

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2010

Volume 50, Number 11

*on the  
inside . . .*

Welcome New Members!

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Mission/Vision Drafts

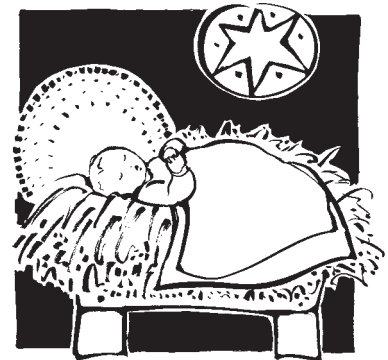
✧ p. 12-13

Poinsetta Youth Fundraiser

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## Sunday School Christmas Program: "Journey to the Christ Child"

Everyone is invited to attend the Sunday School Christmas Program on Sunday, Dec. 12 in St. John's Hall. Pre-service music by St. John's Youth begins at 2:45 p.m. The program, "Journey to the Christ Child", begins at 3:00 p.m. and is performed by children in preschool – grade 5. Each family is asked to bring a dozen cookies to share for refreshments following the program. If your child is unable to participate please notify his/her teacher or call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.



**We will be having an extra rehearsal for the program on Wednesday, December 8 from 6:00-6:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall. Come for the Wednesday meal and stay for rehearsal!**

### Worship Services:

8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN. Articles for the *Voice* must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month:

*office@stjohns-elca.org*.

For information, contact the Church Office:

**phone:** 507-645-4429

**fax:** 507-645-9633

**e-mail:**

*office@stjohns-elca.org*

**website:**

*www.stjohns-elca.org*

### Church office hours:

**Mon. - Thurs.**

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

**Friday**

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

## Advent Fair is Dec. 5!

Starting at 9:30 a.m. "Mission Possible" gets underway. Lutheran World Relief and SERV International Fair Trade Project provide handcrafts from around the world to sell with all proceeds going to artisans in developing countries. Coffee and chocolate will be available with proceeds going to Lutheran World Relief.

After the second service, Advent Fair lunch will be served in St. John's Hall from 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Christmas crafts and food demonstrations for all ages will follow from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Commons and St. John's Hall with coffee, cider and cookies! All ages are welcome!

If you'd like to volunteer for this eventful Sunday please do so at the Advent Fair board in the Commons.



## Christmas Worship at St. John's

### Friday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

3:30 and 5:00 p.m. Christmas Vespers

11:00 p.m. Christmas Candlelight and Communion

### Saturday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. Festive Christmas Eucharist

11:30 a.m. Christmas Dinner for All  
(see back page for more information)

### Sunday, Dec. 26 - Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m. Please note that there will be only one worship service on December 26

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: Mark the days of Advent with a time of silence and prayer, guided by Scripture. Meets Thursday, December 16 at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

**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*

## Times of Waiting

Advent is a time of waiting, a time when we prepare ourselves, our homes, and our cookie jars for the celebration of Jesus' birth. This time of waiting is mostly an anticipation—a good four weeks of planning, wishing, and preparing. We know what is ahead, whether our “peace of earth” will be quiet or raucous. We also know the end of The Story of Advent—the surprising little One, waited for as God and Savior. Even when this waiting time's shopping, baking, and decorating loom, they still carry a joyful anticipation. Even when a pregnancy feels too long and uncomfortable, the wait is good because it promises life.

But there are other kinds of waiting, the kinds that carry weight. Those waitings bring with them a dread, the better-than-

50%-chance that news will not be good and any scant reason for hope will disappear. Consider the wait for medical test results or a response to school applications; the wait for a decision from the bank or a potential employer; the wait for a phone call, an invitation, or a forgiving hug. Those waits can leave one lost and empty. Those weighty waits can make the future impossible to imagine, let alone live. Often the worst of those weighty waits is that they are faced alone.

Stephen Ministers, like those being trained right now at St. John's, are prepared to share weighty waits. A Stephen Minister's support offers the patience that can make waiting bearable. They honor the process of waiting, and appreciate the value of each step along any journey. They embrace the waiting and find hope in enduring because God is present. A Stephen Minister acts as a concrete reminder of God's presence, quietly helping to carry the weight of another.

If you or someone you know would benefit from time with a Stephen Minister, contact Joan Halvorson (645-8445 ) or one of the pastors (645-4429).

**A Grief Support Group** continues to meet this month at St. Dominic Catholic Church, Mondays Dec. 6 and 13 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For more information contact Nancy Ludescher, 645-8816, ext. 203. Starting Jan. 3 and going through Feb. 7, a grief support group will meet at St. Johns on Mondays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. For more information contact Barb Knaak, 664-0444.

**Grief Booklets:** “Journeying through Grief” is a resource for the first year following the death of a loved one. The booklets are free and available to all. Contact a pastor for more information.

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

*Matthew 5:4*

## Grief Support Ministry

## *From our pastors . . .*

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“Therefore you must also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Matthew 24:44



Last Sunday the first candle on the Advent wreath was lit. I remember watching, with great anticipation, that first candle being lit, growing up in my home congregation. We had two great wreaths – one above the pulpit, and one above the lectern. And we all knew what was coming when we got past the fourth candle – but the waiting was so very hard. It seemed to take forever to get to candle number two. I also remember being told that Advent was a time of preparation: getting ready to receive the Good News of Christmas (of course, I was waiting for the gifts, too). But, at least, the preparations – decorating, and listening to stories - made the waiting more tolerable.

The interim period is somewhat of an Advent experience. It is a time of waiting, to be sure; but it is a time of much preparation. There are five basic tasks to be accomplished in intentional interim ministry. They are: 1) Coming to terms with history; 2) Discovering a new identity; 3) Enabling needed leadership change; 4) Renewing denominational linkages; 5) Commitment to new pastoral leadership and a new future.

