

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2011


Volume 51, Number 9

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

## **"Make it Simple" Stewardship Appeal**

This year our congregation will be participating in a stewardship program entitled "MAKE IT SIMPLE."

MAKE IT SIMPLE will be the focus for our worship services Sunday, October 16, through Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

During the four weeks there will be themed worship. The four themes are: "Following Jesus," "Facing the Truth," "Acting Together," and "Sharing Enough." The concluding worship will include an opportunity for each household to bring forward to the altar their Commitment Card indicating their financial support intent to the ministry of our congregation for the coming year.

MAKE IT SIMPLE provides important opportunities for study, reflection, and discussion about the choices we make in our daily lives in these times. The MAKE IT SIMPLE stewardship program will include small group Bible studies, children's activities, and themed worship. We invite and encourage you and your family to participate in the MAKE IT SIMPLE activities.

## **Sunday Bible Study**

On Sundays October 16, 23, 30, and November 6 there will be a Bible study offered on this year's stewardship theme: "Make it Simple." The study will be held in Room 201 (above the office wing), from 9:50 – 10:40 a.m. each week.

## **Tenth Graders to affirm their baptism Oct. 9**

St. John's gives thanks to God that the following young people in our congregation have indicated their desire to publicly affirm their baptism by participating in the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, Oct. 9, at the 11:00 a.m. service: **Bjorn Bade, Mike DeCramer, Andrew Dell, Bennett Falck, Michael Gasior, Ian Iverson, Amelia Kimmes Kneser, Alexa Nutt, Hunter Redfield, James Rowley, Rebecca Storlie, Kristopher Swanson, Amelia Tjaden.**

When they affirm their baptism, these young people will renounce all evil, profess their faith in the Triune God, and commit themselves more fully to participate in the life of the congregation and to live out their faith in the world. This rite follows a six-year education and reflection program at St. John's beginning with Catechism (CAT) classes in grades three, four, five, and six; weekday and Sunday classes in grades seven and eight; and classes, retreats, and a mentor relationship in grade nine. The program concluded with an all-day retreat at Gustavus on Saturday, Sept. 24.

Those being confirmed and their parents and mentors will meet for a breakfast, rehearsal, and group photograph on Saturday, Oct. 8, at 8:45 a.m. in St. John's Hall and the sanctuary. Please pray for these young people and their faith and life as they make this commitment and affirmation.

# Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

## Prayer Ministry

**Gathered in the Word:** is a time of prayer using scripture as guide. All are welcome - no experience necessary. Thursday, October 13, 7 p.m. in the Fire-side Room.

**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.

## It's Not Fair!

Recently I ran into an acquaintance, Julie, in the locker room of the senior center. "How are you?" I said, and waited for the customary, "Great!" Instead I heard a story that called out for the help a Stephen Minister could offer. "I've just had another talk with my daughter!" Julie said. "I have to swim fifty laps to get it out of my system!" I learned that when Rebecca was a senior in high school, she and her parents worked out an agreement: they would pay her college expenses for the first two years, and after that Rebecca would take over, through work and student loans. But now twenty-year-old Rebecca expected her parents to pay her college expenses for the last two years as well. Busy with studies and campus activities and social life, she resented having to take up this load, and she ended all conversations on the subject with an angry, "It's not fair!"

Years ago Julie had paid her own way

**A Grief Support Group** meets in October at the Northfield Hospital, Mtg. Room A, Wednesdays, 6:30p.m.- 8:00 p.m. Contact Katie Jacobi, 646-1037 for more information.

**"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.

**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.

through college, foregoing a social life, and she wanted to make things easier for her daughter: thus the free ride the first two years. But Julie was now beginning to feel used. Her daughter was taking for granted what had been given out of love and generosity. Rebecca was demanding this gift as her entitlement.

Julie feared her daughter was turning into a selfish person, someone who didn't feel bound by agreements, but she also feared losing Rebecca's trust. It pained Julie to be angry with the daughter she loved, but every conversation about college expenses left her seething—and Rebecca as well. This wasn't a life or death situation, but enough anger was floating around this family to endanger its health.

