

THE *Voice* ★

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 2011

Volume 51, Number 8

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inside . .*

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Wednesday Meal

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Worship Services:

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 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:

office@stjohns-elca.org.

For information, contact the Church Office:

phone: 507-645-4429

fax: 507-645-9633

e-mail:

office@stjohns-elca.org

website:

www.stjohns-elca.org

Church office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

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

Friday

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

Welcome Week - Invite your neighbors and friends!

Line up of Events!

Wednesday, September 14th Welcome Week Kick-Off Meal

(5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.)

Tacos and the fixin's!

Dessert

Drinks

And a whole heap of fun!

Youth and Children Wednesday programming begin.

Invite your neighbors and friends to join us!

Sunday, September 18th

Special brass music groups during worship

(8:30 and 11:00 a.m. service times)

(9:45) Sunday kids activities begin

(9:45): Sunday Forum: Guest speaker, Jim LaDoux from Vibrant Faith Ministry, will present "Becoming a Cross+Generational Congregation.

This session will be held in the sanctuary.

Fall Worship Begins on Sunday, Sept. 11!

8:30 a.m. - Worship

9:45 - Education Hour
(for children, youth and adults!)

11:00 a.m. - Worship (note time change)

**Come and Worship at
St. John's!**

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: Are you looking for a way to renew your prayer life?

Gathered in the Word is a time of prayer using scripture as guide. No experience necessary. All are welcome, Thursday, Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside.

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

Prayer Chain: Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included in Sunday morning prayers unless specifically requested. Contact Mary Cisar with a prayer request or to become a prayer chain volunteer: macisar@gmail.com or 663-1097.

Compromise Has Promise

Promise is right there in the word *compromise*. We have heard a lot about compromise in the world of politics lately, but we have not seen it in operation there. On a smaller scale, many individuals face what appear to be unresolvable conflicts with family, with friends, and with co-workers. Some are convinced that they and they alone hold the answer to a problem. Others insist that their voices are not being heard. Has genuine, healthy compromise seemed hard to find in your personal life, too?

Both compromise and promise assume a conversation, a dialogue in which two participants, representing different positions, are heard and affirmed. One voice may be weaker and one stronger, but both are legitimate and deserve a fair hearing, whether they are governments or families. Compromise means each side

gives up a piece of an issue; but it does not mean that one or both sides give up a piece of themselves. A fresh, open, and respectful look can help both weak and strong recognize that mutuality is the basis of the *promise* in compromise.

The *com* in *compromise* means *together, jointly*. True compromise and promise carry within them the trust and hope that are the basis of every positive relationship. Real compromise and promise allow individuals to smooth out tensions by standing together on shared concerns. Through healthy compromise, people can feel anxiety ease and outright conflict move to peaceful resolution. The key is genuine give and take that is grounded in mutual respect.

Are you or someone you know dealing with a painful situation? Does compromise hold promise as a solution, but seem out of reach? A Stephen Minister's fresh perspective and caring support could make a difference. Contact one of the pastors at 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at 645-8445.

"Weaving the Threads of Loss" is the title of a presentation that will be given by Pat Richardson, LICSW, LMFT on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Northfield Hospital, Meeting Room A. The presentation is free and open to the public. For more information contact Barb Knaak at 664-0444.

"Journeying Through Grief" booklets are available at St. John's for all who are mourning the loss of loved ones. Contact Barb Knaak or one of the pastors for more information.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry



Providing one-to-one care and encouragement

From our pastors . . .

The call committee is now busy discerning the appropriate candidates to interview from the pool they have been given. They have a difficult task because they have been asked to locate the perfect pastor for St. John's Lutheran Church. The following is a recipe which, if followed closely, should result in a "perfect" choice:

The perfect pastor preaches exactly 12 minutes. He frequently condemns sin but never upsets anyone. He works from 8 a.m. until midnight and is also a janitor. He makes \$60 a week, wears good clothes, buys good books, drives a good car, and gives about \$80 a week to the poor. He is 28 years of age, but he's been preaching for 30 years. He is wonderfully gentle and handsome. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that keeps him seriously dedicated to his work. He gives himself completely but never gets too close to anyone to avoid criticism. He speaks boldly on social issues, but must never become politically involved. He has a burning desire to work with teenagers, but he spends all his time with senior citizens. He makes 15 daily calls to parish families, visits shut-ins and the hospitalized, spends all his time evangelizing the unchurched, and is always in his office when needed.