St. John's is off to a great start due to the work of the Challenge Team. The Strategic Planning event has jump-started the effort to review our history, and begin to reflect on a new identity. But now comes a time of some waiting, as we seek the input of every member. These tasks are crucial, though, as move into the future; and contemplate the business of calling the next senior pastor. It is essential that we are clear about who we are, as a congregation. That will drive how we want to operate; and help to guide our decisions about how to make all of it happen. When our identity and mission and vision have been clearly established, the type of individual needed to lead St. John's, pastorally, will come into focus.

The “first candle” in the interim process has barely been lit. Oh, it is so very hard to wait for number two, let alone numbers three and four; because we all know about the good news to come. And come it will – but for now we wait...and we prepare.

*Pastor Bob*

# November Actions

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## Memorials and Gifts

### Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Haakon Fure** by: Millie Johnson and Joan Kark

In memory of **Ed Gass** by: Dorothy Sorenson.

### Radio Fund

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

## Other Actions

### Funerals

**Haakon Fure**, October 27, 2010

**Richard Pautzke**, October 29, 2010

### Radio Broadcasts

November 7, 2010, in memory of **Helen and Leon Ingram**, by their family

November 14, 2010, in memory of **Val Fure**, by her friends

November 21, 2010, in memory of **Evelyn Flaten**, by Carol and Robert Flaten

November 28, 2010, in memory of **Dagny Christensen and Les Gustafson** who share a Dec. 1 birthday, by Judy Christensen

## Water Flows at Iambi Lutheran Secondary School

In 2007, St. John's began a project to improve the water supply at Iambi Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania, a residential school with about 150 students. What we thought would be a simple project became quite complicated. However, with the help of Outreach International, a non profit group in Iowa that does community projects in the Singida region where Iambi is located, a solution was found. After 3 years, the project is completed.

The initial phase of the project was to improve the well at the school. It was a short bore hole well, and the pipe did not extend deep enough into the water. A pipe extension and a chlorination system were installed. Phase two was to raise funds for a solar powered pump and water tank so that a water supply could be stored in a 5,000 liter tank. In July 2008, St. John's held a fund raiser and raised over \$3000. However, during the dry season, before the solar pump was purchased, the well with the new extensions went dry. It didn't make sense to invest thousands of dollars to improve a well that was dry for large portions of the year. Another complication was that a solar powered pump was stolen from a neighboring village, suggesting that a solar system would be

high risk. After inspecting several other potential water sources, Floyd Hammer, the director of Outreach International, and Mike Kitwaka, his Tanzanian manager, came up with a new plan.

The new plan was to use a deep bore hole located in the countryside a mile from the school. This bore hole well was not in use. It looked like a large pipe coming out of the ground with a cap on it. The cost to develop this well was expected to be about \$5000 more than had been raised in the July 2008 fundraiser. The St. John's Benevolence Board decided to use Stewards of Grace funds to meet this new expense. Floyd Hammer and Allan Kingu, the school headmaster, met with the Iambi village council. They gave Iambi School title to 4 acres of land at the bore hole so that a house could be built for a farmer to live and farm there and guard the new equipment. This past summer a Grundfos pump and generator were shipped. They are diesel, rather than solar powered. The house was built. One mile of pipe was delivered, and the students and villagers dug the mile long trench to lay the pipe. As might be expected with

....continued on pg. 7

*... from and around the greater Church*

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

## **from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod:**

### **2010-2011 Prayer Calendar Now Online**

Since 2005, when we were "A Synod Joined in Prayer," congregations throughout the synod have prayed for one another every week. The prayer calendar for the coming year, which begins with the first week of Advent, November 28, 2010, is now available online. To view a plaintext version or download a printable PDF of the calendar, visit [www.semnsynod.org/prayercalendar.html](http://www.semnsynod.org/prayercalendar.html)

## **from the churchwide organization:**



ELCA Good Gifts, the giving catalog of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, lifts up more than 65 gift ideas filled with meaning and love. ELCA Good Gifts are a special way you can help make a significant impact on the mission and ministries of our church while giving a gift to a friend, pastor, teacher, neighbor or other loved one.

ELCA Good Gifts are an opportunity to go beyond your regular congregational offering to support and strengthen the work of the ELCA. An ELCA Good Gift is a donation that you make which buys life-sustaining items for people around the world. You can then give a card to your loved one which explains what their gift is doing around the world. Gifts range from \$10.00 to \$2,500.00. For instance, you can donate \$15.00 to cover health and dental care for a child in an orphanage or \$275.00 to build a home cistern to bring clean water to a family. There are also opportunities to choose your own amount. The ELCA Good Gifts catalog can be found online at: [www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts). You can also call (800) 638-3522 for more information.

If you'd like to give a gift that can be wrapped under the tree, consider Fair Trade items from Lutheran World Relief. Gift options include coffee, chocolate, tea and handmade gift items (everything from jewelry to household items). Visit [www.lwr.org/fairtrade](http://www.lwr.org/fairtrade)



A few years ago a friend of ours was involved in a head on collision on a snowy two lane highway in Canada. She was rushed to the hospital, her family rushed to her side, physicians rushed to save her life. No one expected her to live.

But she did.

It is a miracle that she is alive and well, walking, talking, laughing and living. I chose that word carefully and intentionally. Her survival is miraculous and it is God alone who saved her life. When I begin to doubt that God is still at work in the world she often comes to mind, a subtle reminder from the Spirit that God is indeed still at work.

