

THE Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2011

Volume 51, Number 10

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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.

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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.

Make it Simple: Commitment Sunday, November 6

On Sunday, November 6 we will receive the stewardship commitment cards during worship. There will be a special prayer of consecration offered. Members should have received their commitment cards in the mail, by now, so all will have time to reflect on how to share their abundance in the year to come. There will be cards available at church for anyone forgetting a card on November 6th.

All are encouraged to attend worship on Sunday, November 6!



Special Stewardship Edition!

Open to page 8 - you will find
your commitment card and a
letter from Pr. Bob!

If you normally receive the *Voice* via email, you will continue to receive it electronically. This month is SPECIAL! You're receiving a paper copy of the *Voice* so we can get your commitment cards to you in a cost effective and timely manner. Thank you for prayerfully considering your gift to 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: a time of prayer guided by scripture, will not meet in November but will meet during Advent on Thursday, December 15 at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

Prayers for healing, joys, and all concerns are offered every Sunday morning between services in the prayer chapel near the choir room on the second floor.

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.

Recognizing Those Who Need Care

St. John's is a caring congregation. As a caring congregation, we recognize when people around us are experiencing difficult times. Some people may need prayers and support. Others may need help from Pastors or health care specialists. Some may find it helpful to have a Stephen Minister, a caring Christian friend who listens and cares.

In our role as a caring congregation, it is always important for us to recognize when others might benefit from help, wherever we might encounter them. For example, I was grocery shopping recently when I ran into a St. John's member. I greeted her warmly but noticed immediately there was something different about her. I asked her, "Are you all right?" And she said, "Not really." She proceeded to share that she was feeling down after experiencing so many deaths of friends and family members. "I've been to ten funerals this month. It's too

much." Realizing she was going through a difficult time, I told her about Stephen Ministry.

I became her Stephen Minister. Over the coming months we talked about these losses - a grandchild, a sister, close friends at St. John's. She shared that it was different talking with me, her Stephen Minister. In talking about her losses with friends, they would change the subject and talk about their own losses. As she talked and dealt with each of these deaths, as her Stephen Minister, I was there to listen to and support her.

Sharing struggles with a Stephen Minister often lightens the load. If you or someone you know needs care and support at this time, please call one of the pastors of Joan Halvorsen at 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*

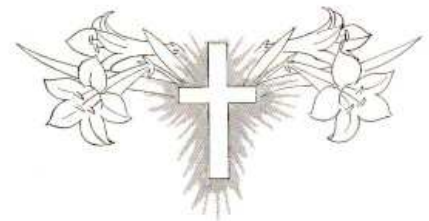
Grief Support Groups meet this month:
Mondays, Nov. 7-Dec. 12, 6:30- 8:00 p.m.,
at St. Dominic Catholic Church – lower
level. For more information contact Nancy
Ludescher, 645-8816, ext. 203.

Tuesdays, Nov.8-Dec.13, 7:00-8:30 p.m.,
at the Northfield United Methodist Church.
This group is for parents grieving the loss
of a child. For more information contact
Sherri Bunch Quaas, 645-4300.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry



From our pastors . . .

The following is the mission statement for St. John's Lutheran: *Created, renewed, and empowered by God's grace, St. John's Lutheran Church is a welcoming community in Christ whose mission is to celebrate, in Word and Sacrament, God's gracious actions for the world; cultivate growth in faith; encourage service and witness; and proclaim Christ as the hope of the world.*



After a great deal of study and reflection, the Strategic Planning Committee, in 2010, offered a new mission draft statement: *As followers of Jesus Christ, St. John's welcomes all to celebrate God's grace, to nurture their faith, and to reach out in love and service.*

As I reflect on each of those statements I find that they accurately prompt a response that bears the fruit of ministry and mission. They address the questions of: "why do we do what we do?" and "What is God doing in this place?" and "how is God calling on us to respond?"

