

# THE Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2011

Volume 51, Number 7

*on the  
inside . .*

Meet Tracie!

◇ p. 18-19

Pictorial Directory  
Sign-ups!

◇ p. 7

Peach Sunday

◇ p. 11



## **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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month:

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

For information, contact the Church Office:

**phone:** 507-645-4429

**fax:** 507-645-9633

**e-mail:**

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

**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**

Closed

## **Update from the Call Committee**

By the time you read this, the St. John's Call Committee will have finished its work on the first phase of the Call Process, that being the completion of the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP is a comprehensive document which describes our congregation and our plans for the future, and details the qualities and expectations we would have in a Senior Pastor. The prior work of the Strategic Planning Committee has been of great help in getting the MSP completed in a timely and relevant fashion.

This profile, once approved by the Council, is then provided to the Synod office, who in turn, provides it to all potential candidates who have expressed an interest in the Senior Pastor position at St. John's. Once submitted to the Synod, we will expect to begin receiving candidate names that the Synod has identified through their internal processes. Additionally, we have received from our members, the names of nine (9) potential candidates for Senior Pastor. These candidate names have been forwarded to the Synod and will be included in those names that the Synod has developed. It appears that we will have a sizeable group of potential Senior Pastor candidates as we begin the next phase of our work.

Thank you all for your support and prayers!

Tim Eklund, Chair

## **New Worship Time at St. John's**

The Church Council has voted, starting September 11, to have our second worship service begin at **11:00 a.m.** This move was made to accommodate a request from Small Group Ministry to create a little more time between the worship services for educational and fellowship offerings. It will, also, provide a little more time for adult forums and Sunday school.

Sept., 2011 – May, 2012 will be considered a trial period for this shift. At the end of that time an assessment will be made to determine if the goals created by the change have been met.

Our schedule, then for this fall will be:

8:30 a.m. – Worship

9:45 a.m. – Education Hour: Sunday school, adult forums, small groups

11:00 a.m. – Worship

## **Open Door Nursery School has Openings!**

Open Door Nursery School (located in our lower level) has openings for the upcoming 2011-12 school year. Once again ODNs will be teaming up with the St Olaf College Biology department and offering seasonal visits to the St. Olaf Prairie as well as on-site monthly visits from students who will provide nature lessons. For more information and/or to register, please visit the web site at [opendoornurseryschool.org](http://opendoornurseryschool.org) or call Sue Anderson (952-652-2937) or Barb Howe (507-645-5786).

**Scholarships are available!**

The vision of St. John's: growing as disciples + becoming signs of God's love for each other and the world

# Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:17*

## Prayer Ministry

**Gathered in the Word:** Gathered in the Word, a time of prayer using scripture as a guide, 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.

**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](mailto:macisar@gmail.com) or 663-1097.

## The Caring Compass

When you are in need what qualities do you look for in a source of support? The Stephen Ministry Caring Compass



identifies the qualities of trained Stephen Ministers : Compassionate, Skilled, Trustworthy, and Full of Faith. Stephen Ministers

regularly reflect on how those qualities are at work in their relationship with care receivers and in all their relationships. The four qualities of care-giving are qualities that all Christians are encouraged to develop through a life of caring for others in Christ's name.

Consider how a *compassionate* friend is present with you during difficult times. He or she listens calmly and encourages you as you work through decisions. A *skilled* friend accepts your feelings and acknowledges your struggles. He or she has patience to support you through a slow process of healing and discovery. A *trustworthy* friend knows you well and respects your privacy. He or she is discreet and keeps conversations confidential. A friend who is *full of faith* brings you a sense of hope and peace. You see Christ in the face of that friend.

If you or someone you know could benefit from talking with a compassionate skilled, trustworthy, and full-of-faith friend, contact a pastor, 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson, 645-8445.

*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

**Save the Date** – the Northfield Grief Support Coalition is sponsoring a presentation by Pat Richardson, LICSW, LMFT entitled, "Weaving in the Threads of Loss", on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 6:30 - 8p.m. at the Northfield Hospital Meeting Room A. For more information contact Barb Knaak at 664-0444, [bknaak4@charter.net](mailto:bknaak4@charter.net).



*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."*

August 21, 2010  
**Lois Bjelland**

August 30, 2010  
**Adeline Larson**

## From our pastors . . .

---

*"You  
prepare a  
table  
before me  
in the  
presence  
of my  
enemies."  
Psalm  
23:5a*



The LaSalle Street Church has a long history of reaching out to the neighborhoods around LaSalle and Wells streets on the southwest edge of downtown Chicago. From 1856 to around 1900 the congregation, with leadership from Lutheran missionaries, served the German, Swedish, and Irish immigrants living in the area. In 1910 what had begun as an Italian Bible study at the nearby Moody Church grew into the Moody Italian Mission and in 1936 the Italian Mission purchased the LaSalle Street church building for its growing ministry. In 1942 construction began on the nearby Cabrini-Green housing development for low-income families. In addition to serving the Italian community, the LaSalle congregation provided worship space for the growing Japanese, African American, and Appalachian white communities. In 1961 members of the Italian Mission felt called to move the worshipping community beyond its "mission" status to become a congregation where all members of the neighborhood would be welcome to join together in Christian worship, education, and service. In 1973 the LaSalle Street Church was established and continues to serve the neighborhood in Christ's name.

