

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2011

Volume 51, Number 3

*on the  
inside . . .*

Camp Schedule

✧ p. 13

Call Committee

✧ p. 9

Maakestad Art  
Show

✧ p. 6

## 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](mailto:office@stjohns-elca.org).

For information, contact the Church Office:

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**website:**

[www.stjohns-elca.org](http://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.

## Journey Through Lent at St. John's

The Lenten season will feature worship, study, and fellowship. Mid-week worship begins on March 9, with Ash Wednesday services at Noon and 6:30 p.m. All other midweek worship service times will **6:30 p.m.** Beginning on March 16, Soup Supper will be served from 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

Small Group Ministry is sponsoring a book study. "An Altar in the World," by Barbara Brown Taylor, is the work to be examined. Themes from the book will be used in shaping the mid-week preaching series.

### Worship during lent (6:30 p.m.):

Wednesday, March 9	Ash Wednesday ( <i>Noon and 6:30 p.m.</i> )
Wednesday, March 16	"The Wilderness of Transition"
Wednesday, March 23	"Groundedness in Transition"
Wednesday, March 30	"Community Within Transition"
Wednesday, April 6	"Vision From Transition"
Wednesday, April 13	"Blessing of Transition"

*For Lenten mid-week services we will using "Holden Evening Prayer"*

### Soup Suppers (served from 5:15 to 6:30 p.m.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Serve</u>	<u>Clean-up</u>
March 16	Youth Ministry	Children's Ministry
March 23	Benevolence	Faith & Health
March 30	Adult Ministry	Stewardship
April 6	Business Mgmt.	Property
April 13	Worship & Arts	Evangelism/Communication

## Holy Communion During Lent

During the Lenten we will be celebrating and receiving Holy Communion in a slightly different manner. We will offer the wine and juice in pre-filled cups. This practice will cut down on the number of individuals required to serve and will offer the opportunity to use the altar rail, on occasion.

There will be a communion set-up demonstration for anyone interested in helping, held on Saturday, March 12 at 10:00 a.m.

We anticipate returning to the "pouring" method during the Easter season.

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** is a time of silence and prayer guided by a verse from Scripture. Let this time of contemplation help you mark the days of Lent. All are welcome, Thursday March 17, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room.

## Barnabas and Mark – A Stephen Ministry Story?

Barnabas proclaimed the Gospel of Christ throughout the Roman Empire at the same time Paul did. Barnabas' name means "the son of encouragement." And while the martyr Stephen might be called the first Stephen Minister, Barnabas could be considered the second Stephen Minister. Perhaps Barnabas' biggest contribution to the Christian church was his encouragement and care for his young cousin Mark. Acts 15:36-41 recounts the planning of Paul's second missionary journey. It begins with a sharp disagreement between Paul and Barnabas over whether to take Mark on the journey. Paul is against it, citing an earlier journey in which Mark had abandoned the group. The details are sketchy but the incident was enough for Paul to lose trust in Mark as a companion in ministry. Barnabas, though, had confidence in Mark and assertively stood up for Mark. Paul and Barnabas resolve the disagreement by going on separate missionary journeys – Paul and Silas to Syria and Cilicia and Barnabas and Mark to Cyprus. Barnabas' encouragement for and

**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.

patience with Mark likely had a great impact on Mark and his future as an apostle. Later we hear that Mark earned his way back into Paul's favor (2 Timothy 4:11) What would have happened to Mark had Barnabas not stood by his side despite an earlier failing? What we know is that because Barnabas had faith that a young man could overcome an earlier mistake or misjudgment, the church was blessed with two missionary journeys instead of one. Have you had a Barnabas in your life? Did someone encourage you and show faith in you when others doubted? Stephen Ministry is a ministry of encouragement. Like Barnabas, Stephen Ministers are companions for the journey, sharing the compassion, encouragement, patience and mercy of Christ with their fellow travelers. If you or someone you know could benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, contact a pastor, 645-4429 or Pam Schwandt, 645-6120.

*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*

**Northfield Grief Support Coalition:** A grief support group meets this month at the Northfield Retirement Community sponsored by NRC and Three Links. Meets Monday afternoons through March 28. Contact Tana Kelly for more information, 664-8821.

"**Journey Through Grief**" booklets are a grief resource for those in the first year following a loved one's death. Contact a pastor if you would like a copy for yourself or to give to a family member or friend.