This is really good stuff. However, I find that nowhere in these statements is "money" mentioned. That is somewhat curious because I have noticed that we, sometimes in this congregation, spend much of our time discussing the subject of money.

Whenever a new idea for ministry is brought forth the very first question is "how are we going to pay for that?" or "is it in the budget?" I would submit that a more appropriate approach would be: if a ministry or mission idea is deemed as important and/or in keeping with our mission statement goals, we should ask, "how can we make this happen?"

This is a seemingly minor, but amazingly crucial shift in thinking. During the past ten months we have made numerous concessions, taken great care to reduce our expenditures, and had great leadership in significantly reducing our debt load. Our resources and income remain substantial. Yet, when it comes to the mention of money, many still react as though the ship is sinking. It is not. However, if we continue to over-focus on money, we may stay afloat – but we'll be dead in the water. There will be no course set, no direction to take.

I would suggest that we need to begin asking how we are living out our mission statements. And we should be looking, constantly, at how we are addressing our core values of integrating children, youth, and family into the life of the congregation; and reviewing our ability to be a place of welcome to all – in all areas of ministry and life.

And I firmly believe that this must all be reflected in every aspect of congregational life. We must begin to look beyond the walls and budget lines of St. John's Lutheran Church as we ***celebrate God's gracious actions for the world; cultivate growth in faith; encourage service and witness; and proclaim Christ as the hope of the world.***

Yours in Mission and Ministry,

October Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Memorials given in October will be listed in the December issue.

Radio Broadcasts

October 9, 2011, in memory of **Teddy Miller**, by Van Miller.

October 16, 2011, in memory of **Dorothy Sorenson and Noreen Benson**, by Norma Buholtz.

The Giving Tree

November 20 – December 5

The annual "Giving Tree" program sponsored by the Northfield Community Action Center will be set up in the Commons starting on



November 20 - December 4. The Giving Tree is decorated with paper stars. Each star has a gift idea, along with the name, age and gender of a child whose family is unable to purchase Christmas gifts this year. Purchased gifts should be placed, unwrapped, with the paper star attached, and put

under the tree by Sunday, Dec. 5. In addition, we will also offer gifts to our Companion Synod, the Central Diocese of Tanzania. The tree will be decorated with 50 envelopes for making donations to the Tanzania Scholarship Fund. Thank you in advance for your donations!

Baptisms

Luke Jex Nelson, son of Karl Nelson and Kristen Partlo; sponsors are Karin and Michael Graddy and Jon and Mari Carlson; September 18, 2011

Otto Robert Bash, son of Brent Bash and Trish Goodrich; sponsors are Hal Goodrich and Jon and Beth Bash; September 25, 2011

Kadence Marie Larkins-Spieker, daughter of Caleb Spieker and Chantelle Larkins; sponsors are Kristine Spieker and Jamal Larkins; October 23, 2011

Chantell Larkins, October 23, 2011

Deaths

Dorothy Sorenson, September 24, 2011

Noreen Benson, September 25, 2011

Emilie Larson, October 1, 2011

Fran Evenson, October 9, 2011

Robert Brown, October 17, 2011

John Evenson, October 18, 2011

Shared Ministry



Feed My Starving Children, November's Hands and Feet Project, is coming to Northfield and St. John's is packing meals. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is a non-profit committed to feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit. FMSC sends meals specially formulated for malnourished children to over seventy countries worldwide and they rely on the work of volunteers of all ages to pack those meals and prepare them for shipment.

On Saturday, November 12 a group from St. John's will pack meals at FMSC's temporary mobile site located at Perkins Motor Transport at 1800 Riverview Dr in Northfield. Our volunteer shift begins at 10:30 and we'll be finished by 12:30. The St. John's group will meet at the packing site to serve together.

You can help. If you'd like to help pack meals (and anyone can!) sign up on the *Serve with St. John's* bulletin board outside the church office. Please also consider making a donation. Each meal costs only 24 cents to produce and 93% of all donations are used directly toward the food program. A ten dollar donation can provide 41 complete meals! If you'd like to make a donation you may write your check out to St. John's with Feed My Starving Children in the memo line.