Last month members of St. John's mission trip helped to serve a meal at the LaSalle Street Church's Breaking Bread meal. Every Wednesday the congregation serves a home-cooked meal to around one hundred homeless and hungry guests. The meal is served restaurant-style with real plates and silverware. A nurse is available to answer basic questions about health concerns. Free clothing is offered after most meals and there is always some kind of opportunity for Bible study or worship. The evening the St. John's group served there was a memorial service for Mother Rose Jefferson. Mother Rose was a regular guest at

Breaking Bread who had died a few weeks earlier. The memorial service included readings from John 14 and Psalm 23, remembrances from members of the Breaking Bread community, and the singing of *Blessed Assurance*.

Throughout its history the LaSalle Street Church has gone into the neighborhoods that surround the church building, trying to show those who live nearby that the congregation cares about them – by responding to their needs and by providing opportunities for worship, learning, and fellowship. This is the work that every Christian congregation is called to do.

Last month St. John's members volunteered at the CAC Food Shelf. This month we have an opportunity to meet our neighbors at a picnic meal here at church on Tuesday, August 2, starting at 5:30 p.m. On Saturday, August 6 members of St. John's will help lay the foundation at the Thrivent Builds/Habitat for Humanity house in Northfield. This fall the Northfield elementary schools are inviting church members to help tutor students in a program called Accelerate Northfield. Where else is God's mission leading us at St. John's?

As we seek to respond to God's gifts and God's call during this time of transition I want you to know that I met with members of the call committee this summer and informed them that I would not be submitting my name to be considered as a candidate for senior pastor. Please know that I continue in my role as your pastor. It is a blessing to share this mission of serving in Christ's name with you at St. John's.

*Mark*

# June and July Actions

---

## Memorials and Gifts

### Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Don Kimber**: by Myron and Arlene Dack

In memory of **Lois Bjelland**: by Dagfin and Lydia Moe, Kenneth and Carolyn Jennings, Hazel Peterson

In memory of **Marion Bagaason**: by Barbara Dewey, Lola Fick, Elaine Hope, Faith Bradley

### Debt Retirement

In memory of **Muriel Wold**: by Robert and Sharon Bastian

In memory of **Lois Bjelland**: by Roger and Darlene Hand

In memory of **Leroy Dreier**: Warren Wold

### Music Fund

In memory of **Bjorn Norgaard**: by Bruce and Carol Benson

### Pastors' Emergency Fund

In memory of **Marion Bagaason**: by Martha/Claudia Circle

## Other Actions

### Baptisms

**Jacent Carl Almen**, son of Stephanie Rud and Derek Almen; sponsors are Matthew and Ashley Rud; June 12, 2011

**Owen Diep Goodyear Jackson**, son of Josh Jackson and Phuongdiep Lee Nguyen; sponsors are Jacob and Melinda Jackson; July 17, 2011

**Theodore Wendell Iverson**, son of Darren and April Iverson; sponsors are Kurt Christensen and Sarah Vonbank; July 17, 2011

**Joshua Andrew Pearson**, son of Mark Pearson and Karen Nordell Pearson; sponsors are Peter Nordell, Jr. and Amy Westermeyer; July 31, 2011

### Radio Broadcasts

June 12, 2011 in memory of **Doris Marks**, by Orwin Marks and Family

July 24, 2011 in memory of **our parents**, by Duane and Joan Olson

July 31, 2011 in honor **Adolf and Mary White's anniversary**

**Looking for a special way to honor a loved one or celebrate a special event in your life?**

**Consider sponsoring a radio broadcast!**

**This is a great outreach St. John's offers to our shut-ins and others in the community that listen to our worship service.**

**The cost is \$160 - many dates available for the fall - call the Church Office for more details and to sign up.**

**Un-sponsored broadcasts are paid from our general operating expenses.**

# *... from and around the greater Church*

---

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

## **from the Bridge...**

The "Bridge" is a monthly publication that seeks to strengthen ties and facilitate clearer understanding between all facets of the Church: national, synodical, and congregational. This month we feature an article written by our Bishop, Harold Usgaard.



## **God's Unsolicited Love**

*By Rev. Harold Usgaard*

*Synod Bishop*

So we were walking down the street: Lynette and I, our children, and the two grandchildren. Suddenly, four-year-old Owen stopped, looked up at his grandmother, and said, "I love you Grandma." It came out of the blue, and it stopped all of us in our tracks. Owen's father, our son-in-law, commented, "Wow. Totally unsolicited. It doesn't get any better." No, it doesn't!

Isn't that what we as Lutherans bring into the Christian faith, a reminder of God's unsolicited love? "While we still were sinners," the Apostle Paul writes, "Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). We know that we aren't deserving. We know there is nothing we can do. We know that no solicitation can earn the love offered to us out of our God's grace and mercy. "Totally unsolicited. It doesn't get any better."

