

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2011

Volume 51, Number 5

*on the  
inside . . .*

Call Committee  
Meeting - May 22  
◇ p. 5

Pictorial Directory  
◇ p. 11

Summer Camps/  
VBS!  
◇ p. 17

**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).  
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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.

## Spring Musical: Sunday, May 15

The children's choirs, under the direction of Cathy Rodland, will present "The Tale of the Three Trees" by Tom Long and Alan Pote. Sunday, May 15 at 9:45 in St. John's Hall.

## Sunday Morning Concert Features St. John's Youth

The final concert to close out the season will feature our own youth vocalists and instrumentalists Sunday, May 8 at 9:45 in the Sanctuary. **Performers are still needed.** If you would like to participate, please contact Dan Fenn at 645-4429 ext. 58 or at [danieljfenn@gmail.com](mailto:danieljfenn@gmail.com). Open to 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders.

## Easter Breakfast Thank You

Thank you to everyone who came to the Easter Breakfast. It was a great success! The money will be used to help our 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders get to camp this summer.

S · U · M · M · E · R ·  
**WORSHIP**

**Summer Worship  
Schedule begins May 29!**

8:30 a.m. - First Service  
9:30 a.m. - Coffee/Fellowship time  
(St. John's Hall)  
10:00 a.m. - Second Service

## Senior Recognition is May 22

On Sunday, May 22, during the 10:45 a.m. service we will be recognizing our High School seniors as they prepare to graduate and move onto new things in their lives. After the service the seniors and their families are invited to a special lunch in their honor.

**Taylor Ades**

**Annie Clack**

**Nicole DeCramer**

**Tony Do**

**Alex Gerdes**

**Dan Gerdes**

**Cory Henrichs**

**David Hirdler**

**Caitlin Kelly**

**Andrew Mikula**

**Kevin Moore**

**Nicholas Motzko**

**Hunter Pleschourt**

**Alex Rod**

**Michael Smith**

**Elizabeth Sorensen**

**Kelsey Sorensen**

Congratulations,  
Graduates!

# Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

## Prayer Ministry

**Gathered in the Word:** prayer using scripture as a guide. Meets Thursday, May 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

**Prayers** for healing, joys, and concerns of all kinds are offered by members of the Healing Prayer ministry team after both worship services on Sunday, May 1 in the small chapel upstairs near the Choir 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*

## Who Can Use the Care of a Stephen Minister?

We know that Stephen Ministers provide ongoing Christian care to people experiencing a wide range of life needs or crises including the hospitalized, the terminally ill, those bereaved, the divorced or separated, the elderly, the disabled or handicapped, those in a job crisis, the lonely and discouraged, first-time parents, empty nesters, the sandwich generation, new members of our congregation or community, and those in spiritual crisis. These are obvious needs, the kind you can see listed in our Stephen Ministry brochure. But there are also less obvious needs for which a person could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister.

One is the quiet sufferer, the unnoticed one. This person may be someone who encounters a series of smaller losses, stresses, or problems—any one of which

he or she could normally take in stride—but when added together pose a bigger challenge. It could also be someone simply affected by the timing of a certain loss. The loss itself may not normally be significant, but when taken in the context of the person's life at that time, it may be much more difficult to handle. In most instances, quiet sufferers may be able to work things through alone. However, they probably could work through it much better, faster, or with less stress with the help and support of a Stephen Minister.

Another need that often goes unnoticed is that of family members of a person in crisis. This person could be, for example, a spouse, sibling, child, or parent of someone who has been unexpectedly

*...Continued on pg. 7*

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

*Matthew 5:4*

## Grief Support Ministry

**Northfield Grief Support Coalition:** Two grief support groups begin meeting this month.

A support group for parents who are grieving the loss of a child meets Tuesdays, May 3 – June 7, 7 p.m. at the Northfield United Methodist Church. Sherri Bunch Quaas, 645-4300.

A grief group will meet Wednesdays, May 25 – June 29, 7:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. To register call Cathy Cammack, 645-7532.



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

May 9, 2010

**Carla Ann Muckey**

May 10, 2010

**David Batalden**

# From our pastors . . .

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## Back Into Life

“Why do you  
seek the living  
among the  
dead?” Luke  
24:5



When I visit my hometown I often stop by the city cemetery. My dad and a growing number of family friends are buried there in the plots southeast of town, just up from Riverside Park. I'm not always sure why I stop – the visits are usually brief, sometimes I don't even get out of the car. It's important for me to have that place to go to remember my dad but I've discovered that the cemetery is not the place where I feel most connected to him or others who have died. Those connections are more real and happen more often in my life as I experience the activities and the kinds of relationships, and share in the values that were important to my dad and other loved ones.

The women come to the tomb early on the first day of the week to complete a proper burial for Jesus by anointing his dead body with spices. But the tomb is empty and two angels ask the women, “Why do you seek the living among the dead?” (Luke 24:5a) It's a curious question. The women were looking for their dead teacher among the dead – a reasonable thing to do if you're not expecting to find anyone living. However, the women are told that “He is not here, but is risen. Remember how he told you...” (Luke 24:5b-6) The women hear this message, they remember what Jesus said about being crucified and rising again, and they believe. With the message of resurrection they are directed out of the cemetery and sent back into life, back to their family and friends and their community, to look for Jesus there.

