

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Summer, 2011

Volume 51, Number 6

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Worship Services:

8:30 a.m. & 10:00 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 15th of each month:

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website: *www.stjohns-elca.org*

Church office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

9:00 a.m. to noon and

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Friday

Closed

Your Children in Worship

*By Rev. Siri Strommen Campbell,
Synod Partner in Evangelical Worship
Submitted by the Worship and Arts Board*

My two children, Theodore and Lucy, have to be at church every Sunday. When both my kids were babies, I had a crib in my office and a curtain installed on my office window so I could nurse in private. On Easter Sunday, my kids are there the entire time. When it comes to worshiping with children, I've seen it all. Theodore has run clear across the sanctuary crying in the middle of Bishop Hanson praying. Temper tantrums and head bonks always seem to occur in the worst times of worship, especially when I am wearing my clerical collar.

Therefore, it is with authority that I tell young families to worship every single Sunday with their children. We have a generation of young families who are exhausted from the week and often naptime interferes with worship. Parents don't always want to drop their child off at another nursery. And most parents admit they aren't getting anything out of worship because they are policing their child the entire time. So they aren't coming. And in twenty years we will be the worse for it. Yet, I have seen the benefit in a mere five years of worshiping with my children. Theodore builds pipe organs out of Legos and understands that the basic things needed to play worship are a cross, bread and wine, candles, and yes – an organ. Lucy surprised me a few Sundays ago when she chanted "The

Lord be with you" right along with my colleague Dave Beckstrom during Holy Communion. She is not even three years old.

If we want to pass this amazing faith on to the next generation, it begins with worship. It begins with teaching families that it is okay to have children in worship. It is hard, it is exhausting, and it is a sacrifice parents are making on behalf of their children. We do not always get out of worship what we want, but there are so many other benefits we may not see, such as exposure to the Lord's Prayer, Holy Communion, hymns, real musicians, and Confession and Forgiveness. We need to teach our families this value and our congregations, too. When we all sacrifice together by bringing children to worship, we are planting seeds of faith beyond what we may ever see.



Summer Worship at St. John's!

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship between
services.

Come and worship at St. John's!

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word: Gathered in the Word will resume in September.

Prayers for healing, joys, and concerns of all kinds are offered by members of the Healing Prayer Ministry team between services every Sunday this summer in the small chapel upstairs near the Choir Room.

A Sacred Space

Not long ago several of us Stephen Ministers learned about a powerful phrase used by another Christian care giving group in Northfield: sacred space. Any place of meeting between a care giver and care receiver is a sacred space. It is sacred because a third party is always present to do the healing—Christ. This space is sacred whether the meeting comes through an official assignment or through everyday life.

A few days later I found myself in a sacred space, which happened to be in a grocery store late on Friday afternoon. I had just checked out my groceries when a friend stepped up to greet me in her bright, chipper way. I hadn't seen her for months, not since the funeral of her husband. I told her I had been thinking of her husband just the day before, and I explained what had occasioned my thoughts. She responded with a circumstantial account of his illness and death. She described the last two days of his life, offering intimate, poignant, funny, and heart-rending details. She apologized several times for keeping me there so long—it was only recently that she had felt a need to talk about these things.

A grief group meets Wednesdays in June at Bethel Lutheran Church, 7 p.m. For more information contact Cathy Cammack, 645-7532.

Grief Booklets: "Journeying through Grief" is a resource for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.

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.

Meanwhile people pushing carts laden with groceries flowed around us in both directions, heading for the doors to the parking lot. In the midst of this noise and movement, we two stood on a quiet island, a sacred space, speaking of holy things. Christ was vividly present for her and her family before, during, and after the dying, and Christ was there with us in the grocery store as she spoke and I listened.

Stephen Ministers are trained to listen. If you or someone you know could use the care of a patient, compassionate, and confidential listener, call Joan Halvorson (645-8445) or Pastor Johnson (645-4429).