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

*Matthew 5:4*

## Grief Support Ministry



*The following St. John's member died in this month last year. We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."*

March 18, 2010  
**Sanford Haugen**

## From our pastors . . .

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*For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for' you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'*  
(1 Cor. 11:23-25)



The distribution and reception of the sacrament of Holy Communion is central to our worship lives. At St. John's we are fortunate to offer the sacrament on a weekly basis. In recent months the Worship and Arts Board has been discussing various forms of distribution for Holy Communion. While the current method of pouring the individual cups has been the practice for a number of years, there has been a wide variety of forms used over the years.

In thinking about making a change – even for a season – a number of things were considered. Not least among these was whether the means of distribution was in keeping with our Lutheran faith. For that we rely on what our own ELCA says about distribution: *"The Eucharist or Holy Communion is above all a meal. And it is not mere bread and wine. We actually eat the Lord's body, and we drink the Lord's blood. It is an eschatological feast, that is, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. These facts shape how the elements are distributed. There are several possible modes of distribution. All of them assume that the elements are always handled with reverence and dignity, for they are the living Christ (Apology of the Augsburg Confession, article XXIV). Lutherans call the elements the means of grace, for through the eating and drinking we receive nothing less than the absolute presence of Jesus Christ. And we become what we eat, little Christs.*

*The most basic question to ask of any method of distribution is how well it responds to Christ's command to "take and eat" and to "drink from this, all of you...." At Christ's Last Supper, it is likely that he took a piece of bread, blessed the bread by giving thanks to God (as we do in the eucharistic prayer), broke the bread and gave it to his disciples as they were together at table. It is also likely that he took a cup of wine, blessed it by giving thanks to God, and gave it for the disciples to share by drinking from the cup."*

As far as distribution of the wine goes, the means of common cup, intinction (dipping into the cup), pouring from a common cup, and the use of pre-poured cups (from the common source) are all seen as keeping with our beliefs.

With that in mind, the Board made the recommendation that we try a different means of distribution for the season of Lent. During the season we will communion using pre-filled glasses of wine or grape juice. This seasonal change will allow us to do a number of things. First, we will reduce the number of people needed to serve communion (some have commented on the "wall of people" blocking the altar area. Along those same lines, we will have less chancel furniture, as the two tables currently used for glasses will be removed. Second, we will be free to use the altar railing, if the occasion calls for it. Third, we believe the chance for spillage will be greatly reduced. Finally, we believe this change will expedite this portion of the worship service.

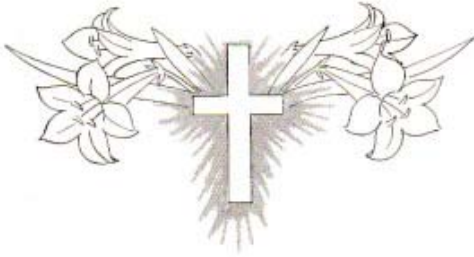
Please know that this shift in distribution is only for the season of Lent. But we do want to be open to trying things that will enhance our worship lives, without diminishing its integrity. Down the road, there could be other things that are recommended that may be of value.

As you continue to receive the sacrament, please know that it is being offered prayerfully, rightly, and in a proper fashion.

Yours in Christ,

# February Actions

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*All February and  
March gifts will  
be printed in the  
April Voice.*

## Other Actions

### Funerals

Helen Wallace, January 29, 2011

Muriel Wold, January 30, 2011

Bjorn Norgaard, February 20, 2011

Arthur Bagaason, February 23, 2011

Betty Fredrickson, February 27, 2011

### Radio Broadcasts

February 6, 2011, by friends of St. John's.

February 13, 2011, in loving memory of **Jim Braulick** on his February 14 birthday by Georgia Braulick

February 20, 2011, in memory of **Don McRae**, by Louise and the late Edwin Gass

February 27, 2011, in honor of **our 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary**, by Joyce and Eugene Schrader

# News and Events

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## Changes to Subscriptions to "The Lutheran"

Beginning in March St. John's will end its unrequested bulk subscription to the *The Lutheran* magazine. That means that if you would like to continue receiving *The Lutheran* you will need to contact Augsburg Fortress directly.

([www.thelutheran.org](http://www.thelutheran.org) or The Lutheran Circulation, Augsburg Fortress, PO Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730) Contact the Church Office if you have already made a contribution for *The Lutheran* through your giving envelopes. Limited copies of the *The Lutheran* will be available each month in the Commons.

If you wish to subscribe to *The Lutheran*, please do so directly. Effective immediately, any offerings given to St. John's for the Lutheran magazine will go to the General Fund and will not be applied to an individual subscription.