What the women received that morning is the same thing we receive – a message of resurrection, the word that Jesus is risen from the dead, the good news that the story of God's love in Christ did not end in a tomb. And like the women at the tomb, each day, we are directed out of whatever cemetery we find ourselves in and sent back into life, sent back to our family, friends, and neighbors; sent back to our places of work, back into our congregation, and out into our community; sent back to the decisions that we need to make, great and small, as individuals and families, as members of St. John's going through a time of transition; we are sent back to all of this to look for the risen Christ.

As we go, we're given God's Word, the water of baptism, the bread and wine of communion, the forgiveness of sins, the communion of saints and the promise that we're connected to all who have gone before us - who have died in Christ. As we go, we're given a mission to serve our neighbors and we're given the hope that one day God will finish this story of salvation, as God has promised.

Mark

# April Actions

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## Memorials and Gifts

### Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Don Kimber**: by Kent and Allene Detlie, Beverly Mahachek, Loretta Siler, Jane Koskovich, Carol Carlson

### St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Ron Sahling** by Wil and Gert Brosz

In memory of **Muriel Wold** by Gary and Jane Dreier

In memory of **Dana Anderson** by David and Martha Brown

In memory of **Don Kimber** by David and Martha Brown

### Radio Fund

In memory of **Don Kimber** by Andy and Suzanne Langehough

### Debt Reduction

In memory of **Dana Anderson** by Bob and Jane Gelle, Pr. John and Louise Quam.

In memory of **Muriel Wold** by Marion Svendsen, Noreen Benson, Marilyn Boschee, Judy Broske, Michael and Lisa Canfield, Dick and Jo Dahlin, Leroy and Marvel Dreier, Paul and Laura Furhman, Bernice Lantz, Phil and Julie Morris, Jack and Virginia Pearl, Margaret Spear, Karen Uglen

## Other Actions

### Baptisms

**Beau George Paulson**, son of Scott and Jennifer Paulson; sponsors are Matt Faust and Blake Faust; April 3, 2011

**Stefany Michell Perez**, daughter of Martin Perez and Irene Dorantes ; sponsors are Elizabeth Cortes and Ronald Melara; April 10, 2011

**Osiris Nicoll Perez**, daughter of Martin Perez and Irene Dorantes ; sponsors are Graciela Gaona and Osiel Garcia; April 10, 2011

### Funerals

**Margaret Fjelstad**, March 28, 2011

**Harry Baker**, April 10, 2011

**Grace Huus**, April 17, 2011

### Radio Broadcasts

April 3, 2011, in memory of **Helen and Leon Ingram's Anniversary**, by their family.

April 10, 2011, in loving memory of **Don McRae**, from Marilyn and his family.

April 17, 2011, in honor of **Richard and Joyce Moore's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary**.

April 22, 2011, in memory of **Fritjof "Fritz" Christensen who's birthday was April 14**, by Judy Christensen.

April 24, 2011, in memory of **our parents and siblings**, by Dean and Dorothy Ostlie.

*More "April Actions" will appear in the Summer edition of the Voice!*

# . . . from the Executive Committee

(This letter was sent via email and mail to the congregation.)

Greetings from your executive committee! We are pleased to offer this update of our progress up to and into the call process. Some great steps have already been taken, we are in the midst of others, and exciting opportunities are developing. We are well positioned to continue moving ahead through this time of transition in a positive and productive direction!

As previously announced, the Strategic Planning Team (SPT) has completed its work. The work of this team was important to help us further define who we are, who we want to be, what our gifts for ministry and mission are, and where our areas of challenge lay. These were critical questions to ask as we prepare to call new leadership, as the answers inform our vision of the type of leadership that would be a best fit for us as well as for our candidate. The executive summary of this work has been sent to member homes with their giving statements and is also available in the church office, as are copies of the entire report. As noted in the summary report, the membership of St John's consistently identified the following as high interest areas of focus for our congregation as we move into the future:

1. Developing a core 'Family Ministry' around faith formation that is more than the typical model of children and youth programming.
2. A renewed focus on extending our welcome to both current members and the Northfield area to join our ministry and worship.
3. Launching the Call Committee process to begin the next step of our congregation's life.

In light of these conclusions, some next steps have already been taken. First, we are in the process of formalizing an agreement with an organization called InterServ Ministries. InterServ will work with our congregation by providing both interim youth leadership as well as guidance for developing an effective and authentic structure for growing and supporting a vibrant youth and family ministry. Members of staff, the Youth and Childrens boards, the Executive Committee, Personnel and Council have met with the InterServ team and are quite hopeful and excited about the opportunities this relationship will provide.

Secondly, as is appropriate to the timing of our process, and also as identified in the SPT summary as a step for which the congregation indicated readiness,

we are in the early stages of forming a call committee. We have been collecting nominations for several weeks and with gratitude have received the following nominations so far: *Genevieve Quarberg, Brian Evenson, Gary Wicks, Van Miller, Bill Carlson, Kayla Berger, Barbara Knaak, Fred Gonnerman, David Suderman, Mike Berthelsen, Gloria Porter, DeAne Lagerquist, Tim Eklund, Dave Hagen, Kathy Mroz*

Additionally, we have set the date for the special meeting to elect members of the call committee. As laid out in the bylaws, the congregational council set the membership of the call committee at nine members of the congregation who are elected at a special congregational meeting. **Sunday, May 22, 2011** has been selected as the date for our special meeting. The meeting will take place between services (9:45-10:30) in St John's Hall.

