

# THE Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2012

Volume 52, Number 7

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## **Worship Services:**

8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN. Articles for the *Voice* must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month:

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

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

## **Church office hours:**

**Mon. - Thurs.**

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

**Friday**

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

## **Mark Johnson to be called as Associate Pastor**

In consultation with the leadership of St. John's Lutheran Church, Senior Pastor Randall Johnson, and the synod office, a congregational meeting is set for Sunday, August 12, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. in St. John's Hall for the purpose of issuing a call to Mark Johnson for the position of Associate Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church. Following the provisions of the constitution and by-laws of St. John's Lutheran Church, we invite you to be part of this important meeting and action of the congregation.

## **A New Proposal for Anointing of Oil and Prayers for Healing during Worship**

The Prayer Team continues to work with the pastors on a plan to provide anointing of oil and prayers for healing during worship to lift up the healing ministry of the church. This would occur on the fifth Sunday of the month (which occurs four times a year). The first time we could offer this is September 30.

This is how it would work. After a person receives communion, that person can come around up to the communion rail, kneel or stand, and receive the anointing of oil on the forehead by the pastor or a member of the prayer team and a prayer for healing with the laying on of hands upon the person's head. An option may be available on the main floor for those who cannot manage to get up the stairs.

The prayer would be: "I anoint you in the name of our savior, Jesus Christ, and pray that through the Holy Spirit you may be healed in body, mind, and spirit and rise up to praise God and serve your neighbor. Amen"

The person would then get up and return to their seat in the congregation.

It is another opportunity for people to bring their cares and concerns to the church and receive its healing ministry. People can also come up on behalf of others they know who are in need of healing.

One of the prayers we pray after communion is this: "We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

It is a nice way to combine the worship life of the community and the healing ministry of the church. Why not use all of the tools available to us as a church? If you have questions or comments about this proposal, please contact Pastors Randy or Mark.



Summer Worship hours  
will continue thru  
Sunday, September 9th.

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

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. Contact Jane Rinehart for more information about the prayer ministry team - [jane.s.rinehart@gmail.com](mailto:jane.s.rinehart@gmail.com)

**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](mailto:macisar@gmail.com) or 663-1097.

## The Difference between a Stephen Ministry Relationship and a Friendship

*The following article first appeared November 21, 2006, in "The Builder" newsletter of First Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN.*

A Stephen Minister is different from a close friend and it's important to understand the distinction. In a time of grief, crisis, or transition the care receiver benefits from the care of both a Stephen Minister and close friends. Stephen Ministers have a lot in common with close friends. You can depend on them; you can trust them; you know that they'll keep confidential whatever you tell them. They'll be there for you and help you through a rough time. But the Stephen Minister's role is different from the role of a close friend.

A Stephen Ministry relationship is not a mutual relationship. Close friendships are mutual. Friends are there for each other; they share their good times and bad times and support each other. A Stephen Ministry relationship is one-sided. Stephen Ministers listen, reflect thoughts and feelings, and care. Stephen Ministers do not share their own problems with the care receiver as a friend might. They focus

only on the care receiver's issues, and they bring in their own experience only when they sense that they might be able to shed some light on the care receiver's situation. But such sharing is rare and always geared toward the care receiver's needs, not the Stephen Minister's.

A Stephen Ministry relationship is intentional. The Stephen Ministry relationship has been formed for a reason – so that the Stephen Minister can walk with the care receiver through a difficult time. The Stephen Minister knows this and the care receiver knows this

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

*Galatians 6:2*



*Providing one-to-one care and encouragement*

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

*Matthew 5:4*

## Grief Support Ministry

### Northfield Grief Coalition

Save the date: the Northfield Grief Support Coalition is sponsoring a presentation by Edward Holland, Chaplain and Coordinator of Spiritual Care and Grief Support at Park Nicollet Methodist Hospice on **Wednesday, September 12, 2012, 6:30 - 8:00 at the Northfield Hospital.** For more information contact Barb Knaak at 664-0444.

### Weekly Grief Support Group

A weekly grief support group will meet starting September 19 through October 24 from 6:30-8:00p.m. at the Northfield Hospital Board Room. For more information, contact Barb Knaak at 664-0444.