There seems to be a lot of conversation regarding God's love these days. Certain authors have focused their writings in these areas. Many of the conversations I have experienced in church meetings also seem to center on

God's love. But what I often hear is a reaction to what some feel is the "cheapening" of this wonderful gift, that if it comes too easily, folks won't value it. As one man commented, "all I ever hear is love, love, love. I'm sick of it."

Certainly there is nothing cheap about the love God offers us. Luther reminds us of the price, "Not with silver or gold, but with his holy and precious blood and his innocent suffering and death." And we can receive such love only with wonder and gratitude. But I fear that too often even well-meaning attempts to somehow protect this gift and limit the guest list do, in fact, cheapen it. The extravagance of God's love is that there are no conditions. The priceless tag on this gift announces that it is offered to all – even the undeserving – you know, like you and me.

God's totally unsolicited love. It doesn't get any better. No, it doesn't!



# *Worship and Music Life at St. John's*

---

## **A New Addition in the Balcony...**

The family of June Swanson has graciously donated a Mason & Hamlin baby grand piano to St. John's. With the need for a high quality piano in the balcony to help lead in congregational singing and choral/vocal accompanying, this instrument was moved upstairs on July 6 and first used in worship on July 10. Thanks be to God for the Swanson family and this very special gift!



## **New Additions in the Pews...**

Thanks to gifts received over the past couple of months, we've been able to nearly fill the pews with Bibles. They are located in the slots underneath the pews. This is a wonderful enhancement to our worship life. St. John's is grateful to the following people and families that have made this possible: Karl Hella, George and Judy Pinc; memorials that were given in memory of: Reidar Dittmann, Grace Huus, and Don Kimber.

## **New Adult Choir Opportunity in the Fall**

In late-September, there will be an additional option for those who would like to sing in a choir. A second adult choir will rehearse 2 to 3 times per month on Sunday mornings during the Education Hour (9:45-10:45) and sing at the second service once or twice per month. This would be a terrific opportunity for those who aren't able to participate in weekly rehearsals on

Wednesday evenings. This new choir will join the current adult choir for the annual Lessons & Carols service as well as concerts of major works, cantatas, and oratorios down the road. There is possibility for overlap between the two adult choirs, and short-term commitments to either choir are possible. A detailed rehearsal and singing schedule will be available within the next few weeks. If you are interested, or if you have any other questions about the music ministry, please call Dan Fenn at 645-4429 ext. 58 or [danieljfenn@gmail.com](mailto:danieljfenn@gmail.com).



# Shared Ministry

## An Updated Pictorial Directory is Coming!

Our church 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 will 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. There are several ways to sign up for a time to have your pictures taken. You may sign up in the commons between services beginning Sunday, August 7, you may call 800.866.2263, or you can sign up online by visiting <https://signup.olanmills.com/familyinfo.aspx?chcontract=62089>. 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!

If you have pictures of church groups or activities you would like to submit for consideration as additional shots for the directory you may drop them off at the office for Regina Hassanally. Please include the group or activity name. If you have any questions please feel free to speak to Regina, Kayla Berger, or Trish Goodrich.

We will need volunteers to host the photography sessions. Hosting requires being available for a four hour shift while pictures are being taken to welcome and check families in before their portrait session. To sign up to serve as a host please see the Photo Directory sign up board in the commons.



## Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

Rice County Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans are once again teaming up to build homes in the Rice County Area. Every year St. John's is privileged to support this effort through participating in the build and making financial contributions. This year a St. John's work crew will be laying the foundation at 1213 Superior Drive in Northfield on Saturday, August 6 from 8:00 am-3:00 p.m. If you enjoy playing with Legos you'll enjoy using the insulated concrete forms to create the foundation of this new home. St. John's volunteers will also provide lunch for the St. John's work crew, Habitat staff and the homeowners. If you're interested in volunteering on the work or lunch crew please contact Regina Hassanally in the Church Office.

St. John's has also been asked to contribute financially to this year's build. Area churches are asked to raise a grand total of \$12,000 for Rice County Habitat for Humanity. St. John's has been asked to contribute \$1,200 of that total. If you can make a financial gift for the Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity Campaign please make a note on your check and place it in the offering plate on Sunday or drop it off in the office.

Thank you for serving our community in this way!

**Regina Hassanally,**

**Director of Shared Ministries**

SERVING TO LOVE



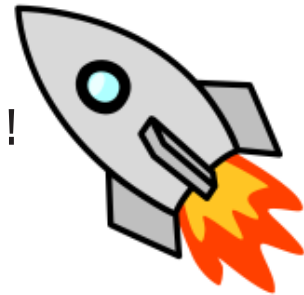
LOVING TO SERVE

# Accelerate Northfield

Help all of Northfield's kids be

## Learning superheroes!

LAUNCH LIFELONG LEARNING!



### About the Program:

Northfield's low-income students have trailed their peers in average reading and math proficiency by more than 25% over the last 5 years. And this group is growing: almost 1/3 of Northfield's elementary students now receive free or reduced-price lunches—a 50% increase since 2004.