This is an exciting and fruitful time in the life of our congregation, and there are always opportunities for you to be part of this process! We welcome the interest, input and efforts of all of our members: we want to hear from, and partner with you! There are many ways in which to be involved, from simply taking the time to read the summary of the work of the SPT, to making sure you save the date and plan to be present at the special congregational meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, to prayerfully considering offering your name for consideration for participation on the call committee. If you have expertise, experience, interest or concern about one of the areas of focus identified in the strategic planning report, you are encouraged to contact the church office and place your name on the list of nominees. Though we will ultimately only elect nine, our voting process – and by extension the call committee itself – is strengthened by having a robust and diverse slate of nominees from which to choose.

Thank you for your continued interest and support in discerning, developing, promoting and living the ministry and mission of St John's! To those of you who are faithfully involved and consistently share your time and talents, thank you! To those of you who are not sure where and how you fit, we have a place for you! Contact the church office or any member of the executive committee, we will be glad to hear from you!

Carrie Duba, Rich Falck,  
Dave Neuger, Jeff McLaughlin  
St. John's Executive Committee

# Music and Worship Life at St. John's

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## Coming Soon to the Sanctuary: Pew Bibles

A seminary colleague of mine recently opined in her book *Salvation on the Small Screen* that we as Lutherans sometimes “seem less like a People of the Book and more like a People of the Bulletin Insert.”<sup>1</sup> If we print the scripture lessons in the worship folders from week to week, does that imply that the Word is somehow disposable? Does this diminish our view of the importance of scripture’s timelessness and place in our daily lives and our worship life as a community? (You know – *sola scriptura*, etc.) Very good questions, indeed.

The Worship and Arts Board would therefore like to implement the purchase of pew Bibles in the coming months. This will have at least two advantages. The first, and most important, is that the presence of Bibles in our Sanctuary will be an outward sign that we are, indeed, a “People of the Book” – a tangible sign that God’s Word is

truly alive and present in our worship. This will also cut down tremendously on the amount of paper needed to print the weekly worship folders so that we can be good stewards of our resources.

If you would like to make a donation to this effort, or if you would like to purchase one or more pew Bibles as a memorial gift, please contact the church office.

-Dan Fenn

<sup>1</sup> Bolz-Weber, Nadia. *Salvation on the Small Screen? 24 Hours of Christian Television*. Seabury Books/Church Publishing Incorporated (2008), pg. 32.



## Summer Musicians and Cantors Needed

If you would like to share your musical gifts with the congregation this summer by either serving as a cantor or providing vocal or instrumental music during offering and/or communion, please contact Dan Fenn for more information and to request a date.

## Hospitality Events Organizers and Communion Preparation Ministry Coordinator Needed

As the Adult Ministry and Education Board's article (see page 8) mentions we are approaching hospitality at St. John's in a new way. This year instead of having one person coordinate all hospitality events (events like Advent Fair, WelcomeFest, MayFest, the 4th of July Social, and New Members Receptions) we're asking individuals or small groups of people to organize a single event.

Peggy Dell and Kristy Harms have agreed to take charge of this year's MayFest, taking the end of the year celebration under the larger umbrella of Wednesday Night Meals. The next hospitality event at St. John's that needs a coordinator is also one of our best community outreach events. Each year St. John's provides free root beer floats to anyone who wants them before Northfield's fireworks display on the 4th of July. We need someone to coordinate this event.

I have excellent notes and directions from the previous coordinator, Sue Boxrud, and will work with the new coordinator of this event, and any other, on ordering supplies, etc. If you are willing to help organize this year's 4th of July Social, or if you are interested in helping organize one of our other hospitality events throughout the year (did I mention the St. Olaf Choir Reception is among them?) please let me know.

We also have need of an additional ministry coordinator for communion preparation. We are looking for someone to partner with Judy Smith in calling people to schedule them to prepare communion. The coordinator will schedule three months at a time, taking turns with Judy, and send instructions (available from the church office) to those scheduled. If you have time to make a few phone calls and drop some letters in the mail this may be the volunteer opportunity for you! Please let me know if you're willing to participate in the worship life of St. John's in this way.

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

*SERVING TO LOVE*  *LOVING TO SERVE*

### ...Stephen Ministry continued from pg. 1

incapacitated by an accident, illness, or some other significant happening. It is easy to recognize how the victim's life has been changed suddenly and drastically—but so has the family member's, who has been pushed (perhaps reluctantly) into the role of a caregiver. Immediate care may focus on the incapacitated person, while the family member's needs are forgotten or neglected. These are situations where a Stephen Minister could provide a high level of care to someone in a crucial, but often forgotten, role.

As members of a caring community, all of us at St. John's can "think Stephen Ministry" —look beyond the obvious needs for care and remember that there are many people whose needs have been overlooked or are not obvious. Identifying people with those needs, caring for them as appropriate, and helping them find the level of care they need are all important parts of "thinking Stephen Ministry."