*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."*

August 10, 2011  
**Ordella Moberg**

# From our pastors . . .

## *"Do You 'C' the Vision?"*

There were two things that impressed me about St. John's when I was contemplating the call to be your Senior Pastor. The first was the Unbind Us! Appeal to reduce the debt for the new addition. It is amazing that \$800,000 will be raised in two years to bring the building debt under control. Great job! Thank you for your generous support. The second thing that impressed me was the strategic plan and vision for mission that was put together to lead this congregation into the future. As your Senior Pastor, it is my intention to help you fulfill this plan and make the vision for mission that God has provided a reality.

First of all, do you know St. John's Mission Statement? *As followers of Jesus Christ, St. John's welcomes all to celebrate God's grace, to nurture their faith, and to reach out to the world in love and service.* This is who we are as a congregation. This is our identity. Everything we do must fit in with this statement. It will encourage you to memorize this statement.

Secondly, a Vision for Mission has been created to guide us into the future. Like painting with broad strokes, the vision captures our imagination and provides energy for carrying out our mission. With a strong emphasis on the letter "C," St. John's aspires to become a visible community of faith by doing the following:

**CELEBRATING** through a joyful and music filled worship -- Worship is central. St. John's is well known for its worship and music ministry. We appreciate hearing God's Word and participating in the sacraments of grace. We are led by a full-time Director of Music. Dan Fenn creates well-crafted, liturgical worship and provides beautiful organ and piano music. With several choirs, we enjoy choral and instrumental music by our youth and adults. Psalm 100:1-2 says, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing."

**CONNECTING** children, youth and adults in faith -- Together we grow in our faith. It was the Apostle Paul's hope "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, so you are being rooted and grounded in love." Ephesians 3:17 We want to be intentional in

creating intergenerational experiences that connect youth and adults. This, of course, happens during worship, but it also happens other times such as at fellowship and service events. The Wedding at Cana reception in May during the Sunday school hour was a great example of this. Our Wednesday night meals also connect us to one another. Our Children's Director, Julie Brehmer, helps to coordinate many of these events. We will be welcoming a new Youth Director sometime in August who will also help fulfill this vision goal.

**CALLING** us to each use and share our gifts -- In 1 Peter 4:10 it says, "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." Christian disciples are stewards of God's gifts. God gives each of us special talents and financial resources to be used to carry out God's mission in the world. All gifts are important to building up the Body of Christ. Your time, talents, and money help us to carry out our mission and ministry.

**COMMITTING** to each other through our faith journeys -- It is a joy and privilege to be part of a community of faith like St. John's, realizing that we are all different and at different places in our faith journey. We want this to be a safe place to grow as a Christian. Everyone is welcome to belong to and participate in this ministry. No one is to be excluded. This is our commitment: "to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3

**CARING** through acts of compassion and kindness -- As disciples of Jesus, we look for opportunities to put our faith into action and serve the needs of others. Jesus said, "This is my commandment, that you love one another." John 15:12 There are many opportunities for you to serve at St. John's and in the greater community of Northfield. We encourage everyone to find at least one way to serve in the church and in the community.

**CELEBRATING, CONNECTING, CALLING, COMMITTING, and CARING.** Do you "C" the vision? It is an exciting time in the life of St. John's Lutheran Church. My hope and prayer is that you will join us and be part of our vision for the future.

In Christ's Service,

*Pastor Randy*



## **Laura Baker Gathering in August**

St. John's members are needed to assist Laura Baker Staff in hosting a gathering time for children with special needs on Saturday, August 11 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on the Laura Baker campus. Volunteers will participate in activities with kids and help staff where needed. Sign up in the Commons or contact the Church Office. For more information contact Leighton Hambrick, 507-301-1841.

## **Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity in August**

Volunteers are needed from St. John's to help build the Habitat for Humanity house in Dundas, Saturday, August 4. Volunteers are also needed to provide lunch for the work crew. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Commons. Along with other Lutheran congregations in Rice County, St. John's has also been asked to contribute financially to this year's Thrivent Builds house. The goal is to raise \$1,200. Checks can be made out to St. John's with "Thrivent Builds" in the memo line.

## **Looking for a church home? You are welcome at St. John's!**

St. John's will formally receive new members on November 18 and April 28, 2013. A gathering for those wanting to learn more about life and ministry at St. John's will be held on Sunday, September 23. The fall new member session begins on October 7. Contact a pastor or the Church Office if you would like to join St. John's or if you would like more information. Everyone is welcome at St. John's to participate in worship and all church activities, whether a member or not!