*...continued on pg. 5*

*Bear one another's  
burdens, and in  
this way you will  
fulfill the law of  
Christ.*

*Galatians 6:2*



*Providing one-  
to-one care and  
encouragement*

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

*Matthew 5:4*

## Grief Support Ministry



*The following 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."*

October 29, 2010  
**Richard Pautzke**

October 27, 2010  
**Haakon Fure**

## *From our pastors . . .*

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You have heard it said, repeatedly, that the time of interim is a time of transition. I have, yet, another transition to announce. Our Building Manager/Custodian, Rich Kleeberger, has taken a full-time job in Northfield. It was something that is, certainly, in the best interests of his family.

Here is how we are handling this newest transition. On September 1, we contracted with Coverall, a health-based cleaning organization, to do the cleaning of our building. Coverall is a franchise group; and there is a local franchise owner who has taken charge of the cleaning. As of this writing, we are very pleased with the results.

The piece of Rich's position that we will be missing, until the next budget cycle, is that which provided room set-up, etc. As was explained to our Boards, we are all going to have to pitch in when we need to move things around for an event. A small amount of planning will go a long ways to facilitate set-ups getting done in a timely and economical fashion.

Rich will continue to serve us in the area of building security. He will be providing nightly lock-downs of the building; and be on call for emergencies (as he holds a boiler license). Building accessibility will be based upon the events calendar.

As we look towards the new budget year we anticipate continuing our relationship with Coverall. We, also, hope to be able to hire an individual to assist with the heavier set-up chores. In the meantime, thank you for your understanding, and willingness to pitch in, during this new time of transition.



Speaking of transition, Tim Eklund, Chair of the **Call Committee**, recently gave an update at worship. The committee has received the first group of names of candidates interested in becoming Senior Pastor at St. John's. They have a group of 13 names (which is the largest group I've ever heard of being sent). The call committee is currently busy reviewing candidate profiles, and ranking them in terms of the fit with St. John's profile. They will then meet to discern which of the candidates they should move to the interview stage. They anticipate beginning interviews in October.

The call committee has asked for Continued prayer support during this time of discernment – for them as a committee, and for the candidates as they have their own decisions to make.

Without question, these are exciting times! St. John's appears to moving in a very solid direction. We look to the future with great anticipation.

Yours in Christ,

# Adult Ministry and Education

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## Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Education Hour starts at 9:45 a.m. Coffee is served in St. John's Hall between services. The St. John's Forum meets in the sanctuary this fall. This month's Forum presentations:

*Small Groups* are part of St. John's small group ministry and meet in various rooms as noted.

- Oct. 2:** *Small Group Fair:* Enjoy coffee and fellowship in St. John's Hall while you explore the variety of small groups offered this year at St. John's. Sponsored by the Small Groups Ministry Team.
- Oct. 9:** *St. John's Forum: Bread for the World* -A Circle of Protection presented by Vernita Kennen, member of Incarnation Lutheran Church in Shoreview and co-chair of St. Paul Area Synod's Hunger Work Group.
- Oct. 16:** *St. John's Forum: "Living into Your Vocation"* presented by Vibrant Faith Ministry.
- Oct. 23:** *Sunday Morning Concert Series:* Sanctuary. No Forum
- Oct. 30:** *St. John's Forum: "The Church Faces the Future - The Old Testament and the 'Age Which is to Come'"* The first in a three-part series presented by Gary Stansell, professor emeritus of religion, St. Olaf College

## September Actions

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### Memorials and Gifts

#### Radio Fund

In memory of **Harry Baker** by Roger and Diane Randal, Ferd and June Volkert, Chuck Lunder, Chuck Muckey, Clarence and Victor Volkert.

#### Debt Reduction

In memory of **Harry Baker** by Roger and Darlene Hand, Jane and Bob Gelle.

### Other 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 14, 2011

#### Funerals

**Curtis Reed**, September 10, 2011.

#### Radio Broadcasts

September 18, 2011, in honor of **Charles Anderson's** 90th Birthday, from his family

# Worship & Music Life at St. John's

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## Sunday Morning Concert Series -

**October 23, 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary**

Our first concert of the year will feature our own St. John's members (this concert open to college and adult participants; the spring concert will feature our youth). Performers are still needed! So if you sing or play an instrument and would like to participate, please contact Dan Fenn.



## Rejoice Ringers

Reminder: the first Rejoice Ringers rehearsal of the fall is on Thursday, October 13 at 5:15 p.m.