This is the season in which we mark and celebrate the greatest of God's miracles – God's own incarnation in the form of Jesus Christ. We spend the weeks of Advent preparing and anticipating the celebration of Jesus' birth. We spend Christmas morning tearing open gifts in remembrance of the great gift humanity has been given. At Christmas we celebrate the miraculous work of God.

Some people question whether miracles still happen. I think they do. Once a year we see our living, breathing, laughing friend and Terrence and I are reminded of God's continued miraculous presence among us.

Her miracle is a once-in-a-lifetime one but there are more mundane miracles too (if, in fact, miracles can be mundane). Sometimes we are those miracles to one and other. Every year members of St. John's become the tangible, miraculous presence of Christ to members of our community as we serve them a hot meal at the Community Christmas Dinner. Ten of

our community spent a recent Saturday afternoon packing meals to be shipped to starving children, who, I am willing to wager, will see those meals as manna from heaven.

Is God still at work in the world? It appears that God is and in miraculous ways. In the birth of Jesus the kingdom of God burst forth into the world in a dramatically new way. That is the particular miracle we celebrate at Christmas. A few months from now we'll celebrate Easter, the time the Christian church remembers the resurrection of Christ and the fact that Jesus gave us one to another to continue to be the tangible body of Christ.

What began at the original Christmas continues still today, the miraculous reality of God with us. We were once dead in sin but have been given new life in Jesus Christ. The miraculous work of God continues as we extend the love of God to those around us.

Our friend is a living, breathing miracle in a unique way but we are each invited to be living, breathing miracles. The presence of God with us began at Christmas but as we serve others God with us continues on.

This is, in part, why we serve: so that years from now others will be able to say I have experienced the miraculous works of God in my own life, in the service of those who loved me in the name of Jesus Christ.

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

## From the Faith and Health Board:

The holiday season often brings unwelcome guests; stress, anxiety and depression. In an effort to have a perfect holiday, you might find yourself facing overwhelming added demands- parties, shopping, baking and entertaining- to an already stressful life.

With some practical tips from the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (MFMER), you can minimize the stress, anxiety and depression that often accompany the holidays. You may even end up enjoying the holidays more than you thought you would.

Learn to recognize holiday triggers, so you can avoid them.

- Relationships can cause conflict or stress at any time, but tensions are often increased during the holidays. Family misunderstandings and conflicts can intensify, especially if you're together for several days. On the other hand, facing the holidays without a loved one can be tough and leave you feeling lonely and sad.
- With the added expenses of gifts, travel, food and entertainment, the holidays can put a strain on your budget. Overspending can mean financial worries for later months.
- The extra shopping and socializing can leave you tired. Being exhausted increases your stress. Exercise and sleep may be ignored. These added physical demands make you more susceptible to colds and illnesses.

When stress is at its peak, it is hard to stop and regroup. Try to prevent stress and anxiety with these suggestions.

- If someone close to you has recently died or you cannot be with loved ones over the holidays, realize that it is normal to feel sad. Take time to acknowledge your feelings.
- If you feel lonely, find support and companionship at church, in your community or other social events.
- Be realistic. As families change and grow, traditions often change as well. Choose traditions to carry on and create new ones with the changes in your family.
- Set aside differences. Accept family members and friends as they are. Save the disagreements for a more appropriate time for discussion.
- Don't try to do everything! Learn to say no to things when you begin to feel overwhelmed.
- Don't let the holidays affect your healthy habits. Continue to eat healthy, get your sleep and continue your physical activities. Make some time daily for your self to reduce stress-just 15 minutes alone, without distractions.
- Seek professional help if you need it. Even with best intentions, you may find you are always sad or anxious, unable to sleep or lack the energy to face the holiday events. Talk to your doctor if you are having these feelings.

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## ...Water Flows!, continued from pg. 4

lengthy projects, costs ran up. The pipe and house cost more than expected. The Benevolence Board decided to use what was left in the Stewards of Grace fund to complete the project. The total cost came to \$13, 447. The well should be sustainable, as villagers will pay a small fee to use the water, to cover the costs of diesel and repairs. The well will benefit the whole village, not just the school.

Allan Kingu has sent us photos of the project, which are on the mission bulletin board in the Commons. We, along with the Iambi students and villagers, give thanks that water now flows into the tank at the school. Allan's last letter, which is

on the bulletin board, says, "I am happy to send you some more pictures of water project in fact there is no more problem of water flow. We can now pump for more than two hours without any problem." Iambi Secondary School is now "enjoying a new era of running water." Thanks be to God!

# Welcome to St. John's!

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Drew and Melanie Dixon  
Liam, Anders, Quinn  
*Hosts: Saul and Amy McBroom*



Brad and Krista Larson  
Sam  
1605 Knoll Court  
Dundas, MN 55019  
507 663-0377  
*Hosts: Brad and Nancy Ordahl-Kmoch*



Nyebol Rik  
Moses and Kuchceang  
1312 Jefferson Parkway  
Northfield, MN 55057  
507 301-2469  
*Hosts: Jim and Marnie Thompson*

Mary Ellen North  
812 Linden Street N. #127  
Northfield, MN 55057  
507 645-6504  
*Hosts: Marilyn Jacobson and Eulalie Smestad*



Dena Marie King  
Jacob  
1040 Summerfield Drive  
Northfield, MN 55057  
612 483-2852  
*Hosts: Jonathan and Katherine Norrie*



Guenther and Allene Moesler  
29411 Endress Way  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009  
507 263-0726  
*Hosts: Dave and Ruth Legvold*



Helen Quello  
910 Cannon Valley Drive  
Northfield, MN 55057  
507 663-0730  
*Hosts: Duane and Marlene Engstrom*



# News and Events

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## Debt Reduction Appeal

"Happy Easter!" No, I'm not confused for I, too, am getting ready for Christmas. However, I am part of a growing group of St. John's members who hopes for an 'Easter in January'. For in January, each member of St. John's will be asked to be part of an enormous two-year effort to pay down on the principal of one of our mortgage loans, thus rapidly reducing the size of monthly debt payments and the amount of interest over the life of the loan.