Following the Thanksgiving Eve Service there will be a Potluck Pie Social in St. John's Hall. If you'd like to bring a pie to share please let us know and sign up on the Potluck Pie Social Sign Up Sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please also consider signing up to plate pies or serve on the kitchen crew.

*Regina Hassanally,
Director of Shared Ministries*

SERVING TO LOVE



LOVING TO SERVE

News and Events

Service of Song, Prayer, and Blessing

Sunday, November 13 - 6:30 p.m.

All 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 service of worship and prayer.

Who should come for prayer? Is it only for those who are gravely ill? No, God cares about all our joys and sorrows, and tells us to pray for each other. Prayer and praise are ways for us to experience God's grace and healing. Prayer teams will also be at the altar for those who would like to pray with others, and/or receive prayers of blessing and anointing with oil.

St. John's Children's Christmas Program

Mark your calendars! St. John's Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, Dec. 11 in St. John's Hall.



The program, "They Followed a Bright Star", a story written by Ulises Wensell, begins at 11:00 a.m. and is performed by children in preschool – grade 5. If your child is

interested in performing either a solo or be part of an ensemble for the pre service music, please contact Frances Boehning at francesboehning@yahoo.com. Anyone interested in helping with the program may speak with Julie Brehmer. More information will be coming your way in the December Voice.

Palastine Gala Dinner

Everyone is invited to a Palestine gala dinner as a fund-raiser for the Dar Al-Kalima Lutheran school in Bethlehem on Saturday evening, November 12, in St. John's Hall. This is the same school to which our Sunday school children gave their offerings a few years ago. Bright Stars of Bethlehem is the umbrella for both this school and a new high school and college which was founded by Mitri Raheb, the pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem. (Brightstarsofbethlehem.org)

With 50% unemployment throughout the West Bank, most families cannot afford a good education for their children. This dinner is given to help provide tuition for as many children as possible.

The dinner is a full three-course meal of tasty Middle Eastern foods, much of which will be provided by a Palestinian deli in St. Paul at cost. They are doing this because of the owner's desire to further the cause of education in his homeland. Because of their generosity half of the \$30.00 (students \$15.00) dinner cost will be sent to Bright Stars.

The entertainment is provided by the St. Olaf dance group doing Palestinian dances plus oud playing by a Carleton trio. Jennifer Loewenstein, the associate director of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Wisconsin is the featured speaker. A graduate of the Bright Stars program who is studying for a post graduate degree at Concordia University will also be there to represent the Bright Stars program.

The entertainment will begin at 5:00 and the dinner will follow at 5:30. This affair is sponsored by the ecumenical 'Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel'. The mainline churches of Northfield are supporting this dinner and it is expected that St. John's congregation would lead the way toward helping a Lutheran institution in the Holy Land.

You may pick up an order for the dinner at the Welcome Desk or call Ruth Hansen (645-8228).

Serving on Sundays in November

Acolytes

- November 6** (8:30) Matthew Knutson, Greg Pelletier; (11:00) Sydnee Eddy, Nic Zabel
November 13 (8:30) Siri Lindell, Ashley Canedy; (11:00) Jordan Annexstad, Cameron Beedle
November 20 (8:30) Lydia Storlie, Emily Westerback; (11:00) Grant Huston, Dylan Gehring
November 27 (8:30) Greta Hummel, Caroline Hummel; (11:00) Erin Gunn, Alex Gunn

Communion preparers

- November 6** Sharon Bishop, Ginny Shaw
November 13 David and Sue Rudser
November 20 Mary and Jim Bierman
November 27 Debbie and David Nitz

Assisting Ministers

- November 6** Betsy McLaughlin
November 13 Dave Legvold
November 20 Kathy Shea
November 27 Michele and Nathan Knutson Family (Advent)

