

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2012

Volume 52, Number 5

*on the
inside . . .*

Cookbook Sale!

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Constitution Task
Force

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Childrens Choirs to present The Lost Boy

Members of the Hosanna, Jubilate, and Alleluia choirs, under the direction of Cathy Rodland, present Allen Pote and Tom Long's new musical The Lost Boy: Young Jesus in the Temple on Sunday, May 6 at 10:00 a.m. in St. John's Hall.



Congratulations,
Class of 2012!

On Sunday, May 20, during the 11:00 a.m. service, St. John's will recognize our graduating High School Seniors. After worship, the seniors and their families, along with the students' confirmation mentors will share lunch in St. John's Hall.

Congratulations to the following seniors from St. John's:

Michael Anderson
Erik Berthelsen
Kristen Beck
Katie Bull
Peter Duba
Colton Kastner
Bethany Emanuelson
Rachel Langehough
Adam Neuger
Conner Rowley
Molly Polzin
William Swanson
Isaak Tjaden

God's Blessings on your future plans!

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:

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office@stjohns-elca.org

website:

www.stjohns-elca.org

Church office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

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

Friday

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



Summer is almost here! Worship hours will change on Sunday, May 27.

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Worship

See you at Church!

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*

Stephen Ministers lend a listening ear

Many of us need help at various times in our lives. When dealing with difficult situations, we may seek help from Pastors, friends, or health care specialists. Some may find it helpful to have a Stephen Minister, a caring Christian friend who listens to their problems. Types of situations in which Stephen Ministers provide care include:

- death of a loved one
- facing our own death
- illness of a loved one
- personal illness
- financial problems
- feeling guilty
- feeling lonely
- feeling worthless
- problems with family relationships

- separation from loved ones
- problems adjusting to a move/
new environment
- birth of a child

These are just a few of the reasons people have sought assistance from Stephen Ministers. If you or someone you know needs care and support at this time, please call one of the pastors of Joan Halvorson at 645-8445.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Northfield Grief Support Coalition: A grief support group begins meeting this month at Bethel Lutheran Church. The group will meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. beginning May 23 through June 27. Contact Cathy Cammack with questions or to register, 645-7532.

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



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

May 9, 2011
Marian Bagaason

From our pastors . . .

Experiencing New Life in Christ

***“As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.’”
Mark 16:5-6***



Dear friends, this is the good news of Easter. Jesus Christ is alive! He has been raised from the dead! God has brought new life to the world through Christ's resurrection! As Christians, this is the basis of our faith and hope.

It is the message of the church. It is what we are to share with our family, friends, and neighbors so that they, too, may experience the new life in Christ. Death is no more. There is only life.

It is hard to believe, but it has been two months since I began serving you as one of your pastors. During this time I have seen and experienced the new life Jesus offers us through the power of his resurrection. I experience it in the beautiful worship services and music we have every Sunday morning. I experience it in the fellowship and meals we share on Wednesday nights. I experience it in the excellent adult education offerings, the small groups, and in the kids that come to learn about the faith during Sunday school, CAT, and Confirmation. I experienced it when so many of our neighbors, many non-members, came with their children to hunt for Easter eggs. I experience it in the visits I make with members who tell me what they are excited about at church. The new life in Christ is all around us in this ministry we call St. John's Lutheran Church. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Let us rejoice and be glad!

MINISTRY CHALLENGES

Whenever there is new life, however, there are also challenges. Most of you know that our Office Manager, Stephanie Aman, has accepted a new position in town. Stephanie did a great job for our congregation and we will miss her expertise and enthusiasm. Please tell her thank you when you see her at church or around town. We wish Stephanie the best and pray for God's

blessing to be upon her in her new adventure. Work has already begun to find her replacement and we may already have a new staff member by the time you read this.

Other staffing concerns include the need for a part-time Administrative Assistant who can oversee the finances of the congregation. Bernie Renander has been serving us in this capacity as a volunteer and has done a great job, but we need to begin thinking about how we will fill this important staff position. The other staffing need to be filled is our Youth Director position. Interim Director Tracie Peterson has been working with the transition team to give us a recommendation on the direction of our youth program sometime in May. This is a key position in addressing our vision for a stronger, growing youth and family ministry.