This idea began early in 2010 when the Congregational Council appointed a Challenge Committee to focus on the \$46,000 deficit. The deficit has meant the people we elect to represent us have periodically been tied up in the very difficult task of trying to determine how to carry out what we perceive to be God's work among us. The Challenge Committee divided into two groups, one to concentrate on planning, the other to focus on the financial challenge.

Those who were entrusted with the task of solving the deficit quickly reached the conclusion the most responsible thing to do to meet the problem of too much money going out in loan payments was to pay down the principal of the second loan, allowing us the possibility to pay the \$800,000 loan in two years rather than in 16 years. The committee decided to have a debt reduction appeal and asked Bill and Char Carlson and David and Genevieve Quarberg to co-chair the appeal.

We co-chairs chose the story of the raising of Lazarus as a reminder and a hope for the appeal. You recall Jesus arrived too late to the home of his friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus, for Lazarus had died. With others, Jesus went to the tomb and must have

startled everyone by his words, "Lazarus, come out!" And the dead man walked out, bound in burial clothes. Then Jesus said, "Unbind him!" It is our prayer that we, too, will be unbound - - from too much debt, the waste of money being paid for interest, and the inaction that results.

The Fund-raising Committee, the co-chairs, the Challenge Committee, and the Congregational Council have all made our pledges, as well as have a few others. At this writing, we have over \$150,00 toward our two-year goal of \$800,000.

Your turn is next. In January, you will be invited to attend one of three meetings to learn more about the debt reduction process and appeal. Each of you will be asked to give over and above what you have already pledged to St. John's. It will take that kind of leap-of-action on the part of every member of our congregation, for it is we who have taken on that debt to build our church building. We do this believing that Jesus' command will unbind us and be realized in our actions.

*Genevieve Quarberg on behalf of David Quarberg, Bill and Char Carlson, Dave Neuger, Bob Gelle, Will Brosz, Don Sahling, Jim Enesvedt, Terrance Hassanally, and Mike Sylvester*

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## Mission Outreach

### Community Christmas Dinner



"Hands and Feet" is St. John's monthly intergenerational service project and this month's project is the Community Christmas Dinner served in St. John's Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Day. Help is needed setting up, providing food, serving, and cleaning up. *See article on the back page of the Voice for more information.* Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in the world!

### CROP Hunger Walk Update:

This fall's Northfield CROP Hunger Walk raised \$22,171 for hunger relief efforts both here in Northfield and around the world. St. John's members contributed \$916 and 11 St. John's walkers participated in the ecumenical event. Thank you!

# Serving on Sundays in December

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## *Acolytes*

- December 5** (8:30) Nicholas Gonnerman, Nicholas Pelletier; (10:45) McKenna Boyum, Kelsey Bull  
**December 12** (8:30) Amanda Nelson, Ellie Ims; (10:45) Ian Iverson, Emma Iverson  
**December 19** (8:30) Dylan Matson, Emily Westerback; (10:45) Andrew Dell, Bailey Dell  
**December 24** (11:00 p.m.) Michael Gasior, Timothy Gasior, Ian Iverson  
**December 25** (10:00) Rebecca Storlie, Lydia Storlie, Ellie Ims  
**December 26** (10:00) Bjorn Bade, Alex Gunn

## *Coffee*

- December 5** Liz and Neil Rowley, Mike and Suzanne Sylvester, Shirley Nelson  
**December 12** Phil and Barb Eaves, Sue and David Rod, Marilyn Boschee  
**December 19** Kris and Adam Vatter, Nancy and Rusty Kluver, Millie Johnson  
**December 26** No Coffee Hour

## *Communion preparers*

- December 5** Sandi Gerdes, Alexander and Daniel  
**December 12** Steve and Jennifer Edwins  
**December 19** Open  
**December 24** Elden and Solveig Zempel  
**December 25** Jill Enestvedt  
**December 26** Georgene Johnson and Gloria Porter

## *Nursery*

- December 5** (8:30 to noon) Claire Weiss; (10:45) Shari Williams  
**December 12** (8:30 to noon) Claire Weiss; (10:45) Adam Neuger  
**December 19** (8:30 to noon) Claire Weiss; (10:45) Barb Adrian  
**December 26** (10:00 to noon) Jenny Nystrom

## *Ushers*

- December 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  
**December 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  
**December 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  
**December 24** (3:30) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber; (5:00) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (11:00) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug  
**December 25** (10:00) Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid  
**December 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

## Donations Needed for Community Christmas Dinner

The fund that supports our annual Community Christmas Dinner is running low. If you can make a financial contribution to continue to support this annual community outreach please place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the church office with a note that it is for the Christmas Dinner.

## Women's Retreat at Gustavus!

"The Gathering", a women's small ministry group at St. John's, invites women to a retreat in January at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. The retreat will focus on women's health and wellness, plus enjoy a relaxing night away! We will carpool to St. Peter on Friday, Jan. 21 leaving St. John's at 5:30 p.m. and returning on Saturday, Jan. 22 at 5:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending, give Julie Brehmer a call at 645-4429, ext. 25. Watch for more info, coming soon!

## Sewers/Quilters Needed!

Women! Are you handy with a sewing machine or with a needle and thread? We need volunteers to sew quilt tops at home, to hem receiving blankets, and to sew nightgowns for layettes. Please contact Norma Gilbertson (664-9591) for information on layettes, and Kathy Vang (645-4849) for information on quilts.