*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*

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry



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

July 2, 2010

Edgar Larson

July 4, 2010

Lloyd Gunderson

July 8, 2010

Robert Seitz

July 13, 2010

Minnie Ozmun

July 24, 2010

Edwin Gass

From our pastors . . .



As I write this the call committee has been elected – but I cannot tell you who is serving on it, because my deadline preceded the congregational meeting.** However, I can tell you that, by this time, they have most likely met with Larry Iverson, from our Southeast Minnesota Synod office. He has laid out a plan of operation for them; and they are beginning work on putting together our ministry site profile. I am certain that this committee will be updating you regularly on their progress. As I have stated before, the information shared by the Strategic Planning committee will be most helpful in their work.

I'd like to reflect on the two key findings of the committee, and some of the things that are currently happening with regard to them. The first value lifted up was the value of **youth, children, and family**. This value emerged at the top of virtually every list of every search for congregational response.

Early this year we cut the full time position of Director of Youth Ministry. While this seems to be a contradictory move, our intention was to replace it with a ½ time interim director. The purpose of interim was to study our situation, and try to discover how best to approach and grow this important ministry. Beginning this summer, we are engaging a ministry called "Interserve." They specialize in interim youth ministry. Along with maintaining and ongoing youth ministry program, they also help guide the congregation through the process of examination – leading to a plan and direction for the hiring of the next permanent staff person.

St. John's has done some significant reflection about congregational life and direction over the past several months. This has set the stage for a well-informed call committee. In the same way, working with Interserve will allow us to reflect on the important value of youth, family, and children – and our response to that value.

The second thing pointed out by the Strategic committee was a call to **revisit the entire ministry area of being a "welcoming congregation."** In May we had a "hospitality audit" conducted. The results were interesting. Our signage, our official greeters, our worship bulletins and service, all received more than passing grades. However, two areas of concern arose: one was the way in which visitors were invited to attend upcoming events - even our morning fellowship time. The second was noted as the most important thing the congregation could do to enhance hospitality: "Teach their members how to greet guests and extend hospitality; and remind them of the role they play in making guests feel welcome."

Each of these important congregational values is lifted up, now, at every gathering of Boards, and meeting of Church Council; as a reminder to keep them at the forefront of thought as ministry and mission are being considered.

The response to all the work of the Strategic Planning Committee has begun, in earnest. But, it is up to each one of us to do our part as we move forward together in ministry.

Yours in Christ,

**Pr. Bob's article was submitted by deadline, but the *Voice* was printed after the congregation meeting.

The names of those serving on the call committee can be found on pg. 4 -Stephanie

April and May Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Don Kimber**: by Lenoard DeWolfe, Lester Gunderson, Steve and Judy Swanson, Bernie Blanness, Basil and Kathy Mroz, Gert and Wil Brosz, Marilyn Boschee, Dave and Cheryl Buck, Chuck Lunder, Margaret Ahlstrom, Lyla Paulson, Helen Larson, Clifton Gipp, Dennis and Jane Rinehart, Kathryn Haugen, Millie Johnson, Brian Evenson and Sue Brockman, Vern Koester, Curtis and Avis Reed, Greg Norman, Bernie and Sue Renander, Milo Quinnell, A. Witt, Tamara Larsen, John Chester, Betty Nystuen, Ronald Sommers, Ferdinand Volkert, Lori Koester, James Kessler, Darin Hegland, Wade Schulz, Douglas Churilla, John Day, Clarence Volkert.

St. John's Foundation

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

In honor of **Don Kimber**: by Alan and Lynette Marks.

Debt Reduction

In memory of **Don Kimber**: by Chuck Muckey, Wes and Rae Pearson, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Alice Nasby, John and Louise Quam, Lorene Elg, Ted and Tricia Peterson, Roger and Darlene Hand

Music Fund

In memory of **Don Kimber**: by Dick and Jo Dahlin.

Pastors' Emergency Fund

In memory of **Don Kimber**: by Paul Jorgenson.

