

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2012

Volume 52, Number 2

*on the
inside . . .*

Men's Retreat

◇ p. 5

Kids Night Out!

◇ p. 14

Thank you Pr. Bob!

◇ p. 9

Youth Fundraiser

◇ p. 7



Worship Services:

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

The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN. Articles for the *Voice* must be

submitted by the 15th of each month:

office@stjohns-elca.org.

For information, contact the Church Office:

phone: 507-645-4429

fax: 507-645-9633

e-mail:

office@stjohns-elca.org

website:

www.stjohns-elca.org

Church office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

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

Friday

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

Greetings From Pastor Randy

Dear Friends at St. John's Lutheran Church,

"I never thought I would be going to Northfield." That is what I said after being told that the congregation voted to extend me a call as Senior Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church. God works in amazing, mysterious ways. I truly believe God has had a big hand in this whole process.

I want you to know how excited I am to join you and become part of your community of faith. St. John's has a rich history and an exciting ministry. I have always known of your music program and your strong stewardship response as a congregation. I appreciate how you have worked hard this past year to reduce your building debt and develop a vision for mission that will lead us into the future.

I look forward to working with Pastor Mark (we are going to have to figure out how to deal with two Pastor Johnsons) and the rest of the staff and congregational leadership to grow and further the ministry that God is calling us to do. We have already had some planning sessions together. I also want to thank Pastor Bob Iverson for his leadership and help in the interim and his gracious presence.

After 23 years at United in Red Wing, it is very hard for my wife Susan and me to leave a place that we have loved so much. But the reception we have

received and the positive energy that we have felt from all of you makes this transition easier, creating for us an excitement for something new, a new place and a new challenge.

I begin my call on February 13 and my first Sunday is February 19. We look forward to worshipping with you for the first time and getting to know all of you. Please stop by the church office to say hello. I also love to go out for coffee and visit. I am thankful that Northfield has a few good coffee shops. Pray for me as I will pray for you. May God bless us and the ministry that we share at St. John's Lutheran Church.

With Joy and Thanksgiving,

Pastor Randy

Transition Schedule

Sunday, February 5

Pastor Bob's Last day at St. John's.
Reception between services.

Monday, February 13

Welcome Pr. Randy!

Sunday, February 19

Pr. Randy's first Sunday.
Congregation dinner follows
second service.

Sunday, February 26

Installation of Pr. Randy
8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

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.

“I Talk Too Much”

Stephen Ministers who are no longer active in our church’s program tell us that they still find themselves serving as unofficial Stephen Ministers. People who need that kind of care show up in their lives regularly. Here is one recent story:

In early December I received a note from someone I hadn’t heard from in decades, Jan. She was a corridor mate who transferred to another college after her freshman year and now lives half a continent away. She’d found an old photo of the two of us and wondered what had become of me. Her note told me a few facts about her life: she had been a widow for fifteen years, had children and grandchildren living nearby, and was struggling with “a serious illness.” I phoned her to ask about the illness, and the conversation lasted more than an hour. During that time she said to me several times, “My friends all tell me I talk too much.” “My kids say I talk too

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.

much.” Then she would find more to tell me. She asked almost no questions about my life, but I learned a lot about hers. For one thing, her illness was incurable—she didn’t expect to be around next Christmas. For another, she considered that she had “made a mess of her life”; she had chosen the wrong profession, had married the wrong man.

Afterwards I fretted about this conversation. I couldn’t set Jan’s problems aside, and I couldn’t fix any of them. Then the Stephen Minister in me surfaced. There *was* something I could do for Jan: I could offer her a listening ear. I could pay close attention to what

...continued on pg. 4

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

Grief Support Groups meeting this month include; **St. John’s Grief Support Group** meeting Monday, February 6, 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Contact Barb Knaak for more information at 664-0444; and this month the **Three Links/Northfield Retirement Center Grief Support Group** begins meeting Mondays at from 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Three Links, February 20-March 26. For more information contact Tana Kelly, 664-8821.



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.”