Communion Servers

- November 6** (8:30) Pat Fick; (11:00) Britta Anderson
November 13 (8:30) Sandi Gerdes; (11:00) Adam Neuger
November 20 (8:30) Carrie Duba; (11:00) Sue Brockman
November 27 (8:30) Michael Berger; (11:00) Christy Hall-Holt

Ushers

- November 6** (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
November 13 (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, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
November 20 (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
November 27 (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 20, 2011

Dear Members of St. John's,

We are fast approaching Commitment Sunday, November 6th. We hope you have been able to participate in one of the Bible studies, or watched a video; and that our worship has been meaningful for you. Many have indicated that the "Make it Simple" program, and themed worship, has been helpful.

In this special edition of the Voice, you will find a commitment card, along with this letter. Please, prayerfully, complete the card and return one half of it during worship on November 6th. Keep the other half for your records.

There will be a special time of dedication and consecration – at the altar - for all commitments on that day.

Thank you for your continued partnership in the ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bob Iverson

Michael Sylvester
Stewardship Chair

News and Events

Youth and Family Ministry Visioning

Wow – it has been a year of change at St. Johns. You have said goodbye to a few people while welcoming a few new people to staff. Last fall brought you a two day opportunity to start looking at what your core values and vision are for St. Johns. This is a continuous and ongoing process. One of the big values that came out of this time is Family Ministry. What does that mean?

This fall, we are putting together a team who will take that value and put more meaning to it. This group of 7-9 people should consist of individuals from both the Children's Board, the Youth Board as well as individuals who are interested in helping us define what Children, Youth and Family ministry could look like at St. Johns. The goals for the group will consist of

1. Gather information from the congregation through small group meetings and surveys, to help define what people's individual visions for these ministries are.
2. Define Family Ministry and put together a vision to work towards.
3. Help educate the congregation as to what Children, Youth and Family Ministry means and steps we can take to live out this Value.

How can you help? Please keep this team in your prayers. Remember to pray for Julie and Tracie as they work together to put this team in place as well, as the team, as they do their work. If you have questions about what is happening or how to move forward in the process, please contact Tracie Peterson at youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com. Watch the newsletter, website and bulletin for updates for the process!



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. - 6:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

Wednesday, November 2

Pizza Night - Basil's!

Wednesday, November 9

Chicken and Rice Casserole

Wednesday, November 16

Taco boats and the fixin's!

Wednesday, November 23

No Meal - Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, November 30

Sloppy Joes and Tater Tots

The 2nd Annual

Koffee and Keyboards

Sunday, November 27

9:45 a.m.

St. John's Hall

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Nov. 11

"Hungry"

Fasting for Peace and Justice as people choose during the day

5:30—Service followed by a soup supper to break the fast.

All are welcome!

Resource booklets, for the day, available in early November on our bulletin boards.

What Is Hunger? Who Is Hungry?

Hunger is a noun, an abstraction. Actually, *hunger* means the absence of something—nourishment. Usually, we think of that nourishment as physical—food for our bodies. That kind of hunger has become more and more common in our community and our country. One in five American children knows about hunger first hand. They ARE HUNGRY.

Lily, the new Sesame Street character, is one of those hungry children. She represents the over 15 million children in the United States who live in poverty, and that number is growing at an alarming rate. Think of it: one in five children in this privileged country feels hungry and is hungry, day after day! At what point does BEING hungry become a child's dominant characteristic? Over BEING happy, BEING energetic, BEING eager to learn, BEING secure, or BEING healthy?

Consider spending just one day being hungry with these children and their families. On Friday November 11 the Peace and Justice Group encourages everyone to learn more about hunger, and then take a step further to BE hungry. The spiritual discipline of fasting confronts us with being hungry, but it can involve many kinds of "giving up."

Certainly fasting can mean giving up food, but it can also mean eliminating distractions and foregoing pleasures. Feeling hungry for something we love that is out of our reach works to test our values and focus our priorities. Feeling truly hungry and then being fed—physically or spiritually—awakens our humanity and brings us life.