STEWARDSHIP RESPONSE

Along with the Unbind Us! mortgage reduction appeal, these staffing issues are our ministry challenge as a congregation. Presently, we are behind in meeting our income target for the year. We need the continuing, strong financial support of all of our members if we are to fill these ministry needs and accomplish our vision goals. God has blessed us as a congregation and has given to us the privilege of sharing the good news of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Thank you for your participation and on-going support. Through you and the ministry of this congregation, many people will come to experience the new life in Christ. Let your joy and gladness be seen by those around you. Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

April Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Kris Paulson** by Herb and Pat Fick.

Faith and Health

In memory of **Addy Roadfelt** by Thomas and Susan Hall

Pastors' Emergency Fund

In memory of **Kris Paulson** by Paul and Joann Jorgenson

Please note, there are other memorials that came in in the month of April - we are getting those recorded and they will appear in the summer issue of the Voice.

Thrivent Choice Dollars Benefit St. John's Ministries

A total of \$6,887 was given to St. John's by Thrivent Financial members in 2011 through the Thrivent Choice Dollar program. The Congregation Council designated 60% of the 2011 Thrivent Choice funds (\$4,132.20) to the youth and children for summer camp and activities and 40% (\$2,754.80) to St. John's WELCA. This is a significant increase from past Thrivent matching programs. Thank you to all St. John's Thrivent members who gave choice dollars to St. John's!

Other Actions

Baptisms

Ellen Joyce McChalicher, daughter of Chris and Cecily; sponsors are Adny and Hilary Sandberg; April 15, 2012

Noelle Christine Berger, daughter of Michael and Kayla Berger; sponsors are Matthew Berger and Camille Berger; April 22, 2012

Deaths

Valborg Hallan, April 8, 2012

John Maakestad, April 10, 2012

Eleanor Blockhus, April 21, 2012

Radio Broadcasts

April 1, 2012 by **Jillian and Elizabeth Trangsrud**

April 8, 2012, in honor of our great granddaughter, **Ellen Joyce McChalicher**, being baptised on April 15, by Joyce and Eugene Schrader

April 15, 2012, in memory of **Fritjof 'Fritz' Christensen** by **Judy Christensen**

April 22, 2012, in memory of **Knut and Laura Wang and Zena Hortop**, grandparents of George and Judy (Wang) Pinc

April 29, 2012, in loving memory of **Don McRae and Sybil Raadt** by Marilyn McRae Raadt and Paul Raadt

You're invited!

The last day of Sunday School is May 13. To end the year and finish our Sunday School rotation we will be having a "Wedding in Cana" party reception in St. John's Hall during the Sunday School hour. Parents, kids, everyone is invited from 9:45-10:45 a.m. Come and enjoy wedding cake, dancing, music, crafts and be sure to vote for which animals we purchase with our "God's Global Barnyard" offering. If you are willing to lend a hand helping at one of the stations, contact Julie Brehmer.

... Buy a cookbook!

Top 5 reasons you need to pick up a St. John's Cookbooks

1. They would look great in a May Day Basket
2. Perfect Mother's Day gift
3. You would be way ahead on your Christmas Shopping.
4. Think of all the wonderful treats at Coffee Hour. Now you can make them yourself
5. Trusted and tried Dinner ideas available every night!

Pick up your copy in the Commons on Sunday mornings or Wednesday Nights. Cost is only \$15. Get them while supplies last. Remember, all proceeds go to support the youth attending the National Youth Gathering this summer. Questions: Contact Peggy Dell

Number of Books _____

(Name)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip)

(Telephone Number)

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

Jo Dahlin Retires

Jo Dahlin, director of our Rejoice Ringers for the past 14 years, has announced her retirement. We will have a time of celebration in thanks for Jo's many years of dedication during the Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 20, in St. John's Hall.

