

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2012

Volume 52, Number 1

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New Members

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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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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.

New Year's Day at St. John's - Sunday, Jan. 1

9:00 - Family Choir rehearsal in Room 209. All singers 6th grade through adult are invited to sing in this ensemble.

10:00 - New Year's Day worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

11:15 - Hymn-sing with John Ferguson in the Sanctuary

Kids' Night Out!

Friday, Feb. 24

Watch for more details
soon!

Washed in God's Water: Baptism Recognition

Sunday, Jan. 8, is the Sunday of the Baptism of our Lord, the first Sunday after Epiphany. As is customary now at St. John's, we will not only celebrate Jesus' baptism in the Jordan that day, but also recognize and give thanks for all those brought through the waters of baptism in 2011. There will be engraved medallions for each of those newly baptized whom we recognize this day. In addition, in worship we all will affirm our own baptisms as we remember our call to minister on Jesus' behalf in the world.

St. Olaf Choir sings here Jan. 8

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to our worship services on Sunday, Jan. 8. They will lead us in worship and sing anthems at several places in worship. This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and as we are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music.

A reception will be held between services. Please take the opportunity to welcome the St. Olaf Choir back to St. John's!

Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 29

The Congregation Council has set Sunday, Jan. 29, as the date for the Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church, immediately following a potluck dinner in St. John's Hall. Items of business will include receiving of reports, election of officers, board, and council members, and action on the proposed 2012 budget.

Reports for the annual report are due Thursday, December 29. email: stjohnsnorthfield@gmail.com

Annual reports are scheduled to be printed by Sunday, Jan. 22, and there will be an annual meeting preview on Jan. 22 between services.

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

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

Sunday Evening Vespers – Sunday, January 9 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome in the sanctuary for a service of song, scripture, and prayers for blessing and healing.

January Sighs

The snap of cold air and the shock of a fresh, blank calendar make us catch our breath in January. We rightfully claim time to take a breath between the highs and lows of the lectionary year, acknowledging the leap between the seasons of Christmas and Lent. Through winter's slowly shrinking darkness Epiphany shines a breath-taking light on the gap between some of the Christian's happiest and saddest times.

January's brave lights grab our attention more than its muffled sounds—muffled by quilts and scarves, behind stiff snow banks and windows sealed to preserve heat. Mid-winter often brings a sense of increased isolation that may leave us feeling lost and alone just when we crave closeness. Can you hear or feel sighs? Do they signal contentment and peace? Or are they whispers of disappointment and exhaustion? In the quiet calm of January

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.

we reassess the past year and anticipate the new one. Is a hopeful path clear ahead or creative change a real possibility? Will stressful chaos keep driving the days or will deadly quiet continue to haunt the nights?

We never know just what a new year has in store, but we need not look at 2012 alone. Stephen Ministers are trained to offer caring support and a listening ear to individuals coping with the sighs that life draws out of us. If you, or someone you know, would benefit from the warmth and light of Christ that a Stephen Minister may extend, please contact a pastor or Joan Halvorson, 645-8445.

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

Galatians 6:2



Providing one-to-one care and encouragement

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

A Grief Support Group begins meeting this month starting on Monday, January 2 at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Contact Barb Knaak for more information at 664-0444.

"Journeying Through Grief" booklets are available for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.



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

January 29, 2011
Helen Wallace

From our pastors . . .

As St. John's prepares to receive its new senior pastor, now would be a good time to review the past fourteen months of transition and ministry. The strategic planning effort, which was well underway when I arrived, deserves tremendous credit for moving St. John's forward, and helping to place the congregation in a significantly better place. The debt reduction team has us very close to "unbound," as we should notice over \$50,000 in former debt cost available for mission and ministry in 2012. The work of the strategic planning team was essential in identifying core values, which should help shape direction for the future. Their labors also formed a solid foundation from which the call committee could operate. Thank you to all involved in the movement.

The leaders at St. John's committed to presenting a balanced budget to the congregation for 2011. This led to making some extremely difficult decisions and tough choices. The significant cuts in expenditures meant the loss of 1-3/4 staff positions, and lower budget lines across the board.