## Email notification of the *Voice*

As we attempt to make little changes to the way we communicate and operate under a tight budget, notification of the *Voice* being online will now be sent electronically to all members with a valid email address. Paper copies will no longer be sent to member households with a valid email address on file. There will be limited printed copies available at the church.

Remember, you can always print your own too!

## Pajamas for Christmas Sharing 2011

Cutters and sewers are needed on Monday evenings 6:30-9p.m., and Tuesday mornings 9 a.m.-Noon at the Northfield United Methodist Church. Call 664-3550 for more information.



Our 2011 Time and Talent Sheets are ready to be printed and sent. This year we're trying something new. You'll be receiving your Time and Talent Sheet in the mail to be returned during services on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Time and Talent Sheets have undergone some minor revisions that I hope will be helpful to you as you reflect on areas in which you'd like to serve. This year, along with each ministry opportunity, an approximate time commitment is listed. So as you fill out your Time and Talent Sheet indicating your interest in certain areas of ministry you'll also have a sense of how often we need volunteers to work in those ministries.

My goal is to have every person who receives a Time and Talent Sheet return it completed with at least one or two indications of willingness to serve. Please begin thinking now about the ways you would like to serve our congregation and community!

As you consider where you might serve please also consider the needs of the congregation. At this point in time there are several areas of ministry that need additional volunteers. The AV ministry team is one of these. We need additional people willing to operate the cameras, run the sound board or otherwise participate in the activities of the ministry. If you don't have experience that's okay, current team members are willing to train you.

Another area of particular need right now is our Hospitality Ministry Team. Sue Boxrud, and Char Nelson, for many years, have coordinated our hospitality events (think WelcomeFest Lunch, Prospective New Members Luncheon, Fourth of July Root Beer Floats) since 2007. Sue has decided to step down as Char did a year ago and they cannot be thanked enough for their tremendous work. One of the gifts Sue has given this congregation is a meticulously kept notebook with information on every hospitality event she and Char worked on. What we need now are people willing to coordinate certain events and work together with me (and the assistance of Sue's notebook) to make them happen. The next big event is MayFest, our end of the year celebration. If you're interested in helping with this event, or others like it, please let me know. Also, be sure to indicate that willingness on your 2011 Time and Talent Sheet under *Special Event Meals*.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> we'll also be offering a prayer of thanksgiving for the work of our ministry coordinators over the past year. If you have coordinated a ministry in the past year please plan to attend services on March 20<sup>th</sup> so we may show our appreciation for the work God has done through you.

I look forward to embarking on another year of ministry with you!

**Regina Hassanally**  
Director of Shared Ministry  
[reginah@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:reginah@stjohns-elca.org)

# News and Events

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## Strategic Planning Update

First, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) thanks everyone for the great participation and feedback during the past four months. We believe that we have captured an accurate picture of our congregation, in terms of core values; and have a clear idea of desired direction in ministry and mission.

The next step in the process is for the SPC to meet with the congregation council, March 22, to report on findings, and make recommendations necessary to effectively achieve the desired hopes and dreams discovered. A full report will be made to the congregation in the April *Voice*.

Following council actions and recommendations, the next course of action will be to elect a call committee, to begin the work necessary for the call of our next senior pastor. We anticipate this process will be underway this spring.

## Art Show in St. John's Fireside Room

Have you peeked into the Fireside Room lately? Did you feel the warmth of the artwork on the walls?

All of the artwork on the walls is that of John Maakestad, professor emeritus of art, St. Olaf College. John and Bobbie have generously made the dozen pieces of art in the room and another dozen on display at the Northfield Senior Center available for purchase, with all of the proceeds going to the Debt Reduction Appeal. This is an excellent opportunity to purchase a wonderful piece of art work from a well known Northfield artist and St John's member.

This show comes to us from the Owatonna Arts Center where it was until the end of January. When I first entered the room, I felt the warmth of the rich, colorful oil pastels dancing with their movement. They reached out and drew me in. Sylvan Durban, OAC director, said in an article about the exhibit, "What I think is exciting about his work is he really loves color. They're bright, intense and vivacious. ....bring all of these colors together to sing and sparkle and glow. .... I think they would translate into a stunning stain glass window because of how he plays warm colors against cool colors and also the movement of the lines and shapes."