Sunday Morning Concert Series

The last Sunday Morning Concert of the season features our own youth. Sunday, May 13 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Performers are still needed. Any interested singers or instrumentalists in 6th through 12th grades are welcome to sign up by contacting Dan Fenn.

Summer Musicians Needed to Lead Worship

Each summer, musicians from within our congregation help lead in worship by providing prelude music, offering music, and/or hymn accompaniment. If you would like to help by playing an instrument, singing, or forming a small vocal or instrumental ensemble, please contact Dan Fenn.



Rejoice Ringers Director - Position Open

St. John's will soon be looking for a new director for the Rejoice Ringers handbell choir. If you or someone you know might be interested in applying, please contact Dan Fenn for information on the position or to submit a resume.

Adult Ministry and Education

Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Education Hour is at 9:45 a.m. Coffee is in the Commons between services.

The St. John's Forum meets in St. John's Hall between services.

Small Groups are part of St. John's small group ministry and meet in various rooms as noted.

May 6: Youth Musical – The Lost Boy. 10:00 a.m., St. John's Hall.

May 13: Youth Recital - 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary

May 20: St. John's Forum: Update from Children, Youth, and Family Transition Team, St. John's Hall

May 27: Memorial Day Weekend - No Forum; Switch to Summer Worship Schedule with coffee and fellowship in St. John's Hall at 9:30 a.m.

MayFest is Wednesday, May 16th!

Join us in St. John's Hall on Wednesday, May 16 for our end of the year celebration, MayFest! A picnic style dinner of fried chicken, sides and tasty treats for dessert will begin at 5:15pm.

This year magician Michael Huffman of Michael's Magic will serve as our entertainment. The act will begin at 6pm and promises to be a source of awe and fun for all ages. He'll leave you wondering just how all those magic tricks really do work!

If you would like to help with MayFest please contact Regina Hassanally or sign up on the *Serve with St. John's* board outside the church office. We need volunteers to help with set up (4:30-5:15pm), serving (5:00-6:00pm) and clean up (5:30-7:00pm). Many hands make light work!

Time and Talent Sheets!

Sunday, April 22 was Time and Talent Sunday at St. John's but if you haven't returned your sheet to the church office you still can! The Time and Talent sheets allow you to indicate which ministries you are interested in participating in throughout the year. If you need a 2012 Time and Talent sheet you can pick one up in the church office. Thank you for taking the time to fill one out and for the many ways you serve our congregation and community.

Regina Hassanally
Director of Shared Ministries
reginah@stjohns-elca.org

SERVING TO LOVE



LOVING TO SERVE



Mark your calendars for MayFest!

This year's MayFest (End of the Year celebration) will be held on Wednesday, May 13! Starting at 5:15 p.m. enjoy our Wednesday night meal and then stay for the entertainment, Michael the Magician, at 6:00 p.m.! Everyone is welcome!

From the Faith and Health Board:

by Lynette Marks, St. John's Parish Nurse

The Faith and Health Board will have monthly articles in the Voice to bring information on a variety of health-related topics. April was Parkinson's Disease Awareness month. Many of us have friends, neighbors or family members with the diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease.

Parkinson's Disease is a chronic and progressive movement disorder of the nervous system, first described in 1817 by James Parkinson. It is caused by degeneration of neurons in a small region of the brain stem. Cells within this portion of the brain no longer produce adequate amounts of dopamine, a chemical that controls balance and movement. Without dopamine, the nerve cells cannot properly send messages. This results in loss of control with movements or tremors.

The first signs of Parkinson's disease may be very subtle and go unnoticed, typically affecting one side of the body more than the other. Symptoms may include tremors in a hand or foot at rest, shortened and shuffling steps, a feeling of dragging one leg or foot, stooped posture, softer or slowed speech. Parkinson symptoms tend to worsen as the disease progresses.

Along with the movement complications of Parkinson Disease, individuals may have non-movement complications such as depression, anxiety or sleep disorders. Recognizing these symptoms is critical in the effective treatment of Parkinson Disease.

