

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2012

Volume 52, Number 3

*on the  
inside . . .*

Easter Schedule

◇ p. 9

Journey Through  
Lent

◇ p. 5

Cookbook

Preorders!

◇ 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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month:

[office@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:office@stjohns-elca.org).

For information, contact the Church Office:

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**website:**

[www.stjohns-elca.org](http://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.

## Spring New Member Sessions –

### Welcome to St. John's!

St. John's formally welcomes new members in the fall and spring. This spring, new members will be received on Sunday, April 29 at the 11 a.m. service. Those wishing to join St. John's are asked to complete and return a Member Information Form by Sunday, March 18. Forms are available in the church office. If you have questions or need more information, please contact one of the pastors. To help new members become better acquainted with St. John's there are the following sessions:

**New Member Beginnings:** Sunday, March 25, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room. Getting acquainted and building connections at St. John's.

**Shared Ministry – Part One:** Sunday, April 1, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room. Exploring spiritual gifts and how Shared Ministry shapes life at St. John's.

## Fundraiser Thank You!

Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction were a HUGE Success!!! Thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen. Whether you provided a item/basket for the silent auction, helped make breakfast, cleared tables or just enjoyed the pancakes, I hope you had a great day. We were able to raise approximately \$5000 for summer youth activities! Thank you for helping provide an opportunity for the youth to live out their faith in many different areas.

**New Member Connections:** Sunday, April 15, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room. Fellowship time with hosts – St. John's members who help to welcome and to connect new members with the congregation.

**Shared Ministry – Part Two:** Sunday, April 22, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room. Exploring the call of belonging to a congregation and sharing gifts, followed by a tour of the building.

**New Member Reception and Litany:** Sunday, April 29, Reception at 9:35 a.m. in St. John's Hall. New members are formally received during the 11 a.m. worship service.

## Don't make us walk to New Orleans!

Pave the Path is an excellent way to support the Youth of this congregation as they look at joining 40,000 youth from all over the world in serving in New Orleans. Please pick up one of the Yellow Sticky notes from the "pavers" located on the road in Fellowship Hall. Each note contains a donation amount ranging from \$1 - \$150. Please turn in your sticky note along with your donation to either the front office or a student collecting donations. Grab a friend and challenge others to match your donation. Thanks for helping us put our Faith into Actions.

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

**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. **Gathered in the Word** – prayer guided by Scripture on Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m. All are welcome.

**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.

*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*

## It's Okay to Talk about Joan

Kenneth Haugk and Joan, his wife of “33 years, 4 months, 19 days, 3 hours, and 37 minutes,” created the Stephen Ministry program together. After she died, he wrote an article entitled “It’s Okay to Talk about Joan,” with reflections on the grieving process and the responses he especially appreciated from others. Here are some of his thoughts.

In his book *A Grief Observed*, C. S. Lewis reflected on the loss of his wife and talked about how memories are no replacement for the real thing. He’s right—memories are not a replacement for Joan. But they are a consolation.

To have memories you must have remembering. One saying goes: “A problem shared is a problem halved.” The arithmetic works differently with memories. “A memory shared is a memory doubled.” I can certainly remember alone.

And I do, but when someone remembers with me, it is much better.

Two months after Joan died, I was at a restaurant with my two daughters, son-in-law, and grandson. As my older daughter, Charity, tried to decide whether to order soup or a salad, she asked our server if she could sample the soup. Her husband, Jamie, said. “You must have gotten that from your mother. I remember her doing that a lot.”

Such a warm glow washed over me! What a kind gesture that was to me—to all of us—to have Jamie so naturally include in the conversation something that Joan used to do, something that we even kidded her about.

Right up there with the myths that the world is flat or that the moon is made of green cheese lies the one

*Continued on pg. 6*

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

*Matthew 5:4*

## Grief Support Ministry

### **Northfield Grief Support Coalition:**

Two grief groups meet this month in Northfield – the first at Three Links Care Center, Mondays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. through March 26, contact Tana Kelly for more information, 664-8821; and starting Monday, March 19 a grief group meets at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church from 7-8:30 p.m. Contact Nancy Topp for more information, 507-254-7878.



*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.”*

March 9, 2011  
**Dana Anderson**

March 17, 2011  
**Don Kimber**

# From our pastors . . .

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It has now been a couple of weeks that I have been at St. John's. I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome that Susan and I have received. It has been fun getting to know you and the wonderful church staff and leadership of the congregation.

