

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2012

Volume 52, Number 4

*on the
inside . . .*

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Easter Breakfast

The **Easter Breakfast** is one way we celebrate Easter together as a congregation and with those who visit St. John's. All are welcome to St. John's Hall on Easter Sunday for a delicious breakfast of egg bake (ham, sausage, and veggie), muffins, fruit, juice, and coffee. The breakfast starts at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 11:00 a.m. suggested donations at the door are \$5 per individual and \$20 per family. The breakfast is being hosted by St. John's youth and parents and the Youth Ministry Education Board. All funds raised above the cost of the breakfast will be used to support Summer programming.

Looking for ways to help? We are still in need of individuals to donate an egg bake or other essentials for breakfast. Please contact Peggy Dell for your chance to support Youth Ministry at St. Johns.

Thank you for supporting our youth!

PLEASE! Don't make us walk!

Pave the Path: thank you to everyone who has helped support Pave the Path. We have raised almost \$2000 so far. To cover transportation costs, we need to raise at least \$4000. If you watch the bus traveling along our road, we are about half way there. If you have not had a chance to donate yet, please pick up a "paver" from the road in Fellowship Hall. Pavers will only be on sale through Easter



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 6:00 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

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.

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, April 19, 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*

Listening for God's Voice

We ask God for guidance. We receive counsel, through a friend or as an inspiration from within. How do we know that this counsel comes from God? Might it also come from some other source: family messages, cultural expectations, childhood patterns, personal willfulness, wrongful desire? Does this counsel represent God's way, or some other way? How do we discern the voice of God?

Although there is no easy answer to these questions, one thing is certain: we are more likely to discern the voice of God if we read Scripture regularly and if we are in the habit of listening for God's voice speaking to us personally in the Word. Listening to other people is a skill that can be cultivated, and so is listening to God. Stephen Ministers, early in their training, study a lesson called "The Art of Listening." Its point is to learn how to quiet our unruly selves so that we can be entirely present for our care receiver, to listen to that person with the whole heart and soul and mind, to listen without

Northfield Grief Support Coalition: A grief group meets this month on Mondays from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. Contact Nancy Topp for more information, 507-254-7878.

"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.

judgment, and with love and understanding. Of utmost importance for listening to another person is this quieting of the self, quieting the chatter of the tongue and the clamor of the mind.

Christ is our standard. In Philippians 2 Paul says: "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness." This habit, of emptying the self and quieting the voice and mind, helps all of us minister to others by listening to them, but it also helps us listen to God, to discern God's voice and accept God's counsel. If you or someone you know would benefit from working with a Stephen Minister, contact Joan Halvorson at 645-8445 or one of our pastors at 645-4429.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry



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."

April 10, 2011
Harry Baker

April 17, 2011
Grace Huus

From our pastors . . .

A Way Forward

"Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord.'"

John 20:18



The day that Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb and the days that followed were days full of confusion and change for the followers of Jesus. Mary must have been in a panic as she ran back to tell the disciples about the empty tomb. She and the disciples could have stayed inside their homes – safe and secure – speculating on what happened to Jesus' body, waiting for someone else to do something. Instead, they run to the empty tomb.

Running toward the empty tomb was running toward unknown territory. Their hearts must have been pounding – their minds racing. What will they find? Where is Jesus? What are they getting themselves into?

After seeing the empty tomb, the disciples return home – questions unanswered, probably confused and afraid. But Mary, standing at the empty tomb weeping, hears Jesus call her name. Mary recognizes her teacher and Jesus tells her to return to the others and share with them the news that he is alive.

There is uncertainty in times of transition and change, and there is risk entering unknown territory – grief after a death, a new marriage, the birth of a child, a new job, a difficult relationship, a changing community and congregation. But the word that has been passed on to us is that Jesus was raised from the dead; the power of sin and death broken; and through the Holy Spirit, the promise is that wherever we find ourselves, with the risen Christ as our guide and companion, there is a way forward through both the unknown and more familiar territory of our lives.

At its best the Christian church is a witness to the power and presence of the living Christ in the world. The gift of a congregation - the gift of the ministry we've been called to at St. John's - is sharing the work of remembering and living the joy and peace of Easter.