Though there is no cure, the goal of treatment in Parkinson's is the control of symptoms. This may include chemical replacement of the lacking dopamine. Individuals must work closely with their doctors as symptoms change requiring adjustment in medications and dosages.

It's important for family members and the church community to understand Parkinson's Disease and to lend support for individuals and family members of those affected by the disease. A Parkinson's diagnosis is a life-changing event. Dealing with the diagnosis ranges from denial, fear, anger and eventual acceptance as the individual manages the disease symptoms. Physical and emotional support from the faith community is critical. See the Faith and Health Bulletin board in the Commons or the following web sites for additional information.

Parkinson.org, Parkinsonmn.org, pdf.org, michaeljfox.org.

St. John's member Dean shares with us his journey with Parkinson's Disease:

"It was about 12 years ago, while sitting at our kitchen table, that one of our children said, "Dad, why is your hand shaking?" After a visit to a neurologist the diagnosis was Parkinson's Disease. All of a sudden the future became uncertain, for I also had just been diagnosed with Prostrate Cancer. But I have been blessed, the cancer has been treated and the Parkinson's symptoms controlled. Parkinson's can show a range of symptoms and also develop at different rates. My symptoms have been, tremor on my right side, softening of my voice, loss of sense of smell, some problems with balance, and a problem being able to retrieve the words that I want to use on a moments notice. Thanks to an excellent neurologist and the availability of modern medications, I have been able to live a pretty normal life even with Parkinson's Disease."

Serving on Sundays in May

Acolytes

- May 6** (8:30) Bergen Hoff, Aiden Nutt; (11:00) Willa Kmoch, Siri Lindell
May 13 (8:30) Lydia Storlie, Jonah Berthelsen; (11:00) AJ Pahs, Anders Koenig
May 20 (8:30) Cecilia Kryzda, Greta Hummel; (11:00) Synneva Bratland, Sophia Nevin
May 27 (8:30) Alex Gunn, Erin Gunn; (10:00) Brandon Kimber, Wylie Kimmes-Kneser

Coffee

- May 6** Audrey and Bruce Moe, Deb and Rod Christensen, Louise Quam
May 13 Volunteers - to be determined
May 20 Lois and Gene Bakko, Bill and Mary Gasho, Lynette Swanson
May 27 Mark and Kathleen Mellstrom, Better Quinnell, Carol Carlson, Gloira Kiester

Communion preparers

- May 6** Joe and Carole Neshiem
May 13 Dennis and Jane Rinehart
May 20 Jill Enestvedt
May 27 Joe and Judy Smith

Nursery

- May 6** Claire Weiss and Jode Doeden
May 13 Claire Weiss and Katherine Norrie
May 20 Claire Weiss and Mara Hessian
May 27 To Be Determined

Ushers

- May 6** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (11:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber
May 13 (8:30) Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (11:00) Jonathan Norrie, Zachary Bahler, Andrew Dell, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
May 20 (8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:45) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
May 27 (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback, Emily Westerback

Donations Sought to Commission New Paraments

The Chancel Guild has commissioned Judy Swanson to design and create a new set of white paraments for the sanctuary. The set will include hangings for the altar, the pulpit, the lectern, and two stoles, one for each pastor. The altar cloth will be two sided, with one side especially designed for Easter. Since the church does not budget for new paraments, members of St. John's are encouraged to make memorial donations to the Chancel Guild Memorial Fund. The cost is expected to be in the range of \$2500.

Why design new white paraments? St. John's older set of white cloths wore out and was retired several years ago. This means that the white Hardanger paraments are currently used for both the seasons of Easter and Christmas. This white set was commissioned in 1994 with a donation by Beulah Heiberg. The Norwegian Hardanger embroidery was done by Christine Stime and Jennifer Bothun. They are a work of art. Though they are still in beautiful condition after 18 years of use, it would be good to reduce the frequency of use to preserve them for years to come.