We all know that, after time, perfection can begin to fade. Therefore, here are further instructions for keeping things perfect with the pastor: *If your pastor does not measure up, simply send this notice to six other churches that are tired of their pastor too. Then bundle up your pastor and send him to the church at the top of your list. If everyone cooperates, in one week you will receive 1,643 pastors. One of them should be perfect. Have faith in this letter. One church broke the chain and got its' old pastor back in less than three months.*

Seriously, the call committee is hard at work, diligently seeking the best possible candidate to be the next senior

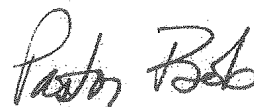
pastor at SJLC. Please continue to keep all concerned in your prayers. And, when you happen to meet a member of that committee, please offer them a word of encouragement and thanks for their dedication and service.

As we head into the fall, a significant change is ahead: the second worship service has been moved to 11:00 a.m. This move was prompted by a request from small group ministry regarding a need for some additional time between services to accommodate additional group offerings. It will also help the education forums, as they are most often pressed for time.

Any change in worship time, however slight, is a significant thing. As we plan our worship into the fall we will continue to remain aware of time considerations. Also, it should be mentioned that this time change is being taken on for a one-year period of study. At that point, the Congregation Council will receive comments and evidence of benefits and drawbacks of the move.

We all look forward to the resumption of programming for children, youth, and adults, alike. The hope is that a renewed and refreshed spirit will accompany all program and worship efforts this fall.

Yours in Christ,



Music and Worship Life at St. John's

The Second Annual DJJD Weekend Family Choir: September 11

All singers age 9th grade through adult are invited to participate in a Family Choir for worship on Sunday, September 11. Rehearsals are in the choir room (room 209) at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Worship services are at 8:30 and 11:00. Come for one or both, and invite a friend – the music will be easy to learn! For more information, call Dan Fenn at the church – 645.4429 ext. 58.

4th and 5th Grade Chime Choir

4th and 5th Graders! We will once again have a 4-5th grade chime choir group that meets on "DOG" Wednesdays from 4-4:45, when "CAT" class is not scheduled. Last year we had a fun group of kids (who were hard workers, too!) who played during a couple of worship services and for the children's Christmas Program. We may also explore Orff or

drumming opportunities, as time permits. If you're interested in joining us, please indicate this on your Sunday School registration form, or contact Jenny at 664-9296.

Fall Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesdays (beginning Sept. 14)

- 4:10 p.m. Alleluia Choir (K-1st Grade)
- 4:10 p.m. Hosanna Choir (Grades 2-3)
- 4:45 p.m. Jubilate Choir (Grades 4-8)
- 7:00 p.m. St. John's Chorale (College and Adults) (beginning Sept. 7)
- 7:15 p.m. Laudate Choir (Grades 9-12)

Thursdays (beginning Oct. 13)

- 5:15 p.m. Rejoice Ringers

2nd and 4th Sundays (beginning Sept. 25)

- 9:45 a.m. The Sunday Singers (College and Adults)

Adult Choir Opportunities this Fall:

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: ADULT CHOIRS' RETREAT
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 10 A.M. TO 2 P.M. IN ST. JOHN'S HALL**

The St. John's Chorale

- Weekly rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. (begins Sept. 7)
- Sings weekly at the 8:30 a.m. Sunday worship service

The Sunday Singers

- Rehearsals from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. during the Sunday morning Education Hour about twice per month (begins Sept. 25)
 - Sings during the 11:00 a.m. service on those days
 - Rehearsal/Singing Dates this Fall:
 - o September 25
- More dates coming** - watch the Voice and Facebook for more information.