In addition to the many around the world who are hungry for food, many are hungry for justice. The diets that will satisfy this hunger vary according to place. Too often those who need to eat are also hungry to hear that they are valued and respected as human beings. During this day and then at our discussion, we can add a fast from our self-centered concerns and consider the ways we can help to diminish these basic human hungers.

Come for a service of remembrance November 11 at 6:00 P.M. Then break your fast and be filled at our soup supper. Contact Judith Stoutland at 645-7842 if you are able to help with the preparations.



Mission Statement:
**TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY
ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST**
Lutheran Woman Today Bible study theme for 2010-2011 is
**"The People of God:
Unity in the Midst of Diversity"**
Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

For newsletters and information: www.semnsynod.org and www.womenoftheelca.org

Upcoming Events

Nov. 3 Thursday, at 1:00 p.m. Women of the ELCA – general meeting in St. John's Hall. Please bring your Thankoffering. We will have dessert, business meeting, and the program. The speaker will be Pastor Dick Beckmen on the topic "From Words to Presence—A Journey of Intimate Prayer."

Nov. 7 - Monday, Bible study leaders meet at 12:00 noon in Fireside Room.

Nov. 1 and 15 - Knitters meet in Library at 9:30 a.m..

Nov. 9, 10, 11, 12, 17 - Circles meet.

Nov. 14 & 17 - Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall at 9 a. m..

Nov. 21 - WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 a.m. in Fireside Room.

Circles meet the second week of each month (the week following the first Thursday of the month). Note exceptions below. Women interested in joining a circle can contact Barbara Walters at 663-1055.

For a subscription to the LWT magazine, please email: subscriptions@augsborgfortress.org or ask one of the circle leaders for information.

Anna — 7:00 p.m. Third Thursday at Fireside Room, Susan Rudser, leader.

Abigail / Rebecca — Thursday, 2:00 p.m., Gert Broz, leader. Meet at NRC - Parkview East.

Elizabeth — Thursday, 1:30 p.m., Marie Benson and Gretchen Hardgrove, leaders.

Lydia — Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Marilyn Boschee and Judy Smith, leaders.

Martha / Claudia — Thursday, 9:30 a.m., Marilyn Jacobson and Joyce Schrader, leaders.

Mary — 2nd Friday, 1:00 p.m., Rachel Stark, leader.

Sarah — Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Char Nelson, leader.

Women's Breakfast Group — 2nd Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Kathy Mellstom, leader. Meet in Fireside Room.

Looking Ahead

Dec. 10. - Saturday, 9:30 a.m. at St. John's Hall. The Women's Breakfast Group is sponsoring an Advent Brunch. Program of music, song and worship with "The Four Friends."

Please submit items for this information page to Marilyn Jacobson at cemja@charter.net or Marilyn Haugen rhbmsh@charter.net.

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.

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* 645-6840

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

Remembering with Gratitude

by Barbara Eaves

The older I get the more thankful I become for relationships. That does not mean a lack of gratitude for a roof over head, a job, health, and food on the table which are truly great blessings and it is devastating to lose any of them.

When life-changing challenges and losses come our way, we become more aware of the value of relationships in our lives. It is the understanding, compassion and support of others that can uphold and carry us through in the midst of difficult passages.

I recall May of 1971 when we received the news that my husband's parents had died in a car accident in Canada. It was a time in our young lives when finances were slim and so our grief was compounded by wondering how we would be able to afford the trip from Minnesota to Montana. And then, one evening, a knock came on our door and upon answering we were greeted by a member of the parish who came to express his care and to give us the money for train tickets for our family of four. We couldn't believe it and, of course, we promised to reimburse him as we could. However, he said no, but asked us to remember to return the favor for someone else one day when we were able and the situation presented itself. There certainly was gratitude for the gift, but more than that we were overwhelmed by the giver whose example profoundly impacted our lives.

The saying, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going," is not helpful and must be very painful to hear for those who are struggling with difficult situations. A much better version of that saying would be, "When the going gets tough, the compassion and support of others may be the only things that keep us going."