Game room Attendants needed: 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 happening downstairs. For this reason, the Undercroft has been locked Wednesday Nights for a couple of weeks. We would love to open it up again. Adults if you are able to help supervise the undercroft on Wednesday nights, please check out the calendar sign up for a shift. We are looking for 2 adults each night 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. Thanks for helping us provide a safe place for the youth of this congregation to spend time. Just click on the following link to sign up <http://www.doodle.com/2tqixz3kh3gc6cpa>



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.

May 2

Pizza Night

May 9

Chef's Choice!

May 16

MayFest!

Chicken, Beans, Coleslaw

Watch for more information for summer meal opportunities!

A HUGE thank you to our cooks and folks who served regularly throughout the year to provide the congregation and our neighbors with a delicious meal!

News and Events

“Dave”

The Thoughtful Film Club will present "Dave" with Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver on Friday, May 4 at 7:15 pm in the church theater (second floor). This is a thoughtful comedy from 1998. An uncanny Presidential lookalike is recruited as a stand-in for America's highest office. All are welcome.

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2. Perfect Mother's Day gift
3. You would be way ahead on your Christmas Shopping.
4. Think of all the wonderful treats at Coffee Hour. Now you can make them yourself
5. Trusted and tried Dinner ideas available every night!

Pick up your copy in the Commons on Sunday mornings or Wednesday Nights. Cost is only \$15. Get them while supplies last. Remember, all proceeds go to support the youth attending the National Youth Gathering this summer. Questions: Contact Peggy Dell

Constitution Task Force

At the Annual Meeting held on January 29th, the congregation voted to appoint a committee to study the leadership structure at St. John's, and in particular the co-terminus nature of the Associate Pastor position. The committee would report back to the congregation no later than next year's annual meeting. At this time, the Council is asking for individuals to indicate an interest in participating on this task force. The committee will consist of a member of the the personnel committee, a member of the executive committee, and volunteers from the congregation. If you are interested, please submit your name for consideration to the Church Office (office@stjohns-elca.org) by May 15. At the May Council meeting, the task force make up will be finalized. The work of the group is to consider the constitutional question, it does not have any bearing on the current situation regarding Pr. Mark.

Connections Pot Luck

Connections will have its annual pot luck year-end wrap-up, and planning-what-comes-next gathering in the Fireside room on Friday, May 11 at 6:00 pm. This is a social gathering to meet with friends and make new friends. All are welcome. Bring a dish to share.

Transition Team Update

Thank you to everyone who took the time out to fill out the surveys for the Transition Team. The group will look at the results in order to design a Model of ministry that will help move us forward.

The team has been busy looking at some of the best practices in Youth Ministry and trying to discern where God is calling St. Johns to focus. They have spent a little time looking at what experts consider best practices by looking at the Exemplary Youth Ministry study done across 7 denominations working together, as well as looking at best practices of congregations in Southeast MN.

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

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

*Budget
discussion

*Autumn
schedule

*Intro to the
ELCA Social
Statement

Criminal Justice

All are
welcome!

Summing up and Moving Forward

At our May meeting we will take care of some organizational duties for this year as well as look at what we will focus on in the autumn and beyond.

We need your voices to help make the work important in the life of our church. To get you thinking about things, topics that have been suggested so far are human trafficking, the power of nonviolence, sustainable peace, and criminal justice.

The latter is a topic that almost certainly will be part of our work. Throughout the years the Peace and Justice Group has brought the ELCA Social Statements before the congregation for discussion. Currently, a draft for the Social

Document on Criminal Justice is ready. The Task Force asks that individuals and groups submit their comments and suggestions by October 31. We will look at the summary of the draft in May and consider how St. John's can study it and respond.

Let us know of your interest and your suggestions for a plan. If you cannot come to the meeting, you can email your ideas and comments to Judith Stoutland (as some people have done already). This is an important topic and you have a chance to be part of the work.