Share Your Talents at the next Sunday Morning Concert!

The first concert of the new season on October 23 will feature our own St. John's members (this concert open to college and adult participants). If you sing or play an instrument and would like to perform, please contact Dan Fenn at 645.4429 ext. 58.



Shared Ministry

Communion Servers Schedule to Begin

If you have served communion in the past or signed up to do so on your Time and Talent Sheet you should have received a Communion Server's Schedule via e-mail or USPS. To make communion serving run a bit more smoothly a set schedule has been introduced. Serving communion entails being present the scheduled service, washing your hands during the offering, and dispersing the bread, wafers, or grape juice. If you are not on the schedule but would like to be please contact Regina Hassanally with a service preference.

Wednesday Night Meals Begin September 14!

Wednesday Night Meals at St. John's will begin again on September 14. Every Wednesday Night a team of volunteers prepares a meal served in St. John's Hall from 5:15-6:30pm. The meals are open to all and with the exception of Pizza Night (typically the first Wednesday of the month) do not have a set cost but free will donations are welcome. Linda Anderson, Peggy Dell and Kristy Harms are coordinating the meals again this year. We need volunteers to help set-up and serve (from 4:30 - 6:30) clean-up (from 5:45-7:30) and bring a dessert (dropped off at church by 5pm on Wednesday Night). If you can help in any of these ways, for an entire shift or just part of one please contact Regina Hassanally or one of the meal coordinators. If you have volunteered in the past or signed up to do so on the Time and Talent Sheet you will be hearing from someone soon!

Regina Hassanally

Director of Shared Ministries

SERVING TO LOVE



LOVING TO SERVE

Night to Unite = SUCCESS!

Northfield Night to Unite at St. John's Great Success! On Tuesday, August 2nd St. John's hosted a community meal for Northfield's Night to Unite. Almost 200 people joined together for food and fellowship and connected with members of the local police department. The evening was a great success and many thanks are owed to the volunteers who set-up, cleaned-up and prepared the meal. A big thank you to the Boy Scouts who canvased the church's neighborhood with invitations to the free meal. Our best guess is that there were 50-60 new faces at St. John's that night! What a great way to extend God's love.

Thank you!

We want to express our appreciation to all who helped to make our special dessert Sundays a HUGE success!

A special thank you to all the cooks who provided the wonderful pies, cakes and desserts and to all of the workers, many who volunteered to help and specil thanks to Jon Reid who runs the dishwasher for us.

With grateful thanks,

Guy Reid and Char Nelson

News and Events

Being Unbound

Our congregation is surely in the process of 'being unbound' because so many of you have been so generous in giving money toward paying down our mortgage debt through the Debt Reduction Appeal. As Pastor Bob has pointed out, many good things are already happening. We have reduced the mortgage from nearly \$800,000 to \$230,000 just one third of the way into the two-year appeal. We have hired a part-time interim Youth Director, Tracie Peterson, who, along with the Youth Board, will focus on the goal stated in the Strategic Planning report to create a family ministry focus around faith formation. Because the early and generous response in giving has saved us the extra amount in interest payments. We have reduced the cash outflow for debt service by \$30,000 which is the same as \$30,000 in additional income. In addition this will reduce our annual payments in all future years by over \$50,000. Being 'unbound' has enabled us to

make timely payments to our benevolence and outreach partners such as the ELCA, Lutheran Social Services, El Milagro Lutheran Church, Lutheran World Relief and others.

Thank you to all who have given and are giving. For those whose circumstances may have changed making it possible to give now, or even in future months, your gifts will enlarge our congregational good health and influence.