As I walked around the room, I felt the movement of the pieces, flowing one into another, like waves on Lake Superior or the melody of a symphony. The room is alive with a

## Remember Me: Voices of the Silenced

Remember Me: Voices of the Silenced is an exhibit of original art that brings to life the decades-long conflict in Colombia. The exhibit will run Feb. 28-March 11 in Buntrock Commons at St. Olaf. Visitors will have the opportunity to experience the long-standing violence in Colombia in a new and deeply personal way. Visitors to the traveling exhibit will be able to see, hear, and touch artifacts, recordings and other items associated with Colombian violence including video testimonies of mothers who have lost their children to war, the pictures and an account of the life of a slain church leader, and a quilt made by a mother of clothes belonging to her missing daughters who were abducted by the Colombian paramilitary. Visitors will also have a chance to take action in support of the people of Colombia. The exhibit is brought to the US by Lutheran World Relief and has been showing across the US since last March. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA is a companion synod with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia.

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richness that warms the soul. "You have to listen to these pieces, feel the rhythms. You have to spend time with them and maybe you might arrive at the same title I do.", John said in the OAC interview.

**We will have the opportunity to hear John talk about the painting on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

In the meantime, spend some time feeling the pieces speak to you and purchase your favorite. They will be on display at least through the end of April. Proceeds from the sale all go to the Debt Reduction Appeal.

# Mission Outreach

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## “Gracias!” from El Milagro

The following letter, dated February 14, 2011, is from our partner congregation, El Milagro in Minneapolis. The signed “Gracias note” is on display on the mission board in the Commons.

Dearest Sisters and Brothers in Christ at St. John’s Lutheran Church!

Greetings of grace and peace to you all! At our Annual Congregational meeting yesterday, there was a resolution and resounding applause for St. John’s amazing support as a Mission Partner Congregation with El Milagro Lutheran Church. The deepening relationship of our communities formed over years together as partners, plus your generosity and commitment to El Milagro’s mission and ministry is deeply touching. Thank you, thank you – GRACIAS – for your generous gift last year. El Milagro would not be the “Miracle on 38<sup>th</sup> Street” without Mission Partner support. 2010 was a most difficult year for us, and your “over the top” generosity and caring response really touched us deeply.

Enclosed please find a “Gracias” note – a grace note signed by those present at our Congregational Meeting, thanking you and praying for your blessing in the mission and ministry we share in Christ’s name. We ask you to continue to hold us in your heart and prayers, as you remain in ours. Blessings of peace and joy this new year.

From the Congregational Council and people of El Milagro Lutheran Church,

The Rev. Judith VanOsdol  
Pastor, El Milagro Lutheran Church



## March is Minnesota Food Share Month

This month St. John’s joins other Minnesota congregations, synagogues, mosques, businesses, schools and media to help restock the food supplies of more than 300 food shelves across the state. St. John’s supports hunger relief efforts around the world through ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief but this month we focus our attention and efforts here in Northfield.

Food and cash donations are welcome at the Northfield CAC Food Shelf throughout the year but especially this month as the community shows support during Minnesota Food Share month. Those using the CAC food shelf do not have enough income to cover their basic needs. **Cash donations are preferred**

**due to the discounted food that food shelves are able to purchase. Every dollar donated to the CAC helps purchase 4 pounds of food.**

The support St. John’s members give to the CAC Food Shelf is one way to mark the season of Lent – as we seek to grow in discipleship and servant love, remembering the words Jesus spoke, “...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...” Matthew 25:35. Support of the CAC Food Shelf is another way St. John’s is extending God’s love in Christ.

Please use the special offering envelope you received in the mail to support the CAC this month. St. John’s Sunday School students are also participating in the Food Share month with a special offering challenge. Watch their progress downstairs. Thank you for supporting this life-giving community resource!

# Serving on Sundays in March

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## *Acolytes*

- March 6** (8:30) Dylan Matson, Taylor Pleschourt; (10:45) McKenna Boyum, Kelsey Bull  
**March 13** (8:30) Bennett Falck, Alaina Falck; (10:45) Evan Heather, Alex Gunn  
**March 20** (8:30) Ryan Buck, Nicholas Pelletier; (10:45) Amelia Tjaden, Amelia Kneser  
**March 27** (8:30) Rebecca Storlie, Lydia Storlie; (10:45) Synevva Bratland

## *Coffee*

- March 6** Chris and Martha Erickson, David and Kasia Gonnerman  
**March 13** Girl Scouts  
**March 20** Gene and Lois Bakko, Bill and Mary Gasho  
**March 27** Dagfinn and Lydia Moe, Joe and Ginny Shaw

## *Communion preparers*

- March 6** John and MaryBeth Bremer  
**March 13** Dale and Karen Schuette  
**March 20** Wes and Rae Pearson  
**March 27** Guy and Jonathan Reid