You may read more about this at: <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements-in-Process/Criminal-Justice.aspx>

"And What Does God Require?"

from Deut. 10: 12-13, 17-18

On March 20, about 200 Lutherans joined 600 interfaith advocates at the state capitol for the annual Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Day on the Hill. Two of the participants were St. John's members, Trine Karlsen and Jane Rinehart. The coalition is made up of members of Protestant, Catholic, Islamic and Jewish faith. Advocacy focuses on social justice issues which these four religious groups agree on.

For the second year in a row, every senate district in the state was represented by at least one registered attendee. Trine and Jane joined others from our legislative district to visit Senator Dekruif and Rep. Woodard. JRLC had identified three issues to focus on: (1) protecting the safety net, (2) ending poverty by support for the Family Economic Security Act, (3) support for the \$40 million bonding bill for affordable housing.

The Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota (LCPPM) takes the approach of "faithful diligence" as the legislative session enters the home stretch. Mark

Peters, director of LCPPM says, "We fought hard to make sure the flurry of objectionable bills referred to as "Welfare Reform 2.0" did not make it into the House Health and Human Services (HHS) Omnibus Bill. The Senate Health and Human Services (HHS) Committee will introduce their Omnibus bill this week. LCPPM stands poised to provide testimony. On-going negotiations and potential committee or floor amendments keep alive the possibility that harmful aspects of these proposals might still find a path into the final legislation. We must not let down our guard or become complacent until the session is over."

Our core faith values are expressed in a letter signed last year by the six Minnesota ELCA bishops and the six bishops and archbishop of the Minnesota Catholic Conference. They declare, "**The most telling measure of how well we care for each other is to consider how we treat those who are most vulnerable among us.**"

Mission Outreach

Goods For Good Rummage Sale May 4-5

The volunteer organization Fifth Bridge is organizing a community rummage sale again this year. Goods for Good will be held at various sites around Northfield on May 4-5. Individuals and organizations that register their rummage sale sites with Fifth Bridge make a commitment that at least half of all proceeds raised will be given to a charity. Go to the Fifth Bridge website to get a map of all Goods for Good rummage sale sites – www.5thbridge.org/goodsforgood

Raise the Roof for Habitat for Humanity!

Raise the Roof Dinner for Habitat for Humanity

Help support Rice County Habitat for Humanity by attending the Raise the Roof Dinner on Sunday, June 3, 5:30 p.m. at the American Legion in Faribault. You'll enjoy food, fellowship and fun and get the chance to meet members of the 2012 Habitat Partner families.

Tickets are \$25 at the door and are also available online at www.habitatricecounty.org or by calling Sandi at 507 323-0170. This year houses are being built in Dundas and Faribault.



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, Saturday, May 12 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.

Special Offering this month to Lutheran World Relief

The special giving envelope in May is designated for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The goal for St. John's this year is to raise \$6000 for LWR. Although, some may have made donations to LWR for the disaster relief in Japan, the on-going work of LWR needs our support. The LWR web page gives this summary of their work around the world:

"Every day in 35 countries, Lutheran World Relief works to combat the causes of poverty and the dignity it robs from people's lives. We advocate for Fair Trade that helps farming families and artisans earn a better income. We teach people to better care for themselves, their communities and the environment. We teach people how to be less vulnerable to natural disasters. We advocate with and for them for policy change that more fairly represents them. We counsel them after manmade and natural disasters, and help them recover with material aid. We do all of this exclusively with partners from the communities we serve. Our partners help us remain incredibly efficient and effective. Our partners let us help people help themselves...for a day when they won't need us at all."

Please note the envelope marked "ELCA World Relief" will be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you for your support of LWR!



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

May 7 — Monday, Bible study leaders meet at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room.

May 1 & 15 — Knitters meet. Call Kathy Vang for location. 645-4849

May 9,10,11, 12, 17 — Circles meet.

May 14 & 17 — Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m.

May 24 — WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

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

For a subscription to the LWT magazine, please email: subscriptions@augsbuorgfortress.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.

News

Women of St. John's, please note that the Ecumenical Women's meeting for May 5 has been postponed. The meeting has now been RE-SCHEDULED for SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 9:30 A.M. at the United Methodist Church, 1401 Maple Street. Least coin offering.