## Feed My Starving Children Update

St. Johns members joined other community members this fall to help fight hunger through Feed My Starving Children. 705 Northfield volunteers helped package 171,072 meals and \$26000 was donated to the FMSC organization. Thank you!



## 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. - 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

**December 1**  
Pizza Night!

**December 8**  
Scalloped Potatoes with Ham

**December 15**  
Meatballs & Gravy with Mashed Potatoes

The cooks are taking a break for the holidays. Meals will resume on Jan. 5!

## Thank you Leap of Faith!

Thank you to the St. Olaf Liturgical Dance group, "Leap of Faith", for

coming to St. John's and holding a workshop for our kids in November. And thanks to the kids who



participated: Viveka Hall-Holt, Annelise Hall-Holt, Sophia Poquette and Jessica Olson.

# Strategic Planning Event Update

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...Email from Mike Berthelsen, Chair, Challenge Team

November 8, 2010

To: Members and Visitors of St. John's Lutheran Church

The last two days (Nov. 5-6), 60 of our members spent over 10 hours together talking, thinking and dreaming about the future of St. John's. This process began at the last Annual meeting as we struggled with how to best solve our budget challenge and was re-emphasized when Pastor Crippen resigned. Our Congregation is at a place where we both need and have the opportunity to reflect on who we are today and what we want to become. A Strategic Planning Process was launched to help guide the Call Process for new leadership and give direction to the Congregation as it reviews and directs our programmatic and budget plans. The outcomes of the process will be Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Core Values, and several strategic initiatives to work toward our Vision. This weekend was only the beginning of this process.

We began our time with a review of our past and present, by making lists of:

- \* Accomplishments at St. John's we are proud of
- \* Strengths and weaknesses of St. Johns as a congregation
- \* Opportunities and threats from outside the congregation that we need to understand

Next, we focused on identifying our understanding of the Core Values that exist at St. Johns and developing a Mission Statement to articulate our purpose as a community. Finally we turned toward the future, drafting a Vision Statement and ideas for what will become more targeted strategic initiatives.

Out of this work, we are now calling out to all of you for your ideas and dreams. We are providing for your review all the material from the Strategic Planning weekend. This will be available several ways:

- \* All material will be available on the Church web-site
- \* This letter and abridged content will be:
  - o Inserted into bulletin
  - o Emailed to all members for whom we have email addresses
  - o Inserted into the Voice
- \* Copies of key components available at the Welcome Desk
- \* Presented and discussed:
  - o during the education hour in the Sanctuary between services November 14th
  - o after supper in St. John's Hall from 6-7 p.m. Nov. 17th

We want to emphasize that meaningful definition of a congregation's mission, vision, core values and initiatives will take time and lots of discussion leading us through multiple drafts and revisions. We begin with more questions than answers, including but not limited to:

- \* What should our worship be like?
- \* What characteristics do we want in our next Pastor?
- \* How will we solve our budget gap?
- \* Do we strive to be 'one' congregation or can we be many small groups sharing a community together?
- \* How should we deal with perceptions in the community that we are 'elitist'; academic; only for those with ties to St. Olaf; and overwhelmed by Norwegian sweaters?
- \* How do generational differences impact our congregational life?

To give you a feel for even more questions, below are highlights of our review of St. John's Strengths; Weaknesses; Threats and Opportunities.

- \* Strengths
  - o Building/Physical space/facility
  - o Rich heritage
  - o Worship and Music
  - o Leadership: staff; current pastors; laity
- \* Weaknesses
  - o Debt and Budget imbalance
  - o Membership base decline
  - o Lack of diversity in age, economics and culture
  - o Allowing people to try and risk
  - o Perceptions as exclusive to intellectuals; St. Olaf; Norwegians

...continued on pg. 13

## ...Strategic Planning, continued from pg. 13

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### \* Threats

- o Priorities and many competing opportunities
- o Aging congregation and Demographics in Nfld., more grey than younger
- o Watering down Gospel to make church more appealing to more people
- o Discussions, opportunities, openness has been somewhat limited

### \* Opportunities

- o Build up programming to compete
- o More consciously welcoming
- o Vital youth program: connect with models here
- o Strategic Planning provides opportunity for change

To start the conversation and give us a way to evaluate the initial drafts, we ask that you consider each draft with 3 questions:

1. What is best?
2. What is worst?
3. What is missing?

We are asking that you provide your feedback to these initial drafts through the Challenge team email (challengeteam@stjohns-elca.org) by November 30th. With this feedback, we will begin work on the next version of this material.

You are also encouraged to share your ideas with members of the Council or the Strategic Planning Core Team (Tim Eklund, Carrie Duba, Dave Neuger, Pastor Johnson, Pastor Iverson, Regina Hassanally, Todd Nichol, Cheryl Buck and Mike Berthelsen).

Thanks in advance for your input.  
Mike Berthelsen, Chair Challenge Team

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## First Drafts of Vision Statement and Core Values

NOVEMBER 8, 2010

### **Mission Statement**

A "mission statement" is nothing less than a way for the congregation to define itself. The mission answers the question, "What is this organization attempting to accomplish?" Mission provides the major standard against which all the activities, services, programs, policies, and decisions are evaluated. Mission is the preserver of congregational integrity.

A mission statement should be Clear, Concise and Compelling. Put another way:

- 1) The statement is no more than a single sentence long
- 2) The statement is easily understood
- 3) The statement can be recited from memory

### **Draft Mission Statement for St. John's:**

As followers of Jesus Christ, St. John's welcomes all to celebrate God's grace, to nurture their faith, and to reach out in love and service.