If you or someone you know could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, please contact Joan Halvorson (645-8445) or a pastor (645-4429).

## **From the Adult Ministry and Education Board:**

### **Hospitality at St. John's**

Many times we read stories of hospitality in the Bible. One vivid example is the generous welcome Abraham gives three men who visit his tent one hot day long ago. As a result of this hospitality, these angels tell Abraham and Sarah of God's plans: a child in their old age. Similarly today, how often has time spent over a meal made a difference in our lives, big or small?

At St. John's, you may be surprised to hear how many hospitality events are ongoing, things like new member lunches and receptions, WelcomeFest, Advent Fair Luncheon, Wednesday night meals, 4th of July Social, and many others. You might also be surprised to know that a relatively small, dedicated group have been doing nearly all of the planning and arranging (Sue Boxrud, Char Nelson, Linda Anderson, Peggy Dell, and Kristy Harms).

The Adult Ministry and Education (AME) Board needs YOUR help, to keep these events (and others) still going. Hospitality events are a crucial way for St. John's to minister and reach out to those in the community as well as to engender

relationships between fellow members. Without some new support from you, the unpleasant truth is that some or all of these events cannot continue. What the AME Board, however, is counting on is the dedication of St. John's members to continue and advance this important ministry.

The AME Board needs individuals/couples/groups of people interested in helping to organize specific hospitality events. If you would be able to assist with this please contact Katie Helgen (645-6600, helgen.katherine@gmail.com) or Regina Hassanally (Church office, reginah@stjohns-elca.org), and we can help put you to good use. Please thoughtfully consider if you could help be a part of continuing St. John's Hospitality tradition.

## **From the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board:**

### **ELCA Good Gifts**

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 or other loved one. Whether you are looking for a gift to equip, nourish, nurture, heal, inspire, respond, or partner, your gift supports and strengthens the work of the ELCA and St. John's. For example, your gift could provide a mosquito net for a family in a malaria-prone area of the world, a microloan

for a woman starting a new business, tuition for a seminarian, or expenses for a missionary family.

Visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) to order online. A printed catalog and paper order forms are also available at St. John's. Contact Jonathan Norrie (664-9488) with questions.

# News and Events

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## Special Offering this month to Lutheran World Relief

The special giving envelope in May is designated for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The goal for St. John's this year is to raise \$6000 for LWR. Although, some may have made donations to LWR for the disaster relief in Japan, the on-going work of LWR needs our support. The LWR web page gives this summary of their work around the world:

"Every day in 35 countries, Lutheran World Relief works to combat the causes of poverty and the dignity it robs from people's lives. We advocate for Fair Trade that helps farming families and artisans earn a better income. We teach people to better care for themselves, their communities and the environment. We teach people how to be less vulnerable to natural disasters. We advocate with and for them for policy change that more fairly represents them. We counsel them after manmade and natural disasters, and help them recover

with material aid. We do all of this exclusively with partners from the communities we serve. Our partners help us remain incredibly efficient and effective. Our partners let us help people help themselves...for a day when they won't need us at all."

Please note the envelope marked "ELCA World Relief" will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you for your support of LWR!

## Celebrating 100 years of Lutheran ministry in the Central Diocese of Tanzania

2011 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Church in the Central Diocese of Tanzania. To celebrate the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, a companion synod to the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, is raising \$100,000. The money raised will help support the educational ministries of the Central Diocese, in particular, the training of secondary school teachers and nurses through the newly established Singida University. This gift will help bring hope and a brighter future for the people of the Central Diocese and for all the people of Central Tanzania, as well as be a sign of our partnership in ministry. Last year, St. John's contributed \$1,000 toward this anniversary gift. The appeal ends on June 30, but only \$25,000 has been raised so far. Individual gifts are welcome and needed to make the goal. To contribute, make checks out to the Southeastern MN Synod with "TZ 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary" written on the memo line. Send checks to SEMS, 1001 14<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Ste. 300, Rochester, MN 55901. More information is available on the Mission bulletin board near the Church Office. Contact Jane Rinehart with any questions.

## "Raise the Roof" Dinner for Habitat For Humanity

Help support Rice County Habitat for Humanity by attending the Raise the Roof Dinner on Sunday, May 1, 5:30 p.m. at the Legion Club in Faribault. You'll enjoy a great dinner, music from Herb Sellner, and three young people from Habitat Partner Families will share their stories. There will also be silent auction items to bid on.

Tickets are \$25 at the door (cash or check only) or \$26 when you buy on line (\$1 processing fee for credit card). Tickets are available [www.habitatricecounty.org](http://www.habitatricecounty.org) or by calling Sandi, 507-323-0170. This year houses are being built in Northfield, Morristown, and Faribault.