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

Keep Saturday, May 5 on your calendar ! We will meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. for a newly scheduled May WELCA meeting. This will be our last meeting before August. We will have the opportunity to take care of business including dispersal of Thrivent Funds and also thinking ahead to the coming fall with new programs and board members. Please come and share your ideas. This will be a good time to welcome back our travelers from winter locations. Also we have a special program: Patsy Ophaug will share her experiences and ideas about memoir writing / journaling. The program is a half hour experiential inquiry into visual journaling, memoir writing and spiritual journal writing. Patsy will present methods and resources for these modes of personal expression as well as an exploratory writing activity. Participants will take home their writing sampler as well as a list of resources. Let this begin or enhance another avenue on your creative journey !

Women's Day at Good Earth Village is June 23, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. Register at www.GoodEarthVillage.org



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

Living the Gift of Easter

By Barbara Eaves

It is the second Sunday of Easter and reverberations from morning worship are still ringing in my mind and heart. From the music, to the message, to the meal, it was a celebration of life and hope...and a reminder that death does not have the final say.

It is a blessing to worship together...to remember and rehearse our faith story and to engage with one another throughout the morning. When we are together, we feel mutual support and encouragement which sometimes may be the only thing that keeps us going from day to day.

Some reflections from today:

-Singing hymns of various styles and traditions including Gospel, Hispanic and African

-Celebrating the baptism of Ellen Joyce McChalicher

-Holding in prayer those who are ill

-Remembering with gratitude the lives of Valborg Hallan and John Maakestad

-Hearing the Easter message that because Jesus lives, we have new life each day

-Greeting, visiting and connecting with others before and after worship

What more evidence do we need that the faith is alive and that we are both its heirs and carriers to the generations to follow us.

The Psalm from today so wonderfully reminds us of the gift of being able to come together:

*How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity.
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.*

Psalm 133

We are indeed blessed by the Lord...for new life...every day...all year through. All is grace. Thanks be to God!

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

Group Leadership Team:

Sandi Gerdes 645-2290,
sandi@laurabaker.org

Cheryl Buck, 663-9056,
cbuck@charter.net

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

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

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, May 6 Sunday School – Children's Choir Musical, "The Lost Boy", St. John's Hall

Sunday, May 13 Last day of Sunday School –
Wedding in Cana Party, St. John' Hall

"ROCK" – Wednesday Afterschool Programming

Wednesday, May 2, 9, 16

Summer Activities

June 10 – 12 Settlers Camp, Good Earth Village for gr. 2-3
June 17 – 22 Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp for gr. 4-5
July 27 – 29 Family Camp at Good Earth Village: All ages!
August 6 – 9 Vacation Bible School and "On the Road"
Summer Camp for ages 4 – grade 4

Parents invited to Sunday School, May 13th

Summer Nursery Schedule

Starting on Sunday, May 27 the Nursery will be providing childcare during worship for only the 10:00 a.m. service during the summer months. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer.



3rd Grade Catechism Projects

In April, a Catechism retreat for 3rd grade students was held to talk about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This year's retreat included an at-home project that asked parents and students to create something that shows what the Sacrament of Holy Communion means to their family. The projects will be on display in the Commons starting Monday, April 29 – Sunday, May 13.

Easter Egg Hunt 2012

Thanks to all who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt by donating candy, filling and hiding eggs. We had a big crowd and lots of fun and fellowship. Special thanks to Goodbye Blue Monday for providing delicious coffee and to Windmill Feed and Pet Supply Company for sharing their baby chicks with us. The "Buck a Chick" donations came to \$67 and will be used to help buy chicks through the ELCA "God's Global Barnyard" project.

**Parents invited to Sunday School -
see the article on page 17.**

Thanks! To all the Sunday School children for participating in the March FoodShare Drive! During the month of March, we raised \$243.17 and collected groceries to give to the Northfield Community Action Center. Thank you for caring about our friends and neighbors in our community.

May 13 is the last Wednesday for afterschool children's programming!