Other Actions

Funerals

Marian Bagaason, May 9, 2011

Radio Broadcasts

May 1, 2011, in memory of **Roger Mahachek**, by Beverly Mahachek

May 8, 2011, in memory of **Helen and Leon Ingram**, by their family

May 15, 2011, in memory of **Dana Anderson**, by friends of the Anderson Family

May 22, 2011, in honor of **Wayne Eddy's 70th birthday**, by his friends

May 29, 2011, in memory of **Marie DeWolfe** by Leonard DeWolfe and family

News and Events

Change in Office Hours for Summer

The Church Office will be open Monday - Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Church Office will be closed on Fridays during June, July, and August.

Call Committee Formed

Thank you to the following members of for agreeing to serve on the Call Committee to call the next Senior Pastor of St. John's.

Tony Becker, Kayla Berger, Mike Berthelsen, Bill Carlson, Tim Eklund, David Legvold, Adam Neuger, Katherine Norrie, and Genevieve Quarberg

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

New Adult Choir Opportunity for the Fall

Beginning in mid-September, there could be an additional opportunity to participate in the music and worship life of St. John's with the formation of a second adult choir. This ensemble would rehearse 2 to 3 times per month on Sunday mornings during the education hour and sing at the second service from time to time. This would be a wonderful opportunity for those who aren't able to participate in weekly rehearsals on Wednesday evenings. This choir would then join the current adult choir for the annual Lessons & Carols service as well as concerts of major works or oratorios down the road. A more detailed rehearsal and singing schedule would be available by the end of the summer. If you are interested, please contact Dan Fenn at 645.4429 ext. 58 or danieljfenn@gmail.com.



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.

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."¹ 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

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

Summer Coffee Sign-Ups!

For the summer months we do not schedule coffee servers but have a sign-up sheet available in the commons (see the Adult Ministry and Education article, page 8). Please be sure to sign-up to serve coffee this summer if you'd like to see this time of fellowship continue. If you have any questions please contact a member of the Adult Ministry and Education board. Many thanks to Audrey Moe, Carol Benson, and Connie Gunderson for coordinating coffee throughout the program year. If you would like to coordinate three months of coffee servers next year, please let Regina Hassanally know.



Save the Date – St. John's Builds with Habitat for Humanity

On Saturday, August 6 St. John's will join with Habitat for Humanity to work on the Habitat House located on Superior Drive in Northfield. Our work day is from 8am – 3pm and we'll need volunteers to build as well as people to bring lunch for the crew. Watch for more details in the coming months.

Wednesday Night Meals End for the Program Year

Linda Anderson, Peggy Dell and Kristy Harms did a fantastic job organizing this year's meals and they were faithfully accompanied by Sue and Bernie Renander as well as bunches of other volunteers. Thanks to all of you who helped make meals this year such a success!

If you signed up to help with Wednesday Night Meals on your 2011 Time and Talent Sheet we'll be in touch in the later summer and early fall months, when Wednesday Night Meals start up again!



Regina Hassanally,
Director of Shared Ministries
reginah@stjohns-elca.org



. . . *from our Boards*

From the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board:

Voices, hands and feet in walking our faith: A Day on the Hill in Saint Paul.

On February 17th, 2011, Judith Stoutland, as district leader and twelve other members of District 25B from many different faiths lobbied our legislative representatives "On the Hill" under the direction of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition. Every district in the state sent JRLC representatives to lobby their respective representatives. The JRLC mission statement reads "Guided by God's vision of the common good as reflected in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions, JRLC mobilizes religious communities to influence public policy in Minnesota."

It was truly exciting to be engaged with a group of people whom concentrate on what they have in common and work together to be advocates for those whom are voiceless at the highest levels of our government. We were to tell our legislative representatives that WE were advocates for the voiceless: children, the hungry, the homeless, the mentally or physically disabled, and senior citizens. Here in Minnesota the voiceless HAVE voices.

Three themes were presented to Senator Al DeKruif and Representative Kelby Woodard by our group. The first theme was taxes. Specifically, given the reality of the budgetary crisis, that if the most vulnerable citizenry were to be adversely affected, we would reluctantly accept and actually embrace new taxes if the budgetary cuts did not land on the backs of the vulnerable.