We need **YOU** to help close this gap and prepare all Northfield students for success. Research shows that mastering reading by 3rd grade is key to lifelong success.

Northfield elementary schools are starting a new volunteer program to close the achievement gap and we need **YOU**. Help all our kids launch for a life as learning superheroes!

### 3 ways you can help:

Northfield elementary schools are

expanding three types of volunteer support:

• intensive one-on-one tutoring – 30 minutes 3-5 times per week

• read aloud – listen to kids read – 30-60 minutes 1-3 times per week

• enrichment challenge – help students who need an extra challenge so teachers can focus on those in the gap – 60 minutes per week for at least four weeks

Accelerate Northfield also needs adults to serve as mentors to youth and for periodic help with testing and assessment.

### How can you get involved? Glad you asked!

Area churches, including St. John's have been asked to participate in this fantastic opportunity for our kids! We are looking for at least FIVE volunteers from our congregation willing to give their time to our local youth.

Contact the church office (645-4429) or Regina Hassanally (reginah@stjohns-elca.org) and we'll get you more details. Watch the weekly bulletins for more information. Make a difference in a child's life - get involved!



# News and Events

---

## Volunteers Needed for St. John's Audio Visual Team

You are invited to join the St. John's Audio Visual Team. If you would like to share in the ministry that coordinates and manages the sound for Sunday morning worship and other events including St. John's Forum, captures the video and audio of our church services and events for airing on television and radio, and provides meaningful electronically produced programs for audiences inside and outside our church family, we'd like you to join the team. We are ready to train you to use the equipment that makes this all happen each week. Please contact Ken Engstrom, Coordinator, for more information or to sign up! Email: [ken.engstrom@lightspeed-tek.com](mailto:ken.engstrom@lightspeed-tek.com) or call 507-645-4373.

## Building Access at St. John's

St. John's has always tried to make our facility as accessible as possible – both for handicapped, as well as those needing access during “non-business” hours. However, during the summertime, especially, there are far too many hours when the building is unoccupied. Recently, we have had evidence of uninvited guests, and small incidents of vandalism that have forced us to create building hours.

Building access hours for summer will be as follows:

	<u>Open</u>	<u>Close</u>
Monday – Thursday	8:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	2:00 p.m.
Sunday	7:00 a.m.	2:00 p.m.

Obviously, the building will be totally accessible for scheduled activities. And, if there is a need of earlier or later access on a given day, arrangements can be made through the church office, 645-4429. Hours for the fall will be announced in the September Voice.

It is regrettable to have to enforce building access hours; but for the safety of all who enter and work here, and for the protection of our property, it is necessary.

## Boy Scout Eagle Project

The most recent Eagle project was just completed July 16, 2011. Zach Mitchell worked with members of St. John's to identify our needs and choose a project. Zach gathered nearly 20 volunteers to remove rock and plant perennials in the island by the south parking lot entrance, weeded and planted perennials in the southeast gardens and expanded the rock garden on the east side of the sanctuary. Zach was able to get all of the materials donated to eliminate any cost to St. John's. Over 100 hours of volunteer time was given to St. Johns for this project alone.

Take a walk around the property to see how much was accomplished or see the pictures in the commons area to watch the volunteers in action.

Thank you to Zach Mitchell and Troop 313!

## Welcome Kristofer!

Hello! My name is Kristofer Coffman, and I'm the summer intern here at St. John's. I'm originally from Glendale, California, just north of Los Angeles, and come the fall I will be a junior at St. Olaf College. At St. Olaf, I am majoring in Religion and Greek, and after I graduate I plan on attending a Lutheran Seminary to seek ordination. With this in mind, I'm here at St. John's to get a first hand experience of everyday life in a church and to lend a helping hand where I can. As such, I've been working in the church office assisting Pr. Mark and accompanying Pr. Quam on his visits, just to get an idea of what a pastor does outside of Sunday worship.

**Welcome to St. John's,  
Kristofer - we're glad you're  
here!**

# *Serving on Sundays in August*

---

## *Nursery*

- August 7** (9:45 a.m. - 11:10 a.m) Sheri Williams and Kathy Granquist  
**August 14** (9:45 a.m. - 11:10 a.m) Jodi Doeden and Anne Sovik  
**August 21** (9:45 a.m. - 11:10 a.m) Mara Hessian and Amelia Tjaden  
**August 28** (9:45 a.m. - 11:10 a.m) Betsy McLaughlin and Maren Bahler

## *Ushers*

- August 7** (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  
**August 14** (8:30) Jim Enestvedt, Dan Franklin, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, 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  
**August 21** (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  
**August 28** (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



## **Get Involved and Invested in St. John's!**

**Do you like the outdoors? Grounds help is always welcome!**

**You could collect and dispose of cardboard for the church!**

**Can you help in the Nursery?**

**Love working with Children? Help out on  
Wednesday nights!**

**Would you be willing to serve communion?**

**Enjoy the coffee on Sundays? Can you help serve?**

**Would you be willing to serve as an assisting minister on a  
Sunday? Youth and Families encouraged!**

**There are a lot of ways St. John's could utilize your skills -  
call to find out more information! 507-645-4429**

# News and Events

## Holy Communion During August

During the Sundays in August we will be receiving Holy Communion, at worship, by the means of intinction (dipping the wafer into the chalice of wine or juice). The primary reason for this switch is that during the summer months we have struggled with finding enough folks to serve in the more traditional methods. In September we plan to return to either poured, or pre-filled, wine serving.