### **Vision Statement**

A vision is how the congregation will live out its mission in the future. A common vision provides an image of a chosen future. It is an expression of hope. A vision captures people's imagination, mobilizes people's energy, and connects them with one another. Vision is what a congregation wants to become, what it cares about, and what it can be.

### **Draft Vision Statement for St. John's:**

St. John's aspires to become a visible community of faith:

- Celebrating through joyful and music filled worship
- Connecting children, youth and adults in faith;
- Calling us to each use and share our gifts;
- Committing to each other through our faith journeys, and
- Caring through acts of compassion and kindness

### **Core Values**

The term "values" refers to the guiding principles and behaviors that embody how your organization and its people are expected to operate. Values reflect and reinforce the desired culture of an organization. Values support and guide the decision making of every workforce member, helping the organization accomplish its mission and attain its vision in an appropriate manner.

### **Draft Core Values for St. John's**

- God /Jesus/ The Word
- Grace/Love
- Faith/ Spiritual Growth
- Connection/Community/Family/Inclusivity



# Adult Ministry and Education

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## Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Education Hour is at 9:45 a.m. Coffee is in the Commons between services. This month St. Johns Forum features a series on Islam led by St. Olaf College Professor Eric Lund.

- Dec. 5:** *St. John's Forum:* "The Basics of Islam" After a review of the basic beliefs and practices of Islam, this session will be devoted to questions that people have about the world's second largest religion. St. John's Hall
- Dec. 12:** *St. John's Forum:* "The Qur'an and the Bible" This session on Islam will examine the origins and major characteristics of the Qur'an. Then Muslim scriptures will be compared to the Bible - with particular attention to the stories that appear in both texts. St. John's Hall
- Dec. 19:** *St. John's Forum:* "Diversity within Islam" Radical Islam gets most of the attention in the media these days. This session will consider the interpretation of Islam that prevails among the militants but will also note the wide variety of other expressions of Islam that exist today. St. John's Hall
- Dec. 26:** *No St. Johns Forum.* Please note that there will be one worship service this Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Merry Christmas!

## News and Events

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### From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Peace and Justice  
does not meet in  
December.  
See you in January!

SJLC member, Ed Youngquist, recommends a video (available at <http://www.ELCA.org/itgetsbetter> ) where ELCA Bishop, Mark Hanson, offers reassurance to young people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, saying, "You are a beloved child of God."

Ed writes: Presiding Bishop Hanson's message is affirming to me. He says what I have been wishing that someone with more theological acumen than mine would say regarding what we believe about Holy Baptism and what it means. The Bible itself is but paper, ink, and binding. Luther teaches that the treasure which the Bible makes known is Christ. He is the Word! God's Word! "The Bible is the cradle, the manger, in which the Christ is laid" (so Luther teaches). It is by Christ that the Spirit

makes all things new. By Him, and all his gifts, the Kingdom for which we pray comes. These are victories of the Spirit. The Spirit who ever so patiently calls, gathers, and enlightens us. Hence, I am proud of my church. It has allowed the Spirit to "grow" us, to teach and inform us. It's a sign that God is still at work among us. His victories are in process -- both here now and not yet. A Spirit enlightened mind, often quoted: says, "God isn't finished with me yet." You are encouraged to check out Bishop Hanson's video.

The article Ed has written is available in its entirety on the Peace & Justice bulletin board or you may contact him directly. The Church Office is also working to make this available online.



Mission Statement:  
**TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY  
 ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST**  
 Lutheran Woman Today Bible study theme for 2010-2011 is  
**“The People of God:  
 Unity in the Midst of Diversity”**  
 Amos 3:3 “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

For newsletters and information: [www.semnsynod.org](http://www.semnsynod.org) and [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

## Upcoming Events

Dec. 11 at 9:30 a.m. General meeting:  
 Our annual Advent Brunch, sponsored  
 by the WBG. Bring a friend to this warm  
 and Spirit-filled beginning to the Advent  
 and Christmas seasons. Join us for  
 culinary treats, good music and  
 fellowship.

**Dec. 6**, 12:00 p.m.—Bible study leaders  
 meet, Fireside Room.

**Dec. 7 & 21**, 9:30 a.m.—Knitters meet in  
 the library

**Dec. 8 & 9**—Circles meet

**Dec. 9**—Martha/Claudia circle meets at  
 11:30 a.m. for lunch in the King’s Room  
 at St. Olaf; study to follow in Room 221

**Dec. 11**, 9:30 a.m.—Advent Brunch, St.  
 John’s Hall

**Dec. 13 & 16**—Quilting prep Monday,  
 quilting Thursday, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.,  
 Fellowship Hall (clean, non-hole  
 blankets needed for fillers)

**Dec. 30**, 9:30 a.m.—Executive board  
 meeting, Fireside room

### How About July in Spokane?

The 2011 Women of the ELCA  
 Triennial Gathering will be July 14-  
 17, 2011 in Spokane, Washington.  
 Early cost is \$299, and the theme is  
 ‘Renew, Respond, Rejoice!’ Registra-  
 tion began Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

For more information, go to  
[www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org).

Check it out!

The January general meeting for St. John’s  
 Women of the ELCA will be at 11:30 a.m. on  
 Thursday, Jan. 6 at the King’s Room at St. Olaf.  
 Cost is \$10.95 plus tax and tip, payable at the  
 door. There is a sign up sheet on the WELCA  
 board in the Commons.

## Circles

Women interested in joining a circle, please contact Barbara  
 Walters (663-1055 or [waltersb2@gmail.com](mailto:waltersb2@gmail.com)). This year’s  
 study leader for St. John’s WELCA is Pastor Bev Lundeen  
 (507-301-3088).