Secondly, we wanted to emphasize that the vulnerable DO have advocates. We were there to advocate for those whom are unable to advocate for themselves. The short sighted cutting of the programs in health care, social services, food programs, housing, education and preventive programs would have significant long term and far reaching consequences to our communities and its members.

Thirdly the theme was of decreasing politicization of the judiciary and the resulting decisions from the courts. To ensure equal justice for all, that Judges be vetted and then appointed by the Governor, as opposed to running for the position during elections. The citizenry would be able to vote a Judge out but not onto the bench.

During these last days of the budgetary decisions being made on the Hill please have your voice be heard on these issues. Call, write or email your representatives.

Senator Al DeKruif
Phone: 507-267-4000
Cell: 612-817-4852

Representative Kelby Woodard
Phone: 651-296-7065 or 800-920-5887

E-mail: aldekruiif.for.senate@gmail.com E-mail: rep.kelby.woodard@house.mn

If you are interested in more information on the JRLC please go to JRLC.org

We, as a faith community, are exploring our ability to walk our faith outside of the walls of the physical building of our church. Please provide feedback to your board members of the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board.

Trina Karlsen Carlson
*Benevolence and Social Concerns Board
Peace and Justice Group*

Serving on Sundays in June and July

Nursery

June 5	Todd and Connie Mennsen
June 12	Saul and Amy McBroom
June 19	Angie McCarthy and Katherine Norrie
June 26	Jamie and Jodi Doeden

Ushers

June 5/July 3	(8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Warren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (10:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber
June 12/July 10	(8:30) Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:00) Jonathan Norrie, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
June 19/July 17	(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
June 26/July 24	(8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback
July 31	(8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback

News and Events

Coffee Volunteers Needed for Summer

If you enjoy the fellowship and conversation had with friends during coffee hour between church services, you are



needed to volunteer this summer.

For all Summer Sundays, June through August, volunteers are needed for coffee preparations.

Sign-ups will be in the Commons or

you can email Katie Helgen (helgen.katherine@gmail.com) or Regina Hassanally (reginah@stjohns-elca.org).

If we do not have enough volunteers for each Sunday, no coffee hour will occur, so please join in.

A Holy Land Pilgrimage to Places, Peoples, and Peace

Thomas Schattauer, professor of Liturgics and Dean of the Chapel at Wartburg Theological Seminary, and St. John's member, is leading a tour of the Holy Land January 5-20, 2012. Participants will join Wartburg students in visiting holy sites and worshipping at local churches, including the Palestinian congregation at Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem and the English-speaking congregation at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem. There will also be opportunities to listen and visit with members of the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities who are working for peace in the midst of deep conflict. For more information or to sign up, contact Professor Schattauer at tschattauer@wartburgseminary.com

Looking ahead to camp!!

Shores of St. Andrew and Green Lake

Camp is just around the corner, June 12 – 17, at Shores of St. Andrew in New London, MN and Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN. Remember to do the following things:

- Fill out forms (St. John's forms and Camp forms) and turn in to Julie
- Pay your balance due (make checks payable to St. John's) and turn in to Julie – you all should have received a letter in the mail with your balance.

We need about 3 vans for carpooling kids to and from camp. If you are willing to drive, please let Julie know ASAP. Thanks!

Shores of St. Andrew, 3rd – 5th grade

Parker Aman
Andrew Becker
James Bull
Cole Little
Kuchceang Mangok
Logan Matson
Aidan Nutt
Isaac Riggins
Adrianna Sanchez
Rikka Zillmer



Green Lake, 6th – 8th grade

Bailey Dell
Sydney Eddy
Elizabeth Evenson
Wylie Kneser
Dylan Matson
Nicholas Pelletier
Pastor Johnson



Chicago Mission Trip

Our high school youth will have an amazing experience working with the "Center for Student Missions" serving in Chicago's inner city, July 16-22, Youth going on this trip are:

