone, afraid or questioning our faith. In any of these situations, a Stephen Minister can provide a special source of caring.

Stephen Ministers can also provide a compassionate presence to people who are not in crisis, but whose lives are at a crossroads: a parent worrying about the well-being of a child in the military or away at school; a person dealing with job loss; a retiree trying to figure out a new life; parents dealing with an empty nest; a person burned out by a life out of balance. These and many other disruptions can feel like too big a burden to carry alone.

When any of these "rough edges of life" cause feelings of isolation, frustration, fear or bewilderment, a Stephen Minister can help. Stephen Ministers are not judgmental; they are also not friends or relatives who will tell you what to do or what not to do. A Stephen Minister will visit

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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."

September 1, 2009
Raymond Larson

September 1, 2009
Rebecca Johnson

September 10, 2009
Ralph Strand

September 12, 2009
Juta Millert

September 12, 2009
Beverly Pinc

September 12, 2009
Arnhild Fjelstad Wermager

September 14, 2009
Sylvia Johnson

September 20, 2009
Walter Johnson

*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.

From our pastors . . .

Endings and Beginnings

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:3-4



Dear brothers and sisters at St. John's:

There is a strange and disconcerting reality in pastoral ministry that from the very first day a pastor arrives in his or her call, there is a certainty that there will be a last day. We don't know when it will be, but we know it as surely as we know anything, that some day this call will end.

But with every ending there is also a beginning. There is a start of something new, something different for both pastor and congregation. Had Pr. Jacobson not left, Pr. Svendsen would not have come, and all the good he did, the ministry he shared here would not have happened. Had Pr. Svendsen not left, I would not have had the privilege of serving as your Senior Pastor, either. Pr. Rick Foss, a son of the congregation, former bishop, and now working at Luther Seminary, said to me when we talked about this transition that is now happening that pastoral ministry is like a relay race. "There comes a time for every pastor when you need to pass the baton on to someone else," he said. I've found that very helpful as I consider leaving you people, my sisters and brothers, my friends at St. John's. Because it will not be easy to leave you.

When I came here I was in my early thirties, with three small children and a fourth on the way. I'd served as a pastor for five years. I leave you far closer to fifty than to forty, my two eldest are in college, and the one "on the way" is 13. I am in my 20th year of ordained ministry. You have walked with me and with Mary and my family on some of the most significant times of our lives, the growing and rearing of our children. You have been a home for them in ways I cannot describe, and for that I will be forever grateful. You

have welcomed my ministry among you and let me grow and learn in my pastoral role. You have supported my ministry in so many ways, with many kindnesses, and I am always aware of the prayers you have offered on my behalf, and the love you have for my family. To all of this I can only say, thank you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Pastors often like to quote Paul's words to the Philippians (see side column) at times of leaving. If you look at them, you know why. Paul understood coming and going, beginnings and endings. He worked with so many congregations, loved them, cared for them, and often left them. But if we read Paul's letters, we see that he never felt he was apart from his sisters and brothers in faith. The love of God made known in Christ Jesus was for Paul a gift of the Spirit which never left him. When he was struggling, even in prison, and apart from those he'd served, he still knew that they all were together in Christ. For me as I leave, I know that is true. Like Paul, I give thanks to God with joy for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

In the week after Aug. 15, a member of this congregation gave me a beautiful photograph which he titled simply "A new beginning." The sun breaks through the far trees and a close-up branch is illuminated with heavenly light. The peace which this photo conveys to me is the peace that God is with us in all our beginnings and all our endings. Our "going out" and our

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August Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of Robert Seitz: by Gloria Porter, Joseph and Mary Shaw, Marilyn Haugen, Joan Kark, Loretta Siler, Helen Larson

In memory of Lloyd Gunderson: by O.J. and Ruth Storvick, Bruce and Audrey Moe, Elaine Feroe, Gerhard and Gloria Knutson, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Eldon and Elaine Person, Duane and Elaine Kringen, John and Louise Quam, Tom and Gloria Porter, Paul and Deaun Peterson, James and Mindy Moore, Beverly Grubb, Tom and Paula Redmann

In memory of Harlan Blockhus: by Paul and Kristy Henriksen

In memory of Edwin Gass: by Loretta Siler, Paul and Marilyn Raadt, Millie Johnson, Don Kimber

In memory of Edgar Larson: by Gerard and Helen Larson, Hazel Peterson, Nancy Bedore, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Gerhard and Gloria Knutson, Bernard Blanness, Dale and Sandra Larson, Arlene Palmer, Carlson Capital Management, Erling Kindem, Carl Hoffman, Lorraine Gunderson, Shirley Nelson, Marjorie Helseth, Millie Johnson, Loretta Siler, Paul Kump, Ferdinand and June Volkert, Blair and Barbara Fowler, Duane and Elaine Kringen, Carol Vandergon, Clarence Volkert, Victor Volkert

In memory of Minnie Ozmun: by Milton and Gloria Berg, Ronald and Sandra Beumer, Rebecca Mellgren, Allen and Nancy Swenson, A.R. and Frank Knudsen, Jean Chamley, Ferdinand and June Volkert, Peter and Charleen Volkert, Jacquelyn Reuter, Milo and Elouise Quinnell, Dorothy Wareweg

St. John's Foundation

In memory of Robert Seitz: by Wil and Gertrude Brosz, Lyla Arneson, Kathryn Haugen.

In memory of Edwin Gass: by Donald and Joan Starkweather, Burton and Donna Paulsen, Wil and Gertrude Brosz, Curtis Swenson, Howard and Julie Thorsheim

In memory of Lloyd Gunderson: by Burton and Donna Paulsen, Wil and Gertrude Brosz, H.B. and Susan Renander, Howard and Julie Thorsheim, Solveig Steendal

In memory of Edgar Larson: by Kathryn Haugen, Wil and Gertrude Brosz, Lester and Della Gunderson, John and Patricia Ophaug, Burton and Donna Paulsen, Alice Nasby, John and Patricia Lindquist, Curt and Fran Peterson, Leonard DeWolfe

In memory of Minnie Ozmun: by Helen Larson, Van and Ruth Anna Miller, Clarence and Victor Volkert

In memory of Leone Fox: by John and Patricia Ophaug

Furnishing Fund

In memory of Lloyd Gunderson: by Richard and Joanne Dahlin.