However, in the midst of all of this, we have had Boards step up and become more forward thinking than ever, along with becoming "hands-on" leadership groups. Your staff has been great over this time. With the cuts, there was a need for everyone to pick up some slack, and that has really happened. This group is a real team. They serve St. John's extremely well.

Throughout the year we have experienced the opportunity to try and discover new and different ministry efforts. The neighborhood meal in August is but one example of a new type of outreach. Turning "Welcome Sunday" into "Welcome week" was a huge success, and it highlighted the

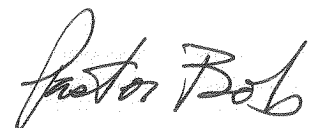
importance of our Wednesday night meals programming – for fellowship and education. The recently completed Pie Social led to a doubled worship attendance at the Thanksgiving Eve service (feed them and they will come?). And, of course, we tried a few new things in worship (expansion of the number of assisting ministers, means of distribution of communion, schedules for all assistants and workers, to name a few).

However, the thing that has impressed me most about this time of preparation is the commitment and ability to continue in supportive strong roles with our mission partners in Tanzania, Columbia, Minneapolis; and our ministry partners (Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief, ELCA World Hunger Appeal, SE MN Synod and churchwide benevolence, Habitat for Humanity, and many more).

Now, the very important work of the "Next Step," the task of visioning and working toward what children's youth and family ministry should look like for the future of the congregation. This is a significant action towards shoring up a core value of St. John's.

All of this is to say that you are to be commended for your efforts during this time of transition and preparation. And yet, your time of preparation continues, as you make ready to receive your new senior pastor. Dream of the ways to welcome him into your midst; and into the process of defining the mission and ministry identity of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Yours in Christ,



December Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Jim Hillestad**: by Carol Johnson, Mary Anderson, Lyla Arneson Paulson, Barbara Dettle, David and Sue Halsor, Solveig Steendal, Ruth Anderson

In memory of **Marie Severson**: by Al and Hazel Honke

Debt Reduction Appeal

In memory of **John Evenson**: by Rachel Peterson

Given with Gratitude and thanks to **Gordon Mickelson** for generously sharing his woodworking skills to contribute to the debt reduction

Music Fund

In memory of **Lee Mahachek**: by Joan Kark, Shirley Falck, Chuck and Marilyn Jacobson, Helen Larson, Bev Mahachek, Kay Haugen.

In memory of **Kristi Knecht**: by Ronald James.

In memory of **Noreen Benson**: by Robert Matta.

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Jim Hillestad**: by Ed and Anne Sovik.

Other Actions

Weddings

Molly Sell and Andy Binger, December 31, 2011

Radio Broadcasts

December 4, 2011, in memory of **Dagny Christensen and Les Gustafson who shared a Dec. 1 birthday, by Juday Christensen.**

December 11, 2011, in memory of **Carroll Johnson Flaten by Steve and Judy Swanson.**

December 18, 2011, in memory of **John Falck by his family.**

December 24, 2011, in memory of **Percy Johnson's Dec. 24 birthday by Millie Johnson.**

December 25, 2011, in honor of our wedding anniversary and in memory of my husband, **Sam Haugen** by Kay Haugen.

WELCOME to St. John's! New Members, Fall 2011

Cherry Danielson

529 Cannon Way
Dundas, MN 55019
320-444-0253
Host - Éva Posfay

Nate and Patty Freeman

1116 Greenvale Ave. West
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-8192
Host - Bette Quinnell

David Norman and Shirley Keltto

532 Cannon Way
Dundas, MN 55019
785-317-9509
Hosts - Ken and Carolyn Jennings
Ruth Hansen

Ivan and Donna Mae Plaggemeyer

805 Forest Avenue # 104
Northfield, MN 55057
612-845-6945
Hosts - Pr. John and Louise Quam

Ryan and Sara Redetzke

Alexander, Luke, William
824 Heywood Road
Northfield, MN 55057
507-301-3599
Hosts - David and Stephanie Aman

Jared and Sarah Simon

209 Orchard Street North
Northfield, MN 55057
952-270-5310
Hosts- John and Leah Sand

Rebecca McGrady

1313 Constitutional Drive
Northfield, MN 55057
423-361-0339
Host - Chris Anderson

John and Gordeen Gorder

5054 Ebert Ct.
Northfield, MN

Music Life at St. John's

New Music Lamp

The beautiful new music lamp on the organ has been given by Ruth Legvold in memory of her mother, Genevieve Odegaard, who served as an organist here at St. John's from 1955-1962.