Keep the Transition Team in your prayers and offer your support and encouragement as they work on our behalf to discern God's call in the area of children, youth, and family ministry. Turn to page 7 in this month's Voice for an update on their progress and watch for details this month about completing the team's survey on children, youth, and family ministry at St. Johns.

The peace and joy of the Risen Christ,

Mark

March Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Dominic Costa**: by Carol Epstein, James Dkvam, Jane Beermann, L. Harps, Synneva Hicks, Greg Langer, John and Sharon Starck, Elsie Nelsen, Mark and Dawn Hendrickson, Robert and Gladys Mitchell, Robyn Stefenhagen

Radio Fund

In memory of **Ella Aadahl**: by Sigrun Hovland. Etc.
This can be a paragraph listing, one per memorial person. Just copy and paste a new paragraph (it will incorporate the spacing) for each person.

Other Actions

Baptisms

Bennet Daniel Korba, son of Daniel and Loretta Korba; sponsors are Kristi and Spencer Power, Juli and Jeremy Baynes; March 11, 2012

Deaths

Kristoffer Paulson, March 3, 2012

Radio Broadcasts

March 4, 2012, in honor of our wedding anniversary from **Eugene and Joyce Schrader**

March 25, 2012, in celebration of **Bennett and Alaina Falck's** birthdays from mom and dad

Radio Ministry Sponsorships!

Looking for a unique way to honor someone, remember someone - or just because? Sponsor a radio broadcast! This is a very important ministry to our shut ins, but it also is a great way to reach people in Northfield with our ministry. There are MANY unfilled dates over the summer months - please help with a sponsorship! For only \$160 your name will even be read on the radio!

Contact the Church Office for available dates.

Thank you!

FOR
GOD
SO
LOVED THE WORLD
HE
GAVE
HIS
ONLY
SON

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

St. John's Singers

The Singers will meet only 2 more times this season! On April 1 and 22, we'll rehearse from 9:45 to 10:45 in Room 209, and we'll sing during the second service on both of those days. Contact Dan Fenn for more information (645-4429 ext. 58). This choir is open to all adults and high schoolers.

May 13 - Sunday Morning Concert Performers Needed

Our last Sunday Morning Concert each year features the youth of St. John's. Any interested performers (voice, piano, or other instrument) should contact Dan Fenn. Open to 6th through 12th Graders.



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:

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.

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.

Time and Talent Sunday, April 22

Our son, Micah, is named after the Old Testament prophet whose name he bears. Terrence and I both have a sense of call in ministries of social justice and we gave our child his name hoping that God would fill him with a similar sense of call to work toward justice in the name of God.

He is named specifically in light of Micah 6:6-8:

‘With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for my soul?’ He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

While Micah was named with the latter part of this text in mind the question posed at the beginning is a pertinent one. With what shall we come before the Lord?

On Sunday, April 22 we will reflect on this question as a congregation as we take time to fill out the 2012 Time and Talent sheet and ask ourselves what gifts we have been given that we can offer to God through acts of service. The Time and Talent sheet is one way we as a congregation consider our gifts and abilities and offer them, along with our time, to our congregation and community as a means of worship.

Enclosed in this edition of the *Voice* is the 2012 Time and Talent sheet. Please look over the opportunities for service at St. John’s, consider where you might like to serve in the coming year, and return the sheet to the church office or place it in the collection box at the Welcome Desk in the commons. Additional Time and Talent sheets are available through the church office, at the Welcome Desk, or from Regina Hassanally.

You may also return your completed Time and Talent sheet in the offering plate during worship services on April 22, when additional sheets will also be made available.

Thank you for considering and offering what you have to give through participating in the ministries of Shared Ministry at St. John’s.

Regina Hassanally,

Director of Shared Ministries

News and Events

Unbind Us!

There is clearly new excitement at St John's as we begin the Johnson and Johnson Ministry. We have an important task to finish as we move into our new phase of life at St John's. The Debt Reduction Appeal to Unbind us from one of our large mortgages has been proceeding very successfully. By the end of February 2012 over \$650,000 has been paid to Thrivent to reduce our mortgage. Every penny contributed to the Debt Reduction Appeal has gone to reduce the mortgage principle. The remaining mortgage is now under \$100,000 compared to the almost \$800,000 when we started the Appeal in late 2010. If all of your remaining pledges are paid by the end of 2012 we as St John's will have removed the burden of that mortgage and freed the Congregation to move forward with important new programs.