## **Director of Youth and Family Ministries Hiring Team Update**

The Director of Youth and Family Ministries hiring team spoke with nine candidates during first-round interviews in July. The team was encouraged and excited by the quality of the candidates. In August, three candidates will be invited back for a second interview. Plans are for the new Director of Youth and Family Ministries to begin work at St. John's by September 1. Hiring team members include: Andrea Hoff, chair, Barry Becker, Peggy Dell, John Reid, Kelsey Bull, Greg Pelletier, and Pr. Mark Johnson. Continue to pray for this team, the candidates and for St. John's ministry with children, youth, and families.

## **. . . Stephen Ministry,**

*continued from page 2*

So, when the Stephen Minister and care receiver meet, perhaps after some small talk, the two can dive right into the spiritual and emotional issues that need to be addressed. The Stephen Minister knows that he or she "has permission" to ask questions that help draw out emotions and concerns. Likewise, the care receiver knows he or she "has permission" to share difficult emotions. The Stephen Minister offers a prayer or maybe reads a verse from Scripture. The relationship has been established with a clear purpose in mind.

If you or someone you know could benefit from visiting with a Stephen Minister contact Joan Halvorson, 645-8445, or one of the pastors.



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## Summer in Shared Ministry at St. John's!

Tuesday, August 7, is **National Night Out** and St. John's is hosting a free community meal! We're inviting all of our neighbors and hope to see you there too. Weather permitting, we'll have a picnic-style meal outside. Expect visits from local police and even a firetruck or ambulance. We need many volunteers (last year we served around 200) to make the meal work. If you can help with set-up or tear-down, preparing the meal, serving or bringing a dessert, please sign up on the Serve with St. John's board outside the Church Office or contact Regina Hassanally.

St. John's is building with **Habitat for Humanity** on Saturday, August 4, from 8am-3pm at 130 Miller Lane in Dundas. If you can help with the build or provide lunch for the work crew, please sign up at the display in the Commons or contact Regina. If you would like to make a financial contribution to help St. John's reach our fundraising goal of \$1200, you may make your check out to St. John's with Habitat for Humanity in the memo line. Checks may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off in the Church Office.

**Greeters**, please be aware that you should have received a revised fall schedule in mail in mid-July. This schedule notes the addition of several volunteers mistakenly not included in the previous schedule. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

St. John's is hosting the **CROP Walk** to end hunger on Sunday, September 30. If you are interested in helping to coordinate this event and organizing walkers from St. John's or coordinating volunteers to welcome walkers the day of the event, please contact Regina or Pastor Mark.

**Summer Coffee** -- Continuing in the month of August, coffee volunteers will be recruited through a sign-up sheet in the Commons. If you're interested in serving coffee in August, please sign up and take an instruction sheet (found in the envelope attached to the sign-up board). If there are not enough volunteers slotted to serve on a particular Sunday, no coffee will be served that morning. Contact Adult Ministry and Education Board member Richard Nelson ([richardnelson\\_03@q.com](mailto:richardnelson_03@q.com)) or Regina Hassanally with questions.

Regina Hassanally  
Director of Shared Ministries  
[reginah@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:reginah@stjohns-elca.org)

SERVING TO LOVE



LOVING TO SERVE

### Open Door Nursery School . . .

is accepting applications for the 2012-13 school year. The nursery school is located in the lower level of St. John's Church, and serves children ages three - five. Beginning in the Fall of 2012, ODNs will be offering some new and exciting options. In addition to the four separate sessions which have been offered in the past: three days (Monday- Wednesday) or two days (Thursday and Friday) from 9-11:30 am or 1:00-3:30 pm, extended options will be available. These options include combining sessions, staying during lunch (which would be provided by the parent) and after-school care. ODNs provides a unique and exciting opportunity working with St. Olaf College by offering a program where the children visit the St. Olaf Prairie in the Fall, Winter and Spring. Other presentations occur throughout the year on site by students from the biology program involving nature, science and the environment. In addition, ODNs will begin a collaboration with Carleton College's Center for Community and Civic Engagement, and offer activities at the Weitz Center for Creativity in the up-coming school year. Enrollment forms can be found on our website: [www.opendoornurseryschool.org](http://www.opendoornurseryschool.org). For more information, please call either Barb Howe at 507-645-5786 or Sue Anderson at 952-652-2937.