Genevieve Quarberg for the Debt Reduction Appeal Committee



Crop Hunger Walk - September 25

Ending Hunger One Step at a Time. This is the theme for the 2011 Northfield CROP Walk to end hunger. Join the group from St. John's on Sunday, September 25. The walk will begin at Emmaus Church at 2pm and will end at Bridge Square. As we walk we will support programs that eradicate hunger, poverty, childhood and waterborne diseases. Twenty-five percent of funds raised will be used locally at Northfield's Community Action Center.

You can support the CROP Walk by walking on Sunday, September 25 and raising support for your walk or by sponsoring one of our walk participants. If you are unable to join in the walk, you are invited to sponsor a walker or contribute directly. Make checks out to St. John's with "CROP Hunger Walk" in the memo line. You may also help by assisting in the coordination of St. John's group. If you would like to support the CROP Walk in any of these ways please contact Regina Hassanally.

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Faith, Freedom, and Human Rights

Next meeting:

Tuesday, Sept. 19

7:00 p.m.

Fireside Room

Human Rights
and the

Northfield
Human Rights

Commission

All are welcome!

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life, almost one-third of the world's population, 2.2 billion people, live in cultures hostile to their religions or under governments that put restrictions on their religions. (See details at www.pewforum.org.) Challenges to human rights take many forms, some overt and others quite subtle. How a community addresses human rights issues says something important about that community's shared values.

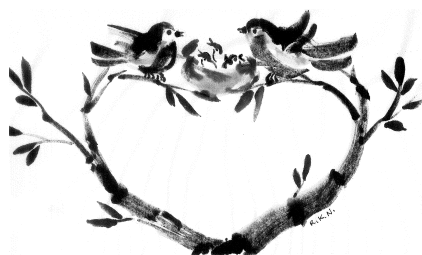
Northfield has a long-standing Human Rights Commission and its current chair is a long-time member of St. John's. Dick Kleber will take questions and offer some reflections on the work of the commission at the September 19 meeting of the Peace and Justice Group. Come at 7 P.M. with your concerns as well as your questions for him and other commission members who have also been invited to attend. As always, the meeting is open to all members of St. John's and to the wider community. Barbara Wilson, 645-6747 or barbarawilson118@yahoo.com, is the contact person.

Once again the Northfield Community is invited to come together to celebrate the International Day of Peace on Wednesday, September 21. Between 4:30 and 6 p.m. citizens will gather at Bridge Square for a Great Vigil of Peace. While music and other expressions for peace are planned, there will also be time for spontaneous responses from those present. Individuals and groups are invited to bring posters that express their visions and concerns. Come and go as you are able!

Whether you participate in this community event or observe the day on your own, perhaps with a friend or two, you will be part of a worldwide observance. For more information or suggestions for the Northfield event, please contact Judith Stoutland, 645-7842 or judithstoutland@gmail.com.

The October 17 meeting of the Peace and Justice Group will be a conversation with Carolyn Fure Slocum, Carleton College Chaplain, about the religious, ethical, and moral concerns of college students today. There will be an opportunity for St. Johns members to be helpful to the 8% of Carleton students who are Lutheran. Robert Flaten will lead this meeting.

Once again the Northfield Community is invited to come together to celebrate the International Day of Peace on Wednesday, September 21.



From 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. citizens will gather at Bridge Square for a Great Vigil of Peace. While there will be planned times for music and other expressions for peace, there will also be time for responses by those present. Individuals and groups are invited to bring posters that share their vision and concerns.

Come and join with neighbors in Northfield and around the world to express support for peace and nonviolence.

For more information or suggestions for the event, please contact Judith Stoutland, 645-7842 or judithstoutland@gmail.com

Serving on Sundays in September

Communion preparers

Sept. 11	Elden and Solveig Zempel
Sept. 18	John and Barbara Walters
Sept. 25	Sue Brockman and Brian Evenson

Ushers

Sept. 4	(8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (10:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber
Sept. 11	(8:30) Jim Enestvedt, Dan Franklin, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (11:00) Jonathan Norrie, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
Sept. 18	(8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (11:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
Sept. 25	(8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (11:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback

August Actions

Baptisms

Tomohiro Honjo, son of Akio and Akiko Honjo; sponsors are Mike and Suzanne Sylvester; August 7, 2011

Gabriel Glen Zempel, son of Torfinn and Samantha Zempel; sponsors are Tabitha McDonald and Nick McDonald; August 21, 2011

Funerals

Ordella Moberg, August 10, 2011

Radio Broadcasts

August 7, 2011, in honor of Eugene Schrader's 90th birthday, by his family.