Now that we are so close we urge your continued commitment to completing this goal. If you were not able to pledge or contribute at the beginning and your situation has changed we urge you to join us in the final push. If you are a new member since early 2011 please consider a gift toward this goal. If you can complete your pledge before the end of 2012 that contribution will be immediately sent to Thrivent and will reduce our interest payments.

Quarberg's and Carlson's

on behalf of the Debt Reduction Appeal Committee

Transition Team Update

The Youth and Family ministry Transition team is busy at work looking "best practices" in Youth Ministry and trying to discern where God is calling St. John's to focus. They have spent time looking at what experts consider best practices by looking at the Exemplary Youth Ministry study done across seven denominations working together, funded by a Lily Grant. This month, the group will be looking at best practices of congregations in Southeast Minnesota Synod. They will be travelling or contacting six different congregations to see what is working for them.

We will also be encouraging the members of St. John's to give us input on how they see Youth and Family ministry evolving at St. John's. Surveys will be available on the internet, as well; share with the team your hopes and dreams for the future of this very important ministry. Please watch your e-mails and the bulletin announcements for your chance to share information with us. If you have questions about the process, please feel free to contact our chair; Amy McBroom, Tracie Peterson or any member of the team. Please keep the team in your prayers as they work so hard to serve the mission of this congregation.

"Stranger than Fiction"

The Thoughtful Film Club will be showing "Stranger than Fiction" with Emma Thompson, Will Farrell, Dustin Hoffman, on Friday, April 13, at 7:15 pm in St. John's Theater (2nd Floor). Short discussion to follow. All are welcome!

St. John's ELCA Scholarship

All St. John's students who will be attending an ELCA college this fall are eligible for as scholarship from the St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation. Your college will likely match the scholarship amount. The amount of the individual scholarship will be determined by the number of scholarship applicants. This is a non-competitive scholarship. Students can request a scholarship each year, up to four years for each year of full-time enrollment at an ELCA college. Applications must be submitted each year. Application forms are available in the Church Office and are due April 15, 2012.

Service of Renewal for Caregivers April 17

A special worship service called *Restore, Replenish, Renew* will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 7 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church. The service is designed for anyone who is providing care or services to persons in need. This includes family caregivers, nurses, physicians, healthcare workers, therapists, clergy, volunteers and others. This year's service will include music, meditation, and anointing of Caregivers. Sponsors of the service include Nortfield Retirement Community, Three Links, and Northfield Hospital and Clinics.

Serving on Sundays in April

Acolytes

- April 1** (8:30) Synevva Bratland, Alaina Falck; (11:00) Sophia Nevin, Ellie Ims
April 5 Maundy Thursday: Jonah Berthelsen, Bailey Dell
April 6 Good Friday: Wylie Kimmes Kneser
April 8 TBD
April 15 (8:30) Greg Pelletier, Alex Gunn; (11:00) Shelby Emanuelson, Elizabeth Evenson
April 22 (8:30) Olivia Riggins, Cecilia Kryzda; (11:00) Cameron Beedle, Jordan Annexstad
April 29 (8:30) Alaina Falck, Emma Iverson; (11:00) Madelyn Miller, Sydnee Eddy

Coffee

- April 1** Robert and Cora Scholz, Richard and Jane Nelson, Solveig Bailey
April 8 No Coffee Hour - Come to Easter Breakfast!
April 15 Gene and Lois Bakko, Bill and Mary Gasho

Communion preparers

- April 1** John and Patsy Ophaug
April 5 (12:00) Kathy Vang; (7:00) Joe & Judy Smith
April 15 Char and Bill Carlson
April 22 Pam Schwant and Judy Smith
April 29 Georgene Johnson and Barb Knaak

Nursery

- April 1** Claire Weiss, Amy Willkomm
April 8 Volunteers Needed
April 15 Claire Weiss, Cora Scholz
April 22 Claire Weiss, Jenny Nystrom
April 29 Claire Weiss, Amy McBroom