St. John's Singers Update

The Singers will take a break until later on in the Spring. This occasional choir for adults rehearses and sings on Sunday mornings a couple of times per month. Watch for updates in upcoming newsletters. In the mean time, if you'd to sing in the St. John's Chorale, please contact Dan Fenn. Those rehearsals are Wednesday evenings at 7, and the Chorale usually sings at the 8:30 service.

Adult Ministry and Education

Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Education Hour is at 9:45 a.m. Coffee is in St. John's Hall between services.

The St. John's Forum meets in the Sanctuary between services.

Jan. 1: Worship at 10:00 a.m. Happy New Year!

Jan. 8: Reception for St. Olaf Choir, St. John's Hall. No St. John's Forum.

Jan. 15: St. John's Forum: Presentation from the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition. Sanctuary.

Jan. 22: Annual Meeting Preview. St. John's Hall

Jan. 29: St. John's Forum: Presentation on Drug Addiction by Dr. Charles Reznikoff. Sanctuary

Notes of Thanks!

From Pacific Lutheran:

Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for the trust you place in us. Thank you for reminding us of the love of Jesus in the flesh, born to us again in you.

Your gift of \$500 to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in support of Gretchen Colby only makes it better. With your gift, you retell the story of grace and truth and love to us.

From Luther Seminary:

Thank you for your gift of \$500 to support Daniel Rinehart's academic pursuits here at Luther Seminary! Your support eases the financial obligations of attending seminary, allowing Daniel Rinehart to respond to the call of the Holy Spirit. Your gift is an investment in the next generation of bold and faithful Christian leaders.

From El Milagro

We would like to thank the congregation and council of St. John's Lutheran Church for their continuing support, friendship and partnership in the mission we share in Jesus Christ! We are deeply moved and blessed by your generosity.

We have been honored by your partnership and presence with shared endeavors with our youth, children's choirs, Mission Minneapolis and other shared ventures, so important to the life of our congregation. Pastor Judith was blessed to be invited to preach at your worship service celebrations.

Blessings of Peace and Joy,

Pr. Judith VanOsdol, Pastor

Ms. Jane Norman, President

Annual Meeting Potluck Kitchen Coordinator and Volunteers Needed

Prior to St. John's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29th the congregation will share in a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to share! If you are available on this day to serve as a kitchen coordinator please contact Regina Hassanally. A kitchen coordinator is primarily responsible for delegating tasks and serving as 'point person' for the rest of the volunteer crew. Volunteers are needed to help with set up (11:00-12noon), serving (11:45am-12:30pm) and clean up (12:30pm-1:30pm). If you can help in any of these ways please contact Regina and let her know!

Lenten Soup Suppers Coordinator

While Christmas festivities are still fresh in our minds Lent is just around the corner. This year we are looking for a Lenten Soup Suppers Coordinator, someone who can work with Regina on planning a menu and ordering soups as well as be available to pick the soup up from Laura Baker House and deliver it to St. John's on Wednesday afternoons during Lent. If you are able to help with this task please contact Regina.

AV Ministry Team Looking for Volunteers

If you are a high school student or adult interested in learning to operate sound and video equipment or already have skills in doing so consider joining the AV Team. We're looking for students to serve on rotating teams and adults who are available to trouble shoot and oversee the recording of services and forum. If you're looking for a new way to serve at St. John's consider this opportunity and contact Regina Hassanally, Tracie Peterson or Mark Gleason.

Regina Hassanally, *Director of Shared Ministries*

reginah@stjohns-elca.org

SERVING TO LOVE  LOVING TO SERVE



Thank you to everyone who helped with the Sunday School Christmas Program! Special thanks to the Sunday School Christmas Program team: Sue Brockman, Jenny Pelletier and Frances Boehning.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Advent Fair this year! Special thanks to our Advent Fair coordinators, Jill Enestvedt and Katherine Norrie, Brian Evenson for his time constructing our shops, Pat Fick for coordinating the lunch and Jane Rinehart for coordinating the Fair Trade Fair.