Funeral Hospitality Fund

In memory of Carla Muckey: by Charles Muckey

Debt Reduction/General Fund

In memory of Edwin Gass: by Paul and Marilyn Raadt, Gordon and Delores Mickelsen, Warren and Muriel Wold, Robert and Jane Gelle, Roger and Darlene Hand, Paul and Deaun Peterson, Kenneth and Carolyn Jennings, Tom and Gloria Porter, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Charles Lunder, Sharon Bishop, John and Louise Quam, Shirley Falck, Bruce and Audrey Moe, Roxanne Baumann, Erwin and Marie Kainer, Phil and Thelma Winter, Walter and Elizabeth Stromseth, Dennis and Jane Rinehart, David and Joan Halvorson, Marilyn Haugen, Kenneth and Lois Wilkens, Basil and Kathryn Mroz, Myron and Carol Solid, Gerhard and Gloria Knutson, James and Joan Herzog, Valerie Donahue, Ann Bassett, Doris and K. Moxness, Judith Newton, Solveig Westby, Jaycees, Ann Lundsten, Lynn Mickelsen Dwyer, Ward and Ellen Bisping, Philip and Barbara Eaves, Dale and Marjorie Hansen, Mark Quinnell, Bette Quinnell, Harold and Eleanor Gargrave, The Robert J. Shelley Family, Roger Tenney and Dianne Schori, Dorothea Tenney, Richard and Marcia Roush, Marya and David Robinson, Richard and Joan Dornfeld, Bernard Blanness, Robert and Carol Carlson, Cynthia Green, David and Julie Ann Knapp, Robert and Joanne Lang, John and Zandra Hensel, Kenneth and Rosalie Klimisch, Laurence and Nordis Christenson, David and Deane Sharp, Kenneth and Patricia Kangas, Friends and Family

Actions, continued on page 12

... 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.



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) reported a baptized membership of 4,543,037 in 10,348 congregations in 2009. The information is based on an analysis of membership and income data by the ELCA Office of the Secretary and ELCA Research and Evaluation from parochial reports submitted by ELCA congregations each year.

Recent examples of the ELCA's work to be Christ in the lives of others:

- International Disaster Response (IDR) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has committed \$100,000 in response to widespread flooding in Pakistan.
- The people of Haiti are still in crisis. To date members of the ELCA have contributed more than \$12.2 million in gifts to support disaster relief efforts in Haiti.

Nearly one in four American children are hungry, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In cooperation with the ELCA Washington Office, more than 34 of the ELCA's 65 synod bishops are participating in a nationwide movement to provide reliable and nutritious meals for hungry children.

from the churchwide organization:

ELCA Churchwide Organization Details 2010 Budget Reductions

The Aug. 4 actions by the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) to reduce the 2010 current fund spending authorization for the churchwide organization affected a variety of ministries, especially those administered by the five program units of the church.

The council reduced this year's churchwide current fund spending authorization by \$4.2 million to \$65.1 million, a reduction of 6.1 percent from the previously authorized \$69.3 million. The council is the ELCA's board of directors and interim legislative authority between churchwide assemblies.

There were no staff reductions in this revised spending authorization, said the Rev. M. Wyvetta Bullock, ELCA executive for administration.

Nearly three-fourths of the churchwide organization's funding is assigned to its five program units. Funding in those units reduced by the council action is as follows:

- + Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, \$400,000
- + Global Mission, \$448,000
- + Multicultural Ministries, \$94,870
- + Church in Society, \$131,000
- + Vocation and Education, \$592,000

Specific ministries and programs affected by the reductions in these units were international scholarship grants, the elimination of some unassigned funding for starting new congregations, significant reductions in grants to colleges and universities, and smaller decreases in seminary and campus ministry grants, Bullock said. Other reductions include decreases in program activities, general office, administrative costs, and position vacancies, she said.

Other churchwide units, including the Office of the Presiding Bishop and subunits, Office of the Secretary, Office of the Treasurer and subunits, plus the service units, Communication Services and Development Services, were reduced a combined total of nearly \$627,000.

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Music Life at St. John's

Second Sunday Family

Choir: Sept. 12

All singers age 9th grade through adult are invited to join the Senior Choir on Sunday, Sept. 12 to sing in worship. We'll participate in both worship services with rehearsals in the choir room (room 209) at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Come for one or both, and invite a friend. For more information, call Dan Fenn at the church – 645-4429 ext. 58.



Fall Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesdays (beginning Sept. 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. Middle School Handbell Choir (Grades 6-8)
- 5:15 p.m. Jubilate Choir (Grades 6-8)
- 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir (College and Adults) – **begins Wednesday, September 8**
- 7:30 p.m. Laudate Choir (Grades 9-12)

Thursdays (beginning Oct. 7)

- 5:15 p.m. Rejoice Ringers

Senior Choir Kick-off

Sept. 8

The Senior Choir begins a new season of music-making on Wednesday, September 8 in room 209 from 7:00-8:15 p.m. In addition to preparing music for the first few weeks of worship, we will have a quick read-through of most of the music for fall and Advent to whet your musical appetite. All adults, college-age and up are welcome, and you pass the audition when you walk through the door. Childcare is available with a reservation. For more information, call Dan Fenn at the church – 645.4429 ext. 58

Stephen Ministry, continued from page 2

with you one hour per week. This hour is your opportunity to talk out your feelings to a person who is listening with an open heart and mind. You can feel confident that anything you say to a Stephen Minister will not be repeated to anyone, and that no one will be told that you are seeing a Stephen Minister. The trusting relationship you create with a Stephen Minister can be a gift you give yourself to help navigate any hardship of life, whether crisis or crossroads.