Offering Counters

- April 1** Dean Ostlie, Jim Enestvedt, Kathy Mroz; Terrence Hassanally (data entry)
April 8 Dean Ostlie, Jim Enestvedt, Kathy Mroz; Sue Brockman (data entry)
April 15 Dean Ostlie, Jim Enestvedt, Kathy Mroz; Mark Ulmer (data entry)
April 22 Dean Ostlie, Jim Enestvedt, Kathy Mroz, Dave Aman (data entry)
April 29 Dean Ostlie, Jim Enestvedt, Kathy Mroz; Beckie Judge (data entry)

Ushers

- April 1** (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
April 5 (12:00) Team 5; (7:00) Team 7
April 6 (12:00) Team 3; (7:00) Team 7
April 8 (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
April 15 (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
April 22 (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
April 29 (8:30) Team 5(11:00)Team 6

Mother/Daughter Tea - April 14

Attention all ladies! Dust off your favorite teacup. Come and have fun, Saturday, April 14 from 2 - 4 p.m. in St. John's Hall. Peggy Hanson will speak on the History and Etiquette of Tea, after which a formal cream tea with scones, savory treats, and cookies will be served. If you like, bring a favorite tea cup. Invite your daughters, nieces, aunts, grandmothers, or anyone who is like a daughter or mother to you. The tea is sponsored by the St. John's Women of the ELCA, assisted by St. John's youth, and they cordially invite all to attend. Please sign-up in the Commons.

The Cookbooks are Here!

St. John's Cookbooks are here! Youth will be selling the cookbooks between services - stop by and check them out. Each cookbook is \$15 - proceeds go to help our youth go to New Orleans this summer for the National Youth Gathering! These will make perfect stuffers for someone's Easter Baskets or the perfect Mother's Day gift.

Bulletin Boards

We have two large bulletin boards downstairs that are crying for attention. Tracie is looking for a few volunteers who would be willing to hang photos of youth events monthly. Please contact Tracie Peterson if you can help.

Calling for library books and suggestions

Our church library is an important resource. Have you stopped by recently? Do you use the books available?

The Adult Ministry and Education Board asks for your help to extend and diversify the books for adults. Are there books that you would like to see there? Do you have books to donate? Our Board especially would like to augment and increase the number of reference books, to be used as a resource for all levels of learners.

Please contact Board member Katie Helgen at helgen.katherine@gmail.com to email your library suggestions and concerns, or drop off books at the library. Thanks for your help.



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.

April 4

Holy Week - No Meal

April 11

Tacos and the fixin's!

April 18

Tater Tot Hotdish

April 25

Pulled Pork

May 2

Pizza night

**All meals are free
will donation.
Come - Share a Meal!**

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

The Price of Peace: Nobel Peace Prize Forum 2012

For our April
meeting we will
join the Northfield
League of Women
Voters

Health Care
FORUM

HEALTH CARE
REFORM

Led by Dr. Edward
Ehlinger
MN State Com-
missioner of Health

Thursday, April 12
7:00 p.m.
St. John's Hall

"The Price of Peace" was the theme of the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize Forum held March 1-3. In a new format, the sessions were held at Augsburg College, the Humphrey Institute, and the University of MN campus over a longer period of time. To see the scope and complexity of the program as well as to hear the live-streamed plenary sessions and special events go to www.nobelpeaceprizeforum2012.org

For information on the Peace Prize Festival, the part of the Forum designed especially for K-12 students, go to <http://www.peacesites.org/educators/nobel-festival> and continue to follow the path to the streaming of the programs.

F. W. deKlerk

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1993
Pres. S Africa / ending Apartheid

+The Price of Peace is measured by worth—it is not as high as the price of no peace.
+The price of peace is to be honest with ourselves; lying to ourselves allows us to blame others. We must set aside our pride.
+Wrestling with change that was needed, leaders in S. Africa came to see their position was morally wrong. They decided to talk with each other in a spirit of imagining the other points of view.
+Only way of insuring lasting peace is negotiation by those involved.
+The Truth & Reconciliation agenda
+ Diversity of population is increasing globally. Wars within countries now threaten peace almost more than wars between countries.
+Challenges now: dependence on oil, power & speed of technology—especially speed of shared information
+What works best for the most people is critical in dealing with systems of power & social change to maintain peace and justice.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1991
*Under house arrest from 1990 to 2010
because of her work for human
rights in Burma.*

By Video to the Nobel Peace Prize Forum: What is she saying to us, to all the world?