## Adult Choirs:

There's still time to join either of our adult choirs. The Chorale meets weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7 and sings weekly at the 8:30 Sunday service. The Singers (our newest adult choir) has just begun! This group sings occasionally at the 11:00 service and rehearses at 9:45 on those days. The Sundays that the Singers rehearse and sing this fall are October 2, 9, and 23; November 6 and 20; and December 4. Both choirs will join forces for the Lessons and Carols service, Christmas Day, and other special occasions, and both choirs are open to all singers college-age and adult. For more information, please contact Dan Fenn at the church.

## from Zack Pelletier: Attention Middle Schoolers!

Here is your chance to play handbells...the same instruments used by St. John's Rejoice Ringers adult handbell group. The plan is to take about 8 weeks beginning in mid-October to prepare a piece(s) to share during an Advent service. Rehearsals are tentatively planned for Wednesday nights, but we will have an organizational meeting to determine the best course of action. Let's make this work! If you are interested in joining, please contact Zack Pelletier at 664-9296.

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## Stephen Ministry...continued from pg. 2

A Stephen Minister might help Julie step outside her anger and look more clearly at the situation: to sort out conflicting needs in both mother and daughter, to locate the words and situations that trigger anger in both of them, to discern what part of Julie's stance is important for her to maintain and why, and what part she can give up; to practice ways of conducting her side of the conversation that are respectful, kind, and firm.

If you or someone you know might benefit from a Stephen Minister, contact one of the pastors at 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at 645-8445.

# News and Events

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## From the Peace and Justice group . . .

### **Bread for the World and a Circle of Protection**

On Sunday, October 9, Bread for the World Sunday at St. John's, the Board of Benevolence and Social Concern and the Peace and Justice Group invite you to join the autumn BFW offering of letters to ask our Senators and Representative to assure that a "Circle of Protection" is drawn around funding for programs that provide for poor and hungry people.

Letter writing can be done during the Forum period when our guest speaker will be Vernita Kennen. She is a Lutheran who worships at Incarnation Lutheran Church in Shoreview. She is a long time member of BFW in Minnesota and in California where she lived previously. She and her husband co-chair the Saint Paul Area Synod's Hunger Work Group and she leads the hunger action group in her congregation. She has also been involved with Women of the ELCA in several synods.

"Most churches in this country encourage people to help poor people directly through charities, but say little about changing laws and structures that keep people poor—even though the God of the Bible insists on just laws and is concerned about the behavior of nations as well as individuals." This paragraph from the book *Exodus from Hunger* by David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World (BFW) undergirds BFW's

call for us to urge our Senators and Representatives to create a "Circle of Protection" around funding for "time-tested, cost-effective programs that address the causes of hunger."

BFW reminds us that 43 million people in the United States depend on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly food stamps) to put food on the table. Some members of congress nevertheless propose making this a block grant program which would limit the number of people who could participate and significantly reduce the average monthly benefit for families. Drastic cuts are also proposed in the less than 1 percent of the federal budget allocated for international development programs that focus on poverty. These programs care for 10.1 million people affected by AIDS including about 4 million orphans and other vulnerable children in Africa and elsewhere. Cutting this funding will have enormous consequences for hungry people – and will have no real impact on budget deficits.

In his book David Beckmann reports that few people in the churches he visits raise their hand when he asks who has ever contacted an elected official about national nutrition programs such as food stamps and school lunches. No doubt many have contributed to the \$5 billion worth of groceries distributed by food banks and food charities each year, but it is not generally realized that all the food provided by charities amounts to 6 percent of the food that poor people receive from federal food programs. Thus even seemingly modest reductions in federal appropriations have a huge impact. In August 2010 congress passed a bill providing financial aid to states paid for by a \$12 billion cut in future food stamp benefits. That took away more food than charities can gather in two years.

"Charitable programs are important to hungry people, but it is impossible to food-bank our way to the end of hunger in America," says Beckmann. "If we want to make serious progress against hunger, we also need to make our government an active and effective part of the solution."

### **Peace and Justice Group Meeting**

Religion and College Students  
Carolyn Fure Slocum, Carleton  
College Chaplain  
Monday, Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

Fireside Room  
All are welcome!



Thank you for your participation in the new Pictorial Directory! The last photographs were taken on October 1. Look for the new directory around Christmas and your portraits to arrive a week or two after your photos are taken. Thanks to the Evangelism and Communications board for their help with sign-ups and logistics.