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to the Giving Tree this year. Special thanks to Connections for helping coordinate the program for St. John's.

News and Events

From the Faith and Health Board:

The Faith and Health Board is offering two forums this month relating to the use of alcohol and drugs. Both presentations will provide information for youth, peers, parents, and yes, even grandparents relating to alcohol and drug usage in Northfield. It has become easy for all of us to "pretend" that there isn't such a problem in Northfield, or for that matter, at St. John's! We know that's not the case however. We aren't any different than other churches and communities.

Midnight in Paris

"Midnight in Paris," the new, acclaimed Woody Allen movie, "his best in many years," will play in St. John's Film Theater on January 13, 2012, beginning at 7:15. Connections Group will host. Short discussion will follow. Our motto, hopefully still accurate: "Thoughtful Entertainment." Snacks may even materialize! All are welcome.



Progressive Dinner, 2012

Join fellow St. John's members for our Winter Progressive Dinner on Saturday, February 11. As a small group (8-10), we first meet in the Commons for appetizers and travel to two different homes to enjoy salad/main course, then dessert and coffee. This event is always a memorable evening--wonderful food and great conversation! Plus, it's a great way to meet new people. Sign up beginning January 8th. Questions? Ask Jennifer Bothun or Guy Reid.

Though this is unfortunate and sad, the more we can learn about addiction the more we can help prevent and/or intervene in the lives of our youth and adults.

Join us for the Forum on Sunday, January 29 to hear Dr. Charles Reznikoff, who has worked with and assisted many who have sought his help as they have found their lives and/or the life of a loved one whirling in chemical addiction.

On Sunday, February 5, the Forum will include a panel discussion on the same subject. Included on the panel will be several members of St. John's who by virtue of their professions, have direct contact with the reality of addiction in Northfield.

A Note from the St. John's Kitchen Committee

We have many events that use the St. John's kitchen. The kitchen committee really appreciates it when each group cleans up and puts everything away in the kitchen. It is part of the process of using the kitchen. When the kitchen is not cleaned up correctly, the St. John's Kitchen committee has to tidy it up for the next group who will be using the kitchen. After using the kitchen, it is an easy process to check to see that everything is completed correctly.

Please look on the bulletin board, by the door, for the check sheet and fill it out. That is a good way to make sure the kitchen is in order.

For people who do not have enough dishes to run the dishwasher. Please do the following at the dishwasher sink: rinse cups, glasses, plates and silverware then place each item in the appropriate dishwashing rack on the counter by the dishwasher. The directions are on the wall.

Since we do not have a custodian on staff at church, we need help with the garbage and recycle.

1) After any event please empty all the garbage into the large garbage can by the dishwasher. 2) Recycling: Wash all containers and take all cans, plastic containers, glass and paper for recycling to the recycling container provided by Waste Management. It is outside the exit door closest dishwasher. Aluminum foil or foil pans cannot be recycled. Please do not leave the recycling in the entrance/exit area as it would not be approved by the Fire Marshall.

Thank you!

The Kitchen Committee

Serving on Sundays in January

Acolytes

- January 1** (10:00) James Bull, Kate Erickson
January 8 (8:30) Courtney Nelson, Alison Nelson; (11:00) Berit Hendel, Shelby Emanuelson
January 15 (8:30) Creegan Croone, Cole Little; (11:00) Brandon Kimber, Sam Motzko
January 22 (8:30) Kucheang Mangok, Emily Westerback; (11:00) Jacob Gonnerman, Theo Mattson
January 29 (8:30) Ryan Buck, Isaac Riggins; (11:00) Jonah Berthelsen, Greg Pelletier

Communion preparers

- January 8** Tim and Carole Cowles
January 15 David and Debby Becker
January 22 Gloria and Tom Porter
January 29 Jane Koskovich and Judy Smith

Counting

- January 8** LaVerne and Otto Reitz, Sue Brockman (database)
January 15 LaVerne and Otto Reitz, Terrance Hassanally (database)
January 22 LaVerne and Otto Reitz, Dave Aman (database)
January 29 LaVerne and Otto Reitz, Mark Ulmer (database)

Ushers

- January 1** (10:00) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen
January 8 (8:30) Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (11:00) Jonathan Norrie, Zachary Bahler, Andrew Dell, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
January 15 (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
January 22 (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
January 29 (8:30) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber; (11:00) Jonathan Norrie, Zachary Bahler, Andrew Dell, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams

Counters Needed!