+There is a price to pay for peace.
+We are all required to pay it—giving up our prejudice, pride, anger, narrow mindedness
+Peace is worth all it demands of us

Naomi Tutu

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1984
Daughter of Desmond Tutu

+ We can't all be Nobel Peace Prize winners but we can find peace prizes in our daily lives.
+ The price of peace we must pay is our pride.
+ We must recognize our common humanity with those we call 'other.'
+ We must risk uncertainty, cultivate humility, break the barriers between us on a personal level as well as the political level.



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

Apr. 9 — Monday, Bible study leaders meet at 12 noon in Fireside Room.

Apr. 3 & 17 — Knitters meet. Call Kathy Vang for location. 645-4849

Apr. 11,12,13,,14,19 Circles meet.

Apr. 16 & 19 Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m.

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

Looking Ahead

May 5, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Northfield Ecumenical Women's Meeting at United Methodist Church. (1401 Maple St.) Least coin offering.

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.

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@augzburgfortress.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 .

Notices

Bandage rollers welcome clean, white sheets. Quilters welcome clean, colored or figured sheets. Please bring them to the WELCA closet — first 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.

Women ^{of the} **ELCA**

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

Options Bible Study: Gospel Of John

Contact: Dave and Gen Quarberg 645-0089

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 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

Love Springs Again

By Barbara Eaves

If I were 10 and spring had arrived, I would be outside jumping rope...long rope, we called it... or playing jacks or, if the whole neighborhood gang was out we would be playing work-up, johnny- over-the-ocean, or red light/green light. If I were 10, I would be climbing trees, riding my bike to the park, putting on shorts, and walking in mud puddles when it rained.

It is spring and even though I am now 7 times 10, this season still brings its joys. Discovering that the tulips have broken ground and listening to song birds as they stake out their territory are pleasures of spring. Opening the windows to let in the fresh air, sitting on the deck for the first time since fall, cooking supper on the grill and visiting with neighbors in the driveway or over the fence...all these have a way of renewing our energy.

Spring seems to make everything new. The games and the activities that became uninteresting by the end of summer are refreshing once again. The greening up of the earth, the budding and blooming of trees and flowers remind us of the restorative wonders of creation.

As people of faith, this time of year is a gentle reminder that each day of life we have is much like spring: a new day...a gift of grace. Yesterday is past and today is fresh with hope and possibilities. This is the promise of Easter in which we live throughout the year...the wonder of resurrection which brings us new life in Christ, new ways of living and relating to others, and a love for kindness, compassion and servanthood.

*When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life a-gain,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.*

Now the Green Blade Rises, ELW 379

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,
cabuck@charter.net

Barb Eaves, 645-4172,
pbeaves@hotmail.com

Mark Johnson, 645-4429
mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org

Thank You

...to all the individuals who have led or coordinated a small group during the current year. ...for your efforts which have enriched the lives of many and helped them feel a deeper sense of connection and belonging. ...to all who have participated in a small group.

*The Small Group Ministry Team,
Sandi Gerdes, Cheryl Buck, Barb Eaves, Pastor Mark*

Adult Ministry and Education

Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Education and Fellowship Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

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.

April 1: *St. John's Forum: The Fine Art of Lent* led by Bruce Benson. The presentation will look at the stories of Lent through the eyes (and hands) of a dozen printers.

New Member Session: Shared Ministry – Part One. Exploring spiritual gifts and how shared ministry shapes life at St. John's. Fireside Room.

April 8: *No St. John's Forum* – Breakfast served in St. John's Hall from 9-Noon. A Blessed Easter!

April 15: *St. John's Forum: Celebrating National Poetry Month – Part 1* led by Diane LeBlanc, Director of Writing and Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies; Writing and Women's Studies at St. Olaf College. Prof. LeBlanc will present her own poems as well as talk about spiritual influences like Denise Levertov, Annie Finch, and Wendell Berry. Sanctuary.