# *Serving on Sundays in May*

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## *Coffee*

- May 1 David and Debby Nitz  
May 8 Amy Boxrud and Doug Bratland, Dave and Ruthie Neuger  
May 15 Jane and Bob Gelle, Bryan and Darcie Boyum  
May 22  
May 29

## *Communion preparers*

- May 1 Sharon Bishop, Ginny Shaw  
May 8 James and Judy Cederberg  
May 15 Alan and Lynette Marks  
May 22 Joe and Carol Neshiem  
May 29 Barb Knaak, Shirley Falck

## *Nursery*

- May 1 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Claire Weiss; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Kristen Partlo  
May 8 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Claire Weiss; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Adam Neuger  
May 15 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Claire Weiss; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Mara Hessian  
May 22 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Claire Weiss; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Betsy McLaughlin  
May 29 (9:50-11:10) Steve and Shari Williams

## *Offering Counters*

Bob Gelle, Terrence Hassanally, Jim Enestvedt

## *Ushers*

- May 1 (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (10:45) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber  
May 8 (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  
May 15 (8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:45) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary  
May 22 (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:45) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback  
May 29 (8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary

## Pictorial Directory Coming Soon!

St. John's will be producing a new pictorial directory with Olan Mills. Families participating will be receiving a \$25 Portrait Coupon that can be used toward any portrait purchase and receive a FREE directory. Our photography dates are Sept 19-24 & Sept 27- Oct 1 with the hours of 2:00-9:30 p.m. for weekdays and 9:30-5:00 on Saturdays. If you would like to sign up early you may call 800.866.2263. Look for sign ups beginning at church mid-August. There are many new portrait options available and the photographer has more time with our families than ever before. Please participate! Our directory won't be complete without YOU!

## Interim Director of Youth Ministry Update

Last month, St. John's council agreed to enter into an agreement with InterServe Ministries. InterServe is an organization based in the Twin Cities that serves congregations during changes in children, youth, and family ministries. An InterServe Associate works part time to provide leadership for current ministries and programs as well as helping congregations prepare and vision for the future. After an initial meeting with the InterServe Team, members of staff, the Youth Ministry and Education Board, Personnel, and the Executive Committee will meet this month to choose an Interim Director of Youth Ministry candidate from InterServe. The hope is to have the interim position filled by the end of this month. For more information contact Pr. Mark or log on to InterServe's website: [www.interserveministries.org](http://www.interserveministries.org)

## Healing Prayer Service

St. John's Sunday night healing service on the first Sunday of April was attended by 30 persons. Being encouraged by this response, the healing ministry team will lead a Service on the first Sunday night of each month. The next Service will be on May 1 at 6:30 p.m. The prayers for healing on the first Sunday of the month at the morning Services will now be held after the each service in the re-decorated chapel on the 2nd floor.



## St. John's Suppers

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

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

Wednesday, May 4

Pizza Night

(\$1.50 per slice)

Wednesday, May 11

Taco Boats

Wednesday, May 18

Mayfest Celebration!

Fried Chicken and sides

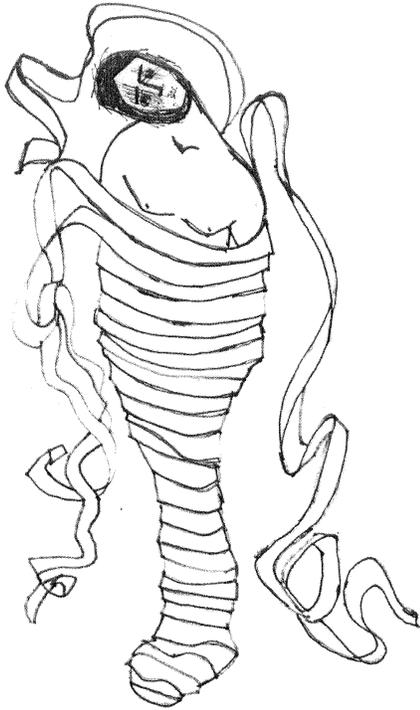
A HUGE thank you to all who helped with Wednesday Night Meals this year. What a great success!

# News and Events

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## A St John's Blessing: The Debt Reduction Appeal

Since we began the St John's Debt Reduction Appeal in January many members of our congregation have responded in an amazing fashion to removing this debt burden. This is truly an example of the power of God working in our St



John's community. In spite of a severe economic crisis our mortgage balance has been reduced from almost \$800,000 to under \$300,000 at the present time. In addition there are almost \$200,000 in outstanding pledges that will be paid by the end of 2012 by members making regular contributions. We have already reduced the debt payment expenditure for 2011 by over \$20,000 (our original goal) and in every future year the annual reduction will now be more than double that amount

even before additional contributions are made.

During this appeal all contributions have been contributed directly to reducing the mortgage balance. Not one dollar of the contributions has been used for appeal expenses. We have of course been blessed by significant contributions for printing and staff assistance from David Neuger and Neuger Communications and by a major contribution of professional administrative service by Sandy Whitworth. Overall this is an example of our church coming together to meet an important need for our church. And the appeal is moving toward its final goal!

Now we hope to close the gap of less than \$100,000 to complete the task of removing this mortgage. So we are asking that everyone who can provide a bit more to our appeal to do so now. If you have not made a contribution we ask that you participate in any way that is possible from your resources. We are now past the tax deadline and many of us have a better understanding of our financial situation. If you are receiving a tax refund, possibly some of that could help us complete the appeal gap. We ask you to search for any way to help. And of course if more is contributed than needed for the first mortgage that amount will be applied to the principle of the other mortgage. All contributions no matter how small reduce the debt even more. And of course money contributed earlier to reduce the debt reduces the amount paid in interest from our regular mortgage payments and that interest savings further reduces the debt principle. So we ask for your prayerful consideration of this important step in the life of St John's.