Communion Servers and Assisting Ministers have been scheduled. If you signed up on your 2011 Time and Talent Sheet for either of these ministries but are not on the current schedule expect to be added to the Winter/Spring schedule. If you would like to serve in either of these capacities but you are not on the current schedule and did not indicate an interest on your 2011 Time and Talent Sheet please contact Regina Hassanally in the church office and she will place you on the Winter/Spring Schedule.

New Members Sessions begin Sunday, October 16. If you're interested in joining St. John's or learning more about St. John's please plan to join us in the Fireside Room at 9:45am. If you'd like more information contact the church office at 507-645-4429.

Wednesday Meals have begun! Please join us every Wednesday for a meal in St. John's Hall beginning at 5:15pm. If you would like to help serve, set-up, clean-up or bring a dessert please contact Regina Hassanally and she'll find a time for you to volunteer at this wonderful fellowship event!

*Regina Hassanally, Director of Shared Ministries*

# Serving on Sundays in October

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## Communion preparers

- October 2 Steve and Jennifer Edwins  
October 9 David and Cheryl Buck  
October 16 Darlene Hand and Judy Smith  
October 23 Lois and Eugene Bakko  
October 30 Jon and Jeanette Rondestvedt

## Nursery

- October 2 (8:20 a.m. - 12:05p.m.) Claire Weiss; (10:45a.m. - 12:05 p.m.) Debby Becker  
October 9 (8:20 a.m. - 12:05p.m.) Claire Weiss; (10:45a.m. - 12:05 p.m.) Amy Willkomm  
October 16 (8:20 a.m. - 12:05p.m.) Claire Weiss; (10:45a.m. - 12:05 p.m.) Chris Nevin  
October 23 (8:20 a.m. - 12:05p.m.) Claire Weiss; (10:45a.m. - 12:05 p.m.) Cora Scholz  
October 30 (8:20 a.m. - 12:05p.m.) Claire Weiss; (10:45a.m. - 12:05 p.m.) Maren Bahler

## Ushers

- October 2 (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  
October 9 (8:30) Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, Zach Bahler, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams  
October 16 (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  
October 23 (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  
October 30 (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

## Save the Date!

Saturday, November 12

Authentic Middle Eastern Dinner  
Fundraiser for Bright Stars of  
Bethlehem

St. John's Hall

Sponsored by Northfielders for Justice and  
St. John's Peace and Justice group.

## Thanks, Sunday School Volunteers!

Sunday School is off to a great start thanks to the dedicated teachers and volunteers at St. John's. Teachers are: **Preschool** – Leah Sand, Dodie Mickelsen, Jordan Cook; **Kindergarten** – Kelly Culhane, Megan Andrews-Sharer; **First Grade** –Katie Bull, Peter Duba; **Second Grade** – Angie McCarthy, Kristy Mikula; **Third Grade** – Julie Becker, Scott Boehning; **Fourth Grade** – Becky McGrady; **Fifth Grade** – Andrea Hoff and Sally Lindell.

Also, thank you to Susan Canon for coordinating Library Time and Jenny Pelletier for coordinating Music/Opening.



## Becoming a member of St. John's

Interested in becoming a member of St. John's? New member sessions begin this month on Sundays, Oct. 16 and Oct. 30 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 20. Another new member session will be offered in the spring. Contact the church office for more information or to sign up for the new member sessions.

## Looney Lutherans and A Guide to Healthy Living!

The women of ELCA at St. John's Lutheran Church invite all women of the community to a special event featuring THE LOONEY LUTHERANS on Tuesday, October 4th. The LOONEY LUTHERANS, a trio of wacky gals, have a new cookbook: *Use Your Food: A Guide to Healthy Living, Inside and Out, From Our Kitchen to Yours, Eat Like a Lutheran!* Using music, comedy, and some help from the audience, these gals share some age-old wisdom for living a long and healthy life, the Lutheran way. The event will be Tuesday evening, October 4 at 6:45 p.m. in St. John's Hall. Coffee and cookies will be served a 6:45 during a short business meeting of the St. John's Women of the ELCA, followed by the Looney Lutherans program at about 7:00 p.m. A freewill donation will be collected for the Rice County Habitat for Humanity and Lutheran World Relief, Project Comfort.