For a subscription to the LWT magazine, please email:  
[subscriptions@augsburgfortress.org](mailto:subscriptions@augsburgfortress.org) or ask one of the circle  
 leaders for information.

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

Please submit items for this information page to Ruth  
 Smestad Anglin: [ranglin@weststartv.com](mailto:ranglin@weststartv.com) or (507) 301-  
 4744



# 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.**

## **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 Beckman 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. Bob or Pr. Mark 645-4429

## **Women of the ELCA Circles**

Contact: Barbara Walters 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

*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](mailto:sandi@laurabaker.org)

Cheryl Buck, 663-9056,  
[cabuck@charter.net](mailto:cabuck@charter.net)

Barb Eaves, 645-4172,  
[pbeaves@hotmail.com](mailto:pbeaves@hotmail.com)

Mark Johnson, 645-4429  
[mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org)

## **Waiting**

*By Barbara Eaves*

As a young girl in grade school, I could not wait for Christmas. The days seemed to take an eternity to count down...and I simply could not wait that long. And so it was one year I went searching and found my Christmas gift...a brand new pair of figure skates...under the bed in my parents' room and then had to pretend to be surprised when I opened them. In the days following my great discovery, I learned that waiting was part of the joy. My mother would have said that I was never good at waiting for anything, except maybe a trip to the dentist.

Waiting is so much a part of our lives. We wait for the child to be born and she is two weeks late on top of it. We wait in line to wait in line to register for classes or to get in to see the King Tut exhibit. We wait restlessly for our family to come home and we wait anxiously to hear the word from the doctor.

Today we seem to be more impatient with waiting than in the days of my youth. Waiting a few minutes for the traffic light to change, the files to download on the computer, the checkout person to change the tape in the cash register or for the cfl light bulbs to brighten doesn't work well in an age of "instant on".

Yet waiting is a part of our lives; it is not something merely to be endured, but can often be helpful to our health and well being. Waiting can give us time to calm down; it is needed for the healing of our bodies; and sometimes it provides time for us to think more clearly or to prepare for what is ahead.

With the coming of Advent we wait—perhaps impatiently at times but always with anticipation—to celebrate the birth of the One who came long ago, comes to us now, and will come again, offering peace to our hearts and light to a world that is weary and afraid. This is the gift of God's grace...and it is always worth waiting for.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,  
and in his word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.  
O Israel, hope in the LORD  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is great power to redeem.  
Psalm 130: 5-7

## ***Important Dates to Remember!***

### **Sunday School Schedule**

Dec. 5	Sunday School – <i>Advent Fair</i>
Dec. 12	Sunday School – <i>Christmas Program</i> 3:00 pm
Dec. 19	Sunday School – <i>Parents Invited!</i>
Dec. 26	No Sunday School – <i>Christmas Break</i>
Jan. 2	No Sunday School – <i>Christmas Break</i>

### **Advent Fair**

Sunday, December 5  
Lunch, Christmas crafts, food demonstrations,  
Fair Trade Fair, fun, fun, fun!

### **Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal**

Wednesday, Dec. 8, 6:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall

### **Sunday School Christmas Program**

Sunday, Dec. 12, 3:00 p.m.  
Pre-service music starts at 2:45 p.m.

### **Christmas Break**

No Wednesday programming on Dec. 22 and 29!  
No Sunday School on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2

**4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade CATEchism resumes Wed. Jan. 5**

## **Catechism for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will resume on Wednesday, January 5!**

CAT classes meet downstairs, 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Fellowship Hall and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Youth Room from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.

## **Christmas Books Available**

St. John's Library has many wonderful Christmas and Advent books! Since Sunday School classes will not be visiting the library during December because of Christmas program rehearsals, books will be available for parents and children to check out - some will be on display in the library and others will be downstairs by the Nursery. Check out this great collection and sign out a book or two for your child to enjoy with you.

## **Parents invited to Sunday School on December 19!**

Children in preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be celebrating the last day of Sunday school before Christmas break on Dec. 19 in Fellowship Hall with Christmas music and treats! Sunday school begins at 9:45 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Come and enjoy this special time with your child!

## **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, December 4 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

## **Nursery Thank You!**

Thank you to all the wonderful parents who volunteer their time on Sunday morning to care for children in the Nursery during worship services! Special thank to Amy McBroom for preparing the schedule of volunteers and to our work study student, Claire Weiss. It is truly appreciated!

*Kids in grades 2-5!*  
Watch for details in the  
January Voice about the  
upcoming **Bowling Event** on  
Monday, January 17  
*No School day!*

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

## Middle School Sunday School Grades 6-8

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

Dec. 5	Mike Sherman - Christmas
Dec. 12	Jane Rinehart and Kristi Wermager - Colombia Presentation
Dec. 19	Brian Evenson
Dec. 26	No Sunday School - Christmas Break

## High School Sunday School Grades 6-8

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

Dec. 5	Peggy Hanson: Advent
Dec. 12	Peggy Hanson: Advent
Dec. 19	Becky Judge & Tony Becker: Advent
Dec. 26	No Sunday School - Christmas Break

## Confirmation Retreat

WHO: all 7th, 8th, and 9th graders

WHAT: This is a once a year tradition where our confirmands gather together for worship, learning, and fellowship. It's also a time for them to get away and have some fun, and experience confirmation outside of the traditional setting.

WHERE: Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN

WHEN: For 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Graders, Friday Jan. 7, to  
Saturday, Jan. 8.

For 9<sup>th</sup> Graders, Saturday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> to  
Sunday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>.

WHY: Because you'll have a great time!