February 20, 2011
Bjorn Norgaard

February 23, 2011
Arthur Bagaason

February 27, 2011
Betty Ann Seitz Frerickson

From our pastors . . .

Sunday, February 5 marks my last day among the good folks of St. John's Lutheran Church. It has been a joy to serve with you over the past 15 months. During that time the word, "transition," perhaps became all too familiar. However, transition is the "name of the game" these days in outreach and ministry. My not so bold prediction is that you are in for much more transition in the near future.

Change, for the sake of change, is not as good. However, I have learned, over the years, that the only thing that never changes is the fact that everything **always** changes. When I think about the church and its ability to adapt, be flexible, and even change, I am reminded of Paul's words to the Corinthians: ¹⁶*If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel!* ¹⁷*For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission.* ¹⁸*What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.* ¹⁹*For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them.* ²⁰*To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law.* ²¹*To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law.* ²²*To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.* ²³*I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings."*



Remember the old joke that ended with, "how many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb? **Change?! That light bulb was given to me by my grandmother.**" That seems to be the stumbling block for many, these days. As congregations resist trying new things ("we've always done it this way"), we continue to watch as new generations of people fade away, or never engage with us at all. While there is no simple answer, Paul had it right as he spoke of becoming "all things to all people." He did so, not for his own glory or amusement, but for the sake of gospel; to reach people for Christ. Perhaps we need to not only look at the light bulbs, but start to consider new fixtures, as well.

St. John's has a deep and rich history. How that can be preserved and honored, and yet translated into ways of reaching new generations is going to be of the utmost importance over the next few years. Sometimes, over the past few months, we have called it trying to discover our identity. But, even as that becomes clear, we need to think about how to communicate that identity; and consider how to include as many as possible within it.

I wish you every blessing as you begin the next chapter of ministry together. And again, thank you for allowing me to assist in turning the page.

Yours in Christ,

Other Actions

Baptisms

Maren Rae Coudret, daughter Ray and Sherry; sponsors are Sheila Christianson and Michael Christianson; January 8, 2012

Deaths

Ella Aadahl, January 15, 2012

Alice Ims, January 19, 2012

Olga Berglund, January 20, 2012

Radio Broadcasts

January 22, 2012, in memory of **Jim Braulick**, by Georgia Braulick



Hands and Feet for Feb!

This month's Hands and Feet project is putting together Valentine treat bags for guests at the Community Action Center's Thursday's Table meal. The project takes place Wednesday, February 8, at 6:30 p.m. downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Confirmation students and mentors meet at 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall prior to the project. All members of the congregation are welcome to join in at 6:30.

Pastor Les Svendsen Retires

Pastor Les Svendsen who served St. John's for sixteen years from 1986-2002 has retired after serving Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls for the past ten years. An article in the Sioux Falls Argus Leader newspaper is posted on the "St. John's in the news" bulletin board in the Commons.

...Stephen Ministry, con't from pg. 2

others have dismissed as "too much" talk. A few days later I phoned her again. I suggested that from now on we become more deliberate about keeping in touch. How about a regular phone conversation, say once a week? She liked that idea, and we worked out the details. Six weeks have passed, and we've had six lengthy phone conversations. She does most of the talking, and I listen and ask questions. They have been interesting conversations, I might add. She has a wry sense of humor, a good memory, and absolutely no self-pity. She says that between phone calls she jots down things she wants to tell me, questions she wants to ask. I'm happy to say I no longer hear apologies for "talking too much." I think she trusts me.

Once a Stephen Minister, always a Stephen Minister.

If you or someone you know is going through a time of change or difficulty and might benefit from talking to a trained and confidential listener, call Pastor Mark Johnson (645-4429) or Pam Schwandt (645-6120) to find out more about Stephen Ministry.

Pave the Path: The youth need your help getting to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. Check out the map in St. John's Hall to see where we need to go. You can help us find our way by Paving the Path. Each block of the highway has a dollar amount which you can donate. Prices for "pavers" run from \$1 - \$150. Please pick the paver of the amount you would like to donate. Challenge a friend or go together with a group to pick out one of the more expensive Pavers. All proceeds for Pave the Path go towards the National Youth Gathering trip. Pavers go on sale February 12 and will be available until Easter. Thank you for your support.