I am also thankful that I was able to start before Lent so that I could go with you on our Lenten journey. When people think of Lent, they often talk about what they are going to give up during Lent, such as dessert, or television, or some other thing like that. Self-denial is a common practice and can be a good thing that helps you to identify with Jesus as he goes the way of the cross. But instead of giving something up this year, I would like to propose that you add something to your Lenten journey that might lead you to transformation and a whole new life of faith. What I propose is that you think about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and practice the Marks of Discipleship. Discipleship involves personal commitment and active response. As we participate in the Marks of Discipleship, the Holy Spirit has the opportunity to work in our lives, drawing us closer to Jesus, changing and transforming us in to the kind of people that God wants us to be. Instead of becoming something less through self-denial, let's become something more through active participation. Become a disciple of Jesus Christ.

So, what does this involve?

## **•Worship Weekly**

God calls us to worship. We praise God for all God has done for us. In our worship we expect something to happen, that God will be present and speak to us. Through our worship, we are nourished spiritually through the Word and Sacraments. Psalm 122:1 says, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

## **•Read the Bible**

The disciple of Jesus is an active learner. God's Word gives us guidance and direction for daily life. It leads us to the "cradle of Jesus," as Martin Luther puts it. Psalm 119:105 tells us, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

## **• Give of your Time, Talents, and Money**

Disciples are stewards of God's gifts. God gives each of us financial resources and special talents to use to carry out God's mission in the world. All gifts are important to building up the Body of Christ. "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). Remember, "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

## **•Live the Servant Life and Share Your Faith**

Jesus said, "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to God the Father" (Matthew 5:16). This is our response as baptized people of God. The disciple puts one's faith into action – in daily work, as a citizen, in the family, as a neighbor.

## **•Pray daily**

Finally, the life of a disciple is grounded in prayer. This is the source of our inspiration and motivation. Prayer connects us with God and God's will and purpose for us in this life. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 urges us to "pray without ceasing."

These are the Marks of Discipleship. As you journey through Lent, practice these things. May Jesus may fill you with his presence, love, and grace. Have a good Lent!

Pastor Randy

# February Actions

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## Memorials and Gifts

### Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Alice Ims**: by Nystuen Family Trust

### Debt Retirement

In memory of **Alice Ims**: by Lois and Ken Wilkens.

In honor of **Archie Anderson**: by Roger and Darlene Hand.

In honor of **Addy Roadfeldt**: by Pr. John and Louise Quam

### Radio Fund

In honor of **Alice Ims**: by Alan and Lynette Marks.

In honor of **Archie Anderson**: by Ferdinand and June Volkert

In honor of **Lee Mahachek**: by Bev Mahachek

### Faith and Health

In memory of **Addy Roadfeldt**: by Sharon Bishop, Robert and Jane Gelle, Ronald and Carol James, Barbara Knaak, Bruce and Audrey Moe, Basil and Kathy Mroz, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Donna and Burt Paulson, Bill Roadfeldt, Myron and Carol Solid, Cynthia Baumgartner, Norma and John Roadfeldt, Rev. Lyle Norris, Owen and Judith Peterson, Clair and Ursula McRostie, Gail Roadfeldt, Clark and Lois Cary, Bob and Elaine Kadow, James and Phyllis Bull, Nancy Roadfeldt, LaDonna Bailey, Thomas and Christine Wilmot, Marilyn Will, Bruce and Arlene Wetter, Bernard or Joann Welinski, Anna Sjogren, Jon and Ginny Roadfeldt, Bert and Bernie Reese, Dr. and Mrs. Leroy Mueller, Jim and Jean Lovrien, Wilbur and Carolyn Liebenow, Dale and Mary Larson, Douglas and Patricia Kriesel, Marvin Johnson, Thomas and Sonja Hirsch, Jerry and Liz Hankins, Ron Cirksena, Alan Burns, Janie Roadfeldt.

## Other Actions

### Baptisms

**Henry Allen Simon**, son of Jared and Sarah Simon; sponsors are Abigail Donner and Jacob Simon; February 12, 2012

### Deaths

**Carroll Palrud**, February 3, 2012

**Lowell Torseth**, February 22, 2012

### Radio Broadcasts

February 12, 2012; Given in honor of **Marie DeWolfe** by the DeWolfe family.

## Transition Team has Formed

On Wednesday, February 15, a 10 member transition team was formed to start looking at what Youth Ministry could be here at St. John's Lutheran Church. The goal of this group is to take a look at the ministry needs of this congregation and how do we build a Ministry that would surround them. The group will spend the next 6 weeks looking at

Results from Focus Groups - What is this telling us about what the congregation wants us to go?

Exemplary Youth Ministry Study – what is the world doing?

Research of “successful” youth ministries in the area– what are other congregations of similar size doing.