If you or someone you know can benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, please call a pastor, 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson, 645-8445. If you would like to explore and develop your gifts of care giving, there is still time to sign up for Stephen Minister training. Contact one of the pastors, Pam Schwandt, 645-6120, or Jennifer Edwins, 645-8445.

Fall Worship Schedule resumes on Sunday, Sept. 12.

Worship - 8:30 a.m.

Education Hour - 9:30 a.m.

Worship - 10:45 a.m.

Entertaining Angels

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”
Hebrews 13:2

Hospitality is a gift I’ve been trying to cultivate. Perhaps it is because I spent several years living away from family and friends, relying on the hospitality of others to make foreign places feel like home that I have come to value hospitality.

At its most basic level I understand hospitality as the art of creating space for others, space for them to feel at ease, welcome, and at home. I suppose hospitality also includes invitation, inviting others into our space and lives.

It seems to me practicing hospitality is a natural form of evangelism and outreach. The church ought to be a hospitable place where all feel a sense of peace and welcome. We practice hospitality in informal ways, introducing ourselves to people during Sunday morning coffee, asking if someone looking a bit unsure needs help finding anything. We also offer hospitality in large, organized ways, Wednesday Night Meals, WelcomeFest, and our Sunday Morning Coffee Hour are all opportunities for us to be hospitable.

I am inviting you to join me in practicing the gift of hospitality. Invite your neighbor’s kids to our WelcomeFest lunch on Sunday, Sept. 19. Offer to help serve at one of our weekly Wednesday Night Meals. Talk to someone you don’t know during Sunday Morning Coffee.

These are some of the consistent opportunities we at St. John’s have to offer hospitality. All of these ministries rely on the work and willingness of volunteers. If you’d like to help us continue to offer hospitality to others please let me know and I’ll help you find a place to serve.

Regina Hassanally,

Director of Shared Ministries

SERVING TO LOVE



LOVING TO SERVE

Pastor’s Page, continued from page 3

“coming in, from this time forth forevermore,” the psalmist writes in Ps. 121. This is our hope and our joy. In God all our endings are really beginnings, and so this will be. A time of new beginnings awaits St. John’s, and that is a joy. A time of new beginnings awaits me and my family, and that is also a joy. When the sadness of leaving comes to me, this I call to mind and find hope. God’s blessings and grace be upon all of you, for we will never truly be apart in the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus.

In Jesus’ name,



Can you help teach Sunday School?

Sunday School begins on Sept. 19 and we still need a few more teachers! Many volunteers come into this position with some hesitation, but few have regretted their decision to share of themselves and their time. If you are willing to teach, to team-teach every other week with another teacher or assist with a class, please contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429

From the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board:

Delivering Dignity to our Neighbor's Doors

Each fall, members of St. John's serve as delivery drivers for Meals on Wheels in Northfield. As many of you know, serving through this organization provides much more than just a meal -- volunteers deliver nutritious food, a smile, a safety check, and a chance at a more independent life.

This year, St. John's has been asked to provide drivers each day between September 26 and October 23. The Board of Benevolence and Social Concerns has set up an information and registration table in the commons. The delivery calendar will fill up quickly, so sign up soon! Please feel free to contact Jonathan Norrie (664-9488) if you have any questions. Thank you.

Synod News, continued from page. 5

Other reductions were \$1.7 million from the general treasury and \$200,000 in a strategic initiative fund.

Nearly all of the reductions came from a decline in mission support funds, which are provided by congregations through synods to churchwide ministries, said Christina Jackson-Skelton, ELCA treasurer. She reported that through June 30 mission support income declined about \$3.7 million or about 15 percent from the same period in 2009. By the end of 2010, Jackson-Skelton said she expects mission support income to be about \$51 million, nearly \$9 million less than what was remitted in 2009.

Reasons for the decreases in mission support income were attributed to economic instability that continues to affect all parts of the church, compounded by some unfavorable responses to the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly actions on sexuality.

Bullock explained that ELCA churchwide organization leaders have been spending below approved levels and have engaged in ongoing financial contingency planning. That process will continue to identify further reductions if needed.

In a related but separate process, the churchwide organization is involved in an organizational redesign process announced earlier this summer, a response to continuing declines in income. A committee of the churchwide organization, working with outside consultants, the Church Council executive committee, the Conference of Bishops and the Living Into the Future Together (LIFT) task force, is creating a plan to restructure the churchwide organization to align its work with anticipated income. Details of the redesign process are expected to be announced toward the end of September.

-ELCA News Release: Aug. 6, 2010.
For more information, visit www.elca.org

From the Faith and Health Board:

Get Your Sleep

by Elizabeth Bade

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle in our hectic society is a challenge. The beginning of the fall season is a good time to begin better health habits.

An important means of staying healthy that we often neglect is getting adequate amounts of sleep. Inadequate sleep contributes to many health issues including: depression, lack of focus, increased risk of heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and just plain crankiness. Unfortunately, many people are too tired to realize how sleep-deprived they are, but they have slower reaction time, weaker memory, and other thinking impairments. One study found getting less than six hours of sleep translates into a bigger sleep debt than may be realized. Over a two-week period, missing out on the recommended eight hours of nightly sleep adds up to two full nights' sleep debt. If you're averaging only four hours a night, your brain reacts as though you haven't slept at all for three consecutive nights.

Adults should get 7 to 8 hours of sleep. This can vary per individual but it is still more than people in our society usually get. Children need 9 to 10 hours of sleep each night. Teenagers do, too! Getting that many hours of sleep into a high school student's day is nearly impossible, but brain studies are showing that learning is dependent of adequate sleep. To find your ideal number of hours, sleep without an alarm on weekends and see when you wake up naturally.