Worship & Music Life at St. John's

Kenyon College Choir in Concert

St. John's will host the choir from Kenyon College on Tuesday evening March 6. There will be more information coming soon, but in the mean time, if you would like to open your home as a host to 2 or 4 singers that evening, please contact Dan Fenn.



St. John's Singers Returns in February

The St. John's Singers, our occasional adult choir, will rehearse and sing twice in February - on February 5 and 19. We rehearse during the Sunday morning Education Hour (9:45 to 10:45 in room 209) and sing at the 11:00 service both days. All singers college-age upward are invited. For more information, contact Dan Fenn.

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.

News and Events

Thinking about joining St. John's? Come to lunch!

Those considering joining St. John's are invited to lunch with St. John's staff on Sunday, March 4 at noon in St. John's Hall. Over lunch there will be opportunity to visit with staff members and learn about life at St. John's, in addition to learning more about the new member process. New members will be received at St. John's on Sunday, April 29. For more information contact one of the pastors or Linda Anderson. RSVP for the March 4 lunch to the church office at 645-4429 or office@stjohns-elca.org.

Men's Retreat at Gustavus

St. John's members and friends are welcome to attend the Men's Retreat at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Friday, February 24 – Saturday, February 25. Activities will include dinner at Whiskey River, time at the gym, movies, conversation on faith and life, and more food. Cost is \$20. Contact Nick Neeb for more information nickneeb@yahoo.com or 645-4484.

Next Step: Thank you to everyone who attended the Next Step meetings in December and January. In the 4 meetings that took place, we heard from over 60 people about their hopes and dreams for Ministry at St. Johns.

Our next step will be to form the Transition Team who can take a look at where we want to go and help develop a model for Youth and Family Ministry here at St. Johns that will be reflective of the values that the congregation holds as important. This will hopefully be a 4 month process with frequent updates as to what is happening. . If you have any questions or would like to be heard, please contact Tracie Peterson at youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com .

On Sunday, February 19 we will welcome Pastor Randy Johnson. A noon reception is being planned. The reception will include a lunch meal and an opportunity to welcome Pastor Randy. Volunteers are needed to help prepare, serve and clean up for the lunch. If you are able to help with the lunch for Pastor Randy on the 19th please contact Regina Hassanally.

Lenten Soup Suppers begin Wednesday, February 29 and will serve as our regular Wednesday Night Meals for the duration of Lent. Boards are leading the volunteer effort to serve and clean up the meals but would welcome any additional help. If you'd like to pitch in let Regina know. Please join us for dinner at 5:30 and worship at 6:30 throughout the Lenten season.

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.

A note about the Pictorial Directory: we delayed publishing by a few weeks to give Pastor Randy an opportunity to accept the call to serve at St. John's and provide us with a photograph. This way our directory will be as up to date as possible. Stay tuned for information in the coming weeks about when you can pick your copy up!

*Regina Hassanally,
Director of Shared Ministries*

SERVING TO LOVE  *LOVING TO SERVE*

From the Faith and Health Board:

Forums on drug addiction offered during two forums in St. John's Hall.

January 29th – There will be a presentation by Dr. Charles Reznikoff, an addiction specialist on staff at Hennepin County Medical Center, and facilitator of the Opiate Agonist Therapy Clinic at Northfield Hospital. Dr. Reznikoff will present information relating to drug addiction, opiate use, and alcohol and substance abuse, especially as it impacts Northfield.

February 5 – The Forum will feature a panel discussion, which will include Greg Kneser, Dean of Students at St. Olaf College and John Sand, Athletic Trainer and Health Educator at Northfield High School, both of whom are members of St. John's. In

addition, included in the panel will be Joel Leer, Principal at Northfield High School, and Joan Janusz, a member of the Northfield Mayor's Task Force on Youth Alcohol and Drug Use. Elizabeth Bade, also a member of St. John's, will be the moderator. The panelists will discuss addiction and substance use and abuse in Northfield.