## *Nursery*

- March 6** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Claire Weiss; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Sheri Williams  
**March 13** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Claire Weiss; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Katherine Norrie  
**March 20** (10:30 a.m. - noon) Amy and Saul McBroom  
**March 27** (10:30 a.m. - noon) Todd and Connie Menssen

## *Ushers*

- March 6** (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  
**March 13** (8:30) Jim Enestvedt, Dan Franklin, 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  
**March 20** (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  
**March 27** (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:45) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback

## St. John's is on Facebook!

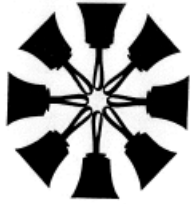


Friend us to keep up with the activities of the church! On facebook, search "St. John's Lutheran Northfield" and add us as a friend!



## Sunday Morning Concert: Rejoice Ringers!

Rejoice Ringers will be playing four octaves of Schulmerich handbells and three octaves of Malmark choir chimes during the Forum time in St. John's Hall at 9:45 a.m. If you have enjoyed the sounds of the bells from the balcony during Sunday morning worship, you will want to watch them being rung.



Handbell ringing is a visual as well as an auditory art. Come to watch and listen to these beautiful bells that have been enhancing our worship at St. John's for many years.

## Missing your Pans, Containers, Pie Plates?

It would be very helpful if the empty containers, such as cake and pie pans, plates, etc could be taken home within a week of the event for which you brought a treat. Please put your name on all parts of the container (lid AND base!) in permanent marker. Containers not claimed within a month will be given to the Used a Bit Shoppe or to a local charity. Thank you!

## Service of Healing at St. John's

A Service of healing will be held at St. John's on Sunday, April 3 at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. The service will include opportunities for individual prayers - for personal needs as well as prayers for the needs of loved ones; the laying on of hands and anointing with oil. All are invited to mark the days of Lent through this time of prayer and remembrance of God's promise of peace, healing, and wholeness. Contact Jane Rinehart for more information, 663-1659

## Interim Director of Youth Ministry Update

St. John's is seeking candidates for the position of interim Director of Youth Ministry. Applicants are asked to send resume and cover letter to Pr. Mark Johnson by March 15. The Youth Ministry and Education Board, in partnership with St. John's staff, will coordinate youth ministry until the time an interim Director of Youth Ministry is hired. For more information contact Pr. Mark Johnson or YME Board Chair, Peggy Dell, 645-5429.



## St. John's Soup 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!

Soup Supper is served from 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

Wednesday, March 2  
Pizza Night!

Wednesday, March 9  
No Dinner - Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 16  
Chili (veggie and Meat)

Wednesday, March 23  
Chicken Wild Rice  
Minestrone

Wednesday, March 30  
Veggie Beef Barley  
Broccoli Cheese

Wednesday, April 6  
Chicken Dumpling  
Potato Chowder

## Call Committee

The Congregation Council will be nominating a call committee, for Senior Pastor, to begin work later this spring. If you are interested in serving, please submit your name, in writing, to the Church Office; or speak to council president, Carrie Duba.

# News and Events

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## From the Peace and Justice group . . .

### Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly

Next meeting:  
Monday, March 21  
7:00 p.m.  
Fireside Room

“What is  
Required  
Discussion?”

Everyone is  
welcome!

- \* Reinhold Niebuhr’s examination of politics, religion, and Christian faith
- \* Reports on the faith that grew through crises and challenges in the church in Colombia
- \* Meetings and discussions for St. John’s Strategic Planning
- \* Recent nonviolent revolution in Egypt and related protests in other Middle East countries
- \* Issues addressed by the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition at the Day on the Hill

All of the above engaged our thoughts, and stirred our thinking about the role of the Peace and Justice Group at St. John’s this past year. At our March meeting (and perhaps continuing in April), we intend to discuss and discern, as best we can, how to live out what is required of us: to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly.

The work of justice and peace involves each believer and must be done by individuals. You and I, each one of us does the work of peace every day, whether we realize it or not. Doing the work of peace and justice is part of who we are as people of faith. Still, there are tasks that require us to work together here in Northfield and in the wider world. The scope of the challenges can feel overwhelming until we begin to think of specific goals and actions that we can take. Conversation as God’s people can point us to ways we can contribute to a culture of peace in our homes, our church, our community, our nation, and our world. Help us set some specific goals for our work together and develop a new mission statement for the Peace and Justice Group. Exploring and planning together reminds us of the many ways our peaceful acts can lead to a greater power to change what needs to be changed, to do what needs to be done.