So how do we insure adequate sleep? Good sleep hygiene includes:

- Cutting back on caffeine and alcohol.
- Developing a calming ritual before bedtime, one that helps you break from the day's tensions, and doesn't involve eating, exercise, or watching TV.
- Regular bedtime and wake up times, even on weekends and vacations. If you can stick to the same time of retiring and getting up, it maintains the circadian rhythms of your body. You can also see how a nap affects your sleep quality, a short nap (20 minutes) can be revitalizing, without ruining their night's sleep.

- A comfortable sleep environment is important. Room temperature, a comfortable mattress, soft music, a dark enough room, no pet in your bed, ear plugs for snoring partner. Whatever it takes to have a comfortable bedroom environment.
- Have a snack of easy-to-digest food such as carbohydrates or dairy. Also avoid too much liquid before bed so that you don't have to wake up to go to the toilet.
- Moderate exercise, such as walking, can help you sleep better. Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate exercise, three times a week or more. But avoid exercise within three hours of bedtime.

If you can't fall asleep, or you wake up and can't get your mind to shut down, avoid watching the clock, which can create more anxiety. If you've been awake more than 20 minutes, get up, go to another room, and do something relaxing to help you get drowsy. Keep the lights low, have some warm milk, read a book, or write about whatever may be on your mind until your eyelids get heavy.

One more item I would like to stress – **Turn Off the Technology** for a good night sleep. No computer in the bedroom and limit T.V. time. Turn off the cell phone and iPod. You can get the message in the morning. This is a great concern for our young people that are so tuned into the latest gadgets. We all need "off" time to rejuvenate.

So, please pay attention too that precious commodity – sleep.

Happy dreams!

Serving on Sundays in September

Communion preparers

- Sept. 5 Jane Koskovich and Judy Smith
Sept. 12 John and Barbara Walters
Sept. 19 Elvin and Corrine Heiberg
Sept. 26 Dennis and Jane Rinehart

Ushers

- Sept. 5 (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
Sept. 12 (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
Sept. 19 (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
Sept. 26 (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

Let's Save Sunday Coffee!

Do you enjoy the fellowship you have over coffee and treats with friends between services? As an important part of Sunday fellowship, we need your help for it to continue.

The Adult Ministry and Education Board is in need of a group of volunteers to coordinate Sunday coffee servers. We envision a group of at least 3 people, who would coordinate the Sunday servers for a 3 month block of time (to have the school year coffee days arranged).

In the meantime, sign-ups for Sunday coffee servers need to continue. We need at least 4-5 volunteers to help each Sunday. If you are interested, please contact Katie Helgen (645-6600, helgen.katherine@gmail.com) or Regina Hassanally (Church office, reginah@stjohns-elca.org), or you can sign-up in the Commons on the sign-up board. Without volunteers, Sunday coffee will not be able to continue.

Wednesday Night Meals Begin Sept. 15

Put your pots and pans away and join us Wednesday evenings for dinner! Dinner starts at 5:15 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall. A variety of different entrees will be served and everyone is welcome!

Check Your Pans!

Are you sure that pan you took home after a fruit Sunday is really yours? There are several misplaced pans and accessories. Please check the items you took home after fellowship time to make sure you have the right pan. There are several unclaimed pans: one of those might be yours instead!

Baptism Preparation Class

Parents who wish to have their children 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. The next prep class is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 11 at 10:30 a.m. in room 09. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Joint VBS 2010!

What a wonderful week at VBS and "On the Road"! 125 children registered for "On the Road" summer camp lead by Good Earth Village and 77 preschool – kindergarten children attended "Baobab Blast"! What a fantastic turnout! Many thanks to Bethel and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Baptist Church and their volunteers for joining with us in providing a week of fun and fellowship for children in the Northfield community. Thank you to the families who brought coins for our missions, Africa Jam and Lifestraws. We raised \$420.00.

And thanks to the following volunteers from St. John's: Frances Boehning, Sue Brockman, Brian Evenson, Elizabeth Evenson, Anne France, Regina Hassanally, Alison Hartke, Katherine Herrlich, Amy McBroom, Connie Menssen, Alexa Nutt, Kelly Lynn Stanton Nutt, Jessica Organ, Jennifer Pelletier, Nicholas Pelletier, Olivia Riggins, Jimmy Rowley, Scott, Lynette and Kris Swanson and Kirsten Fjeld Zillmer.

Healing Prayer Ministry

Starting in October the Healing Prayer Ministry Team will begin offering opportunities for prayer and anointing with oil, once a month following both Sunday morning worship services. Seeking to encourage and develop a broader ministry of prayer at St. John's, especially with regard to prayers and anointing for healing, the Healing Prayer Ministry Team shares the following affirmations:

- ❖ Healing is a gift from God in all areas of our lives. As broken people, our Lord invites us to come to God for healing of our bodies, minds and spirits; healing for relationships; and guidance in life issues.
- ❖ The ministry of Jesus Christ is both an example and a call to practice intentional healing ministry with prayer and anointing. The Church is both a sign of God's healing in Christ and is called to offer signs of that healing.



St. John's Suppers

Wednesday night supper just got a little easier! Come, share a meal! All are welcome, it's a fantastic time for fellowship for ALL ages!

Supper is served from 5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall

September 15:

Hot Italian Beef Sandwiches

September 22

Taco Night

September 29

Sub Sandwiches

October 6

Pizza Night

- ❖ The ministry of healing is shared by both clergy and lay people. The church is encouraged to recognize those who have been given this gift and invite them to use the gift on behalf of God's Kingdom.
- ❖ There is value and a need for biblical, theological and practical training reflection for those involved in healing prayer ministry.

Watch for more affirmations next month. If you are interested in learning more about the Healing Prayer Ministry Team or if you have questions contact Jane Rinehart, 663-1659, Dick Beckmen, 664-3882, or Pr. Johnson. Also, consider participating in the Healing Prayer small group starting this month on Sept. 20. Contact Dick Beckmen for more information.