Finally we must express our sincere appreciation for the outstanding response from the congregation. This too has been part of God's work.

Bill and Char Carlson  
Genevieve and David Quarberg  
*Appeal Co-Chairs*

# News and Events

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Next meeting:  
Monday, May 16  
7:00 p.m.  
Fireside Room

## Action for Justice and Peace

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

#### Bread for the World Offering of Letters

“We are driven by our faith to make our voices heard in Congress and to make our nation’s laws more fair and compassionate to people in need.” David Beckman, President of Bread for the World (BFW), sends this declaration to congregations and individuals who are members and supporters of BFW to encourage participation in this year’s Offering of Letters.

Over the last few years important steps have been taken by the U.S. administration, the U.S. Agency for International Development and Congress toward making U.S. foreign aid more effective in reducing hunger and poverty. Pastor Beckman credits advocacy by BFW members with helping to achieve critical changes that have reduced hunger and poverty in developing countries like Haiti and Liberia. In September 2009, for example the Obama administration launched Feed the Future, an initiative that aims to reduce hunger and poverty in the developing world by investing in the agricultural productivity of poor farmers. Last year saw the release of our country’s first Global Development Policy, a strategy that for the first time provides clear guidance to all U.S. government agencies carrying out development programs in low-income countries. Beckman now cites the need to build on what has been accomplished to finish the work of transforming U.S. aid for the benefit of hungry and poor people around the world. He reminds

us that the Offering of Letters “sends a powerful message to our country’s political leaders and helps us as a nation move closer to our goal of ending hunger.”

St. John’s is a Bread for the World covenant congregation. As individual members of St. John’s we can join BFW’s concerted efforts to reduce the number of people in poverty by writing our senators and representative. On Sunday May 22 the Board of Benevolence and Social Concern and the Peace and Justice committee invite you to write your letters in the Commons after either service. Information including a sample letter will be provided and you might take time to watch a brief video presentation that will be running at the writing table.

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice comprising individuals and churches from many different traditions who work together to win passage of bipartisan legislation to change the conditions and policies that allow hunger to persist. BFW president, Rev. David Beckmann (ELCA), is author of the recently published *Exodus from Hunger* (available in the church library). He was a co-winner of the 2010 World Food Prize. The prize honors people who have made breakthrough achievements in the quality, quantity and availability of food throughout the world.

# Mission Outreach

## 2010 St. John's Youth Mission Trip Inspires Service Project

Last summer St. John's Youth participated in a YouthWorks! Mission project on the Rosebud Reservation of south-central South Dakota. St. John's member and High School Junior Katie Bull wrote this article for the Voice to share how the mission trip impacted her life and how her experience inspired her to coordinate a service project that connects children in Northfield with children on the reservation. This summer St. John's youth will participate in a mission project in Chicago sponsored by the Center for Student Missions.

This past summer, I went on my first mission trip with our church to the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. I had never experienced poverty before this trip, and it was a big change from what I was used to. All week our group and I worked on fixing up teacher housing (which were more like run-down trailers), which was nice, but this task didn't have a huge impact on me.

Then, on our second-to-last night on the reservation, we were coming back to the school where we had been sleeping after an evening spent at an outdoor concert in the community. We went down to the room where we had nightly devotions, and our site director made an announcement. That day, a Native American girl on Rosebud had taken her own life. None of us knew this girl- I don't even know her name- but she was sixteen. She was a sixteen year old girl growing up in the Midwest- she was me. It was only luck of the draw that I grew up somewhere where I had absolutely everything I could ever want, and she had nothing. My life was perfect, and hers was so not perfect that she had to end it.

I was literally obsessed with this girl- she consumed me. I wrestled with God. I was supposed to be there at Rosebud spreading His love, but I didn't know how I was supposed to represent Someone who'd let this happen to a little girl. I was so incredibly angry.

Finally I remembered something I had seen on a wall at the school. It said:

"A man approached God and asked, 'You claim to love us, but why is there so much pain and suffering in this world? *Why are you not doing anything?*'"

God replied, 'I already have. *I made you.*'"

When I took Sarah Swan-McDonald's Service Learning class this fall, I knew what project I needed to take on. Along with three of my friends (Annie DeSutter, Kirsten Lyons, and Nicole Smetana), we formed the program Kids Connection. The first phase of Kids Connection was connecting a class here in Northfield (Mrs. Schuster and Mrs. Rockne's fourth grade class at Bridgewater) with a fourth grade class at Rosebud Elementary on the reservation through writing letters as pen pals. Then, once the initial connection had been made, we empowered the fourth graders to take what was now their project to the rest of their school. We taught the fourth graders about things like poverty rates on the reservation, and then they went to each individual classroom and presented, setting the stage for a school-wide fundraiser that raised over \$900 for playground equipment at Rosebud.