Bjorn Bade
Katie Bull
Peter Duba
Mike DeCramer
Grant Erickson
Zach Evenson
Spencer Johnson
Amelia Kneser
Adam Neuger
Alexa Nutt
Rebecca Storlie
Millie Tjaden



Settler Camp

Settler Camp is a three day, two night camp, June 26-28, at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN for kids in grades 2-3. Campers going are:

Parker Aman
Amelia Becker
Natalie Nevin



*Our prayers are with all of the campers this summer.
And, thank you St. John's for helping with the cost of camp by donating and participating in the fund raisers!*

Mission Outreach



Food Shelf in July

St. John's is taking its turn, among Northfield area congregations, to staff the CAC Food Shelf in July. We have sixty volunteer slots to fill. Volunteers should wear comfortable shoes and be able to lift 20-30 pounds if needed. Sign up in the Commons. For more information contact Don Sahling or Regina Hassanally.



Greetings from our Partner Congregation in Colombia!

We received the following message from El Salvador Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia last month: "It is very gratifying to receive messages from our brothers and sisters at St. John's, with much pleasure I gave the greeting to the brothers and sisters of the congregation. Many thanks for your prayers, we also pray for you on Sundays. We ask you for the favor of praying for our congregation and for our town of El Cocuy and for Colombia because the winter has done much damage to us, there are many floods and landslides, and El Cocuy is on red alert for the danger of an avalanche, but we trust in all powerful God that nothing will happen to us. Last Sunday we held an ecumenical prayer service in the park and we have faith in God. We remember you well – a fraternal greeting to all our brothers and sisters at St. John's!"

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity in August

Volunteers are needed from St. John's to help at the Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity house in Northfield, Saturday, August 6. Along with other Lutheran congregations in Rice County, St. John's has been asked to also contribute financially to this year's Thrivent Builds house. The goal is to raise \$1,200. Checks can be made out to St. John's with "Thrivent Builds" in the memo line.

News and Events

Ministry of Personal Prayer at St. John's

Members of the Prayer Ministry will be available to pray with you:

The first Sunday evening of each month, in the Sanctuary, beginning June 5th. The Sanctuary will be set aside for personal prayer and meditation. Prayer teams will be at the altar to pray with you, according to your need. Come and go at your convenience, between the hours of 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Each Sunday, between services, in the second floor Prayer Chapel. Take the elevator to the Second Floor. A prayer team will be in the Prayer Chapel from 9:30-10:00 a.m., to pray with you according to need, beginning Sunday, June 5th.

Who should come? The ministry of personal prayer is meant for ALL. Whatever concerns or needs you may have, prayer ministry teams stand ready to pray with you. Scripture attaches great promise to believers joining together to pray for one another.

Peace and Justice

Justice Calendar

The Peace and Justice Group does not schedule regular meetings in June and July. Special events will be announced as they come up.

A season of prayer with the People of Sudan - Now until July 9. Prayers are always in order, particularly as July 9 approaches when South Sudan will become an independent nation. These are days we suggest a focus on the situation of the people of Sudan. Our sisters and brothers in Sudan and around the world are in prayer now. They are praying for peace and self-determination and will continue in prayer until, and after, independence for South Sudan is realized.

Remembering the role prayer played in the days before the January 2011 referendum on self-determination for South Sudan, a number of faith communities will again come together in a Season of Prayer with the people of Sudan in this time. Specifically, we are invited to pray for thirty minutes on: Each day from May 20 through 26 when a delegation of Member States of the UN Security Council will visit Africa and spend time in Sudan; and each Friday until July 9 (May 28, June 4, June 11, June 18, June 25, July 2, and July 9).

In Minnesota, we are called to pray at 10:00 a.m.(CDT). And we have invited our sisters and brothers in Sudan to pray with us at 7:00 p.m. in their country. Pray at these times or whatever time works for you; pray wherever you are; pray individually or gather with others; pray in any manner you feel comfortable praying. Blessings, ELCA Advocacy Ministries

Global Mission Gathering, June 10-11. Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Excelsior, MN. God's work in mission always propels us to encounter the neighbor, particularly *in* the stranger. ELCA Global Mission Gatherings equip us for God's work in today's global and local realities as well as their "glocal" intersections. (What is mission? Who is the neighbor? Let's consider these questions together as they relate to our migrating and immigrating world. Come, join some of the most relevant mission conversations of our time.)