These Forums are being sponsored by St. John's Faith & Health Board. Additional information is available by contacting Barbara Knaak at 507-664-0444



MARDI GRAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12!

This annual youth fundraiser helps make our 2012 summer programming opportunities financially possible for all families.

Schedule of the Day!

- 8:00 a.m. Silent Auction Begins with a **BUY IT NOW!** Option
"Mardi Gras" because our High School Youth will be attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans!!!
- 9:30 a.m. "Mardi Gras" Pancake Breakfast
(\$6 per person/ \$20.00 per family)
- Pancakes
 - Sausages
 - Fresh Fruit
 - "Kings Cakes" – claim a prize if you find a hidden coin in your cake!
- 11:00 a.m. Carnival Games, Crafts and Activities
- Noon Staff Boat Races! Bid on the boat you think will win!
- 12:30 p.m. Breakfast Ends
- 12:30 p.m. Silent Auction Ends

We want **EVERYONE** to be involved in this year's fundraiser! How can you give your support?

- Attend the **Mardi Gras** Pancake Breakfast and bid on auction items
**Look for the special tables with our Youth Donations!*
- Donate to the Silent Auction - a service or an item (Please, no used items)
- Give a monetary donation
- Volunteer to help at the fundraiser!

Call Tracie or Julie at 645-4429 if you can help!

Tickets are on Sale now! Please purchase your tickets on Sunday Mornings or Wednesday evenings in the Commons or at the door. Cost is only \$6/person or \$20/family.

We thank you in advance for your participation and support!

Serving on Sundays in February

Acolytes

- February 5** (8:30) Synneva Bratland, Halvor Bratland; (11:00) Madelyn Miller, Taylor Pleschourt
February 12 (8:30) Cecilia Kryzda, Oliva Riggins; (11:00) Nic Zabel, Kenyon Nystrom
February 19 (8:30) Matthew Knutson, Anders Koenig; (11:00) Anna Weber, Elizabeth Evenson
February 26 (8:30) Tim Gasior, Ryan Buck; (11:00) Theo Mattson, Sam Motzko

Offering Counters

- February 5** Bob Gelle, Dan Franklin, Terrence Hassanally (data entry)
February 12 Bob Gelle, Dan Franklin, Sue Brockman (data entry)
February 19 Bob Gelle, Dan Franklin, Mark Ulmer (data entry)
February 26 Bob Gelle, Dan Franklin, Dave Aman (data entry)

Ushers

- February 5** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (11:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber
February 12 (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
February 19 (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
February 26 (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (11:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback, Emily Westerback

Thank You Pr. Bob and Sandy!

On behalf of Council and of the congregation of St John's, we extend our deepest appreciation to Pastor Bob for the work he has done among and with us. Pastor Bob's gifts, talent and temperament are particularly well suited to the unique demands of serving as an interim pastor. We at St John's are the happy beneficiaries of his finely tuned sense of call. Throughout his time here, Bob has been a calm and confident guide as we as lay leaders and congregation members have worked to define and develop our mission and ministry.

We feel deeply blessed that Pastor Bob has played such an important role in our church family for the past 15 months. We are indeed fortunate and the better for him having been here. He has left the "campsite" better than he found it and for that we will be forever grateful. Thanks, also, to Sandy Iverson for her tremendous contributions especially as they related to our bookkeeping this past year.

We wish Bob and Sandy Godspeed and peace as they look to their next opportunity in ministry. We hope you will stay in touch. Praise be to God!

The Executive Committee of the Congregation
Council

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.

Connections Sponsored Movie!

Connections- sponsored "Thoughtful Film Club" will show "Magic of Ordinary Days" with Keri Russell, at 7:15 pm on Friday, February 10, in St. John's second floor Theater. All are welcome!



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.

February 1
Pizza

February 8
Grilled Cheese and
Tomato Soup

February 15
Jambalaya

February 22
Ash Wednesday - No Meal

February 29
Start of Soup Suppers!