I absolutely had to do this service project. I needed to, in my way, fix this. Things at Rosebud are not okay. For some, it's so not okay they just have to end it. She was the *sixth* suicide at Rosebud that year. It was mid-July. The pen pal aspect of this program is so much more important to me than the fundraiser. I didn't want these kids getting free stuff from a bunch of rich kids in Minnesota. I wanted them to get a jump rope from their friend Johnny who goes to Bridgewater and is nine and has an older sister, just like they do. I need these kids to know that there is someone off the reservation who genuinely cares whether they live or die, who values them specifically as an individual. If I can save just one of these kids from doing what that girl did, it will all be worth it, and maybe then she wouldn't have died for no reason at all.

-Katie Bull



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

On Saturday, May 7th, Northfield's Ecumenical Women will gather for the 11th time, to "renew friendships and the bonds of faith" they share. This year's hosts, women of St. John's Lutheran Church, will serve a brunch at 9:30 a.m., followed by a program featuring Northfield's own Seasoned Singers (directed by Donna May) and the annual offering for Fellowship of the Least Coin projects. Questions? Call Judy Swanson at 645-6017.

## May Events

Tuesday, May 3rd, 9:30 AM—Knitters

Saturday, May 7th, 9:30 AM—  
Northfield Ecumenical Meeting

Monday, May 9th, noon—Study leaders, Fireside

Wednesday and Thursday, May 11th and 12th—Circles meet

Saturday, May 14th, 8:30 AM—  
Women's Breakfast Group, Fireside

Monday, May 16th, 9:00 AM—Quilting prep

Tuesday, May 17th, 9:30 AM—Knitters

Thursday, May 19th, 9:00 AM—Quilting

Thursday, May 26th, 9:30 AM—Executive board, Fireside

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** – the Martha/Claudia circle will meet at the home of Eulalie Smestad, 713 Lincoln Street North, on Thursday, May 12th at 9:30 a.m

**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**

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 663-1055

## **Women of the ELCA Knitting**

Contact: Bobbie Maakestad 645-4397

## **Women's Bible Study at Parkview West**

Contact: Dick Dahlin 645-5978

## **Women of the ELCA Quilting**

Contact: Kathy Vang 645-4849

## **Women's Breakfast Group**

Contact: Kathy Mellstrom 663-1451

## **Love Lives Again**

*By Barbara Eaves*

When I was in kindergarten, I remember one day in early spring, when there was still a pretty good bite in the air, I got a scolding from my teacher because I wore a light cardigan sweater to school instead of a warmer jacket. Thinking back on it, I can imagine my teacher wondering what was wrong with my mother to let me get by with such a thing. But then, my teacher probably was unaware that this very small but strong-willed child most likely had put up a fuss at home and her mother decided it wasn't worth a battle. Perhaps that experience is why I chuckle today when I see college students donning shorts and flip-flops the minute the temperature reaches 40.

It is true that we who live in the northern climes can get pretty excited by the least sign of spring...the tulips poking through the cold earth, the first sight of a robin...and dare I say, college students in shorts and flip-flops. In years similar to this one, where it seems to take forever for spring to set in, many of us get a little testy with each return of cold and snow. Yet, spring comes, in one way or another, each year.

Isn't it amazing...the drama that is spring. Actually it is probably more like a light musical than a heavy drama. I recall lines from the operetta, *The Mikado*, "*the flowers that bloom in the spring, tra-la, breathe promise of merry sunshine*". The colors of spring—the vibrancy of those first flowers and the trees showing forth every possible shade of green—are wonders to behold. And so we sing.

Witnessing spring unfold around us, we can easily draw some parallels to the resurrection. In the miracle of spring, out of the barren and bleak earth trees and flowers blossom once again. In the mystery of Christ's resurrection, which we cannot understand or explain, life is restored and our Easter hope in something more is renewed once again. And so we rejoice.

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

ELW #379

*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,  
[cbuck@charter.net](mailto:cbuck@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)

# 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.

Please note: St. John's Forum does not meet this month and will resume in the fall. Suggestions for Forum topics are welcome. Please contact Pr. Mark Johnson or Guy Reid.

**May 1:** Reception for New Members. St. John's Hall

**May 8:** Sunday Morning Concert Series: Youth Recital, Sanctuary.

**May 15:** Sunday Morning Concert Series: Youth Musical, St. John's Hall.

**May 22:** Special Congregational Meeting. St. John's Hall.

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## On the Road and VBS - 2011

This summer St. John's, along with Bethel Lutheran Church and Emmaus Baptist Church, will be offering a joint Vacation Bible School/Summer Camp experience for children age 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> grade the week of August 7-11.

For kids completing K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade  
"On the Road", August 8-11  
Held at St. John's Lutheran Church

Good Earth Village, "On the Road!" will bring the fun of summer camp to Northfield. This 5-day program is



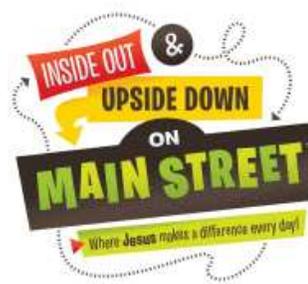
filled with games, worship, crafts, Bible study and singing. Registration is through Good Earth Village.

Campers can register on-line at [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) or by completing a registration form available in the Commons. Since this is a community-based event please send your registration in early. Good Earth Village can accommodate about 125 campers.