New Member Session: New Member Connections. Fellowship Time with hosts in the Fireside Room.

April 22: *St. John's Forum: Celebrating National Poetry Month – Part 2.* Presenter to be announced. Sanctuary.

New Member Session: Shared Ministry – Part 2. Exploring the call of belonging to a congregation and sharing gifts, followed by a tour of the building

April 29: **Welcome to St. John's New Members** – reception in St. John's Hall. No St. John's Forum.

Mission Outreach

Sending Warmth via Quilts!

One of the service activities of the St. John's Women of the ELCA is the assembling and tying of quilts. These are then transported to a Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul to be shipped with other such contributions to many countries throughout the world. There is another such warehouse in the state of Maryland. In 2011 from the Minnesota warehouse alone, a total of 150,660 quilts were distributed through secondary agencies to people in Angola, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Chad, India, Liberia, Mali, Peru, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. It is a truly hands-on way to send warmth and comfort via established routes.



Adopt-A-Highway Clean up!

Volunteers are needed for the spring clean-up of the St. John's section of State Highway 246. Meet in the High School parking lot – across from the cemetery on Saturday, April 21 at 10:30 a.m. Wear comfortable shoes. Safety vests and gloves will be provided.

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up in the Commons or call the church office. Thank you for helping to take care of this small part of God's creation.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

April 1 Sunday School – *Palm Sunday*
 April 8 No Sunday School - *Easter*
 April 15, 22, 29 Sunday School

Wednesday Afterschool Programming

April 4, 11, 18, 25

Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt/"Buck a Chick"

Saturday, April 7, 9:30 a.m.

Third Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday, April 25, 4:45 – 6:00 p.m., Youth Room

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

The last retreat for 3rd grade CAT this year is Wednesday, April 25 from 4:45 – 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room at St. John's. The topic is The Sacrament of Communion.

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, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

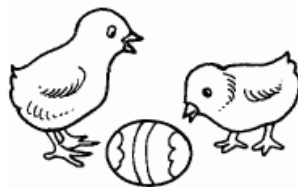
IT ONLY TAKES A BUCK!

St. John's Children's Board is sponsoring ELCA's, "BUCK-A-CHICK"

At the Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 7

The Annual St. John's Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 7! This event invites children up to 5th grade, along with parents, to meet in the Commons at 9:30 a.m. for the egg hunt. Make sure to bring a basket or bag for collecting eggs and feel free to bring a friend!

New at the event this year! Kids can purchase and decorate a paper chick for \$1. Dollars raised will be sent to **ELCA Good Gifts** to purchase baby chicks. A dollar is all it takes to provide a family living in poverty with a baby chick. The chicks begin producing eggs that make nutritious meals and can be sold for income – helping a family escape hunger for good.



We'll hang all your colorful chicks in the Commons and celebrate your generosity!
 Join the fun!

Everyone: We need individually wrapped candy and small items to fill the eggs. Donations can be dropped off in the office or put in the basket in the Commons. Thanks so much!

Looking for Summer Camp info?

Check out the back page of the *Voice*. Lots of opportunities, lots of fun and it's all waiting for YOU! Check it out!

Palm Sunday Processional

All are invited to the courtyard 5 minutes before services on Sunday, April 1 to process into the church with palms! Come out and join the group! This is a fun way for the younger members of our congregation to get involved and it adds greatly to our worship together. Parents, please join your child(ren) in this processional!



YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Sunday School Options

Join us Sunday Mornings from 9:45 – 10:45am for donuts, lively conversation and so much more. Check out our upcoming schedule

Middle School Sunday School (6-8)

April 1 – Making choices with Peggy Hanson
April 8 – No Sunday School: Happy Easter
April 15 – Meet & Greet with Pr. Randy
April 22 – Why pray? With Tracie Peterson
April 29 – Practicing Prayer with Tracie Peterson

High School Sunday School (9-12)

April 1 – Eva Posfay
April 8 – No Sunday School: Happy Easter
April 15 – Judge-Beckers
April 22 – Peggy Hanson
April 29 - Meet & Greet with Pr. Randy

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 would like some assistance.