COST: \$30 (if finances are a concern we have scholarships available – don't hesitate to ask!)

WHAT TO BRING: Sleeping bag, pillow, warm clothes, shoes for outside in the snow, Bible, flashlight, toiletries/towel

## MS Event 1 – Romans & Christians

On Saturday, Dec. 11, we'll gather here at St. John's to play a round of Romans & Christians. We'll start at 7:00 p.m. and go until 9:30 p.m. 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; all Middle School youth and friends are invited!

## MS Event 2 – Gymnastics Gymnasium

For our second Middle School event of the month, we'll be heading to the Gymnastics Club here in town. There will be trampolines, tumbling, obstacle courses, and of course, food. Also, you'll probably get to see Sherm injure himself in a hilarious way.

WHEN: December 19, 12:30 – 2:30,  
we'll meet right at the gym

COST: \$5

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT

6<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT meets Dec. 1, from 5:45 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. We'll be discussing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Petition of the Lord's Prayer, and reviewing the 1<sup>st</sup> Petition. Meet in Room 09, and we will sharing a meal together (pizza and veggies). Looking forward to seeing you there!

## HS Event - Vertical Endeavors!

For this month's High School event, we're heading up to Vertical Endeavors in St. Paul to go rock climbing. Here are the details:

WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 18, from 1 – 5

WHERE: Meet at St. John's, and then head up as a group

COST: \$18

OTHER: Everyone attending this trip will need to fill out a waiver. They will be mailed out with all the details.

## Christmas Poinsettias

St. John's Youth are selling poinsettias! Funds raised will go towards the 2011 Summer mission trip to Chicago. An order form is on pg. 19. Youth will have a table in the Commons on Dec. 5 and 12.



# Youth Fundraiser - Poinsettias!

## Poinsettias for sale

St. John's High School youth are selling poinsettias for the Christmas season. All plants are \$15 and come in a 6" pot and can be ordered in red or white.

### How to order:

Fill out this form and return to the church office

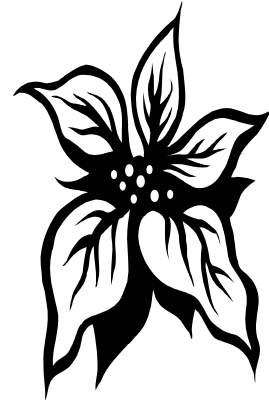
OR

Sign up at a table in the Commons on December 5 or December 12

*All orders must be placed by December 12*

*Please pay when ordering*

*Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church*



### How do I pick up my Poinsettia?

You can do one of two things:

1. You can order the poinsettia and leave it at church to decorate for our Christmas services. You can pick it up after the Christmas Day service.
2. You can pick it up the week before Christmas.
3. Poinsettias that are not picked up after the Christmas services will be brought to the nursing homes or shut-in's.

### *Poinsettia Order Form*

Name <small>(If you are purchasing this in memory or in honor of someone, please indicate how you'd like your name acknowledged – example: The Smith Family)</small>	Phone	\$15/each		Will you be leaving it here through Christmas services?	Check (made out to St. John's) attached
		Red	White		
				Yes	
				No	

This poinsettia is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

This poinsettia is in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pastors**

Bob Iverson  
 Mark Johnson  
 John Quam

**Building Manager**

Rich Kleeberger

**Children's Ministry**

Julie Brehmer

**Music Ministry**

Daniel Fenn

**Music Staff**

Tyler Forsythe - Alleluia  
 Cathy Rodland - Jubilate  
 Ruth Legvold - Laudate  
 Jo Dahlin - Rejoice Ringers

**Office Manager**

Stephanie Aman

**Parish Administrator**

Shelley Keske

**Parish Nurse**

Lynette Marks

**Shared Ministry**

Regina Hassanally

**Youth Ministry**

Mike Sherman

**Congregation President**

Tim Eklund



500 Third Street West  
 Northfield, MN 55057  
 507-645-4429

Nonprofit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 36  
 Northfield, MN

Address Service Requested

## Community Christmas Dinner

St. John's will again host the annual Community Christmas Dinner. This dinner, served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Christmas Day, attracts members from all parts of St. John's and the Northfield community. The dinner is free and open to all. This event offers the community of St. John's an opportunity to extend God's love in a meaningful and tangible way. As we offer a meal to those who come through our doors we follow in the teachings of Jesus and the traditions of the Christian church.

We need volunteer support in various forms. We need food contributions of cooked potatoes, salads, pies or cakes. We also need various workers to volunteer help for serving and cleaning up after the meal. There will be a sign up for all volunteer opportunities in the Commons beginning Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup> or contact: Char or Bill Carlson, 507-645-9642

[carlsoncharbill@msn.com](mailto:carlsoncharbill@msn.com) or Jeanette or Jon Rondestvedt, 507-645-2733, [ironlake@ties2.net](mailto:ironlake@ties2.net) or Regina Hassanally, 507-645-4429, [reginah@stjohns-elca.org](http://reginah@stjohns-elca.org).

## The Giving Tree,

**November 28 – December 12**

The Giving Tree will be up in the Commons from Sunday November 28 – December 12.

St. John's is sponsoring 200 local children whose families are unable to buy Christmas gifts. Paper stars will be on the tree with a gift idea along with the age and gender of a child. Purchased gifts should be placed, unwrapped, with the paper star attached, under the Giving Tree by Sunday, Dec. 12. In addition, we will also offer gifts



to our Companion Synod, the Central diocese of Tanzania and the Lutheran Church in Colombia. The tree will also be decorated with 50 envelopes for making donations to the Tanzania Scholarship Fund and the Lutheran Elementary School in El Cocuy, Colombia.