August 14, 2011, in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Olaf Hanson by Lorraine and Allen Hanson.

August 21, 2011, to welcome the St. Olaf Football team and coaches to St. John's, by Gloria and Tom Porter.

Looking for a unique way to honor someone?

Consider sponsoring a radio broadcast! We have many unfilled dates this fall - unsponsored broadcasts are paid for out of the general operating expenses.

Sponsorships cost \$160 per Sunday.

This is a great outreach to our shut ins and others in our community. And you get your name in print and announced on the radio!

Contact the Church Office for available dates and to schedule your sponsorship **today!**

Can you help with Children's Programming?

An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members – parents, grandparents, anyone! Are you able to help out on Wednesdays or Sundays? Whether you enjoy working with large or small groups of children or behind the scenes, there is a place for you! Many opportunities can fit into your schedule!

Wednesday afternoons: Snack Servers, Recreation, Bus Angels, Kid's Club leaders for grades K-3rd, DOG leaders for grades 4-5.

Sunday Mornings: Sunday School teachers and team teachers, Rotation Sunday School station leaders (2 Sunday commitment), coffee hour host, Nursery volunteers, Library volunteers, Music volunteers.

Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, ext. 25, if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Our thanks to you in advance!

Joint VBS 2011!

We had a fantastic week in August at VBS and "On the Road" summer camps! 120 children registered for "On the Road" summer camp lead by Good Earth Village and 52 preschool – kindergarten children attended "Inside Out, Upside Down on Main Street" VBS! What a fantastic turnout! Many thanks to Bethel Lutheran Church, Rejoice! and Emmaus Church and their volunteers for joining with us in providing a week of fun and fellowship for children in the Northfield community. Thank you to the families who brought coins for our mission, the Northfield Community Action Center. We raised \$125.00.

And thanks to the following volunteers from St. John's who helped with VBS: Frances Boehning, Katie Bull, Elizabeth Evenson, Anne France, Amy McBroom, Nicholas Pelletier, Greg Pelletier, Andrew Dell, Bailey Dell, Viveka Hall-Holt and Olivia Riggins.

Also many thanks to our host families for housing our Good Earth Village counselors: Judy and James Cederberg, Peggy and Terry Dell and David and Genevieve Quarberg.

Hope to see you next year!



St. John's Suppers

Let's get together for Dinner – 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.

Kick off Meal!

Wednesday, September 14

Tacos and the fixin's

Wednesday, September 21

Pulled Pork, Chips, Veggies

Wednesday, September 28

Tater Tot Hotdish

Wednesday, October 5

Pizza Night

All meals are free will offering.

Come, Share a Meal!



Recipes Needed!

A reminder that the Youth Fundraiser cookbook needs your recipe! Please drop the recipe off in the box located on the table just outside of St. John's Hall.

Let's make this a big success - the youth are raising money to attend the National Youth Gathering in 2012!

Mission Outreach

Chicago Mission Trip, 2011

Thirteen members of St. John's travelled to Chicago in July to participate in a week-long mission trip organized through Center for Student Missions. Youth and chaperones assisted teachers in a summer school program run by an organization called Casa Central; served at a homeless shelter called A Safe Haven and helped to serve a free meal called "Breaking Bread" at the LaSalle Street Church. Other activities included walking tours of city neighborhoods and meals at neighborhood restaurants. In the coming months, trip participants will share reflections of their week in Chicago, in the Voice. Thank you, St. John's for helping to make this trip possible through your prayers and support of youth fundraising efforts.