## Peach Sunday – Aug. 14!

It's time to start searching for that special PEACH recipe. Come to St. John's Hall between services on Peach



Sunday and choose from an array of desserts and treats. Are you hungry for fresh peach pie, cobbler, crips, muffins,

cake, tart or shortcake - it will all be there and ready for you to sample. Come for the goodies, and stay for the fellowship.

You may deliver your peach dessert on Saturday, Aug. 13 before 2:00 p.m or before the first service on Peach Sunday. If you have questions you may call Guy Reid (645-7984); Char Nelson (663-0564)



## St. John's Suppers

Wednesday night meals will be back in September! Watch this space for the menu next month.

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.



## Night to Unite - August 2!

Many thanks to those who volunteered for and participated in St. John's meal for Northfield's Night to Unite on August 2. What a wonderful community wide event! Look for information regarding our regular Wednesday meals starting September 14th coming soon.

# Mission Outreach

---



## Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

This year Thrivent Builds is partnering with Rice County Habitat for Humanity to build a house in Northfield.

Lutheran congregations in Rice County are encouraged to be a partner in this venture. There are two ways to help: First, sign up to help work at the house on Saturday, August 6, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers that day will help lay the foundation for the house.

(Supervision will be provided!)

Volunteers are also needed to help provide lunch for the work crew on

August 6. Sign up in the Commons.

Second, make a financial contribution to the Thrivent Builds house. Checks can be made out to St. John's with "Habitat for Humanity" in the memo line. St. John's is being challenged to raise \$1200. Thank you for helping to extend God's love through this project to provide affordable housing here in Rice County!

## New Supply List for School Kits

Donations needed for the school kits! Below are the essentials, please feel free to donate the following items:

- ◆ Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper about 8" X 10". **No loose-leaf paper,**
- ◆ One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ◆ One pencil sharpener
- ◆ One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ◆ Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- ◆ Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ◆ One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ◆ One 2" eraser

All items should be new and in good condition.



## You're Invited to a WELCA Workday!

**Wanted:** Women of the ELCA for the pleasure of your company and help on Thursday, Aug. 18 for a workday!

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

A Salad Luncheon will be served at noon in St. John's Hall.

Choose what you'd like to work on: tearing and rolling bandages, sorting and packing layettes, packing supplies in school bags, cutting squares for quilts, layering and tying quilts. Come when you can!

Would you like to help with the salad luncheon? Please sign up on the WELCA bulletin board in the commons to help with any portion of this workday!

# News and Events

---

## From the Peace and Justice group . . .

### Love and Justice

In Mark 12:30-31, Jesus quotes the Old Testament summary of what God expects of us: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with your mind." and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Who and what do you love? How do you treat them? How do you observe others treating them? What can you do to support the love God calls every one of us to extend to our neighbors far and near? How can we *love* people we haven't even met?

These are challenging questions, the kind faced by God's people every day. Author, theologian, artist, and academic Cornel West offers this helpful insight: "Justice is what love looks like in public." How and where does your love show up in public? Consider the projects and pains that pull at your heart and call you to action. In these challenging times, choosing and committing to a cause can be a challenge of its own. Whatever you care about, here are some suggestions to guide you as you put the love you have received unconditionally from God to work for justice.

1) Be informed. Learn the history of your project and keep current on events that relate to it. Seek out reliable sources of information.

2) Get involved. Observe first hand what the real issues and needs are for the people and/or projects that grab your attention.

3) Donate time, money, and skills as you are able. Support people working for justice on the ground, individually or through agencies that are both transparent and trustworthy.

4) Join an existing organization that works lovingly for justice, or start your own. Look first for one at church.

5) Talk or write about your efforts positively and clearly. Connect what you are doing with what you believe. Engage in honest conversations with old friends and new audiences that lead to acting for love and justice.

6) Host events designed to educate and stir responses. Show a documentary, display an art exhibit, or sponsor a public performance, and then facilitate a discussion about it. Staff an information table at places where people congregate.

7) Promote services and products that support the success of those who in need of love and seeking justice.

8) Pray for love and justice for all.

9) Hear about the work of the Northfield Human Rights Commission at the September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Peace and Justice Group. Dick Kleber, a member of the Commission, will join us. Bring your questions, your concerns, your energy and your love.