The Looney Lutherans are a team of professional actresses who have all been cast members of the hit musical shows Church Basement Ladies, Church Basement Ladies 2, and Away in the Basement, which have been running at the Plymouth Playhouse in Minneapolis since 2005. The Looney Lutherans include Dorian Chalmers, Robbie Mancina, and Greta Grosch. Each of these talented women has been performing for years as actresses, singers and improvisers and are known for their fun and interactive family-friendly shows.



## St. John's Suppers

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

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

**Wednesday, October 5**  
**Pizza Night!**

**Wednesday, October 12**  
**Baked Potato Bar**

**Wednesday, October 19**  
**MEA Week - No Meal**

**Wednesday, October 26**  
**Chili and Cornbread**

**Free will offering appreciated!**

## Can you help?

Wednesday Night Volunteer help is needed! Can you help with set up from 4:30-5:15 (this involves setting out water jugs, veggies, getting tables ready, rolling silverware), how about clean up - clearing plates, washing dishes and ensuring the kitchen is left clean? Or, can you help by bringing a dessert to the church by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday? Contact Regina or Steph and we'll get you signed up!

# News and Events

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## **WELCA Workday and Help Needed!**

A workday took place on Thursday, August 18, with lunch served mid-day. This workday has been initiated to interest more women in helping with hands on projects needed in mission fields. All projects currently underway benefited: assembling of quilts, rolling of bandages made from white bed sheets, assembling of baby care kits, and school bags. Several hours produced a carload of goods to be delivered to Lutheran World Relief Warehouse in South St. Paul and Global Health in Minneapolis. We currently have a great need for sewing of school bags. Thanks to a generous response, we have a large quantity of items for the bags, but far too few bags assembled. On the service table in the Commons, there are several that are cut and ready to be sewn. Help with this would be greatly appreciated. We had enough items to fill sixty-one bags, but only had six bags available to fill.

These projects at church take place every third Thursday of the month, for about two hours, in Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:00 a.m. Every hour can produce something for these ongoing needs. Quilt tops (packages of these are on the service table also) and the school bags can be sewn at home, as well as the tearing of sheets and rolling of bandages. Everyone is welcome to come as often as possible to give a helping hand. You too, can be an authentic "church basement lady!"

## **Fourth Annual Justice Fair**

Come to the Fourth annual Justice Fair in St. John's Hall on Sunday, October 23 from 3-5 p.m. to see the variety of ways that Northfielders are working for justice and peace.

Groups and individuals from the Northfield area will have displays of their work and will be present to answer questions. We anticipate groups of all ages--young people to retirees, and those working for local, national, and international causes.

If you would like to part of this fair or know someone or a group that would like to participate, please contact Judith Stoutland, 645 7842; stoutlaj@stolaf.edu

## **Service of Song, Prayer and Blessing**

Sunday evening, October 9 at 6:30 pm, you are invited to the sanctuary for a service of song, intercessory prayers, and individual prayers for blessing and healing. Donna Paulsen will be at the piano to lead us in singing hymns, and Pastor Dick Beckmen will lead us in a short service of worship and prayer.

## **Gordon Mickelsen Carving Exhibit**

Gordon Mickelsen will be displaying and selling his wood carving of wildlife in Library on Sunday, October 23. Hours for the exhibit are 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. A reception for the artist will be held at 2 p.m. Gordon and Delores are long time members of St. John's and will be donating all proceeds from the sale of the carvings to the Debt Reduction Appeal. Plan now to attend.

## **St. John' to Host Global Mission Volunteer**

Linnae Stole is serving her second term as a volunteer Conversational English teacher for ELCA Global Missions in Poland. St. John's is going to serve as her host congregation for her fundraising efforts. Volunteers are extremely important to our mission efforts, as mission funds have dropped, as total giving has decreased over the past several years.

She has two goals with her fundraising this year: to cover the cost of her roundtrip airfare, and the cost of a language study program. Friends and family members are her primary donors. However, if anyone has an interest of supporting the work of a Global Mission volunteer, please note in the check memo line: "Polish Mission." We look forward to having Linnae report to us when she is on a home leave.

## **Recycling Update!**

A quick update to let everyone know that there is now a plan in place with Waste Management to take care of our recycling. The recycling canister will be placed outside the back door by the kitchen and then picked up as we need. All groups will now please place recyclables in the canister! Thank you!