World Refugee Day, June 20. This international day affirms the importance of solidarity and burden – sharing by the world community for the world's 15 million refugees. "Refugees have been deprived of their homes," says Ban Ki-moon, "but they must not be deprived of their futures." The theme of this year's observance is "Home," highlighting the plight of the world's refugees, more than three-quarters of them in the developing world, who have been uprooted from their homes by conflict or persecution.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. June 27. This day is an occasion to underscore the internationally recognized right of all men and women to live free from torture. It is an opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to prohibit torture and all cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment," says *Ban Ki-moon*.



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 and www.womenoftheelca.org

Upcoming Events

June/July—

No WELCA General meeting

Monday, June 6, noon - Study leaders,
Fireside

Tuesday, June 7, 9:30 a.m. - Knitters,
Library

Wednesday and Thursday,
June 8 and 9—Circles meet. Martha/
Claudia Circle meets at the home of
Joyce Schrader, 12231 90th Street East,
9:30 a.m. on Thursday.

Saturday, June 11, 8:30 a.m. - Women’s
Breakfast Group, Fireside

Monday, June 13, 9 a.m. - Quilting prep

Thursday, June 16, 9-11 a.m. - Quilting

Tuesday, June 21, 9:30 a.m. - Knitters,
Library

The Bible Study Leaders will not meet
on the second Monday at noon during
the summer. Circles make their own
arrangements in the summer.

Knitters will not meet in June, July, or
August.

Thursday through Sunday, July 14-17 -
Triennial Convention and Gathering of
Women of the ELCA, Spokane, WA

Thursday, July 28, 9:30 a.m. - Executive
board meeting, Fireside

LOOKING AHEAD—

It’s August already?

Thursday, Aug. 4, 10:00 AM—Women
of the ELCA general meeting, SJH.
Birthday coffee and election of officers.
Our speaker will be Susan Rudser, who
will review her experiences as our
representative to the July Triennial
Convention and Gathering in Spokane.

Women interested in joining a circle, please contact Barbara
Walters (663-1055 or 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 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 June meeting of the Martha/Claudia
Circle will be at the home of Joyce Schrader, 12231 90 St. E.
(also County Road 79). at 9:30 a.m. on June 9. Meet at the
church at 8:55 a.m. to car pool.

Elizabeth – will be meeting the second Thursday for lunch at
Kurry Kabob. We will be meeting in Aug. but will plan that
at a later date.

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 or (507) 301-
4744**



Small Groups Ministry

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.
Matthew 18:20

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

Connections

Contact: Carol Schoen 645-6840

Everyone Has a Story

Contact: Phil Eaves 645-4172

Gathered in the Word

Contact: Pr. Johnson 645-4429

Grief Support

Contact: Barbara Knaak 664-0444

Healing Prayer

Contact: Dick Beckman 664-3882

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Contact: Dean Ostlie 645-2597

Men's Time Out

Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271

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

If you are interested in leading a small group or have a suggestion for a new small group please contact a member of the Small Group Leadership Team:

Sandi Gerdes 645-2290,
sandi@laurabaker.org

Cheryl Buck, 663-9056,
cbuck@charter.net

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

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

The Joys and Blessings of Relationships

By Barbara Eaves

My dad was an avid fisherman and each summer during my growing up years our family would head to Minnesota for a two-week vacation where the days were filled with fishing, eating, swimming, and playing games. As a young girl I didn't care much for fishing...too much sitting still and waiting. But I did go out in the boat often enough to have my own rod and reel, to learn some of the basics of trolling for Walleye and to remember the day I brought in the first fish by myself—after wrapping my line around the anchor rope. And I can still hear my dad call the fish: on days when the fish did not seem to be biting on anything, my dad would resort to calling, "Here fish, come fish, come fish, fish, fish". Of course, the fish didn't heed, but that sing-song call and those summer vacations are among my fondest memories.