Please keep your eyes open for a survey that will help us continue to discern what the needs and desires are around Youth and Family Ministry at St. Johns. Thank you for keeping this group in your prayers as we move forward.

Thanks to: Kristi Mikula, Amy McBroom, Christi Hall-Holt, Andrea Hoff, Stephanie Huston, Pat Fick, Peggy Dell, Dave Buck, Barry Becker, and Tracie Peterson for serving on this team.

# Music and Worship Life at St. John's

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## Kenyon College Chamber Singers in Concert

St. John's hosts the choir from Kenyon College (Ohio) on their spring tour. They will perform here in our Sanctuary on Tuesday, March 6, at 7 p.m. It's free!

We still need host homes for their students. If you are able to house two or more singers for that night, please contact Dan Fenn as soon as possible either at 645.4429 or [danieljfenn@gmail.com](mailto:danieljfenn@gmail.com).



## 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, March 7	"He came to himself"	Steve Swanson	Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesday, March 14	"Your brother has come"	Phil Eaves	Vespers
Wednesday, March 21	"This son of yours!"	DeAne Lagerquist	Holden Evening Prayer
Wednesday, March 28	"This son of mine "	Randy Johnson	ELW Vespers

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## ...Stephen Ministry, Continued from Pg. 2

that says you shouldn't talk about someone who has died for fear of hurting those who are grieving. One of the greatest gifts you can give to someone who's grieving is easy, natural reminiscing about the person who has died.

Many people view the grieving process as a wound scabbing over, and believe that raising memories is like picking the scab, slowing recovery. It couldn't be further from the truth. I can say that based not only on my own experience, but on that of many scores of people I've talked to.

Someone you know who is dealing with a loss may appreciate receiving a note from you with a shared memory of the one who died, especially on a birthday, anniversary, or other special day. If you, a friend, or a family member needs support with grief and might benefit from time with a Stephen Minister, contact Pam Schwandt at 645-6120 or one of the pastors at 645-4429.

## **Lenten Soup Suppers Begin February 29<sup>th</sup>!**

A dinner of soup and bread will be served on Wednesdays in Lent beginning at 5:15 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be in St. John's Hall to be followed by weekly Lenten worship services in the Sanctuary at 6:30pm. The Soup Supper serving schedule and menu is below. Please also take time to check out the churchwide Lenten Book Study of Henri Nouwen's *The Return of the Prodigal Son*.

### **February 29**

Serving: Adult Ministry and Education  
Clean up: Business Management Boards  
Soup: Ham and Bean and French Onion

### **March 7**

Serving: Faith and Health 0  
Clean Up: Benevolence and Social Concerns Boards  
Soup: Chicken Wild Rice and Broccoli and Cheese

### **March 14**

Serving and Clean up: Youth and Children's Boards  
Soup: Split Pea and Potato Chowder

### **March 21**

Serving and Clean up: WELCA  
Soup: Chili and Vegetarian Chili

### **March 28**

Serving and Clean up: Connections  
Soup: Chicken Dumpling and Corn Chowder

***Regina Hassanally,***

*Director of Shared Ministries*

# News and Events

## Cookbooks For Sale!

After many months of collecting recipes from friends and neighbors, St. John's Lutheran will start selling our personalized cookbook on February 9, 2012, with all profits going to help reduce the costs our Youth and Childrens Camps and Activities.

The beautiful spiral bound cookbook will feature recipes from local residents in 7 different full-color sections. The book contains many pages of helpful cooking hints along with several pages of local information. Each recipe will feature the donors' names, so everyone can easily locate the favorite recipes of their friends and local residents.

The books will be sold by members of the St. John's and in local business establishments. St. John's Lutheran church is proud to offer this fine book to you at a cost of \$15.00 per copy. You can purchase your copy by emailing Tracie at [youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com](mailto:youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com), or by completing the form below and turning it into the office at St. John's or in the box located in St. John's Common area.

Purchaser Information:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone Number)

Number of Books \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Paid

( ) Will Pay On Delivery

## Greetings from Gretchen Colby

*St. John's member Gretchen Colby is enrolled at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California. St. John's helps to support members studying at ELCA seminaries through gifts provided through the St. John's Foundation.*

Dear St. John's,

It was wonderful to be home over Christmas and get to worship at St. John's! Seminary is going well – I love being at PLTS! Last semester I had the chance to take a course on modern social justice prophets at the Franciscan School, along with my Lutheran courses

which included a preaching class and a close-reading on the writings of Paul. I continue to preach monthly at my teaching parish, Epiphany Lutheran. If you're interested, you can watch my sermons on the website [eastbayepiphany.org](http://eastbayepiphany.org). I am pleased to let you know that I've accepted an internship for the 2012-2013 year at Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan in New York City! As always, the support of St. John's – both your prayers and financial support continue to sustain me through this busy time as I work toward parish ministry. I look forward to seeing you all this summer!