# 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 Rebecca Storlie:** I saw God in many places during our mission trip to Chicago. One place I saw God was at the Breaking Bread soup kitchen.(at the LaSalle Street Church.) When I walked into the soup kitchen, I felt like everybody there was one big family and that I was welcome to be a part of it. I felt like God was working through the people that were in charge of that soup kitchen because they were all so upbeat and ready to help those less fortunate than they were. I also saw God working through the teachers at Casa Central. All the teachers there were so great at what they were doing, even though their job got very hard at times. I felt that they kept all the kids there excited and ready to learn. I also saw God working through our guide at A Safe Haven Homeless Shelter. [Charlie] was so happy and uplifting to talk to. When he walked into a room, everyone felt happy. I know that he helped many people feel better when they were staying at the shelter and eating in the dining hall. Those are some of the places that I saw God on our mission trip to Chicago.

**From Katie Bull:**The first thing I learned on the mission trip to Chicago was that homeless people made me uncomfortable. It made me uneasy to see women in unthinkable situations, sometimes with children, holding direct eye contact with me as they reached out a hand as a plea for some kind of help, when I knew I had none to offer. It made me scared to know we were walking on sidewalks next to men who may have been involved in some sort of gang violence mere days before. I couldn't fathom how a

sixteen year old girl from a comfortable small town in Minnesota could have anything in common with people who live on the hard streets of Chicago. I continued with this fearful mindset until our group attended the memorial service of a homeless woman at a soup kitchen. (The Breaking Bread meal at LaSalle Street Church) Standing in the back, still completely out of my comfort zone, I heard the pastor say, "Please join me in saying the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm." Automatically I began, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want..." along with every single homeless person in the room. "Those" people, with whom I seemingly had nothing in common, were reciting the exact same words of comfort I had recited in my own grief, in my own time of vulnerability, and in that moment I realized why I have clung to tradition my entire life. Not only do traditions allow us to define ourselves, they allow us to define to whom we belong and who belongs to us. For me, the tradition of reciting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm in times of trial allowed me to connect with these people as fellow humans and worshippers of the same God, which is a much more human and intimate connection, in my opinion, than simply in things like where you live or how much money you have. Because of a simple text, taught to us at a young age, homeless strangers and I became a "we" - I belonged to them and they to me because of the beliefs and traditions we shared.

## Hands and Feet Project: Adopt-A-Highway

This month's Hands and Feet project is the fall clean-up of St. John's section of State Highway 246. Meet in the High School parking lot across from the cemetery on Saturday, Oct. 1 at 10:30 a.m. Sign up on the board outside of the Church Office. Wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Safety vests, gloves and a snack will be provided. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Thank you for helping to clean up this small part of God's creation!





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

Oct. 4 - 6:45 p.m.  
Women of the ELCA general meeting at 6:45 p.m. in St. John's Hall. We will have coffee and cookies and a brief meeting followed by a special program given by THE LOONEY LUTHERANS at about 7:00 p.m. More information about this program is detailed on pg. 9. We will be collecting a freewill donation for the Rice County Habitat for Humanity and the Lutheran World Relief, Project Comfort.

- Oct. 10 – Monday, Bible study leaders meet at 12:00 noon in Fireside
- Oct. 4, 8 – Knitters meet in the Library at 9:30 a.m.
- Oct. 8, 12, 13, 14, 20 - Circles Meet, check with chairpersons listed below.
- Oct. 17, 20 – Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall.
- Oct. 27 – WELCA Executive Board Meets at 9:30 in the Fireside room.

## Looking Ahead

WELCA November General Meeting is Thursday, November 3 at 1:00 p.m. Bring your Thankoffering. We will have dessert, business meeting and enjoy a speaker. The Program is Pastor Dick Beckmen on the topic "From Words to Presence-A Journey of Intimate Prayer."

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 below. Women interested in joining a circle can contact Barbara Walters at 663-1055.

**Anna** – 7:00 p.m. Third Thursday at St. John’s, Susan Rudser, Leader

**Abigail/Rebecca** – Thursday, 9:30 a.m., Gert Broz, Leader. Meet at NRC Parkview East.

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

**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 and Joyce Schrader, Leaders. (Oct. 13-activity room at Valley View of Northfield, 812 Linden St. N.)