From Bjorn Bade: "During our mission trip to Chicago I saw God in all the homeless people that we helped at the Breaking Bread meal and Safe Haven facilities. I was impressed by the courage and strength they had, to get up every day even though they may not know what they are going to eat for dinner or where they are going to get that food. It takes a lot of belief in having a better life, getting a job and being positive to keep going in the conditions that are not always the best to be living in. I only got to talk with two or three homeless people but they showed me their strength through their positive attitudes and the willingness to face each day without complaining. I also saw God in the facilities helping those who are homeless. I was really impressed with A Safe Haven and how nice their building

was and how good the food looked. Both facilities do a lot for the homeless of Chicago and I think it was a real honor to get the chance to help and learn from the homeless people we met and the facilities that assist them."

From Grant Erickson: "My favorite memory from our trip to Chicago was how we got to see a whole different life style than what we're accustomed to. Throughout our trip we visited all kinds of different neighborhoods; they were all unique in their own ways but they all seemed to have a unity within their neighborhood."

From Amelia Kneser: "My favorite memory from the trip was experiencing all the different ethnic groups. Through the restaurants and neighborhoods, there was so much I saw and experienced that really made the trip fun. My favorite restaurant was a Mediterranean restaurant down the street from where we were staying at North Park University."

El Milagro Update

Greetings and peace to you all!

At the halfway point of 2011, we would like to express our thanks for your mission partnership. We have received a remarkable \$2,500 this year from St. John's Lutheran Church. Thank you so very much!

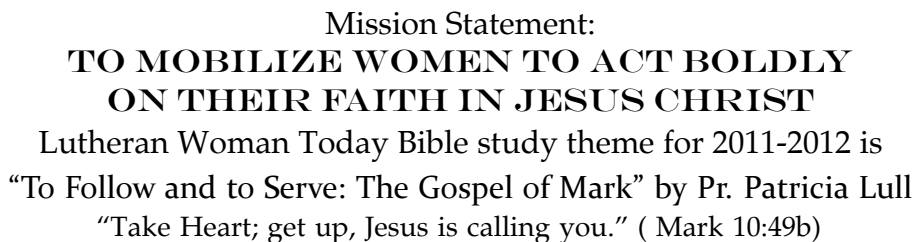
El Milagro would not be the "Miracle on 38th Street" without Mission Partner support. St. John's "over the top" generosity and caring response really has touched us deeply.

We ask you to continue to hold us in your heart and prayers, as you remain in ours. We look forward to conversation about ways we can deepen our partnership and thus strengthen the mission and ministry we share in Christ Jesus. Blessing of peace and joy!

From the Congregational Council and the people of
El Milagro Lutheran Church.
Rev. Judith VanOsdol, Pastor
Warren Croft, Congregation President



The Hands and Feet project this month is the CROP Hunger Walk on September 25! See the article on page 6 for more information.



Sept. 1 - 1:00 p.m.

Sept. 6– Tuesday, Bible study leaders meet at 12:00 noon in room 11 with Beverly Lundeen. Note: Meet on Tuesday instead of Monday for this month only. Oct.- May, meet Monday after 1st Thurs. in Fireside room, 12:00.

For a subscription to the “Gather for Faith and Action” magazine, please email: subscriptions@augsborgfortress.org or call 800-328-4648. The cost for one year is \$12.00.

WELCA October General Meeting is Tuesday, October 4 at 6:45 p.m. We will serve a simple dessert, have a short business meeting and enjoy a program. Please stay tuned to more information about the program in the Sunday Bulletin, the WELCA bulletin board etc. The program will be exciting!

Women of the ELCA 

Small Groups Ministry

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

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

Bible Study Options

Contact: Dave and Gen Quarberg 645-0089

Connections

Contact: Carol Schoen 645-6840

Gathered in the Word

Contact: Pr. Johnson 645-4429

Grief Support

Contact: Barbara Knaak 664-0444

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

Ready or Not...