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Next meeting:
Monday, Feb. 13
7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

“Building
Inclusive
Communities”

Everyone is
welcome!

For your consideration:

Becoming Inclusive Communities

1. Become “culturally competent” - Get to know people who represent the ethnic populations in the community.
2. Bridge language gaps—Is there need for increased translation and interpretation services in key areas of city life? (City functions, health care providers, businesses, social service organizations)
3. Work against racism and prejudice – Examine city policies and procedures to see if they have a discriminatory effect on ethnic populations; if so, work to modify or eliminate such policies and procedures. Hear what the ethnic groups think.
4. Enhance public safety efforts –Meet with groups or leaders from the ethnic groups to develop collaborative working groups or task forces on issues relevant to public safety activities.
5. Understand and address housing needs – Consult with leaders or groups representing ethnic populations about proposed and ongoing housing policies.
6. Encourage economic development – Set an example at City Hall: hire people of ethnic populations; accommodate and respect religious practices; provide/encourage additional training

and skill development; create mentorship programs; reward city staff who become culturally competent and/or learn languages other than English spoken in the community.

7. Lead and foster leadership – Develop a long-term strategic plan for how your community will become welcoming inclusive of all populations. Work collaboratively with ethnic populations, the business community, and local organizations in developing and implementing the plan.

This Action Guide from the Cultural Diversity Task Force of the League of Minnesota Cities to implement the goal of building inclusive communities was brought by Dick Kleber and Judy Dirks to our September meeting. This topic has also come before the City Council in January and is a concern of the 12 NHS students who participated in “Build Bridges Not Walls” in Drammen, Norway, in October. The topic will be central to our discussion in February.

As you look at the suggestions above, you might consider: What is most important for our community? How can we make a start? What would you add?

Come to the meeting to share your ideas and to hear what others think.

Joint Religious Legislative Coalition

Day on the Hill - March 20

“..And What does the Lord Require ?”

Carpools will be arranged.

JRLC has a wonderful program:

i CAN

Weekly reports on legislative issues that concern the well being of our Minnesota children.

We need someone to bring these topics and actions to our attention at St. John’s.

Email or call Judith Stoutland [stoutlaj@stolaf.edu/645 7842] if you can help.



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

For newsletters and information: www.semnsynod.org and www.womenoftheelca.org
Women of the ELCA includes ALL women of St. John's!

Upcoming Events

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

Mar. 1, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. Program:
 Solveig Beckmen & Nordis Christenson,
 "Journeys in Prayer."

April 14, Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon. The
 2012 Cannon River Spring Conference
 at First Lutheran in Kenyon.

April 14, Saturday — Afternoon tea for
 mothers and daughters.

February Schedule

Feb. 6 — Monday, Bible study leaders
 meet at 12:00 noon in Fireside Room.
 Feb. 7 & 21 Knitters meet either in
 homes or in St. John's library. Call
 Kathy Vang for location. 645-4849
 Feb. 8,9,10,11,16 — Circles meet.
 Feb. 13 & 16 — Quilters meet in
 Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m.
 Feb. 23 — WELCA Executive Board
 meets at 9:30 a.m. in Fireside Room.

Notices

Please drop off your used cell phones
 in the box provided in the Commons.
 They are being collected to support
 Ruth's House in Faribault.

Clean, white sheets will be welcome by
 the bandage rollers. Colored or
 figured sheets will be welcome by the
 quilters. Please bring them to the
 WELCA closet — 1st door on the left,
 when entering Fellowship Hall.

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, please contact Barbara Walters (663-1055)

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

Anna — 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m. 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, 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.

•••••
 • Women of the ELCA will celebrate their 25th anniversary •
 • in 2012. As part of this celebration, we honor women who •
 • have worked for justice & health for women and children •
 • around the world. There will be a special anniversary •
 • appeal, of which 50 percent of the total offerings received •
 • will go directly to the ELCA Malaria Campaign — toward •
 • three areas: Medicine, clean water and advocacy. These •
 • funds will benefit the ELCA's Lutheran companion churches •
 • in eleven African countries. •
 •••••



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

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

Join the Conversation!