Meetings are open to everyone. Many voices will make for stronger work. Please join us on March 21!

## Egypt: Another Step Towards Mainstreaming Non-Violence

Peace workers around the world watched the nonviolent challenge to the power of the Egyptian dictator with great interest and high hopes for the success of the movement against the violence and injustice of his regime. The pro-democracy group earned international gratitude for such a strong example of the power of a careful strategy and a determined, disciplined nonviolent process to create the space for renewing a culture of opportunity and human rights within a large nation.

The planning followed the principles for nonviolent actions, based on ideas of the American peacemaker, Gene Sharp. As more is learned about the history of

the April 6 Youth Movement and other groups who cooperated with each other we will make an opportunity to discuss these steps and the power of nonviolence.

The peace such actions achieve is, the poet Denise Levertov asserts, “an energy field more intense than war.”



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

**March 3, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**  
**Please note the time!**

ALL women of St. John's are invited to a special evening of storytelling and fellowship in St. John's Hall. Three of our members—Amy Boxrud, Kari Alberg and Winifred Alberg—will be telling their stories, and we will share a simple soup supper with dessert. Childcare will be provided for children up to age 12. Join us for a special evening of fellowship with your sisters in Christ. Contact Barbara Walters for childcare reservations ([waltersb2@gmail.com](mailto:waltersb2@gmail.com) or 663-1055). Contact Ruth Smestad Anglin if you need a ride ([ranglin@weststartv.com](mailto:ranglin@weststartv.com) or 301-4744).

## March Schedule

**March 1 and 15, 9:30 a.m.:** Knitters meet in the library

**March 3, 5:30 p.m.:** "Soup and Stories" in St. John's Hall

**March 7, noon:** Study leaders, Fireside room

**March 9 & 10:** Circles meet. The Martha/Claudia circle meets at the home of Sharon Bastian at 9:30 a.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 1120 Prairie Street.

**In March the Women's Breakfast Group** is planning a visit to a worship service at El Milagro in Minneapolis. Please check the Sunday worship folders and your email for more information on this event.

**March 14 & 17:** Quilting prep Monday, quilting Thursday, 9-11 a.m.; Fellowship Hall

**March 31, 9:30 a.m.:** Executive board meeting, Fireside room

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@augzburgfortress.org](mailto:subscriptions@augzburgfortress.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

## Looking Ahead:

Our April general meeting will be a Saturday noon salad lunch in St. John's Hall, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and our special guests will be the women of Trinity Lutheran in Northfield. Join us!

Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA**

# 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

## 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 645-1055

## 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

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)

## Join the Conversation

By Barbara Eaves

Does March send you dreaming of green grass and gardens, being at the lake or a baseball game? Do you spend time pouring over seed catalogs, sorting out your tackle box or looking longingly at your spring and summer clothing?

With temperatures in the 30's and 40's these past couple of days, grass is beginning to appear at the edges of the sidewalks and lots of snow is melting off of or being removed from roofs, bringing hope that spring may come soon, but then again, maybe not. In the meantime, the dark and heavy winter clothing is getting tiring to wear and is looking kind of grungy; the house needs airing out...and frankly, so do I.

An antidote for the doldrums of late winter is to find something fresh and new to keep from being impatient with a winter that doesn't want to let go. One good option is to:

*"Join the Conversation"* and participate in one of the small groups that being formed to read and discuss a book together during the season of Lent. There is still time to sign up.

**What book will we read?** *An Altar in the World*, by Barbara Brown Taylor. Books may be purchased at church for the discounted price of \$10. (The Adult Education and Ministry Board is paying the balance of the cost)

**When will groups meet?** Groups will meet for four times during Lent. You can choose from a variety of options:

Wednesdays March 16-April 6 - 11:00 am-Noon

Wednesdays March 16-April 6 - 4:30-5:30 pm

Wednesdays March 16-April 6 - 5:15-6:15 pm


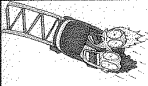
Wednesdays March 16-April 6 - 7:30-8:30 pm

Sundays March 13-April 3 - 9:40-10:45 am

**How does the book tie into Lent?** The book, which lays out some practical ways and places where Barbara Brown Taylor learned to encounter God beyond the walls of the church, invites the reader to consider these or other places and avenues where he or she might encounter God. In addition, Pastor Bob and Pastor Mark will be using some of the themes from this book for their meditations during Lent.