For Kids Age 3 (by 9-1-10) - Kindergarten  
"Main Street" Vacation Bible School, August 8-11  
Held at Emmaus Baptist Church

"Main Street" VBS is a time for your kids to gather together as a community and grow in faith exploring

connections with God, family, friends and others around the world. Kindergarteners have the option of going to either VBS or "On the Road". The VBS program will be half days whereas "On the Road" is a full day experience. You decide which camp works best for your child! Registration forms available in May in the Main Office and in the Commons! Come join us on Main Street!



**Important Dates to Remember!**

**Sunday School Schedule**

Sunday, May 1                      Sunday School  
 Sunday, May 8                      Sunday School  
 Sunday, May 15                    Last day of Sunday School  
     *(Ice Cream Treats and Musical)*

**Sunday, May 15**

Children's Choir Musical. See article on front page.

**Wednesday, May 18**

Last Wednesday of Children's Programming and Afterschool Bus; "End of the Year" Celebration

**June 12-17**

Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp (gr. 4-5)

**June 26-28**

Settlers Camp at Good Earth Village (gr. 2-3)

**August 8-11**

Vacation Bible School and "On the Road!"

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade CAT Projects**

In April, a Catechism retreat for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students was held to talk about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This year's retreat included an at-home project that asked parents and students to create something that shows what the Sacrament of Holy Communion means to their family. The projects will be on display in the Commons starting Monday, May 1 – Sunday, May 15.

**Summer Nursery Schedule**

Starting on Sunday, May 29 the Nursery will be providing childcare during worship for only the 10:00 a.m. service during the summer months. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer.

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

**Easter Egg Hunt 2011**

Thanks to all who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt by donating candy, filling and hiding eggs. We had a big crowd and lots of fun! Special thanks to Goodbye Blue Monday for providing delicious coffee!

**Mark your calendars for MayFest!**

This year's MayFest (End of the Year celebration) will be held on Wednesday, May 18! Starting at 5:15 p.m. enjoy our Wednesday night meal and then stay for the entertainment! Everyone is welcome!

**May 18 is also the last Wednesday for afterschool bus service and children's programming!**

**Great big thanks to our Wednesday afterschool volunteers this year:**

**Bus Angels:** Peggy Dell, Sally Lindell, Andrea Hoff, Jenny and Zach Pelletier, Shirley Nelson, Connie Menssen, Julie Becker, Kristin Fjeld-Zillmer, Robyn Peterson

**Snack Servers:** Frances Boehning, Amy McBroom, Christy Hall-Holt, Connie Menssen

**Kid's Club Helpers:** Kristy Mikula and Stephanie Aman

**Afterschool Helpers:** Mike Sherman and Joe Paillé

**Bell Chime Director:** Jenny Pelletier

**Alleluia Choir Helper:** Connie Menssen

•••••  
 • **Thanks!** To all the Sunday School children for participating •  
 • in the March FoodShare Drive! During the month of March, we •  
 • raised \$310.00 and collected groceries to give to the Northfield •  
 • Community Action Center. Thank you for caring about our •  
 • friends and neighbors in our community. •  
 •••••

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

## 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

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| May 1  | Faith Talk led by David Quarberg                  |
| May 8  | Youth Recital, Sanctuary                          |
| May 15 | Party and Children's Musical - Meet in Youth Room |

## High School Sunday School Grades 9-12

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

High School Sunday School meets in Rm. 09

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| May 1  | Meet in Rm 09                                     |
| May 8  | Youth Recital, Sanctuary                          |
| May 15 | Party and Children's Musical - Meet in Youth Room |

## Seventh Graders Visit Synagogue this month

The Seventh Grade Confirmation class will visit Temple of Aaron Synagogue in St. Paul on Friday, May 13. The trip will include a tour of the synagogue, Sabbath worship, and reception. Due to the trip there will not be Seventh Grade confirmation on Wednesday, May 11.

## High School Seniors

You will be recognized on Sunday, May 22 at the 10:45 service. A special lunch in your honor will be served in St. John's Hall for

you, your family, and your confirmation mentor.

You will also be asked to help participate in both services that day. Watch for more information in the mail and email.



## Chicago Mission Trip



Chicago Mission Trip participants and parents will meet Sunday, May 1 at noon in the Fireside Room. Two spots remain for the trip. If you'd like to learn more, you're welcome to attend this meeting. If you're not able to attend please contact Pr. Mark. See you there!

## Sixth Grade CAT

Sixth Grade CAT meets May 4 from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Room 9. We'll be creating a special class prayer based on what we've learned about the Lord's Prayer this past year. We'll also talk about what's ahead next fall in 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation. See you on the 4<sup>th</sup>!

**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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## MayFest at St. John's is Wednesday, May 18!

Come and celebrate the end of the year programming for children and youth and a fantastic year of Wednesday Night Meals. Meals will take a break through the summer months. What a great success!



This time of fun and fellowship is for ALL ages - there will be a dinner of chicken, beans, salads and chips. Entertainment will be provided. But don't leave early, there will be ice cream sundaes for dessert!

The fun begins at 5:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to come and celebrate a wonderful year together - see you there! Bring your friends!

Free will offering appreciated.