What a treasure it is to recall the people who have blessed us throughout our lives. For one thing it makes our hearts warm as we remember them. And, in the remembering we also realize how those people have impacted our lives and helped to form who we are. And finally, with these memories we are reminded that life is all about relationships. It is in relationships that we find meaning and purpose in our lives.

This past Lent almost 60 people of St. John's gathered in small groups to join in conversation about the book *An Altar in the World*. At the conclusion of the four weeks, many of the participants expressed appreciation and gratitude for the relationships that were formed among those in their small group. Those comments were good to hear as relationships are certainly at the heart of a small group experience. The Small Group Ministry Team is currently talking about the possibility of a summer reading option; if you are interested, please let us know.

The psalmist also recalls how God has blessed us:

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
who *forgives* all your iniquity,
who *heals* all your diseases,
who *redeems* your life from the Pit,
who *crowns* you with steadfast love and mercy,
who *satisfies* you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is *renewed* like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:2-5

Check out the Camp Page
on Pg. 9!

One Great Week, Two Great Programs!

Programs hosted by
Bethel Lutheran Church, Emmaus
Baptist Church, and St. John's
Lutheran Church

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School "Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street" will be held the same week as "On the Road". Kindergarteners have the option of going to either camp. The VBS program starts on Monday, August 8 thru Thursday, August 11 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Emmaus Church. The cost is \$10.00 per child with a \$20.00 family limit. VBS registration is due by July 15.

VBS registration form can be found at www.stjohns-elca.org under Youth and Children. Scholarships are available for all summer camp opportunities

Thank you Sunday School and Wednesday Volunteers!

Thank you to the Sunday School and Wednesday volunteers who faithfully gave their time and talents to help with children's programming this year! Thank you to Stephanie Aman, Dodie Mickelsen, Jordan Cook, Lauren Ehlers, Katie Bull, Peter Duba, Andrew Mikula, Jo Chambers, Sue Brockman, Kelly Culhane, Megan Andrews-Sharer, Charlotte Bolch, Amy Boxrud, Kristy Mikula, Julie Becker, Karleen Sherman, Julie Laven, Jenny Pelletier, Susan Canon, Angie Gehring, Leah Sand, Roz Eaton-Neeb, Nick Neeb, Shari Williams, Scott Boehning, Kelly Stanton Nutt, Rob Nutt, Amy McBroom, Christy Hall-Holt, Andrea Hoff, Peggy Dell, Shirley Nelson, Connie Menssen, Frances Boehning, Sally Lindell, Kristen Fjeld-Zillmer and Robyn Peterson.

"On the Road", Summer Camp

For kids completing Kindergarten – 4th grade, Good Earth Village, "On the Road" will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church. The week begins on Sunday with a 1 ½ - 2 hour welcome. Monday – Thursday, the program runs from 8:00 – 5:00 p.m. Campers can be dropped off anytime between 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and picked up between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. A closing program, open to everyone, will take place beginning at 4:00 p.m. Thursday. You may register online at www.goodearthvillage.com, click on summer programs, "GEV On the Road", and choose the Northfield site. The deadline is August 1 or until the camp is full.

We need Many Volunteers!

Volunteers needed for VBS

(session held from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.):

Block Leaders – lead a small group to various stations

Station leaders/assistants– to lead music, crafts, games, Bible storytelling, snacks

Decorating and prep – prior to VBS

Help with registration: Monday, August 8, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Nursery Care – help care for volunteer's children who are too young to attend VBS

Volunteers needed for "On the Road"

(sessions held from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.):

Provide an evening meal or housing for Good Earth Village camp counselors. Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet!

Sunday School Offering

Offering was given to provide support to the following missions:

*Our Compassion International child, Romario Vasquez Polo, from Bocachica, Columbia. Our \$38/month sponsorship provides Romario with Bible teaching, medical care, nutritious meals, recreational activities, academic support, educational classes and literacy training.