*"Join the Conversation"* is a new endeavor for St. John's. How many people can be found reading and talking about the same book during the Season of Lent? Why not be one of them? Call or email a member of the Small Group Leadership Team listed in the box on the left side of this page for more information or to sign up to participate.

# St. John's Summer Camp Opportunities!

Camp	Grade <small>Refers to grade completed</small>	Dates	Camp Description	Cost	Deposit	Registration deadline
Vacation Bible School (VBS)	Preschool 1 - K	August 7-10	Volunteers come together to provide this fun-filled week. Children enjoy music, crafts, games, Bible stories and friendships.	\$10 \$20/family to St. John's	No Deposit Volunteers Needed!	Registration coming in April
 "On the Road"	K - 4 <sup>th</sup>	August 7-10	"On the Road" is coming to Northfield again this year. Good Earth Village brings the camp to Northfield for 4 full days of games, songs, skits, devotions and fun!	\$65 payable to GEV	Register online at <a href="http://www.goodearthvillage.org">www.goodearthvillage.org</a> and click on "GEV On the Road", Northfield camp!	Full amount due May 1 <i>Limited spaces available</i>
Settlers Camp	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup>	June 26-28	Settlers is a three day, two night camp at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. Youth will be staying in the Log Lodge Retreat Center. Activities include worship, hiking, campfires, games, creek splashing, and visits to the canteen, singing and cabin time! Bring a friend!	\$150 by April 1, \$160 after	\$50 payable to St. John's	Deposit and reg. by 3/10 receive \$20 off! Balance due by May 1
Shores of St. Andrew	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup>	June 12-17	Spend the week on the beautiful shores of St. Andrews near New London, MN! You and your cabin mates will create crafts, sing songs, share in Bible studies, play lots of games and swim! Invite a friend!	\$350	\$175 payable to St. John's	Deposit and reg. by 3/10 receive \$20 off! Balance due by May 1
Beach House/ Confirmation at Green Lake	6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	June 12-17	We can't wait to have you join us at Green Lake in Spicer, MN for a week of games, campfires, crafts, swimming, worship and fun! Students are expected to attend Confirmation Camp at least once during their 7 <sup>th</sup> or 8 <sup>th</sup> grade year.	\$350	\$175 payable to St. John's	Deposit and reg. by 3/10 receive \$20 off! Balance due by May 1
Chicago Mission Trip	9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	July 16-22	Have an amazing experience working with the "Center for Student Missions" in Chicago! Youth will have the opportunity to serve the poor and needy of the inner city.	Approx. \$500	\$125 payable to St. John's	Registration open until May 1
For Settlers, Shores of St. Andrews and Beach House/Confirmation Camps we have limited reserved spaces for St. John's Youth. We will be happy to check with the camps for availability if the reserved spaces are filled.						
<b>Other stuff for middle school'ers...</b>						
 Magical Mystery Tours		Grades 5 - 8	Join us and other Northfield area churches for a mystery event in June, July and August. In the past we've gone to Valley Fair, Mall of America Water Park, Grand Slam, Feed My Starving Children... who knows where we'll go or what will happen. Watch for details.	If finances are tight we have camperships available. Just ask!		

Register for all camps by contacting Pastor Mark or Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, or email [mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org) or [jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org)

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

### **Sunday School Schedule**

March 6	Sunday School
March 13	Sunday School – <i>Daylight Savings</i>
March 20	Sunday School
March 27	Sunday School
April 3	No Sunday School – <i>Spring Break</i>

### **Catechism for Grades 4 and 5**

Wednesdays, March 2, 9 and 16

### **Movie Morning, April 4**

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. (*see article*)

### **Lenten Soup Suppers**

Begins Wed., March 16 at 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.  
Lenten Services, 6:30 p.m., (*new family friendly time!*)

### ***It's not too late to sign up for Summer camps!***

*Check out the possibilities on pg. 13*

## **CAT Resumes March 2**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, March 2. CAT classes meet in the lower level of St. John's; 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Fellowship Hall studying the Ten Commandments and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Youth Room, studying the Apostles' Creed. They meet from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays in March: 2, 9, and 16. Don't forget your CAT books!

## **March Food Share Campaign**

This month, Northfield Community Action Center has its annual Minnesota Food Share Campaign. St. John's Sunday School classes will be participating in the drive to help benefit our local food shelf.

During March, we are asking for donations from St. John's kids in one of two ways: **With cash donations** – The Community Action center has the ability to purchase food items at a much lower cost per pound than the average consumer can, so cash is preferred. March's Sunday School offering will be donated to this drive. **With food items** – donations can be placed directly in the grocery cart that will be displayed across from the Nursery

This is a great opportunity to talk with your children about how they can help their neighbors! If you have any questions, please call Julie at 645-4429, ext. 25. Thanks!