August Actions

...Continued

Building Fund

In memory of Robert Seitz: by Roger and Darlene Hand, Gordon and Delores Mickelsen

In memory of Edgar Larson: by Ed and Rose Youngquist, Bob and Jane Gelle

In memory of Lloyd Gunderson: by Richard and Jo Ann Kleber, Robert and Jane Gelle, Steve and Jennifer Edwin, Doris Ellingboe, Eric Sponhiem, Myrtle Ringlien, Henry Cordes, Elsie Nelson, Barbara and David Gunderson, Bob and Sharon Bastian, Arlene Kjar, Donna and Richard Maus, June Hintz, Donna Tomten

In memory of Minnie Ozmun: by Roger and Darlene Hand

Columbarium Development

In memory of Lloyd Gunderson: by Basil and Kathryn Mroz, Marilyn Haugen, Herb and Pat Fick, Van and Ruth Anna Miller, Alvhild Sherve, Vera Haugen, Solveig Bailey, Myron and Carol Solid, Charles Lunder, Dehaven Family, David and Barbara Gunderson, Rise Thibodeau, Noreen Benson, Marlin and Valerie Gunderson, Dave and Peggy Biberdorf Family, Kara Gunderson, Ray and Debbie Gunderson, John and Barbara Maakestad, Marcus and Marilyn Mork, Harold and Eleanor Gargrave, David and Joan Halverson, Richard Gunderson

Radio Fund

In memory of Valborg Fure: by Pete and Debi Edmund Ellertsen.

In memory of Edwin Gass: by Leonard DeWolfe

In memory of Lloyd Gunderson: by Lester and Della Gunderson

In memory of Edgar Larson: by Alice Ims

In memory of Minnie Ozmun: by Chuck Muckey, Leonard DeWolfe

Funerals

Edwin Gass, July 24, 2010

Radio Broadcasts

Aug. 1, 2010, in honor of **our loving family**, by Robert and Marilyn Matta

Aug. 8, 2010, in memory of **Val Fure**, by friends of Val Fure

Aug. 15, 2010, in memory of **Sam Haugen**, by his family

Aug. 22, 2010 in memory of **Val Fure**, by friends of Val Fure

Aug. 29, 2010, in memory of **Roger Mahachek's birthday**, by Bev Mahachek

News and Events

Dad's Time Out meets Sept. 14

Dads are invited to the Contented Cow any time after 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 14 for Dad's Time Out. This is a chance to have fellowship and conversation with other men in the congregation about life, faith, and the challenges of parenting. Come as you are, stay as long as you are able.

September Gathering Event

Gals gathering to build, support, and honor friendships within St. John's, rejuvenate inner spirits, faith and connections

Mark your calendars for Movie Night! Thursday, Sept. 30 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. John's Theatre. Watch the Sunday announcements for details and other upcoming events!

Muckey Memorial Gift

To honor his daughter Carla's memory, Chuck Muckey has made a very generous donation to the Funeral Hospitality fund. With this money, beautiful new tablecloths have been purchased to use for special occasions in St. John's Hall.

We sincerely thank Chuck for his continuing thoughtfulness and generosity.

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Next meeting:
Monday, Sept. 20
7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

...for your consideration:

Nonviolence in a Violent World: Dilemmas of War and Peace

Open discussion
led by Robert
Flaten

We live at a time when questions of war and peace are not abstractions; they are real issues faced by children in school, teens on the Internet, officers on the streets, and soldiers in lands far away. Each of us knows someone who has felt threatened by the actions or intentions of another. Each of us has felt outrage and fear, and yet each of us, as Christians, seek ways to draw on faith as well as basic principles of humane conduct before we act on our feelings.

Robert Flaten will lead a conversation growing out of our situation and guided by concerns and experiences for those present. The goal will not be to come to a consensus or end the tension between positions. Rather, this will be a time to explore the relationship between maintaining safety and security for all (or most, or those who are most vulnerable) and keeping and/or restoring peace.

Here are some questions to think about:

What is peace? How do we work for a "just peace"?

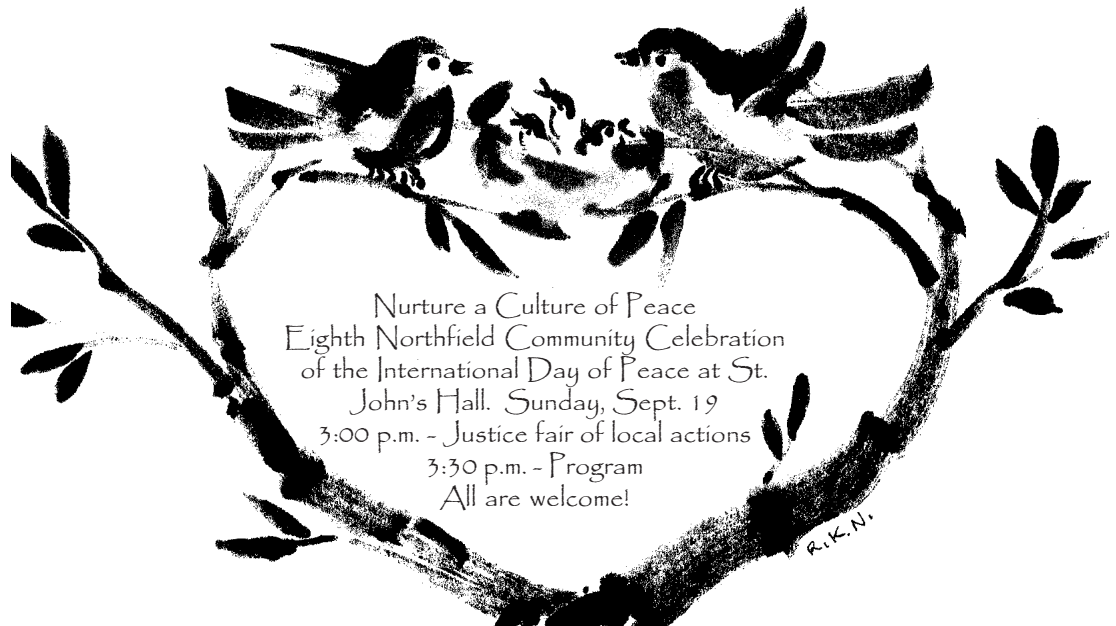
When might force be necessary or justified? What kind of force might be acceptable? How much force might be acceptable? What is the relationship between strength and force? Can either be nonviolent?