By Barbara Eaves

When I was young, the more than 30 kids on our small city block constantly played outdoor games, one of which was hide and seek. While the person who was "It" leaned, with eyes supposedly covered, against the large maple tree and counted to 20 slowly?, everyone else scrambled to hide before hearing, "Ready or not, here I come."

Now in mid-August (the time of this writing) it seems as though the days are counting too quickly—16...17...20...25...31—so that before one can get ready we will hear September shouting, "Ready or not, here I come." Whether we are not ready for cold weather or the rush of the beginning of a school year or the need to harvest and put up the fruits of the summer or to close up the cabin, it seems as though all of a sudden fall is upon us, ready or not.

At St. John's, the Small Group Ministry Team is working to get ready for fall, searching for varieties of ways to bring people together in small group settings and seeking people who are willing to lead a group. Perhaps you could say we are in the "seek" mode of "hide and seek." Unlike the game, however, where the goal is to stay hidden so well you can't be found, the hope, in the case of small groups, is that people will want to be found...to lead, coordinate, participate in, and help facilitate small groups.

*****Coming Up*****

***Catalog** - listing details of all small groups will be ready by the end of September. Copies will be available at the Small Group bulletin display in the Commons.

***Information** - about groups will be found in the bulletin and at a display in the Commons during the month of September.

***Ministry Fair** - October 2, St. John's Hall during the Education Hour. Come, see, and learn more about St. John's small groups and ministries.

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

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Important Dates!

Wednesday, Sept. 14

- "ROCK", *Reaching Out to Christ's Kids*, Wednesday Programming for K – 5 begins!
- **CAT & Confirmation Orientation** for grades 3-9, St. John's Hall, 6:15 p.m.
- **Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School**, 6:00 p.m., rm.15

Sunday, Sept. 18

- **Sunday School Begins**, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
- **Installation of Teachers**, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, Sept. 25

- **4th Grade Receives Catechisms**, 11:00 a.m.

ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids, begins on Wednesday, Sept. 14

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K – 5. Wednesday afterschool programs, for all grade levels, consists of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, music opportunities (Alleluia, Hosanna and Jubilate Choir plus bell chime and Orff instrument ensembles) art, service projects and more!

St. John's will be providing bussing for children from Greenvale, Bridgewater and Sibley school and from the Middle school for Prairie Creek students who are interested in participating in our Wednesday afterschool programs.

For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes an insert you may use to register your child. Registration packets are available in the church Commons or online at www.stjohn-elca.org under the Children's tab. It would be great to have all registrations as soon as possible!

Celebrating 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. Because of the Labor Day Weekend, the next session is Saturday, September 11 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Youth Blast! Overnight Retreat

Who: Kids in grades 3 – 6

When: Friday – Saturday, October 7 – 8

Where: Good Earth Village

Cost: \$40.00 (*scholarships available*)
(*No charge for chaperones*)

Youth Blast invites kids in grades 3 – 6 for an overnight adventure at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. The 24 hour camp experience is filled with games, hikes, good food and Bible time. This is a great introduction to what a week long summer camp is like. We will carpool from St. John's on Friday leaving at 5:30 p.m. and arrive back on Saturday around 6:00 p.m. Feel free to bring a friend and join us for Youth Blast!

Register by calling Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org. Chaperones are needed!
Registration deadline: Sunday, September 25. (Space is limited)

Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School

All preschool children who are 3 by 9-1-11 are invited be part of the Preschool 1 Sunday school class this



fall. An open House will be held on Wednesday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 15 (lower level) to meet the teachers and help with

this important transition. Please make sure you register your child by Sept. 1.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

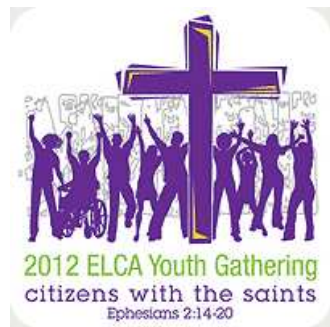
Jr. High Sunday School is Back!