2nd Annual Book Read!

During this season of Lent, you are invited to participate in a small group for the second annual congregational book conversation. This year's book selection is *The Return of the Prodigal Son* by Henri Nouwen. The story of the prodigal son is one of the most familiar and compelling stories in our scriptures. It is a story that can be looked at through a variety of lenses and one which may speak to us in new and different ways over the course of a lifetime.

Henri Nouwen (1932-1996) was born in the Netherlands where he was ordained into the priesthood. He taught at the University of Notre Dame, Yale Divinity School and Harvard Divinity School, and was pastor of the L'Arche Daybreak community in Toronto Canada. He authored many favorite books, including *Road to Daybreak*, *Sabbatical Journey* and *Life of the Beloved*.

Registration

February 5-19 (Wednesdays and Sundays) in the Commons. Conversation groups will meet for one hour for a period of five weeks

Groups will meet on the following days and times

Wednesdays (Feb. 29-Mar. 21)

11:00am, 4:30pm, or 7:30pm (following worship)

Sundays (Feb 26-Mar. 25)

9:45-10:45am

At the time of registration, you will be asked to designate which day and time you wish to participate. Books will be available for purchase (\$10) at the sign-up table

Questions?

Contact a member of the Small Group Ministry Team
(listed in the box on the left side of the page)

Many works of art depict the Prodigal Son. There is a unique collection of them at Luther Seminary which was gathered and donated by Jerry Evenrud, a well-known retired church musician. In addition, a book with illustrations and reflective essays has been published in connection with this art collection; it is titled, *And Grace Will Lead Me Home*.

Adult Ministry and Education

Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Sunday Morning Learning and Fellowship

Coffee in St. John's Hall from 9:30-10:50. Small Groups meet at 9:45; St. Johns Forum meets at 9:50.

Feb 5: *St. John's Forum: Drug Addiction Panel* discussing addiction and substance use and abuse in Northfield. Panelists include: Greg Kneser, John Sand, Joel Leer, and Joan Janusz. Elizabeth Bade will be moderator. St. Johns Hall

Mission Partners Small Group: A conversation about **the Church in Colombia**, including conversation with Pr. Oliverio Mora from El Salvador Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia. Theatre.

Feb 12: *Youth Fundraiser:* St. John's Hall. No Forum.

Mission Partners Small Group: **The Church in Tanzania** with conversation led by Bill and Char Carlson who traveled to Tanzania in December, Theatre.

Feb 19: *St. John's Forum: Three Turning-Points in Christianity: 1) How Emperor Constantine Changed Christian History* led by Eric Lund. Orthodox Christians consider the Roman emperor Constantine a saint. Was he? We will consider his interesting personal history and the many new developments he helped launch when he came to power in 305 AD. The Church would never be the same.

Mission Partners Small Group: **The Church in Tanzania** with conversation led by Bill and Char Carlson who traveled to Tanzania in December, Theatre.

Feb 26: *St. John's Forum: Three Turning -Points in Christianity: 2) The Multi-faceted Impact of the Protestant Reformation* led by Eric Lund. Although we are all familiar, to some extent, with Martin Luther and the start of the Lutheran Church, this presentation will look more carefully at how he fit (or didnt fit) within his era and at the many dimensions of life that his reform movement affected.

Looking ahead to March 4 the third part in the series **Three Turning-Points in Christianity: The Spirit blows from Azusa to Zaire** led by DeAne Lagerquist. A presentation on Pentecostalism, the fastest growing branch of Christianity around the globe.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

Feb. 5	Sunday School
Feb. 12	Sunday School (<i>Youth Fundraiser</i>)
Feb. 19	Sunday School
Feb. 26	Sunday School

"ROCK" – Wednesday Afterschool Programming

February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Youth Fundraiser "Let's Celebrate Giving"

Sunday, February 12, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Kid's Night Out

Saturday, February 24, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes in March

4th and 5th graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, March 7. CAT classes will meet in the lower level of St. John's; 5th grade in the Fellowship Hall and 4th grade in the Youth Room from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: March 7, 14, 28

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, Feb. 4 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

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.