Mission Statement:  
**TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY  
ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST**  
Lutheran Woman Today Bible study theme for 2011-2012 is  
"To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark" by Pr. Patricia Lull  
"Take Heart; get up, Jesus is calling you." ( Mark 10:49b)

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

## Upcoming Events

**Aug. 4, Thursday, 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 WA. Bring a favorite or family prayer that could be shared on Aug. 4 or a later date.**

**August 10, 11, 13, Circles Meet, check with chairpersons.**

**August 15, Workday preparation in Fellowship Hall 9:00 a.m.**

**August 18, Special workday for quilts, school kits, baby care items, bandages, etc. The work shifts are 9-12 and 1-4. All are invited to lunch in St. John's Hall at 12:00. Come when you can for fellowship and service. Sign up on the sheet on WELCA's bulletin board**

**August 25, 9:30, Welca Board Meeting in Fireside Room.**

## Looking Ahead

**Sept. 1** – Women of ELCA general meeting at 1:00 p.m. We will elect officers. Darlene Hand will present information about daughter Brenda's experience in the Peace Corps in Senegal.

Note: Bible study leaders will meet on Sept. 6 at noon, the day after Labor Day.

**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, note exceptions. Women interested in joining a circle can contact Barbara Walters at 663-1055.

### Circles

**Lydia** – Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Marilyn Boschee and Judy Smith, Leaders

**Sarah** – Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Char Nelson, Leader

**Martha/Claudia** – Thursday, 9:30, Marilyn Jacobson, Leader

**Elizabeth** – Thursday, 1:30, Marie Benson and Gretchen Hardgrove, Leaders.

**Mary** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, 1:00 p.m., Rachel Stark, Leader

**Women's Breakfast Group** – second Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in Fireside Room, Kathy Mellstrom, Leader

**Miriam** – Evening to be announced, Susan Rudser, Leader  
Please submit items for this information page to Barbara Walters, [waltersb2@gmail.com](mailto:waltersb2@gmail.com)

**Thank you to the following Women of the ELCA** board members of 2010/2011: Barbara Walters, President; Ruth Smestad Anglin, Vice President; Kathy Mroz, Secretary; Norma Gilbertson, Treasurer; Susan Hagen, Mission Growth; Gloria Knutson, Mission Community; Shirley Falck and Marilyn Boschee, Mission Action. Great job ladies!

## New WELCA Circle is Forming!

**A new evening circle is forming!** Susan Rudser has agreed to chair and lead the Bible study for a new circle that will meet on an evening to be decided by members. If you or someone you know is interested in joining this new circle, please contact Susan at [susan.rudser@gmail.com](mailto:susan.rudser@gmail.com) or by phone at 645-5415. Circles are a great way to develop long-lasting friendships with other women in our congregation. These bonds carry us through the ups and downs of our lives, and many of the relationships formed in our circles become life-long friendships.



# 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

## **From Summer to Fall**

*By Barbara Eaves*

As a child I lived summer to the fullest, spending from sun up to sun down out of doors, coming in only for supper which seemed an unnecessary interruption to the importance of play. During the day, sometimes a sandwich and chocolate milk were taken outside to eat, but most eating was in the form of snacks, eaten "on the run." I have often commented that the only reason I lived to adulthood was for the love of fresh fruit (I could consume a lug of peaches in a week); otherwise I lived pretty much on junk food.

As much as I enjoyed the freedom of play in the summer, by mid-August I began to get antsy and anxious for school to start, getting ready by making repeated trips to the neighborhood drug store to scope out the school supplies, including the choosing of a new box of crayons. I also wanted to be with my classmates again, most of whom I had not seen since spring. It should be noted that my mother was just as ready for school to start and routine to return to the household.

Churches too, including St. John's, often recess many activities in the summer. We still continue to be the church, gathering weekly for worship and fellowship, but the pace changes. It is a time when people seem to remain for longer periods after worship to visit and get reconnected in ways that may not be possible during the busier months. As wonderful as that is, after awhile we may be seeking for more engaging ways to connect with one another.

As summer begins to wane in the coming weeks, we can look forward to getting back to, or establishing routine in our day-to-day lives. In so doing, it is also an opportune time to become part of a group at church where we can find fellowship, learning, and the blessings that a faith community brings to our lives. There are enough possibilities for everyone to find a place to participate—be it choir, quilting, bible study, yoga or any of the other various options. Check the bulletin and newsletter in the coming weeks to read about the activities that will be available this coming fall.

*Behold, how pleasant, how good it is!*

*How pleasant and harmonious when God's people are together:  
fragrant as precious oil when running fresh on Aaron's beard;  
refreshing as the dew upon the mountain of the Lord;  
there the Lord God bestows a blessing—life forever more.*

ELW 649 (Based on Psalm 133)

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

Sandi Gerdes 645-2290,  
[sandi@laurabaker.org](mailto:sandi@laurabaker.org)

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

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

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

### ***Important Dates!***

#### **Sunday School Registrations**

Due August 1

#### **VBS and "On the Road"**

August 8 – 11

#### **Pool Party!**

Wednesday, August 10

#### **Sunday School Teacher Orientation**

TBD with Teachers

#### **Open House for Preschool 1**

Wednesday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.

#### **ROCK, Wednesday Afterschool Programming**

Begins Wednesday, September 14

#### **Sunday School Begins**

September 18 at 9:45 a.m.