Are you interested in being on the counting team? Counting occurs on Sundays, beginning after first service and typically is done by noon, with a break in the middle.

Not interested in counting, but would be interested in doing the data entry into our database of the funds? We need help here too!

Training will be held for those interested in joining the team. Contact the church office!

Teacher Appreciation Brunch!

Sunday School teachers and assistants are invited to brunch on Sunday, Jan. 22 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. When you see your child(ren)'s Sunday School teacher, remember to express your thanks!

Teachers and Assistants:

Preschool 1: Leah and John Sand, Dodie Mickelsen
Preschool 2: 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,
Amelia Kimmes-Kneser
Fifth Grade: Andrea Hoff, Sally Lindell
Music: Jenny Pelletier
Library: Susan Canon, Kelsey Bull, Angie Gehring, Connie Menssen

Please contact Julie if you can help with the brunch or can volunteer to be a substitute teacher in one of the Sunday school classrooms on January 22. Thanks in advance!

Next Steps in Youth and Family Ministry

In December, Staff and key leaders met with Pete Erickson of Interserve Ministries, for a chance to take a look at how we live out our mission statement and the Core Values identified last year. One very important point that was brought up over and over again was in order for the church to function healthily, each subsystem within the church needed have shared Mission, Vision, & Values, shared accountability and shared expectations. It was a great chance for people to share what they saw as the strengths and mission of the Children, Youth and Family Program.

There are going to be three more opportunities for members to share in this discussion. Please join us on one of the following dates

Sunday, January 15 @ 9:45am; location TBA

Tuesday, January 17 @ 6:30pm in St. John's Hall

Wednesday, January 18 @ 6:15pm in Fellowship Hall

If you have any questions, please contact Tracie Peterson at youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com. Please continue to keep the youth of this congregation in your prayers as we work through this 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. - 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

January 4
Pizza

January 11
Spaghetti, Breadsticks,
Salad

January 18
Baked Potato Bar

January 25
Tacos

A Note on Commitment Cards

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their commitment card for 2012!

For those that are electronic givers, if you have changed your giving in any way - increase or decrease - please know that **your card does NOT give us authorization to increase or decrease your pledge.** Please log in to your online account or contact the Church Office, in writing, to allow us to make the changes for you. (stjohnsnorthfield@gmail.com)

Thank you!

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Build Bridges!

"Building Bridges Not Walls"

NHS students report on the October International Conference in Drammen, Norway

Monday, Jan. 9
7 p.m.
St. John's Hall

All are welcome!

When twelve Northfield High School students left for the peace conference "Build Bridges Not Walls" in Drammen, Norway, the third week of October, they were excited:

"I'm super pumped...We have such a great group," said senior Sophie Scheuerman, anticipating how they would share what they learned when they returned.

"I'm interested in carrying my experience in Norway back here...hopefully making a difference in our school," said sophomore Helen Forsythe.

And they returned with increased enthusiasm. On Monday, January 9, the group will share with us many parts of the conference and how we can be part of the way it influences our community.

"I think that when bringing back things we learned and implementing them into our community, we could begin simply by educating students about other cultures and current events around the world," suggests sophomore Scout Gregerson.

Sophomore Ian Iverson adds, "We bring back a number of challenges for both ourselves and our community. One of our most important goals is encouraging a deeper connection between the Latino population and the greater Northfield community. This experience showed me that we are all human, all flesh and bone, whatever our cultural background or geographical location."

Conference days were structured around workshops which students chose for the week according to their interests: International School of Global Understanding, Visual Arts 1, Visual Arts 2, Photography, Film

Evenings were for large group activities: Discussions of the importance of respect for human dignity, a hike up a mountain, informal evenings for socializing, a banquet for presentations by the groups.

"Build bridges - not walls" is a joint project by the municipality of Drammen, the United Nations Association of Norway and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee. Since 1998 the project has organised festivals, conferences, workshops and human rights schools in Drammen, Red Wing, MN, and in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Paul and Loey Christenson who lead the program in Red Wing invited Northfield students to participate with them this year. The enthusiastic response of Northfielders led to their having their own strong delegation under the leadership of NHS teacher Sarah Swan McDonald.