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

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

**Women’s Breakfast Group** - second Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in Fireside Room, St. John’s, Kathy Mellstrom, Leader

Please submit items for this information page to Marilyn Jacobson at [cemja@charter.net](mailto:cemja@charter.net) or Marilyn Haugen [rhhmsh@charter.net](mailto:rhhmsh@charter.net).

## Other News

The quilters are in need of good sheets, double size or larger, colored, patterned or white (including fitted) for quilt backs. Please bring them to the storage room in Fellowship Hall.

See the article on page 10! There is an update on the August 18 workday as well as a request for some help. Thanks!



# 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* 645-6840

## **Connections**

Contact: *Carol Schoen* 645-6840

## **Gathered in the Word**

Contact: *Pr. Johnson* 645-4429

## **Grief Support**

Contact: *Barbara Knaak* 664-0444

## **Human Face of Resettlement**

Contact: *Dick Dahlin* 645-5978

## **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

## **Cycles of Grace**

*By Barbara Eaves*

Fall is the season I missed most during the years my husband and I lived in Arizona. Watching the trees turn from green to the rich colors of yellow, red, orange and brown is like watching an artist create a painting. Listening to the loud and persistent screeching of the blue jays seems to be a warning to us to finish up the work of the summer, and the crisp rustling of the wind as it cuts through the drying leaves lets us know that soon the trees will be bare until next spring. Participating in fall rituals...trips to the apple orchard, pumpkin fields, and harvest festivals, sipping on steamy hot chocolate or hot apple cider...provide times to rub elbows with others and drink in the sights, sounds and tastes of fall.

There is another side to autumn, too. As we witness the summer season's greenery lose life, fall to the ground and decay to become the stuff of new life, we are reminded of our own mortality and the cycle of life from birth to death...a realization that sometimes brings a sense of melancholy. A teacher, in relating a comment by Martin Luther, said that when Adam heard the crunching of dried leaves as God searched for him in the garden, Adam realized he would die.

Each day that we are given is in itself a cycle. In a sense, each day is like new life. It is enough to give thanks for the gift of a new day and life within it. In our community of faith, we celebrate the love and grace of a God who promises to be with us every day. And with each day we are given the opportunity to see, hear, and become involved in the gift of relationships.

Another routine we experience in fall is the cycle of congregational activities which, among other things, marks the annual Ministry Fair. Held this year on October 2, this event provides an occasion to engage with others, enjoy a cup of coffee, stroll through visual displays of small groups and congregational ministries, visit with the people who lead or coordinate those efforts, and consider how we might participate in the life we share together.

As birds in the morning sing their praise,  
God's fatherly love we cherish,  
for giving to us this day of grace,  
for life that shall never perish.  
The church God has kept two thousand years,  
and hungering souls did nourish.

*O Day Full of Grace  
ELW #627*

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

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

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

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

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

**Important Dates to Remember!**

**Sunday School Schedule**

October 2      Sunday School  
 October 9      Sunday School  
 October 16     Sunday School  
 October 23     No Sunday School (MEA)  
 October 30     Sunday School (3<sup>rd</sup> graders receive Bibles)

**ROCK – Wednesdays programming**

October 5  
 October 12  
 October 19     NO Wednesday programs (MEA)  
 October 26

**Youth Blast – Good Earth Village**

October 14-15 (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**CATechism**

**Grades 4 & 5** – Youth Room 4:00-4:45 p.m.

October 5  
 October 12  
 October 16

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade CAT** –October 29

St. John's Hall, 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
 Retreat with Parents

**Harvest Festival**

October 30, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. (see article on back page!)

**Youth Blast Retreat -  
 New Dates!**

Youth Blast invites kids in grade 3-6 for an overnight adventure at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN on Oct. 14-15. If your child has not signed up and is interested in attending, it may not be too late! Call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 to see if space is available. Thanks to all who are going as chaperones! It promises to be great fun.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Graders to Study the  
 Word**

3<sup>rd</sup> graders and parents will meet in St. John's Hall, **Saturday, October 29, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** for a Retreat on the Word – an introduction to the Bible. This class will be a primer on the Bible for students who will receive their Bibles at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, Oct. 30. Call Pastor Mark or Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either day.