**Paz,  
Gretchen Colby PLTS,  
M. Div. 2014**

# Serving on Sundays in March

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## *Acolytes*

- March 4** (8:30) Lydia Storlie, Amanda Nelson; (11:00) Trey Coudret, Cole Little  
**March 11** (8:30) Kate Erickson, Emma Iverson; (11:00) Shelby Emmanuelson, Sydnee Eddy  
**March 18** (8:30) Amanda Nelson, Alison Nelson; (11:00) Berit Hendel, Timothy Gasior  
**March 25** (8:30) Kuchceang Mangok, Rikka Zilmer; (11:00) Isabele Hessian, Madelyn Hessian

## *Coffee Servers*

- March 4** Tom and Gloria Porter, Joe and Ginny Shaw, Sharon Bastian  
**March 11** Girl Scouts!  
**March 18** Jon and J. Rondestvedt, Char and Bill Carlson, Martha Brown  
**March 25** Lydia and Dagfinn Moe, Bob and Jane Gelle, Ruth Hansen

## *Offering Counters*

- March 4** Bill Roadfeldt, Dick Dahlin; Kathy Mroz(data entry)  
**March 11** Bill Roadfeldt, Dick Dahlin; Mark Ulmer (data entry)  
**March 18** Bill Roadfeldt, Dick Dahlin; Sue Brockman (data entry)  
**March 25** Bill Roadfeldt, Dick Dahlin, Dave Aman (data entry)

## *Nursery*

- March 4** Claire Weiss, Kris Vatter  
**March 11** Claire Weiss, Sheri Williams  
**March 18** Shannon and Noah Nicholson  
**March 25** Kristi Harms, Kristen Partlo

## *Communion preparers*

- March 4** Otto and LaVerne Reitz  
**March 11** Paul and Maribeth Beck  
**March 18** Joyce Moore and Judy Smith  
**March 25** Mary and Mark Polzin

## *Ushers*

- March 4** (8:30) Team 1: Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (11:00) Team 2: Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber  
**March 11** (8:30) Team 3: Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (11:00) Team 4: Jonathan Norrie, Zachary Bahler, Andrew Dell, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams  
**March 18** (8:30) Team 5: Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (11:00) Team 6: Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary  
**March 25** (8:30) Team 7: Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (11:00) Team 8: Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback, Emily Westerback, Michael Gasior

## *Lenten Worship Ushers:*

- March 7** (6:30) Team 5  
**March 14** (6:30) Team 8  
**March 21** (6:30) Team 5  
**March 28** (6:30) Team 3



### ***Worship for Holy Week and Easter***

*Sunday of the Passion, April 1*  
Procession with Palms and  
Holy Communion  
8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

*(The Palm Sunday Liturgy begins in the  
courtyard. All who wish to process, gather there 5  
minutes prior to worship.)*

*Maundy Thursday, April 5*  
Holy Communion  
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

*Good Friday, April 6*  
Liturgy of Good Friday  
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.

*Holy Saturday, April 7*  
The Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 p.m.  
at Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College  
(Community choir rehearsal at 6:30 in the  
chapel. All high school and adult singers are  
welcome)

*Celebration of the Resurrection*  
*Sunday, April 8*  
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.  
Holy Communion at all services  
Easter Breakfast from  
8:30 to 11:00 a.m.  
9:30 service broadcast  
on KYMN 1080 AM



### **St. John's Suppers**

Soup Suppers are back for the Lenten Season! Thank you to the crew who has been preparing our delicious meals on Wednesday Nights and for all that have faithfully helped serve, set up or have brought desserts.

The Soup Supper Schedule is listed on the Shared Ministry page in the Voice on Page 6.

### **Mother Daughter Tea: April 14!**

Mother-Daughter Tea, April 14 Watch for a sign-up in the Commons for the Mother-Daughter Tea on Saturday, April 14 from 2 - 4 p.m. Peggy Hanson will speak on the History & Etiquette of Tea, after which a formal cream tea with scones, savory treats & cookies will be served. Invite your daughters, nieces, aunts, grandmother or anyone who is like a daughter or mother to you. The tea is sponsored by the St. John's Women of the ELCA, & they cordially invite all to attend.