What?!?: 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. Questions: talk with Tracie Peterson or Pr. Mark.

NYG Update

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 28 at 7:30pm. We will be taking some time to look at the theme and discuss what it means to be "citizens with the saints". Remember, Our Lord Jesus Christ made us one community of saints together. You did not earn the right to be a citizen in the kingdom of God. We all were chosen by God. Rest in Jesus, because he loves all of us just as we are.

As this group continues to prepare to represent St. John's at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, we need your support and prayers. Please pray for our group, that God will continue to strengthen their friendship with each other, and they grow closer to God through the word and services they do together. Here is a current list of who is going:

Bjorn Bade	Bennett Falck
Kirsten Buck	Michael Gasior
Andrew Dell	Nick Huschle
Michael DeKramer	Terry Dell - Adult
Irene Duba	Brian Evenson - Adult
Zach Evenson	Tracie Peterson - Adult

Attention 6th Grade CAT: there is no class on Wednesday, April 4th. Looking forward to seeing you at Holy Week services and Wed. May 2 for the final class.

Confirmation Resumes after Easter

The regular confirmation class schedule resumes on April 11. Seventh and Eighth Grade meet in Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m. 9th Graders will meet with their mentors.

Thank you to everyone who are helping make the Youth Progressive Dinner a success!

A special thank you goes to Terry & Peggy Dell, Dave & Cheryl Buck, Sue Brockman & Brian Evenson for hosting youth at their house.

Youth Lock in

Who: All youth grades 6-12

When: 7pm on Friday April 27 to 7am Saturday, April 28 morning,

Where: St. John's Lutheran church

Cost: 2 items for the food shelf
Members of St. Olaf Colleges Christian Outreach will be here to lead games, Bible study, worship, and other activities. Sign up on the Youth Board in the Commons (upstairs) or by the Youth room. Friends are welcome and encouraged. All youth need to have a completed health form on file at church. Parent chaperones are needed – contact Peggy Dell or Tracie Peterson if you can help.

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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It's Not Too Late - Sign up For Summer Camp!



Settlers' Camp at Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN (grades 2-3) June 10-12

This three day, two night camp takes place in the Log Lodge retreat center at GEV. Activities include worship, Bible studies, hiking, campfires, games, creek splashing and more! This is a great first time camp experience!

Shores of St. Andrews, New London, MN (grades 3-5) June 17-22

At this week long Bible camp, kids have lots of fun with friends laughing, learning and growing in their faith. Enjoy swimming, kayaking, games, campfires, fellowship, singing and more! This camp is offered through Green Lake Lutheran Ministries.

Family Camp at Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN (All ages) July 27-29

Come to camp with other St. John's families to play, relax, learn, explore and worship together for a weekend. There will be organized activities as well as free time. Parents will have some time to relax while camp counselors engage the kids!

"On the Road" Summer Camp (K-4), comes to Northfield, August 5-9

Good Earth Village, "On the Road!" will bring the fun of summer camp to Northfield. This 5-day program is filled with games, worship, crafts, Bible study and singing.

Registration is through Good Earth Village. Campers can register on-line at www.goodearthvillage.org

Vacation Bible School, (Pre 1 – K), August 6-9

VBS is sponsored by St. John's, Bethel, Rejoice! and Emmaus Churches of Northfield. Volunteers come together to provide this fun-filled week where children enjoy music, crafts, games, Bible stories and make new friends! Kindergarteners have the option of going to either VBS or "On the Road". The VBS

program will be half days whereas "On the Road" is a full day experience. You decide which program works best for your child!

Registration forms available in late April/May.



Scholarships are available. Please speak with Julie Brehmer.