*\$310 was given to support the Minnesota FoodShare Drive to help benefit the Northfield Food Shelf.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Magical Mystery Tours

Magical Mystery Tours are for all youth in grades 6-8. The Magical Mystery Tours(MMTs) are sponsored by the Northfield Area Youth Workers which means that all youth from around Northfield are invited to participate. Since the events are supposed to be a "mystery" parents will receive a letter a few weeks before each event. The letter will disclose the mystery to the parent(s) and give you trip details, e.g. cost, schedule, special instructions. Parents, please don't tell your child the destination in order to keep the mystery! So, we can't tell you what we're doing this year but we can tell you that the events will be a lot of fun and we can tell you the dates:

June 23, July 28, and August 18

NOTE: Sign up for the June 23 Magical Mystery Tour is June 15 – contact Pr. Mark for more information. We hope to see you on the MMTs! Friends are welcome!



Thank you Sunday School Teachers!

Thank you to all who taught Middle School and High School Sunday School this past year. Your lessons and presence on Sunday mornings encouraged our youth and helped them to explore their faith in a variety of ways. Thank you to teachers: Tony Becker, Amy Boxrud, Brian Evenson, Ruth Hansen, Peggy Hanson, Terrence Hassanally, Andrea Hoff, Beckie Judge, Eva Posfay, John Quam, David Quarberg, Jane Rinehart, Kathy Vang, and Kristi Wermager

Thank you Faith Talk Speakers!

Each year members of St. John's offer to share part of the faith story with members of the Ninth Grade Confirmation class. These stories and conversations are intended to encourage the Ninth Graders as they prepare to write a faith statement and share it with their class, parents, and mentors – prior to confirmation in October. Thank you to the following for sharing their faith in Christ and telling their faith stories this past year – Peggy Hanson, Vern Failletaz, Jenny Pelletier, Patsy Ophaug, Terrence Hassanally.

Interim Director of Youth Ministry Named

Tracie Peterson, an associate with InterServe Ministries has been hired as interim, part-time Director of Youth Ministry at St. John's. Tracie met last month with a hiring team made up of representatives of council, personnel, youth, and staff and will begin her work in June. Tracie has over seventeen years of Youth and Family ministry experience, in a variety of settings. She has worked at congregations in Minnesota, North Dakota, and the Seattle area. Tracie currently lives in Chaska, MN with her husband and two daughters. Watch for more information about Tracie in the bulletin, online, and in the *Voice*.

Welcome Tracie!

St. John's Cookbook!

The youth of St. John's need your help to raise funds for the 2012 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

What we need from you: Provide us with your favorite recipes.

How to submit: A collection box will be located in the Commons to collect your recipes or you can email them to Martha Erickson at cmgkerickson@gmail.com.

Please make sure you include:

your name and contact number
recipe name,
recipe category,
ingredients,
detailed instructions, pan size,
oven temp



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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Rhubarb Sunday is Coming Soon!



It's time to cut the rhubarb, search for that one special rhubarb recipe, and whip it up! Don't wait, do it now because St. John's 4th Annual Rhubarb Sunday is June 12. If you are new to St. John's then you are in for a spring surprise. Come to St. John's Hall between services on Rhubarb Sunday and choose your favorites from an unimaginable array of desserts. What's your favorite? Rhubarb meringue dessert? Rhubarb pie?

Rhubarb bars? Rhubarb torte? Rhubarb sauce? Rhubarb cake? It will all be here waiting for you to savor the deliciousness. Come for desserts and sit down for a summer morning visit-this is Northfield at its best!

Please sign up in the Commons on the two Sundays prior to June 12; we will need 25 people to bring a dessert of their choice. You may deliver your rhubarb dessert on Saturday, June 11 or before first service on Rhubarb Sunday.

Questions?? Call Guy Reid (645-7984), Char Nelson (663-0564), or Kristy Harms (952-892-1974). Families with rhubarb to share will be announced in church.