### **Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

Parents who wish to have their baby or child baptized at St. John's are asked to attend a preparation session to discuss the meaning of baptism and to talk about the details of the day. Baptism preparation is held on the first Saturday of each month in the Fireside Room. The next session is Saturday, March 3 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

# News and Events

## From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Next meeting:  
Monday, March 5  
7:00 p.m.  
Fireside Room

### Human Rights for All in Northfield

### Human Rights for All in Northfield

At our February meeting we continued our consideration of the work of the City of Northfield Human Rights Commission. Dick Kleber, retiring chair of that group, joined us once again to share his experiences and to answer questions. The Commission has been dealing with diversity in our city for the last two years, Kleber reported. In general, he said, he is pleased with what the committee has been doing, but recognizes that there is more to do. Things are not perfect.

The discussion led to the decision that our group should find ways to encourage and support the Commission. This goal included working to increase the support throughout the city via other church groups and service organizations in the community. Robert Flaten is taking a leadership role in this effort.

Some positive things happening in Northfield:

\*Progress made in the number of minority students graduating from Northfield High School and also attending, and graduating, from post high school studies; we hope it can continue to increase.

\*The work of the KEY – with the hope that it can be useful for a wider representation of youth.

\*Awareness of the role of the Commission — new brochures printed in both English and Spanish. This can encourage the resolution of challenges before they become overwhelming. The Commission is now fully staffed after some years at a low representation.

\* Increased awareness of housing needs and issues in low income housing. Great need here.

\*Students have had a voice and responsibility in areas that concern them: the Mayor's Task Force. Projects by the 12 who attended the Peace Seminar in Drammen, Norway, in October. This involvement should be supported and increased.

\*The importance of the Commission's liaison with the police and the City Council; now cut, we should work to restore them. A positive point this year: a member of the School Board has volunteered to be a liaison from that group. Attention must be paid to bullying (in even more than the schools) and to causes of suicide.

\*The proposed "marriage amendment" to the state constitution poses challenges to human rights.

Attention to these needs is important in achieving and maintaining a community where the human rights of all people are secure.

What can we do to help assure this? Our plan, mentioned above, is to find specific ways we can support the Human Rights Commission. A part of this is to reach out to other groups in Northfield to join in the work in whatever ways they are able. Contact Robert Flaten ([robertflaten@charter.net](mailto:robertflaten@charter.net) 645-5744) if you have special interests or ideas for this.

**"What Does  
God  
Require."**

**JRLC Day on  
the Hill**

**March 20—  
St. Paul / State  
Capitol**

Register Now!  
Special rates until  
March 2; On-line  
until March 16 ~  
[http://jrhc.org/  
register-for-day-on-  
the-hill.html](http://jrhc.org/register-for-day-on-the-hill.html)



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](http://www.semnsynod.org) and [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

**Women of the ELCA includes ALL women of St. John's!**

## Upcoming Events

**March 1, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.** WELCA General Meeting. Program: Solveig Beckmen & Nordis Christenson, "Journeys in Prayer."

**CONFERENCE** — The Women of the Southeastern MN Synodical Women's Organization meet for the 2012 Cannon River Spring Conference event at First Lutheran Kenyon Church from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, April 14. All St. John's women are invited to attend. Contact Barbara Walters or other WELCA board members for more information.

## March Schedule

*Mar. 5* — Monday, Bible study leaders meet at 12:00 noon in Fireside Room.

*Mar. 6 & 20* Knitters meet. Call Kathy Vang for location. 645-4849

*Mar. 7,8,9,10,15* — Circles meet.

*Mar. 12 & 15* Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m.

*Mar. 22* WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 a.m. in Fireside Room.

## Other News

Bandage rollers welcome clean, white sheets. Quilters welcome clean, colored or figured sheets. Please bring them to the WELCA closet — 1st door on the left, when entering Fellowship Hall.

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.

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@augsborgfortress.org](mailto:subscriptions@augsborgfortress.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](mailto:cemja@charter.net) or Marilyn Haugen at [rhhmsh@charter.net](mailto: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 & 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.



Connecting people through small group settings...

# 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.

## Connections

Contact: Carol Schoen 645-6840

## Gathered in the Word

Contact: Pr. Johnson 645-4429

## Grief Support

Contact: Barbara Knaak 664-0444

## Healing Prayer

Contact: Dick Beckman 664-3882

## 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. Randy or Pr. Mark 645-4429

## Women of the ELCA Circles

Contact: Barbara Walters 645-5133

## 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

## The Blessings of Community

By Barbara Eaves

I grew up in a neighborhood where there were about 30 children living on our short city block. We didn't all go to the same school, but when at home we were often outside playing a game together in the street or, in the winter, at the neighborhood skating rink. We had our share of squabbles and not everything was ideal, and yet an overarching attitude of belonging was prevalent. That neighborhood was most likely the first place I experienced *community* outside of family or school.