Hospitality

- Serve at the Welcome Desk (O)
- Host New Members (be matched to new members and serve as a point of connection for them at St. John's) (O)
- Prepare and Serve Sunday Morning Coffee (O)
- Assist with Funeral Luncheons (O)

Church Maintenance

- Work to care for church grounds (Outdoor spring clean-up, water newly planted trees, etc.) (O)
- Deep Clean the Kitchen (A or S-A)
- Paint church interior (O)
- Monitor general cleanliness of Kitchen (O)

Learning Together

- Lead a St. John's Forum (O)
- Participate in a WELCA Circle
- Lead a Small Group (W, M, or O)
- Participate in a Small Group (W, M or O)
- Participate in the Peace and Justice Group (M)
- Work in St. John's Library (O)

Music at St. John's

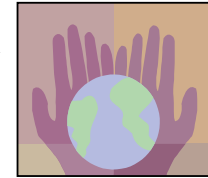
- Participate in the Adult Choir (W)
- Participate in a Youth Choir (W)
Age: _____
- Work with or Direct a Youth Choir (W)
- Play an instrument for Services (O)
Instrument: _____

Minister to Children and Youth

- Nursery Volunteer (M)
 ___ 8:00a ___ 10:45a
- Representative at a Baptism (O)
- Write Baptism Anniversary Cards (A)
- Prepare a meal for a family with a newborn (O)
- Vacation Bible School Volunteer (A)
- Wednesday Afterschool Program *
 ___ Bus Angel ___ Snack Server
 ___ Recreation ___ Teach or Assist
- Sunday School (W)
 ___ Teacher/Assistant ___ Music
 ___ Library
- Fundraising Team (A)
- Chaperone Youth/Children Events (O)
- Assist with Seasonal Events (Advent Fair, Easter Egg Hunt, etc.) (A)

*The afterschool program time commitments vary based on your availability and the specific service. Please contact Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministries with questions.

God's Work



Our Hands

St. John's Lutheran Church
Shared Ministry

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

**Time and Talent
2012**

Please place a checkmark in front of the service opportunities that interest you. When available be sure to indicate the worship service you prefer. In parenthesis behind each service opportunity is a symbol indicating the likely frequency of service for that ministry.

A = Annual

S-A = Semi-annual

M = Monthly

W = Weekly

B-W = Bi-weekly

O = Occasional (a few times a year)

Church Administration

- Count Sunday Offerings (B-W or M)
- Substitute in the office (answer phones while the Office Manager is away) (O)
- Serve on a Board or Council (M)
- Work on the Church website (O)

Taking Care of Each Other

- Prayer for Others through the Prayer Chain (W)
- Provide rides to church (W or O)
- Visit Homebound Members (W or O)
- Stephen Ministry Training
- Congregational Care Ministry Team (provide meals, mow lawns, for those temporarily unable to do so for themselves) (O)

Community Outreach

- Volunteer at the local Food Shelf (A)
- Community Christmas Dinner (A)
- Habitat for Humanity Summer Build (A)
- Deliver for Meals on Wheels (A)
- St. John's Women of the ELCA
 - LAYETTES QUILTERS
 - SCHOOL KITS KNITTERS
 - LWR
- ELCA Mission Interpreter (work with the synod to keep the congregation informed of the ELCA's mission outreach) (M)

Wednesday Night Meals

- Work with a team to prepare Wednesday Night Meals (W or B-W)
- Serve at Wednesday Night Meals, usually from 5:00-6:30p (O)
- Clean-up, usually from 5:45-7:00p (O)
- Operate Dishwasher at Wednesday Meals, usually from 5:30-7:00pm (O)

*For Dessert Donations see "Baking (or Buying) Treats"

Baking (or Buying) Treats

- Treats for Sunday Coffee (O)
- Desserts for Wednesday Meals (O)
- Cakes for Funerals (O)

Kitchen and Special Event Meals

- Working with a team to prepare meals for Special Events (i.e. Advent Fair, WelcomeFest) (O)
- Serve at Special Event Meals (i.e. Advent Fair, WelcomeFest) (O)
- Clean-up for Special Events (O)
- Operate Dishwasher at Special Event Meals (O)

Sunday Morning Services

- Work with AV Team (run sound board, operate cameras) (M)
- Chancel Guild (O)
- Sing in a Choir (M)
- Communion Preparation (O)
- Serve Communion (O)
 - 8:30a 10:45a
- Play/ Sing in summer worship
- Usher (O)
 - 8:30a 10:45a
- Read Scripture and Prayers (O)
- Cantor (O)
- Greeter at Entrances (O)
 - 8:30a 10:45a