The week long seminar helps to fulfill the objectives of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee to increase the understanding of human rights, cooperation between multi-cultural groups, knowledge of nonviolent resolution of conflict. It encourages creative ways of working for and achieving a culture of dignity and justice for all.

"My big hope is being able to reach a lot of people when we get back, and making sure it has an impact," was sophomore Ian Iverson's remark as he headed to Drammen. This meeting can be a start.

Come on January 9 be a part of fulfilling that goal. Bring friends!

Mission Outreach



Update from El Milagro:

Members of St. John's met with Pr. Judith VanOsdol and El Milagro council president Jane Norman last month. In 2011 El Milagro was designated a "mission redevelopment" congregation in the ELCA. As part of the redevelopment El Milagro has made the difficult decision to sell its current building and has plans to worship at Calvary Lutheran in south Minneapolis beginning this month. The move will allow both El Milagro and Calvary to share ministry and resources while allowing El Milagro to maintain its identity as a congregation serving the people of south Minneapolis – including the Latino community. Pr. Judith ask that St. John's keep the people of El Milagro and Calvary in prayer as they enter this new time of shared ministry.

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 Alexa Nutt: It is God's wish for us to help people in need and to help them feel His love. I saw people living out this wish when we went to homeless shelters and soup kitchens in Chicago. There we saw volunteers helping people who had nothing, trying to help them get back on their feet. I believe this is what God wants us to do to live our lives in His image.

From Millie Tjaden:

We departed from the familiar location of the church parking lot at 7 a.m. on a cool July morning. Considering it was summer, it was difficult for me to wake at such a grueling hour. However, for the next week I would have to endure such a horrifying task. Anyways, we continued with our journey. When we arrived at our desired location, after approximately eight hours in our steel chariot, we were all irritable. But when we saw the hotel we would be staying in for that night, everyone's mood improved exponentially. The Sheraton in downtown Chicago, on the 28th floor is where we were to slumber peacefully. After we unloaded our luggage, we toured surrounding areas and visited the mighty, Ed Debevics. The following day, we departed from our glorious hotel, to our intercity dorms, which lacked air conditioning. This was exceptionally painful when the temperature soared to heights above 100 degrees. We were also not allowed to open the windows. Luckily, the fabulous summer program, where we helped in the mornings, had air conditioning. Besides the relief from the heat, this was my favorite location in all of Chicago. The kids there were amazing. In my classroom, I had 6-8 year olds, and all the girls loved me. I was fought over as a Big Buddy when we went to the Enchanted Castle for a field trip. There was this girl named Xaris, who was comical and energetic. She reminded me of myself when I was a child. I miss her. Overall, this trip was an amazing experience. I learned how to praise our glorious Lord through actions and the difference from our small town in Minnesota and intercity neighborhoods. I also learned to be thankful for what you are given, and be optimistic and energetic in the worst of times.



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

WOMEN OF THE ELCA JANUARY LUNCH MEETING is Thursday, January 5 at 11:30 a.m. in the Kings' Room at St. Olaf. Total cost is \$14.85 including tax and group rate to be paid Jan. 5. Deadline for sign-up is Thursday Dec. 29 on the WELCA bulletin board. All St. John's women are invited. Carol Benson will lead us in Christmas Carols and hymns.

ps. board members note the cost and time of 11:30.

Jan. 9 --- Monday, Bible study leaders meet at 12:00 noon in Fireside Room.

Jan. 3 and 17 --- Knitters meet either in homes or in St. John's library. Call Kathy Vang for location --- 645-4849

Jan. 11, 12, 13, 14, 19 --- Circles meet.

Jan. 16 and 19 --- Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m.

Jan. 26 --- WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 a.m. in Fireside Room

Looking Ahead

Feb. 2 Thursday, 1:00 p.m. --- Program: Char and Bill Carlson, "Update from Tanzania."

Notices

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES --- Approximately 800 rolled bandages formed from clean, used bed sheets, were delivered in November to Global Health Ministries in northern Minneapolis, for distribution overseas. These will be used to protect the more costly sterile bandages.