During my teenage years, the church became an important place of *community*. Since the church was not located in the neighborhood, the friendships and relationships formed there were new and different. A sense of belonging grew over the years until, apart from school and its activities, the church in many ways became my home away from home.

As an adult, the church has remained an important place of *community* for me and for my husband, Phil. During the years of military service, the first thing we looked for when transferred to a new base was a church. And, unless we knew we would be there only a few months, we sought out ways to become involved in the life of the congregation. One of the main factors in deciding to move to Northfield was that it seemed to be a location where we could build community and, upon arrival, the natural first step was to find a church. What a blessing of *community* and lasting relationships the church has provided through the years.

Here at St. John's we are so fortunate to have numerous opportunities...choirs, small groups, ministry teams, service groups...out of which friendships form, meaning is experienced and the blessings of *community* abound.

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

Group Leadership Team:

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

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

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

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

**Bach's Easter Cantata No. 4.** The third in a series discussing this cantata takes place on Friday, March 16, at 7:30pm in the Fireside Room. The Connections small group invites anyone who is interested to come. Leaders for this study are David Sudermann and Dan Fenn. For more information, contact David at [dsudermann@charter.net](mailto:dsudermann@charter.net).

**Thoughtful Films Club**, sponsored by Connections, will be viewing the movie, *The Help*, on Friday, March 23 at 7:15pm in St. John's Theater (2<sup>nd</sup> floor). All are welcome to come and bring friends.

# 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. St. John's Forum meets at 9:50. Small Groups meet at 9:45.

**March 4:** *St. John's Forum: Three Turning-Points in Christianity: Part Three) The Spirit blows from Azusa to Zaire* led by DeAne Lagerquist. The Holy Spirit's descent on the apostles on Pentecost is taken as the church's "birthday." In this session we'll consider the early 20<sup>th</sup> century revival in Azusa, California and modern Pentecostalism, the fastest growing branch of Christianity around the globe. Sanctuary.

*Small Groups:* Lenten Book Study. Room 203: leader, Sandi Gerdes;  
Room 212: Leader, Chuck Jacobson

**March 11:** *St. John's Forum: St. Olaf Choir History Fest:* Help celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the St. Olaf Choir by attending this presentation by Joe Shaw, Jeff Saive, and Dan Fenn. Sanctuary.

*Small Groups:* Lenten Book Study. Room 203: leader, Sandi Gerdes;  
Room 212: Leader, Chuck Jacobson

**March 18:** *St. John's Forum: Habitat for Humanity,* presentation on the organization's mission and vision for the future, led by Dayna Norvold, Executive Director of the Rice County Habitat for Humanity. Sanctuary.

*Small Groups:* Lenten Book Study. Room 203: leader, Sandi Gerdes;  
Room 212: Leader, Chuck Jacobson

**March 25:** *St. John's Forum: Welcome Pastor Randy!* Pastor Randy Johnson shares stories about his life and ministry. Followed by a question and answer period. St. John's Hall.

*Small Groups:* Lenten Book Study. Room 203: leader, Sandi Gerdes;  
Room 212: Leader, Chuck Jacobson

*New Member Session: New Member Beginnings* Getting acquainted and building connections at St. John's. Fireside Room.

### 100 Years Ago at St. John's

In her history of St. John's, "The Book of a Century," Edna Hong writes, "All the while the congregation was wrestling with the problem of insufficient space, an extremely momentous birthing was taking place almost unnoticed. With F. Melius Christiansen as midwife... the St. Olaf [Lutheran] Choir was being born within the walls of the Norwegian Church on Washington and Fourth Street." Hear and learn more about this from Joe Shaw, St. Olaf archivist Jeff Saive, and Dan Fenn (with choir, of course), at the Sunday morning Forum, 9:45- 10:45 AM, in the sanctuary, on March 12th.

## Important Dates to Remember!

### Sunday School Schedule

March 4	Sunday School
March 11	Sunday School – <i>Daylight Savings</i>
March 18	No Sunday School – <i>Spring Break</i>
March 25	Sunday School

### Wednesday Afterschool Programs

March 7, 14, 28	
March 21	No programming – Spring Break

### Catechism for Grades 4 and 5

Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 28

### Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 7 at 9:30

### Bowling, Sat., March 17

(see article)

## 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT:

**March 7, 14 & 28!**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, March 7. CAT classes meet in the lower level of St. John's from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.; 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Fellowship Hall studying the Apostles' Creed and 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the Youth Room, studying the Ten Commandments. Don't forget your CAT books!