#### **Teacher Installation**

2<sup>nd</sup> Service

**R.O.C.K., Reaching Out to Christ Kids,**  
begins Wednesday, September 14!

**ROCK** is our Wednesday afterschool program for children in kindergarten – grade 5. The afternoon includes a mission component, recreation, choirs, chime choir, and CAT/DOG along with St. John's Wednesday meals starting at 5:15 p.m. Bus transportation will be offered to kids from Bridgewater, Greenvale, Sibley and Prairie Creek from the Middle school so they can jump right into Wednesday's fun. Check out the registration packet for specific details! If you did not receive an email about registration, please give the office a call or you may download it on St. John's website by clicking on the "Children's" tab.

**An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members—**parents, grandparents, anyone! Are you available to help out with one or more Wednesdays this year? Check out the volunteer page in the registration packet or contact Julie Brehmer if you are interested!

### **The Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

Parents who wish to have their baby or child baptized at St. John's are asked to attend a preparation session to discuss the meaning of baptism and to talk about the details of the day. Baptism preparation is held on the first Saturday of each month in the Fireside Room. The next session is Saturday, August 6 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

### **Sunday School begins on Sept. 18!**

For planning purposes, we would love to have all registrations in by August 1. Registration forms are available in the Commons and online at [www.stjohns-elca.org](http://www.stjohns-elca.org). If you have questions, please feel free to call Julie at 645-4429.

### **Is your 3 year old starting Sunday School?**

Children who are three years of age by 9/1/11 are welcome to begin Sunday School this fall!

Parents are invited to bring their preschooler to an Open House on Wednesday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m. to meet the teachers and get acquainted with their classroom before Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 18.

If you have question, please call St. John's at 645-4429 and speak with Julie Brehmer.

### **Dive in on August 10!**

Northfield area churches invite families with children in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger to our Annual Pool Party at the Northfield Outdoor Pool on August 10 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The cost for admission is \$2.75 per person or you may use your pool pass. Churches will be providing free food at the event so come eat, swim and enjoy! (We will cancel the event if the pool closes because of the weather.)

# Children's Ministry...continued

## Inside Out and Upside Down on Main Street

**Where Jesus Makes a Difference Everyday!**

It's time for VBS! Vacation Bible School will be held August 8 – 11 from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. at Emmaus Church and is hosted by Bethel, Rejoice and St. John's Lutheran Churches and

Emmaus Church. VBS is for children age 3 (by 9/1/10) to children entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade. If you are interested in registering your child please pick up a registration form at one of the participating churches or go online to [www.stjohns-elca.org](http://www.stjohns-elca.org) and click the "Children's" tab.



**Volunteers** are needed in many areas. Most shifts are only two hours or less from 9:15 – 11:45 in the morning. Can't be here every day? That's OK. Just tell us what days work for you. Middle and High school youth can earn cubits towards confirmation! If you have questions contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or [jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org).

## Do you have enough children in your life?

For children to feel connected to their church, it's important for them to build relationships with at least 5 adults, other than their parents. With that in mind, please consider how you can help with Children's programming by volunteering with Sunday School or Wednesday afternoon programming this year! We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities. If you are interested, please talk with Julie Brehmer or check out the volunteer opportunities in the Sunday School registration packet.

**P.S.: High School students** – talk with me how you can connect with our younger kids Sundays and Wednesdays too!

## "On The Road" Summer Camp for Kids

"On The Road" summer camp will be offered for kids who have completed K – 4, August 8– 11 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Bethel, Rejoice! and St. John's Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Baptist Church will be hosting the event, which will take place

at St. John's this year. "On the Road", a program provided by Good Earth Village Bible Camp, will kick off on Sunday,

August 7 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. at St. John's. It is open to campers, families anyone who would like to come! For more information and to register go online to [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) and click on "GEV on the Road".



## Becoming a Cross+generational Congregation

We are excited to welcome Vibrant Faith Ministries to our congregation on Sunday, September 18, starting at 9:45 a.m., to speak at our first forum about becoming a cross-generational congregation.

Learn:

- Five ways our congregation would benefit from becoming more cross+generational
- Strategies for tapping into the gifts and wisdom of all generations
- Ways to make cross+generational events a form of community outreach
- How to make family celebrations cross+generational experiences

We encourage all ages to attend! Feel free to contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions.



# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

## Meet the new Youth director!

Tracie would love the chance to meet you! There will be 2 opportunities for people to gather and get to know her better. Bring your own money for lunch, a snack or something to drink. .

**Middle School Youth**  
Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>  
Hogan Brothers.  
11am – 1:30pm

**Sr. High Youth**  
Wednesday August 17<sup>th</sup>  
Caribou Coffee  
3 – 5pm

Looking forward to meeting you soon. Please remember to introduce yourself when you see her.

## 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 is in the Commons to collect your recipes or you can email them to Martha Erickson at [cmgkerickson@gmail.com](mailto:cmgkerickson@gmail.com).