## **Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!**

Kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger are invited to come in their pajamas to movie morning at St. John's! Come for breakfast and stay to watch the movie, "Tangled".

**Where:** The Commons for Breakfast,  
Movie in St. John's Theater

**When:** Monday, April 4. **NO SCHOOL**

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or call Julie at 645-4429, ext. 25. Parent volunteers are welcomed!

## **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, March 12 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

## **Youth Fundraiser - Thank you!**

This year's Youth Fundraiser raised over \$4800! Thank you to everyone who volunteered donated and contributed to this year's event! All proceeds will be used to offset the cost of summer camp and mission trips for our youth. Special thanks to our fundraiser committee: Sue Brockman, Nick Neeb, Kelly Lynn Stanton Nutt, Katherine Norrie, Jessica Page, Jenny Pelletier, and Kirsten Fjeld Zillmer. And, thanks to Mike Sherman for being such a good sport to kiss the pig.

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

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## Middle School Sunday School

Grades 6-8

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

Middle School Sunday School meets in the Youth Room

March 6	Love They Neighbor	
March 13	LWR Day 2	Kathy Vang
March 20	Colombia Presentation	
	Jane Rinehart/Kristi Wermager	
March 27	World Hunger	Peggy Hanson

## High School Sunday School

Grades 9-12

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

High School Sunday School meets in Rm. 09

March 6	Transfiguration	Judge-Beckers
March 13	That's Tempting!	Judge-Beckers
March 20	Born of the Spirit	Judge-Beckers
March 27	Samaritans	Judge-Beckers

## It's time to Bake!

Middle schoolers, are you ready to BAKE? We'll be baking cookies together on Saturday, March 19 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Afterwards, we'll head up to the Theater to watch a movie together. The movie is Secretariat. Bring a friend!

## Service Project for Youth

Soup Suppers during Lent start Wednesday, March 16. Youth are needed to help serve that night! We'll work in hour blocks of time...sign up! Sign up with the sign up sheet, or contact Peggy Dell & Pr. Mark.

## Hey 5<sup>th</sup> Graders - Come!

Join the Middle and High Schoolers in the two events listed above. We want to get you involved and you are welcome and invited to come and bake, watch a movie, and serve a Lent Soup Supper!

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## *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.*

*The St. John's Forum meets in St. John's Hall between services.*

**March 6:** *Sunday Morning Concert Series: The Rejoice Ringers. No Forum.*

**March 13:** *St. John's Forum: Reflections on Jesus, Part 2 presented by Charles Wilson, professor of religion at St. Olaf College.*

**March 20:** *St. John's Forum: The Context of the New Testament. Christians proclaim that "God gave his only son in order that we might not perish, but have eternal life." But what difference does it make that the son came in first-century, Roman-occupied Judea, and that he died on a Roman cross? What was the world into which Jesus came like, and what do we gain - both historically and theologically - by examining that world? Presented by Jim Hanson*

**March 27:** *St. John's Forum: Reflections on the New Testament, presented by Bill Poehlmann, professor of religion at St. Olaf College.*

**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 Nurse**

*Lynette Marks*

**Shared Ministry**

*Regina Hassanally*

**Congregation President**

*Carrie Duba*



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## Spring New Member Session - Consider Joining St. John's!

St. John's formally welcomes new member in the fall and spring. This spring, new members will be received on Sunday, May 1 at the 10:45 service. To help new member become better acquainted with St. John's, staff, and others in the congregation there are the following sessions:

**New Member Beginnings:** Sunday, March 20, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room; Getting acquainted and building connections at St. John's.

**Shared Ministry – Part One:** Sunday, March 27, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room; Exploring how shared ministry shapes the ministry at St. John's.

**New Member Connections:** Sunday, April 10, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room; Fellowship time with hosts- St. John's members who help to welcome and connect new members with the congregation.

**Shared Ministry – Part Two:** Sunday, April 17, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room; Exploring how shared ministry shapes the ministry at St. John's.

**New Member Reception:** Sunday, May 1, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room; St. John's Hall; Fellowship time with congregation between worship services.

**New Member Litany:** Sunday, May 1, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room; Sanctuary; New members are formally received during the 10:45 worship service.

Those wishing to join St. John's are asked to complete and return a Member Information Form by Sunday, March 20. Forms are available in the church. Contact a pastor for more information. Welcome to St. John's!