It is a healthy exercise to rehearse our blessings periodically and express our gratitude. This year's list of thanksgivings will inevitably include names of people: family and friends, those inside and outside the church, mentors and colleagues, and maybe even strangers who have gifted our lives with kindness and grace.

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

St. John's offers a number of small group opportunities serving a variety of topics and interests (listed on the sidebar of this page). To read details about the small groups, please pick up a catalog at the Small Group bulletin board display in the Commons.

Adult Ministry and Education

Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Education Hour is between services. Coffee is served in St. John's Hall. All are welcome!

Nov. 6: *St. John's Forum:* Series entitled "The Church Faces the Future." Session Two: "The New Testament: Is the Future Here or Not?" Presented by Gary Stansell, professor emeritus of religion, St. Olaf College. *Begins 9:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary.*

New Member Session: New Member Connections. Fellowship time with new member hosts – St. John's members who help to welcome and connect new members with the congregation. *Begins 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room.*

Nov. 13: *St. John's Forum:* Series entitled "The Church Faces the Future." Session Three: "The Church Today and the Future, or, The Future ain't what it used to be (Yogi Berra)." Presented by Gary Stansell, professor emeritus of religion, St. Olaf College. *Begins 9:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary.*

New Member Session: Shared Ministry – Part Two. Exploring the call of belonging to a congregation and sharing gifts, followed by a tour of the building. *Begins at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room.*

Nov. 20: *New Member Reception:* All are invited for food and fellowship as we welcome St. John's newest members. *Begins after first service in St. John's Hall.*

Nov. 27: *Sunday Morning Concert Series:* Begins at 9:45 in the Sanctuary.

News and Events

Preventing Suicide

The community is welcome to attend a special presentation entitled, "Preventing the Unthinkable: A community discussion on preventing Suicide" on Tuesday, November 1 at the Northfield Middle School starting at 6:30 p.m. The free and open to the public event will include free food and beverages, a local community fair, a keynote address and panel discussion. Doors open for food and resource fair at 5:30 p.m.

Thanksgiving Dinner!

Laura Baker Services Association is hosting a free Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, November 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Millis Dining Hall. Everyone is invited for this great buffet style meal - bring your family! If you need a ride or know of someone who needs a meal delivered to their home, please call Jan at 645-8866 ext. 107 by November 18.

Becoming a member of St. John's

New member sessions continue this month on Sundays, Nov. 6 and 13. New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 20. It's not too late to be a part of this fall's new member process. Contact a staff member or the church office for more information. The next new member session will be offered in the spring.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

November 6 Sunday School –
(Daylight Savings Time)
November 13 Sunday School
November 20 Sunday School
November 27 No Sunday School (Thanksgiving break)

Thanksgiving Break

No Wednesday Programming on November 23

Advent Fair, "A Day in Bethlehem"

Sunday, December 4

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, December 11, 11:00 a.m. in St. John's Hall

Congratulations to 3rd Graders who received their Bibles in October

Amelia Becker, Gunnar Benson, Nicholas Boehning, Jaida Gehring, Will Knutson, Sylvia Koenig, Kai Legvold, Peder Lindell, Ethan Little, Elsa Nystrom, Stefany Perez, Hayden Poquette and Anna Willkomm.

The Bibles given to our 3rd graders are purchased using money from the Johnson Bible fund.

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, November 5 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Youth Blast 2011!

We had a fantastic weekend in October at "Youth Blast", a retreat for 3rd – 6th graders, at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. Thank you to Nick Neeb and Rob Nutt for helping chaperone the event. Kids attending this year were: Amelia Becker, Andrew Becker, Halvor Bratland, James Bull, Cate Carson, Trey Coudret, Creegan Croone, Cole Johannsen, Kuchceang Mangok, Peter Neeb, Charlie Neeb, Natalie Nevin and Aidan Nutt.



YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Middle and High School Sunday School

Way to Live (grades 6-8): This is an interactive opportunity for youth to look at how many faith practices are already incorporated into their lives and how we can continue to live out our baptismal promises. Here is this month's schedule:

Nov 6 - Food

Nov 13 - Food

Nov 20 - Work

Nov 27 - No class: Happy Thanksgiving

Faith Lens (grades 8-12): Please join us for a chance to look at today's headlines and how the Bible lessons for the upcoming Sunday can speak to it. This is a great opportunity for discussion and fellowship. Wondering what is coming up or what we did last week?

Check it out at <http://blogs.elca.org/faithlens/>

St. Olaf Ghost Walk

Although Halloween has slipped by, join us for an evening of Pizza, ghost stories and adventure around a campfire led by the Master Storyteller, Greg Kneser. Mark your calendars and bring a friend.

Who: All youth grades 6 and up

When: Friday, November 11th; 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
(there will be pizza after our walk)

Where: Meet at Buntrock Commons

Cost: \$5 to cover the pizza.

Sign up with Tracie Peterson by Sunday, November 6th.

Confirmation Update

7th graders have been busy working with Pr. Mark to take a look at the Old Testament. November allows them the chance to look at what it means to be People of the Promise. 8th Graders have tackled the New Testament with Pr. John. So far, they have examined the beginning of Jesus' Ministry and are tackling Parables and Miracles in November.

The Gathering: Citizens With the Saints

Currently, we have 7 individuals signed up to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. If you are still interested in attending, they have not yet closed registration. Contact Tracie Peterson at youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com. Keep updated on the latest news on the gathering at <http://www.elca.org/ELCA/Youth-Gathering.aspx> Please keep the following people in your prayers as they prepare for this Once in a lifetime opportunity.

Bjorn Bade, Andrew Dell, Irene Duba, Zack Evenson, Bennett Falck, Nick Huschle, Michael Gasior

9th Grade confirmation Update

It's a big month for us. Here is a copy of the month's schedule

November 2 – Small Group Meeting: Who do you say that I am?

November 9 – M&M Night

November 16 – Faith Talk: David Legvold

November 23 – No Confirmation:

Happy Thanksgiving

November 30 – Faith Talk: Tom Potter

Looking forward to seeing all of you there!!!

Volunteers Needed

Looking for a way to help make a difference in the lives of the Young People here at St. Johns? We have lots of ways to make that happen. Here are just a few of our immediate needs:

____ Bring Donuts for the Youth Sunday School Class (1 – 2 times a month)

____ Help lead a small group during Way to Live (Education opportunity for grades 6 -8) Sunday mornings

____ Teach a Youth Sunday School Class (this can be a once a month thing or just one session)

If any of these things sound like something you are able to help with, please contact Tracie Peterson at 952-454-2703 or by e-mail youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com

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



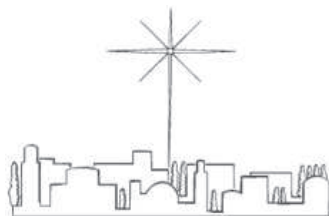
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Advent Fair, "A Day in Bethlehem"

Advent Fair, "A Day in Bethlehem", Sunday, December 4
Are you ready to go back in time? Want to make memories
you'll treasure forever? Come and experience "A Day in



Bethlehem", our theme for this
year's Advent Fair at St. John's.
You'll taste, see and smell what
daily life was like when Jesus was
born. You'll find shops and
activities for all ages. And, we
encourage you to bring friends!
The more the merrier!

When: Sunday, December 4

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Where: St. John's Hall

Can you help with the Advent Fair?

- Lunch - set-up, serve or clean-up
- Set up and/or sell handcrafts from around the world
(proceeds benefit Lutheran World Relief)
- Help with crafts/shops

Contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions at
jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 23

5:45 - Family Choir Rehearsal in the
Balcony (All singers age 9th grade up
are invited to sing in the Family Choir)

6:30 - Worship

7:15 - Potluck Pie Social