**ROCK, Reaching Out to  
 Christ's Kids!**

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program offered to children from kindergarten to grade 5, is off to a great start. Wednesday afterschool programs for all grade levels consist 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 provides a bus to pick up children who are interested in participating in our afterschool programs. Our bus travels to Sibley, Bridgewater and Greenvale, plus the middle school for Prairie Creek children. For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes an insert you may use to register your child.

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT Begins in October**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, October 5. CAT class will meet downstairs, 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the Youth Room and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Fellowship Hall from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays in October: October 5, 12 and 26

**4<sup>th</sup> graders receiving Catechisms this year:**

Parker Aman, Catherine Carson, Alex Dell, Madison Ims, Cole Johannsen, Jadyne McGovern, Peter Neeb, Natalie Nevin, D'Andre Norton

Please contact Julie Brehmer if your child would like to ride the St. John's afterschool bus on Wednesdays to CAT. The bus picks up at Sibley, Bridgewater and Greenvale. We also share a bus with Bethel to pick PCCS kids up at the Middle School!

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

## Last Call for Recipes!!!

You only have til October 15th to turn in your recipies for the St. John's Cookbook. Please turn in all those favorite coffee hour, Rhubarb Sunday, pot luck recipies so the entire congregation can share in the joy of sampling your finest. Please drop off all completed cards in the Narthex or you may e-mail your recipies to Martha Erickson (insert Martha's e-mail here) All proceeds from the cookbook will benefit the St. John's youth attending next summer's youth gathering.

## 2012 National Youth Gathering

July 17-23, 2012 in New Orleans

Please hurry and turn in your \$150 deposit to register for the Gatheirng. Registration is due October 1st. You don't want to miss this one. Contact Tracie for more information.

## Autumn Outing

Who: All youth grades 6 – 12

When: Saturday, October 15th 12 noon – 5 p.m.



We will leave the church at noon, hoping to arrive at the Maze by 5pm

Where: Seaver's Corn Maze, Shakopee, MN

Cost: \$13

Bring your friends and neighbors. If the giant maze doesn't keep you occupied, check out the corn pit, greased pig races, petting zoo and lots of other activities.

There will be food and beverages for sale

while there. Please contact Tracie Peterson at youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com. Sign up by October 9th.

## Affirmation of Baptism

We rejoice with the thirteen 10<sup>th</sup> grade students as they affirm their baptism on Sunday, Oct. 9 at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please keep these students their families in your prayers.

If you are a 10<sup>th</sup> grader, please be at church by 10:40 a.m. on Sunday - meet in the Fireside Room. Confirmation rehearsal and breakfast is on Saturday, October 8 beginning at 8:45 a.m.

## Sunday School

### Middle School "Way to Live"

Join us as we take a look at different Faith Practices and try to find how they fit into our lives today.

10/2 - What's Your Story?

10/9 - What's My Story?

10/16 -Whose Stuff?

10/30 - So much Stuff....

### Sr. High Faith Lens

This is our chance to take a look at today's headlines and see how the scripture for the day speaks to it.

10/2 - Press of because of Christ

10/9 - Keep on doing these things

10/16 - Work as a Labor of Love

10/30 - Be a Witness

## Confirmation Corner

It is great to have all the young people running around the church on Wednesday Nights! Here's what's happening this month in CAT and confirmation:

### 6th Graders

Kick off their last year in CAT on Wednesday, October 5 at 4:45 p.m. in room 09. This is our year to cover the Lord's Prayer. Join us for the intro and discussion of the 1st Petition.

### 7th and 8th Graders

No confirmation on Wednesday, Oct. 19 due to the MEA break.

### 9th Graders and Mentors

Mentor/Mentee orientation will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will also have a special blessing for you and your mentor on Sunday, Oct. 30 at the 11:00 a.m. service.

**Pastors**

*Bob Iverson  
Mark Johnson  
John Quam*

**Building Security**

*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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# Harvest Festival!

## St. John's Second Annual Harvest Festival!

**When:** Sunday, October 30, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

**Where:** Evenson's Farm,  
5061 320th St. W., Northfield

Come and enjoy fall activities: pumpkin carving, pumpkin bean bag toss, create a scarecrow, hayrides, and more!

**Everyone is welcome!**

Feel free to come in costumes!

**Bring your friends!**