Do the conditions for a "just war" exist in the nuclear age? How is it possible to deal with a tyrant in a nonviolent way?

Can peace be sustained without the commitment of individuals and groups to respect the fundamental right of all to live in peace?

Where do issues such as resources and energy fit in conversations about peace, on a community level, a national level, and a global level?

If you would like to consider questions like these, come on Sept. 20. Bring a friend!



Mission Outreach



CROP Hunger Walk

The 2010 Northfield Area CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, Sept. 26 beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church (UMC). The theme for this year's walk is Ending Hunger One Step at a Time.

The CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk is the name for Church World Services annual fundraising event that takes place in communities around the country. Church World Service is a partnership of 35 Christian denominations, including the ELCA, and 11 affiliated organizations, including Lutheran World Relief, which works in over 80 countries around the world to fight hunger, to provide support to refugees and victims of natural disasters, and to help fund sustaining self-help development.

Money raised through the Northfield CROP Hunger walk is divided between global hunger efforts (75%) and local hunger relief efforts through the

Community Action Center (25%). Last year Northfield congregations, agencies, business, and colleges raised \$35,798.

You can participate in this community event by: 1) Walking on Sept. 26 from the UMC to Bridge Square. Walkers are encouraged to register and to take pledges for the walk. Individuals who raise \$100 or more will receive a t-shirt. 2) Registration / Pledge forms will be available in the Commons on Sundays during September. OR 2) Contribute directly if you are not able to walk. Make checks to CWS/CROP (If you'd like a portion of your gift directed to Lutheran World Relief put LWR/CAC in the memo line.)

Join this ecumenical effort to serve our neighbors in need – both in Northfield and around the world – in Christ's name. Contact Regina in the Church Office for more information.

St. John's Sponsors Tanzanian Student

This fall ELCA missionaries Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen retired after twelve years of ministry at the Maasae Girls Lutheran Secondary School (MGLSS) in Monduli, Tanzania. With thankfulness to God for Jean and Marvin's ministry, the Benevolence and Social Concern's Board, on behalf of St. John's, is sponsoring a student for one year at the girl's school in East Africa. The student's name is Upendo Naengop, a 17 year old Maasai girl who grew up outside the village of Monduli, not far from MGLSS. Upendo has four brothers and sisters. Her father keeps one cow and her mother farms one acre. Upendo also grew up living with her grandmother and her aunt and

uncle. Her favorite subjects in school are mathematics, science, English, and geography. Upendo hopes to become a nurse someday. Upendo writes, "All thanks be to you for sponsoring me and supporting me to study at MGLSS...I will pray for you and I also ask you to pray for me. May God bless you all the days of your life and be successful in your work." Look for a photograph of Upendo and more information about her on the Mission Partner Team wall display in the Commons.

**Upcoming Events Women of the ELCA Mission Statement:
To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.**

Program Theme: Diversity: Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

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

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

Upcoming Events

Sept. 6, 12:00 noon Bible Study Leaders Meet in the Fireside Room

Sept. 7 and 21, 9:30 a.m. – Knitters meet in the Library

Sept. 8, 9, and 11 - Circles Meet

Sept. 13 and 16 – Workdays for Mission Projects, Quilting, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

Sept. 30, 9:30 a.m. Executive Board Meeting, Fireside Room

The 2011 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering is July 14-17, 2011 in Spokane, Wash. Early cost is \$299. Theme: **Renew, Respond, Rejoice!** Three worship experiences are featured: Rev. Wyvetta Bullock (Chicago, Illinois) will preach and Rev. Susan Briehl (Spokane, Washington) will preside at opening worship. Jane Redmont (Greensboro, North Carolina) will lead evening prayer on Friday. For closing worship, Rev. Megan Torgerson (St. Paul, Minnesota) will preach and Rev. Mary Louise Frenchman (Cherokee, North Carolina) will preside. Registration begins Sept. 15, 2010. www.womenoftheelca.org for more information.

Circles Meet

Women interested in joining a Circle, please contact Barbara Walters at 663-1055 for further information and to make contacts.

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

Lydia – Wednesday, 9:30 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 Schrader, 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

Oct. 7, Thursday, 10:15 a.m. begins a field trip for the WELCA General Meeting to Assisi Heights in Rochester, Minn. to tour the Italian Romanesque structure as well as the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Offices. Kathy Tanabe, Synod president, will welcome us. The cost is \$35 for the bus, tour and lunch. Sign-up begins at the Sept. meeting and continues in the Church Office. Meet at 10:15 a.m. at the church.

Nov. 4, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. - General meeting: Panel discussion by women pastors, marking the 40th year of ordaining women in the ELCA. Please submit questions to Sue Hagen at Susanehagen@mac.com

Small Groups Ministry

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Matthew 18:20

Providing opportunities for fellowship, Bible study, health and wellness, faith in daily living, learning, and service.