## Thanks to all for a successful Youth Fundraiser!

This year's Youth Fundraiser raised over \$5000! Thank you to everyone who volunteered donated and contributed to this year's event! All proceeds will be used to offset the cost of summer camps, trips and activities for our youth. Special thanks to our fundraiser committee: Kelly Lynn Stanton Nutt, Brian Evenson, Cindy and Nick Huschle, Barry Becker and Christy Hall-Holt. And congratulations to Stephanie Aman for winning the staff boat races!

## March Food Share Campaign!

Northfield Community Action Center has its annual Minnesota Food Share Campaign during the month of March. Throughout the year, Minnesota FoodShare collects donations and distributes money to food shelves around Minnesota based on the March Campaign results. The more we donate to our local food shelf, the bigger the share our local food shelf receives.

St. John's Sunday School classes will be participating in the March Drive to help benefit our local food shelf in one of two ways:

**With food items** – donations can be placed directly in the grocery cart that will be displayed across from the Nursery  
**With cash donations** – The Community Action center has the ability to purchase food items at a much lower cost per pound than the average consumer can, so cash is preferred. **All of March's Sunday School offering will be donated to this drive.**

This is a great opportunity to talk with your children about how they can help their neighbors! If you have any questions, please call Julie at 645-4429, ext. 25. Thanks!

## Bowling at Jesse James Lanes

**Kids 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grades** are invited to come to Jesse James Lanes to bowl with their friends.

**When:** Saturday, March 17

**Time:** 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$10.50 / person for 2 games and shoe rental, (Checks payable to Jesse James Lanes)

Sign up by calling or emailing Julie at [jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org), 645-4429 or signing up on the bulletin board across from the Nursery. Friends are welcome! Parents – chaperones are needed! Thanks!

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

## Middle School Sunday School

Way to Live: Grades 6-8

Way to Live is a chance to look at how you live out your faith in everyday life. Here is a list of the upcoming topics

March 4 - Justice

March 11 - Justice

March 18 - No Sunday School - Happy Spring Break!

March 25 - Forgiveness

## 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.

## Youth Progressive Dinner

Who: All youth grades 6-12

When: Saturday, March 31st

Where: Meet at St. John's

Join us as we visit the homes of three of our youth group members. Watch your weekly e-mails for times and locations where we will be travelling. Sign up next to the youth room.

## Hands and Feet Opportunities

Looking for ways to earn Hands and Feet Credits. Check out the following opportunities

1. Help with Wednesday Soup Suppers March 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Talk with Tracie Peterson if interested
2. Help with Easter Breakfast April 8. Please contact Tracie Peterson or Peggy Dell

## Confirmation Camp

Who: For All youth grades 6-8

Where: Confirmation North, Brimson, MN

When: June 17-22

Cost: \$350 – Scholarships are available. Please contact Tracie Peterson or Pr. Mark if you need assistance.

This is confirmation camp like you've never seen it. The splendor of the God's great north woods, the quiet magic of a canoe gliding towards shore, the power and thunder of Gooseberry Falls are all part of your week's experience. Through it all you'll sense God's hand at work in your life and the lives of your friends. A part of Green Lake Ministries, this is a great camping opportunity. Early Bird registration, which will give you \$20 off the price of camp, needs to be received by March 15th. Questions: talk with Tracie Peterson or Pr. Mark.

## Game Room Closed for a few weeks

One of the main goals at St. John's is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for people of all ages. Over the past few weeks, we have had several issues with vandalism and disrespectful behavior happening downstairs. For this reason, the Undercroft is going to be locked Wednesday Nights for a couple of weeks. Sorry for the inconvenience.

The Children's Board and the Youth Board are working together to try and provide a couple of supervised areas in the building on Wednesday evenings, allowing children and youth an opportunity to gather and play in a safe location. We cannot do that without your help. We are looking for volunteers who are willing to help supervise the Undercroft and the Fellowship Hall from 5:15 – 6:30pm on Wednesday Nights. This is a great chance to connect with youth while they are able to relax in a safe, Christian environment. We will be locking the Undercroft on nights we do not have volunteers to staff the room.

## 9<sup>th</sup> grade confirmands

Lent is the perfect time to get your Faith and Talent Project done. Please take these next 4 weeks to put together your project and presentation. If you need help with your project, please contact Tracie Peterson or your mentor to help you accomplish your goal.

## 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

There is no confirmation during Lent. See you at Wednesday Night worship. Please take this time to catch up on sermon notes (check out the trivia game on the Lenten worship notes) and possible Hands and Feet opportunities.

**Pastors**

Randall Johnson  
 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**

Richard Falck



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## March is Minnesota Food Share Month

This month St. John's joins other Minnesota congregations, synagogues, mosques, businesses, schools and media organizations to help restock the food supplies of more than 300 food shelves across the state. St. John's supports hunger relief efforts around the world through ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief but this month we focus our attention and efforts here in Northfield.