Join us Sunday mornings as we take some time to look at what it means to be a Christian teen in today's World. This year's theme is **Way to Live!** Each month we will focus on two different "faith practices" or ideas from the bible and apply it to life today. For September, we will be focusing on the question and asking "What does it mean to 'live the good life'." As well as taking time to hear other people's faith stories while trying to figure out what our own story is. Hope you can join us at 9:45am in the Youth Room. Treats will be available.

ELCA Youth Gathering, 2012

ELCA youth will gather—again—in New Orleans July 18-22, not to cheer on the Saints football team, but to stand with the **saints of God** in that place: the weak and the strong, those who have built new homes and those still struggling to rebuild.

Why go? Because New Orleans has taught us about fresh starts made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. New Orleans has more to teach us about generosity and about how to be good neighbors and about the house that God is building. Lots to teach us about fresh starts made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. New Orleans has more to teach us about generosity and



about how to be a good neighbor. New Orleans has more to teach us about the house that God is building. We want you to join us Summer of 2012. It is a chance to worship and serve with 40,000 youth from all over the United States – and the world.

There will be an informational meeting on **Sunday, September 18th at 12:15pm** in the Fireside Room. Come hear about this exciting opportunity to travel as we put our Faith into Action and stretch ourselves to serve outside our community while celebrating with lots of new friends. Registration is due October 1st. For more information, please contact Tracie Peterson at youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com

Attention 9th Graders

We need your input! A big part of the year is spent with your very own Confirmation Mentor. A Mentor is an individual from St. Johns who is willing to ask questions with you about what it means to be a Christian in today's world. You will be meeting with this person monthly so we want your input. Watch the mail for more information and contact Tracie Peterson ASAP with your top 3 choices for your mentor. Mentor Requests are due at orientation on Sept. 14.



10th Grade Confirmation Retreat and Faith Statements

Your day is almost here. Here are a few quick reminders of what needs to be done as you prepare for the final step in the Affirmation of Baptism process.

*Schedule and complete Confirmation Interview with your assigned pastor **NO LATER** than **September 15th**. Your faith statement and faith questions must be completed and ready to turn in at that time as well. If you have questions, please contact Tracie Peterson or Pastor Mark.

***Confirmation Retreat is Saturday, September 24th** from 8am – 4:30pm. All tenth graders are expected to attend. This is your chance to celebrate with your classmates as you share your faith statements and prepare for the "Big Day". Detailed information will be arriving in the mail soon.

Senior High Sunday School

begins Sunday, September 18th. Watch the mail for themes and details. Hope you can all make it.

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



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Becoming a Cross+generational Congregation, Sunday, September 18,

The St. John's Forum year begins with with a presentation entitled "Becoming a Cross+Generational Congregation"



which is will address one our stated core values: *to create an effective youth and family ministry.* Jim LaDoux, from Vibrant Faith Ministries, will present the forum in the sanctuary.

During the presentation we will **hear** how to live a vibrant faith that is authentic, available, and affirming. We will **learn**: 1) 5 ways our congregation would benefit from becoming more

cross+generational; 2) How stories can be shared more intentionally among generations; 3) 10 strategies for tapping into the gifts and wisdom of all generations; 4) Ways to make cross+generational events a form of community outreach; 5) How to make family celebrations cross+generational experiences.

The forum welcomes participants of all ages, and is sponsored by the Youth Ministry and Education Board, and the Children's Ministry and Education.

NEW!

CAT & Confirmation Orientation - Wednesday, Sept. 14

Catechism and Confirmation Orientation for students in grades 3 – 9 will be held on the same evening, Wednesday, September 14 starting at 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall. If you are unable to attend, please call the church office at 645-4429.

Have you registered for programming?

Sunday School begins on Sept. 18 for kids and youth who are age 3 (by 9-1-11) – Grade 12. It's not too late to register! A timely response is one of the best ways to support Children and Youth Ministry at St. John's. Forms are available in the Commons and online at www.stjohns-elca.org.