Biblical Archaeology Today

Contact: Ruth Hansen 645-8228

Connections

Contact: Carol Schoen 645-6840

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

Healing Prayer

Contact: Dick Beckmen 664-3882

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Contact: Dean Ostlie 645-2597

Men's Time Out

Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271

Options Bible Study: Gospel of John

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. Johnson 645-4429

Women of the ELCA Circles

Contact: Barbara Walters 663-1055

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

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,
cbuck@charter.net

Barb Eaves, 645-4172,
pbaves@hotmail.com

Mark Johnson, 645-4429
mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org

Ready, Set, Go...

by Barbara Eaves

When the calendar turns to September do you welcome a return to a more routine lifestyle, or does its coming bring with it a bit of sadness in the realization that the season is soon over, the days are getting shorter and winter will return before we know it? Perhaps September conjures up thoughts of cool crisp days, clear blue skies, rich colors of rust, orange and gold, apple cider, hot chocolate, and rustling leaves. For many of us it is all of these and more.

As fall approaches, the leaders of St. John's Small Groups are gearing up to provide a menu of interesting opportunities for your consideration. On the sidebar of this page is a listing of the small groups that will be in full swing by mid-October. There is not space to describe all of them here, but four are mentioned here.

Bible Study Options, led by David and Genevieve Quarberg will begin a new series, "Reading the 'Signs' in the Gospel of John." The group will be meet for six weeks on Tuesdays, beginning Oct. 12, 10:30 a.m. - Noon.

Biblical Archaeology Today, a new group led by Ruth Hansen, will meet for four weeks on Wednesdays, beginning Oct. 6, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Topics include an introduction into archaeology, new discoveries, and sites with particular biblical significance.

Healing Prayer, a new group led by Dick Beckmen, will meet on Mondays for eight weeks, beginning Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. This group will explore ways of deepening one's prayer experience and enhancing a ministry of healing and wholeness.

Everyone Has a Story, led by Phil Eaves, will meet on Wednesdays for six weeks, beginning Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Through the sharing of simple life stories, participants in this group build relationships with others and reflect on the life impact of their own stories.

The Fall 2010 Small Group Catalog which comes out in September gives a brief description of each group, along with when and where they meet. Copies may be picked up at the Small Group bulletin board display in the Commons.

Come to the Small Group Expo, Sunday, Oct. 3, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in St. John's Hall, to view the small group displays and learn more about them.

Adult Ministry and Education

The St. John's Forum meets in St. John's Hall between services on Sundays. The schedule for the year is listed below and this month's presentations include:

September 19: Presentation by Southeastern Minnesota Synod Staff: Update on the Call Process for a new senior pastor and conversation about the time of transition ahead for St. John's.

September 26: Homeless in Northfield: Needs and Services; presented by Sue Warring. Sue is Housing Case Manager at the Northfield Community Action Center.

ST. JOHN'S FORUM 2010-2011 Year		
Date	Topic/Event Presenter	St. John's Contact
Sep 19	Conversation with Synod Representative: Our Time of Change	Tim Eklund
26	Homeless in Northfield: Needs and Services Presenter: Sue Warring	Benevolence & Social Concerns Board, Katie Helgen
Oct 3	Small Group Fair	Sandi Gerdes
10	Evangelism Board, Part One	Evang & Communication Board, Katie Helgen
17	Evangelism Board, Part Two	Evang Communication Board, Katie Helgen
24	SUNDAY MORNING CONCERT SERIES #1	Dan Fenn
31	Old Testament, Part One	Joe Shaw
Nov 7	Old Testament: "The Psalms," Part Two Presenter: David Quarberg	Joe Shaw
14	Old Testament, Part Three Presenter: Amy Gohdes-Luhman	Joe Shaw
21	Fall New Member Reception	Staff
28	SUNDAY MORNING CONCERT SERIES #2	Dan Fenn
Dec 5	Islam: "An Introduction to Islam," Part One	Eric Lund
12	Islam: "Looking at the Bible and the Koran," Part Two Forum in Fellowship Hall	Eric Lund
19	Islam: "Diversity within the Islamic Religion," Part Three	Eric Lund
26	Christmas Hymn Sing, John Ferguson	Dan Fenn
Jan 2	St. Olaf Choir Reception	Dan Fenn
9	Elder Care Presenter: Dick Edwards	Faith & Health Board, Barb Knaak
16	"Good Grief-Healing in Our Losses"	Faith & Health Board, Barb Knaak
23	Annual Meeting Preview	Congregation Council
30	Intentionally Left Open, To Be Filled Later	
Feb 6	Politics & the Church, Part One	Eric Lund
13	Politics & the Church, Part Two	Eric Lund
20	Youth Fund Raising Breakfast	Mike Sherman
27	"Reflections on Jesus," Part One Presenter: Charles Wilson	Joe Shaw
Mar 6	SUNDAY MORNING CONCERT SERIES #3, Rejoice Ringers	Dan Fenn
13	"Reflections on Jesus," Part Two Presenter: Charles Wilson	Joe Shaw
20	New Testament, Part One	Joe Shaw
27	New Testament, Part Two Presenter: Jim Hanson	Joe Shaw
Apr 3	Visual Arts & the Church, John Maakestad	Guy Reid
10	Poetry & the Church, Part One Mark Gleason and Paula Carlson	Guy Reid
17	Poetry & the Church, Part Two Mark Gleason and Paula Carlson	Guy Reid
24	Easter Breakfast	Mike Sherman
May 1	Spring New Member Reception	Staff
8	SUNDAY MORNING CONCERT SERIES #4, Youth Recital	Dan Fenn
15	SUNDAY MORNING CONCERT SERIES #5, Musical	Dan Fenn
22	Intentionally Left open, To Be Filled Later	

St. John's Forum Ministry Team Guy Reid, Coordinator Pastor Johnson, Eric Lund, Keith Holmstad, Joe Shaw, Kristi Wermager, Karl Hella, Mark Gleason, and Katie Helgen

Important Dates To Remember!

Wednesday, Sept. 8 *(New Date)*

Sunday School Teacher Orientation
6:30 p.m. - Fireside Room

Sunday, Sept. 12

CAT Orientation for grades 3-6
9:45 a.m. - St. John's Hall

Wednesday, Sept. 15

ROCK *(Reaching Out to Christ's Kids)*
Wednesdays night programming for K – 5th grades begins!