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.

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:

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 Mellstrom, leader. Meet in Fireside Room.

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

WELCA is collecting used cell phones to support Ruth's House in Faribault. Ruth's House mission is to help women and children in recovery from violence, oppression, and homelessness --- providing affordable housing in a safe, supportive and healing environment as a transition into a new beginning. Please drop off your used cell phones in the box provided in the Commons.

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

Chase the Winter Blues Away

By Barbara Eaves

When January rolls around, the reality of two months of cold, dark winter can make a person want to curl up in an afghan and just wait for it to pass. Another option is to get involved in a small group to help chase away some common winter maladies, such as cabin fever, isolationism, the blues, and a lack of mental and emotional stimulus. The newest small group opportunities are listed below. For a complete listing of small group options, pick up a catalog at the Small Group bulletin board display in the Commons.

Human Face of Resettlement – **Sunday mornings**, 9:45-10:45, Room 203 (upper level), Jan. 8-February 5. Group will read the OT book of Ruth, then read and discuss stories of refugees who have settled in the Twin Cities, and learn of the suffering and courage of refugees around the world. Resource book: *This Much I Can Tell You* (cost: \$16.00). Leader: Dick Dahlin, 645-5978, jodick5@charter.net.

Mission Partners - **Sunday mornings**, 9:45-10:45 Theater Room (upper level), Jan 29-Feb.19. Hear reports and view slides from those who have visited our partner churches in Tanzania and Colombia; also learn about the ELCA's Companion Synod Program. Contact: Jane Rinehart, 663-1659, djrinehart@charter.net

Letters from Prisons – **Wednesdays**, Jan. 11-Feb 15 with two time options: 10:30-Noon, Fireside Room, or 5:30-7:00pm, Room 212 (upper level). Look into the letters Paul wrote while in prison, recorded in Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians, as well as letters written by other Christians while in prison: Bonhoeffer, Niemoller, Martin Luther King Jr. and Corrie Tenboom. Leaders: David & Genevieve Quarberg, 645-0089, davidquarberg@hotmail.com.

J.S. Bach's Easter Cantata No. 4, "Christ lag in Todesbanden" - **Fridays**, Jan. 20, Feb. 17, Mar 16 (or 23) 7:30 pm (sessions may be held at church). Sponsored by the Connections small group, all are invited to participate in the discussion of the cantata's musical text by Bach and chorale text by Martin Luther. Organizers/leaders are Dan Fenn and David Sudermann. To receive a background packet, write dsudermann@charter.net.

The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen - During the season of **Lent**, beginning after Ash Wednesday and ending before Palm Sunday, small groups will be formed for five weeks of conversations centered on the book by Nouwen. Most groups will meet on Sunday mornings or at various times on Wednesdays. Sign-ups will begin toward the end of January. Contact: Barbara Eaves, 645-4172, pbeaves@hotmail.com.

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

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

Jan. 1	No Sunday School (<i>Christmas Break</i>)
Jan. 8	Sunday School
Jan. 15	Sunday School
Jan. 22	Sunday School (<i>Teacher Brunch</i>)
Jan. 29	Sunday School (<i>Camp Sunday</i>)

CATechism / "DOG"/ Chimes

Grades 4 & 5, 4:00 – 4:45 p.m

January 4	CAT
January 11	CAT
January 18	CAT
January 25	DOG/Bell Chimes

Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Sunday, January 22 at 9:45 a.m. in Fireside Room

PJ and Movie Morning!

Monday, January 23 (No School Day)
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday, January 25, 4:45 – 6:00 p.m., Youth Room
The Sacrament of Baptism

Camp Sunday, Grades 3-8

Sunday, January 29 in Fellowship Hall, time TBD

Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!

Kids 5th grade and younger are invited to come in their pajamas to movie morning at St. John's! Come for breakfast and stay to watch a movie!

Where: The Commons for Breakfast
Movie in St. John's Theater

When: Monday, January 23

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or call Julie at 645-4429, ext. 25. Parent volunteers are welcomed!

Time to think about Summer Camp!

On Sunday, January 29th, 3rd – 8th graders are invited to Fellowship Hall to hear about St. John's summer camp options for 2012. Parents – come and learn more about camp with your child. We will be meeting during the Sunday school hour.