Please make sure you include: your name and contact number, recipe name, recipe category, ingredients, detailed instructions, pan size, oven temp

## Get Involved!

Talk with Tracie or call the Church Office - we'd love to get the youth at St. John's more involved in worship. You could usher, acolyte, or be an assisting minister for a week. You could help in the nursery, teach Sunday School and so many other great things. This is your church too - get involved!

## Confirmation update!

Thanks to all of you who turned in your Completed confirmation Registration packets by the August 1st deadline. If you have not had a chance to drop them off yet, please do so ASAP. Extra information packets are available online at [stjohns-elca.org](http://stjohns-elca.org) or on the Youth Board. Keep your eyes and ears open for Orientations details.

## Sermon Notes!

Summer is a great time to get caught up on your sermon notes. You should have received a progress report the end of July letting you know how you are doing. If you have questions, please contact Tracie Peterson or Pr. Mark.

## 9<sup>th</sup> Graders (soon to be 10<sup>th</sup> Graders)

Don't forget to finish up your faith statement and schedule a meeting with your pastor. Faith Statements are due September 1st. Confirmation Interviews need to be completed no later than September 15th. If you need help with your statement, contact Tracie or one of the pastors at the church office. We would love to help.



Gustavus.. Keep your eyes out for more details.

Mark Your Calendar: Our fall retreat is September 24 at



# Youth Ministry...Continued

---

## It's Tracie!

Thanks to all of you who I have had a chance to meet and have welcomed me. Let me tell you a little about myself. I have had the privilege to be in Youth Ministry in a congregation for the past 25 years. It has been an exciting ride that has taken me North, South and West (I never really get to go East – hmmm). I live in Chaska, MN with a wonderful husband (Roger), two girls (Hanna and Faith) and two cats (Sam and Ella). I enjoy reading, walking, music and basically anything that will allow me to be outside.

Although I have a degree in Psychology and Statistics, most of my adult life has been working with youth. I have also worked as a lifeguard, corrections officer, restaurant clown, preschool teacher, Starbucks Barista and brain trainer (just to name a few). God has blessed my life with so many different opportunities to minister. I am honored to be working with Interserve Ministries for the past 4 years. It has

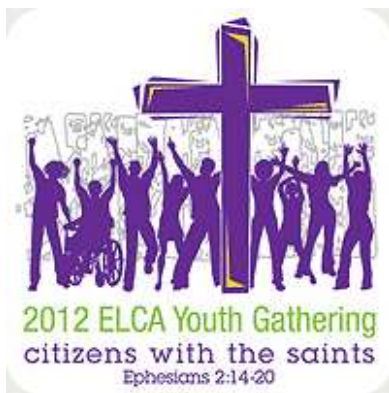
given me a chance to work with congregations in transition and walk with them as they take the time to dream about who they want to be and explore their potential. I love teaching Jr. High and Sr. High Youth, allowing them to absorb the gospel and explore how it applies to them in real life today as well as providing opportunities for adults to interact and serve with youth. I am very passionate about service and intergenerational ministry.

During my time at St. Johns, I am hoping to help the congregation explore what Youth Ministry and Family Ministry could look like. Information will be gathered through town meetings, surveys and lots of conversations. A transition team will take the information gathered and work towards putting together a job description while the Youth Board will keep ministry moving forward. It is important to remember, during this transition, we will need lots of adults to keep things moving smoothly.

I will be in the office Tuesdays and Wednesdays plus 2 Sunday's a month. Please feel free to give me a call or stop by and introduce yourself. I look forward to meeting and visiting with each of you out there as well as walking with you as we navigate the changes and blessings God has in store for this congregation. I promise to keep you in my prayers during our time together. I hope you will do the same for me.

## 2012 National Youth Gathering

After hurricane Katrina slammed into the gulf Coast wreaking havoc on the city of New Orleans, ELCA members rolled up their sleeves and helped with the heavy lifting. In 2009 37,000 ELCA young people showed up in New Orleans ready to help rebuild a struggling city.



Sure, They completed service projects – painted, took out trash, raked, cleaned and made repairs – because there was a lot of physical work to be done.

But they also made a human connection. They learned about hospitality and how people overcame anxiety with an unwavering faith. They began a journey that travels far beyond service projects with the residents of NOLA.

That's why the ELCA YOUTH GATHERING is going back July 18 - 22 2012! Must register by October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. Watch for more details soon.

**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

**Youth Ministry**

Tracie Peterson

**Congregation President**

Carrie Duba



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

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

Address Service Requested

**Looking for a church home?**

You are invited to consider becoming a member of St. John's! St. John's will formally receive new members on Nov. 20 and April 29, 2012. A fall session of gatherings for those considering membership at St. John's begins on Sunday, Sept. 25. Contact a pastor or the church office if you would like to join St. John's or if you would like more information about life and ministry at St. John's. Everyone is welcome to participate in worship and all church activities, whether a member or not!

**FALL WORSHIP TIMES  
BEGIN SEPTEMBER 11!**

8:30 A.M. - WORSHIP  
9:45 A.M. - EDUCATION HOUR  
11:00 A.M. - WORSHIP

**COME AND WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S!**