Open House for Preschool 1
Sunday School, 6:30 p.m., rm.15

Sunday, Sept. 19

WelcomeFest

Sunday School Begins,
9:45 – 10:30 a.m.

Installation of Teachers
10:45 a.m. Service

Sunday, Sept. 26

4th Grade Receives Catechisms 10:45 a.m. service

Youth Blast! Overnight Retreat

Who: Kids in grades 3 – 6

When: Friday – Saturday, Oct. 13-14

Where: Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN

Cost: \$40.00 *(scholarships available)*
(No charge for chaperones)

Youth Blast invites kids in grades 3 – 6 for an overnight adventure at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, Minn. The 24-hour camp experience is filled with games, hikes, good food and Bible time. This is a great introduction to what a week long summer camp is like. We will carpool from St. John's on Friday around 5:30 p.m. and arrive back on Saturday around 9:00 p.m. Feel free to bring a friend and join us for Youth Blast! Register by calling Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org. Chaperones are needed! **Registration deadline: Sunday, Sept. 26. (Space is limited)**

Registration for Sunday School, PreK – Grade 5

Sunday School begins on September 19 from 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. for children who are age 3 by Sept. 1, 2010 – grade 5. If you have not yet registered your child for 2010 – 2011 Sunday School year, it's not too late! Please fill out a Registration and Health form as soon as possible. A timely response is one of the best ways to support Children's Ministry at St. John's. Forms are available in the Commons and online at www.stjohns-elca.org. Volunteer opportunities are included, so please consider how you can support St. John's programs. If you have questions, contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, ext. 25.

Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School

All preschool children who are 3 by Sept. 1, 2010 are invited be part of the Preschool 1 Sunday school class this fall. An Open House will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 6:30 p.m. in Room 15 (lower level) to meet the teachers and help with this transition. Please register your child by Sept. 1.

CATechism Orientation

Catechism Orientation for 3rd – 6th grade students and their parents will be held in St. John's Hall on Sunday, September 12 at 9:45 a.m. If you are unable to attend, please call the Church Office at 645-4429.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Middle School Sunday School

Grades 6-8

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

Nobody has everything figured out, especially when it comes to God. Even Pastors and Youth Directors are left scratching their heads sometimes. Sunday School gives us a chance for our knowledge of God to grow, and an opportunity to give voice to our thoughts about faith and share them with our friends. This year, Sunday School will be taught by various members of St. John's, and we'll focus on what it means to be a Christian in today's world.

Of course, Sherm will be there to teach and help out too. Keep watch in the *Voice* for details on the lessons that we teach.

High School Sunday School

Grades 9-12

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

High School Sunday School will consist of Bible Studies based on topics that are important and relevant to our high school students, and we'll have a team of teachers rotating through the year, teaching different topics. We meet Room 04. It's downstairs, next to the youth room.

Keep watch in the *Voice* if you'd like to know more about what we are doing in Sunday School each month.

Confirmation Orientation

When: Sept. 16, 6:15 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall (lower level)

What: During Confirmation orientation, you'll receive important information about Confirmation. You'll get a program overview, learn about expectations and requirements, meet your fellow students and parents, and you'll even get to have root beer floats! It is very important that you attend this event.

10th Grade Confirmation Retreat and Faith Statements

(Please note the date change)

All tenth graders will be going to Gustavus on Saturday, Oct. 2 (this date has changed) from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for your final Confirmation retreat. While there you will read your faith statements and work on your Confirmation banner. Parents will receive a letter with additional information regarding the retreat.

September High School Event: Fall Cookout

We'll be kicking off the new school year with a cook out at the Sorensen's house. We'll eat lots of good food, play a game or two, and spend time just hanging out and getting to know one another. All High Schoolers are welcome. Here are some initial details, stay tuned to mail / e-mail for more specifics...

When: Saturday, Sept. 18, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Where: Troy, Jenny, Kelsey, and Betsy Sorensen's house.

Directions will be mailed out for those who need them. You can also meet at St. John's and travel out as a group. If you know where the Sorensen's live, you can just show up.

What to bring: Just bring yourself, and a friend of course!

Middle School Event: Romans & Christians & Worship

On Saturday, Sept. 25, we'll gather here at St. John's to play the first round of Romans & Christians for the year. We'll start at 7:00 p.m. and go until 9:30 p.m. Sherm even threw in an extra half hour to play! We'll also have snacks and beverages to eat while we play. Following the game, we'll end as we always do with a short devotion and worship time. This event is free, and all Middle School youth are invited - bring a friend!

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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Transition, continued from page 1

- Larry Iverson, on staff as Synod Minister with the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, will be presenting at the St. John's Forum on Sunday, Sept. 19 in St. John's Hall. Mr. Iverson will be discussing many items relevant to the working through of the Call process for a new Senior Pastor. As part of this Forum, we will also hold an open Question and Answer period to address your questions and concerns about this process going forward. I strongly encourage your participation in this Forum event.
- The Council will begin deliberation and discussion about the formation of a Call Committee. Significantly contributing to this discussion will be the work presently being done by the Challenge Team and the strategic evaluation of the direction of ministry that St. John's is currently undergoing.

On behalf of your elected leadership, I ask for your prayers of support and encouragement as we move forward into this period of time. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us with your questions, concerns and suggestions.

*Timothy Eklund, President***ROCK begins Wednesday,
Sept. 15**

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K – 5.

Wednesday afterschool programs for all grade levels consist of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, music opportunities (Alleluia, Hosanna and Jubilate Choir plus bell chime and Orff instrument ensembles) art, service projects and more!

St. John's will be providing bussing for children from Greenvale, Bridgewater and Sibley who are interested in participating in our Wednesday afterschool programs. (We're in the process of checking on pick up Prairie Creek children from the Middle School.)

For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes an insert you may use to register your child. Registration packets are available in the church Commons or online at www.stjohn-elca.org under the Children's tab. It would be great to have all registrations as soon as possible!