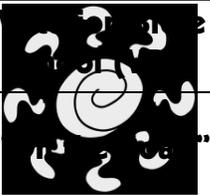


In 2011 an average of 1,373 people from 518 household received food at the CAC Food Shelf each month; and an average of 179 people received a hot meal at Thursday's Table each week.

Food and cash donations are welcome at the Northfield Community Action Center (CAC) Food Shelf throughout the year but especially in March during Minnesota Food Share month. **Cash donations are preferred due to the discounted food that food shelves are able to purchase. Every dollar donated to the CAC helps purchase four pounds of food.** In addition, the donations earn the Food Shelf a share of the

undesigned corporate donations made at the state level and grant money from the Feinstein Foundation. This is the time to make contributions go further than they can any other time of the year.

The support St. John's members give to the CAC Food Shelf is one way to mark the season of Lent – as we seek to grow in discipleship and servant love, remembering the words Jesus spoke, "...I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." Matthew 25:35. Please use the special offering envelope you received in the mail to support the CAC this month. St. John's Sunday School students are also participating in the Food Share month with a special offering challenge. Watch their progress downstairs. Thank you for supporting this life-giving community resource.

Summer Opportunities 2012	Grade <small>Refers to grade completed</small>	Dates	Description 	Cost	Deposit	Registration Deadline
	Preschool 1 - Kindergarten	August 6-9	Volunteers come together to provide this fun-filled week. Children enjoy music, crafts, games, Bible stories and friendships.	\$10 or \$20/family	No Deposit	Register in May
	K - 4 <sup>th</sup>	August 5-9	Good Earth Village brings "On the Road" to Northfield for 4 full days of games, songs, crafts, devotions and fun!	\$65 payable to GEV	Register online at <a href="http://www.goodearthvillage.org">www.goodearthvillage.org</a> , click on "GEV On the Road", Northfield camp!	
<b>Settlers Camp</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup>	June 10-12	Settlers is a three day, two night camp at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. Youth stay in the Log Lodge Retreat Center. Activities include worship, hiking, campfires, games, creek splashing, and visits to the canteen, singing and cabin time! Bring a friend discount!	\$160 by 3/31 or \$170	\$50 payable to St. John's	Deposit and Reg. by 3/31 \$160 Balance due by May 1
<b>Shores of St. Andrew</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup>	June 17-22	Spend the week on the beautiful shores of St. Andrews near New London, MN! You and your cabin mates will create crafts, sing songs, share in Bible studies, and play games, swim & more! Invite a friend!	\$375	\$125 payable to St. John's	Deposit and reg. by 3/10 receive \$20 off! Balance due by May 1
<b>Confirmation North</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	June 17-22	Something new for our middle school kids! Spend a week in Brimson, 25 miles NW of Two Harbors, MN, enjoying all that God's great Northwood's has to offer.	\$350	\$125 payable to St. John's	Deposit and reg. by 3/10 receive \$20 off! Balance due by May 1
<b>Whitewater &amp; Hike</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	June 24-29	Whitewater & Hike is offered through Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. Enjoy a week up in the Northwoods rafting on the St. Louis River or hiking on the Superior Hiking Trail.	\$550	\$300 payable to St. John's	Deposit and reg. by 3/10 receive \$20 off! Balance due May 1
<b>Family Camp</b>	All Ages	July 27-29	Spend a weekend at camp with other St. John's families at Good Earth Village Bible Camp in Spring Valley, MN. Enjoy organized activities and free time to hike, fish, explore trails and relax. Check it out at GEV's website!	Rates vary by family size and where you stay at GEV	Register online at <a href="http://www.goodearthvillage.org">www.goodearthvillage.org</a> and click on "Family Camp"	
	<b>Other stuff for Middle School'ers...</b>					
	<b>Magical Mystery Tours</b>	Grades 6 - 8	Join us and other Northfield area churches for a mystery event in June, July and August. Past events: Valley Fair, Mall of America Water Park, Grand Slam, Feed My Starving Children... Watch your mail for more information!			
	<b>Other Stuff for High School'ers...</b>					
	<b>National Youth Gathering</b>	Grades 9-12, July 16-23	2012 ELCA Youth Gathering is in New Orleans! The theme is "Citizens with the Saints". Check with Pastor Mark or Tracie to see if space is available to attend.			

**\$\$\$ Financial Assistance is available for St. John's youth attending Summer Camps and Activities!**

**Questions? Contact Pastor Mark, Julie or Tracie at 645-4429.**