A great big thanks to our Wednesday afterschool volunteers this year:

Bus Angels: Deanne Weber, Sally Lindell, Andrea Hoff, Jenny and Zach Pelletier, Julie Becker, Jennifer Koenig, Jenny Nystrom, Connie Menssen, Lisa Peterson, Sheri Williams

Snack Servers: Frances Boehning, Amy McBroom, Christy Hall-Holt, Betsy McLaughlin

Kid's Club Helpers: Kelly Culhane, Kaleb Sutherland

Afterschool Helpers: Kristy Mikula, Julie and Barry Becker

Bell Chime Director: Jenny Pelletier

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

Grades 6-8 meet in Youth Room

May 6th –
May 13 – End of the Year Celebration

Grades 8-12 meet in Room 8

May 6 – Judge Beckers
May 13 – End of the Year Celebration

7th Grade Confirmation Trip to the Synagogue

When: Friday, May 4 5pm- 10pm

Where: Temple of Aaron Synagogue in St. Paul

This is our chance to better understand this history and unique relationship we share with Judaism. Our visit will include a tour of the synagogue, attendance at a Shabbat worship service, and a reception with the congregation. We will stop for ice cream (St. John's will treat) before the synagogue visit but we will not be having supper, so your child should eat before arriving at church. Students are expected to dress nicely: no jeans, tee-shirts, baseball caps, or tennis shoes, please. Questions: Please contact Pr. Mark.

Due to this special event there will NOT be seventh grade confirmation on Wednesday, May 2.

9th Grade Confirmation Faith and Talent Projects:

The 9th graders have spent their time talking about the promises they are going to make on Confirmation Sunday and how they are going to be able to live out those promises. Each student is charged with coming up with a project that allows them to use the gifts God has given them in order to serve the community. Letters were sent to your home to remind you of this great opportunity. A few of you have not yet handed in your proposals. Please turn them in ASAP. If you need help, please contact Pastor Mark or Tracie. Projects will be due Wednesday, May 2nd.

Canoe on the Cannon River

All youth (gr. 6-12) are invited on Saturday, May 19 from 1-5p.m to Canoe the Cannon! Cost is \$5, sign up by Monday, May 12. For more information, contact Tracie Peterson.

NYG Update

Summer is quickly approaching which means only 2 ½ months until the National Gathering in New Orleans. Our next two meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, April 25th and Wednesday, May 23rd, from 7:30 – 8:30. Looking forward to seeing you there.

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 |
| Nathan Berthelson | |

The Last Day of confirmation for this School year is Wednesday, May 16th. Thank you for a great year!

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

Pave the Path: thank you to everyone who has helped support Pave the Path. We have raised over \$2700.

Pastors

Randall Johnson
Mark Johnson
John Quam

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

Music Ministry

Daniel Fenn

Music Staff

Tyler Forsythe - Alleluia
Cathy Rodland - Jubilate
Ruth Legvold - Laudate
Jo Dahlin - Rejoice Ringers

Parish Nurse

Lynette Marks

Shared Ministry

Regina Hassanally

Youth Ministry

Tracie Peterson

Congregation President

Richard Falck



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VBS and 'On the Road' - Summer 2012

This summer St. John's, along with Bethel and Rejoice! Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Church, will be offering a joint Vacation Bible School/Summer Camp experience for children age 3 – 4th grade!

For Kids Age 3 (by 9-1-11) - Kindergarten
"Adventures on Promise Island" Vacation
Bible School, August 6 –9
Held at Bethel Lutheran Church

"Adventures on Promise Island" Vacation Bible School is a time for your kids to gather together as a community and discover God's promises to be with us, to care about us, to give us what we need, and to love us! 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 camp works best for your child!



Registration forms are available in the Main Office and in the Commons! Come join us on Promise Island!

For kids completing Kindergarten – 4th grade
"On the Road", August 5 – 9
Held at Emmaus Church

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

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

www.gev.org

. Since this is a community-based event please send your registration in early. Good Earth Village can accommodate about 125 campers.