Kid's Night Out!
Saturday,
February 24

St. Olaf Christian Outreach group is an ecumenical group of energetic college students dedicated to sharing God's love with kids through games, skits and songs. They're coming to St. Johns...

When:	Friday, February 24
Who:	1 st – 5 th graders
Time:	5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Where:	Meet in St. John's Hall
Admission:	A snack to share with the group

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or across from the Nursery by February 17 so we can plan the event! Call Julie if you have questions at 645-4429, ex. 25.



Join us this summer!
Check out St. John's Summer
Camp/Activities Brochure!
Opportunities for all ages!

Brochures are available in the Commons and Main Office.

Financial assistance is available for all opportunities.
Please speak with Pastor Johnson, Tracie or Julie for more information.

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!

2/5 – Addiction – Meet in St. Johns Hall

2/12 – Youth Fundraiser – No Sunday School

2/19 – Music with Jenny Pellitier

2/26 – Music

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.

Study Bags!

We had over 25 bags handed out to students who were busy studying for finals. Each bag contained a few items to help as they put in long hours studying. Thank you to the Youth Committee for putting these bags together and to the Dell family for handing them out.

Sunday Morning Small Group Leaders

We have a large number of youth who have been attending Way to Live. Although this is exciting for group games and large group activities, it makes small group discussion harder. 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.

Way to Live Leaders

Leaders are needed for March. If you are interested, I can send you a list of topics and you are welcome to choose the one that interests you most. Contact Tracie Peterson for how you can help out.

6th grade CAT

This is your last time with Pr. Bob. Join us Wednesday, February 1st for the final Petition and find out what happened to the people of (ask Bob the name of the town in his video – the kids seem to love the video he uses). We will be taking a break during Lent.

Progress Reports

Watch the mail later this month for updates on how your student is doing for sermon notes, acolyting and Hands & Feet projects. If you have any questions, please contact Tracie.

Wednesday, Feb. 8: Special Session

This month, we will be working together with the people of Three Links to provide a gift for the people of Thursday's Table. Join us at 6:15pm ready to work. Ninth Graders: This is a great project for you and your mentor to be a part of together.

Volunteer Thank you!

Confirmation Retreats: Brian Evenson, Dave Hagen, Peggy Hanson

Ski Trip: Nathan Knutson, Andrea Hoff, Alice, Christy Hall Holt

Study Bags: Peggy Dell, Barry Becker

Confirmation Record Keeping: Vicki Heather

Sunday School Treats: Greg Kneser, Sandy Kimmes, Andrea Hoff, Cheryl Buck

Way to Live Leader: Peggy Hanson, Christy Hall-Holt, Allison Hartke

Faith Lens Leader: Eva Posfay, Tony Becker, Pr. John Quam

Acolyte Coordinator: Linda Anderson

It takes more than one person to run a program. Thank you for being excellent role models for our youth and showing them how to put their Faith into Action!

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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Journey Through Lent at St. John's

We will mark the days of Lent at St. John's with worship, study, and fellowship. Mid-week worship begins on February 22, with Ash Wednesday services at noon and 6:30 p.m. Mid-week worship times are at 6:30 p.m. and will include a preaching series on the Prodigal Son. Soup Suppers begin Wednesday, February 29 from 5:15-6:30 p.m. in St. John's Hall. Small Group Ministry is coordinating a Lenten book study using Henri Nouwen's book, "The Return of the Prodigal: A Story of Homecoming." Turn to page 12 for the book study schedule.

Mid-Week Worship during Lent - 6:30 p.m.:

Wednesday, February 22	Ash Wednesday	(Noon and 6:30 p.m.)
Wednesday, February 29	"Give me my share!"	Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesday, March 7	"He came to himself"	Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesday, March 14	"Your brother has come"	Vespers
Wednesday, March 21	"This son of yours!"	Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesday, March 28	"This son of mine was dead but is alive"	ELW Vespers