Children & Communion

Holy Communion is the meal of all the baptized children of God. If your baptized child has expressed an interest in receiving Holy Communion please contact a pastor.

Celebrating Holy Baptism

Parents who wish to have their child baptized at St. John's are asked to attend a preparation session. Baptism preparation is held on the first Saturday of each month in the Fireside Room. The next session is Saturday, Jan. 7 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes

4th and 5th graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, January 4. CAT classes will meet in the lower level of St. John's; 4th grade in Fellowship Hall and 5th grade in the Youth Room from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays in January: 4, 11, and 18. DOG and Bell Chimes resume on January 25.

Third Grade Catechism Retreat

Third graders will meet Wednesday, January 25 from 4:45 – 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism. Pizza will be provided. If you are unable to attend, please call Pastor Mark or Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Middle School Sunday School

Way to Live: Grades 6-8

Join us this month in the Youth Room as we look at how our Christian Faith can be lived out in our regular lives. Remember, we meet Sunday mornings 9:45 – 10:45am in the youth room. Here are the upcoming topics!

1/8 – Play

1/15 – Time

1/22 – Truth

1/29 – Camp Sunday

High School Sunday School

Faith Lens: Grades 9-12

What is in the news this week? Let's take some time to examine headlines straight out of today's newspapers and see how this week's gospel will apply to it. Join us for an hour of food, and fellowship while we dive deeper into God's word and the promises he makes for us.

Northfield Area Youth Ski trip

Who: All youth grades 6-12

When: Saturday, January 14, 2012
2:30pm - 11pm
(Skiing from 4 - 10pm)

Where: Welch Village

Cost: Watch e-mails for more information

Youth Fundraiser

It's once again time to think about the Youth Fundraiser, happening Sunday, February 12th. The baskets provided by the boards are always popular and help raise money for youth going to Summer Camps. As we work together to focus on a vibrant Children, Youth and Family Ministry and in the spirit of shared ministry, would your board or group of friends consider putting together a "theme basket" for the auction again this year? If interested or are looking for ideas, please contact Julie Brehmer or Tracie Peterson. Thank you for helping this congregation fulfill the promises we made towards our youth at their Baptism.

If you are interested in helping plan this amazing event, we are meeting **Tuesday, January 3rd @ 6:30pm**. It should be a great way to kick off the event. Thanks for your support

Confirmation Retreats

7 & 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat: Friday, January 6 @ 6pm – Saturday, January 7th @ 6pm at Good Earth Village.
Cost: \$30

9th Grade Retreat: Saturday, January 7 @ 6pm – Sunday, January, 8th @ 6pm at Good Earth village. Cost: \$30

6th Grade CAT Retreat: Monday, January 16 8:30 – 4:30pm Cost: \$15 Join us for a day filled with Fun and fellowship as we look at the Lord's Prayer. Watch for Registration Material.

Scholarships are available. Watch your mail for registration material and schedules.

Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday Morning Small group Leaders: We are looking for a few individuals who are willing to sit in and help on an occasional basis. Ideally, it would be nice to have 2-3 extra hands each Sunday Morning. You would receive the lesson earlier in the week so you know what will be discussed.

Chaperones and Drivers are needed for the Confirmation Retreats, the Ski Trip and the CAT Retreat. We need your help in order to make all these events a success.

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



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

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Happy New Year
From the Staff at St. John's!

Pr. Bob Iverson, Interim Sr. Pastor: pbiverson1@hotmail.com

Pr. Mark Johnson, Associate Pastor: mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org

Pr. John Quam, Visitation Pastor: jequam@rconnect.com

Stephanie Aman, Office Manager: _office@stjohns-elca.org

Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry: _jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org

Jo Dahlin, Rejoice Ringers

Daniel Fenn, Director of Music Ministry: dfenn@stjohns-elca.org

Tyler Forsythe, Alleluia Choir

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

Rich Kleeberger, Building Security

Ruth Legvold, Laudate Choir

Lynette Marks, Parish Nurse

Tracie Peterson, Interim Director of Youth Ministry: youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com

Cathy Rodland, Hosanna and Jubilate Choirs