# *Serving on Sundays in August*

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## *Acolytes*

<b>August 5</b>	(8:30) Kate Erickson, Taylor Pleschourt; (10:00) Emma Iverson, Jordan Annexstad
<b>August 12</b>	(8:30) Amanda Nelson, Bailey Dell; (10:00) Wylie Kimmes Kneser, Sam Mikula
<b>August 19</b>	(8:30) Emily Westerback, Greta Hummel; (10:00) Dylan Gehring, Aidan Nutt
<b>August 26</b>	(8:30) Jordan Annexstad, Logan Matson; (10:00) Evan Heather, Brandon Kimber

## *Offering Counters*

<b>August 5</b>	Elden and Solveig Zempel, Terrence Hassanally (date entry), Beckie Judge
<b>August 12</b>	Elden and Solveig Zempel, Terrence Hassanally (date entry), Dan Franklin
<b>August 29</b>	Elden and Solveig Zempel, Terrence Hassanally (date entry), Chris Weber
<b>August 26</b>	Elden and Solveig Zempel, Terrence Hassanally (date entry), Dave Aman

## *Coffee Servers*

<b>August 5</b>	Howard and Julie Thorsheim, Joseph and Ginny Shaw
<b>August 12</b>	
<b>August 19</b>	Gerhard and Gloria Knutson, David and Debra Nitz
<b>August 26</b>	Evelyn Estenson, Kristi Wermager

## *Nursery*

<b>August 5</b>	Saul and Amy McBroom
<b>August 12</b>	Amy Willkommen, Cora Scholz
<b>August 19</b>	Jenny Nystrom, Angie McCarthy
<b>August 26</b>	Steve and Sheri Williams

## *Ushers*

<b>August 5</b>	(8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (10:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber
<b>August 12</b>	(8:30) Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:00) Jonathan Norrie, Zachary Bahler, Andrew Dell, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
<b>August 19</b>	(8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
<b>August 26</b>	(8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert; (10:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback, Emily Westerback



## Dive in on August 7!

Northfield area churches invite families with children in 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger to our Annual Pool Party at the Northfield Outdoor Pool on August 7 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The cost for admission is \$2.75 per person or you may use your pool pass. Churches will be providing free food at the event so come eat, swim and enjoy! (We will cancel the event if the pool closes because of the weather.)

## **Culver's Church Community Building Activity**

Bring St. John's Sunday bulletin to Culver's (Northfield location only) anytime during the following week for \$1.00 off a chicken dinner (or each chicken dinner on your order).

The church whose members redeem the most bulletins for chicken dinners by 10:00 p.m. August 19th, will receive a FREE Culver's end-of-summer ice cream social at the church!

Additionally, \$1.00 for every bulletin redeemed from all churches will be donated to the winning church for use towards a mission project of their choice.

Progress will be posted in the restaurant so you can track where we are in the standings.

## Apple Sunday is August 12!

Search for your favorite apple recipe, whip it up...and bring it to St. John's for Apple Sunday on August 12. Whether you bring an apple dessert or not, everyone is welcome to enjoy all the delicious creations between services in St. John's Hall. If you can bring an apple dessert, please sign up in the Commons. Questions? Call Guy Reid (645-7984) or the Church Office.



## St. John's Summer Meal

Enjoy fellowship and food this summer! Make sure to invite your friends and neighbors. Everyone is welcome! See the Shared Ministry page for opportunities to help make this meal a success!

**Tuesday, August 7**

**Night to Unite**

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

## **Summer Cleaning of the Nursery**

**Sunday, August 12th  
from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

We are planning to do the following:

- Wash up toys
- Wipe down walls and surfaces, vacuum
- Get rid of old, redundant, or broken toys
- Inventory toys to see if we need more for a certain age group

Coffee and snack will be provided. If you can make it please contact Amy McBroom at 507-664-9195 or [amybmcroom@hotmail.com](mailto:amybmcroom@hotmail.com).

### **Important Dates to Remember**

**VBS and "On the Road"**  
August 6-9

**Pool Party!**  
Wednesday, August 7

**Sunday School Registrations**  
Due August 15

**Open House for Preschool 1**  
Wednesday, September 12, 6:00 p.m.

**Confirmation and Catechism Orientation**  
Wednesday, September 12, 6:15 p.m.

**First Day of Sunday School**  
Sunday, September 16, 9:45 a.m.

ROCK, **Wednesday Afterschool  
Programming**  
Begins Wednesday, September 19

### **It's not too late to sign up for VBS, Adventures on Promise Island!**

Vacation Bible School will be held August 6-9 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church and is hosted by



Bethel, Rejoice and St. John's Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Church. VBS is for children age 3 (by 9/1/11) to children entering 1st grade. If you are interested in registering your child, please pick up

a registration form at one of the participating churches or go online to [www.stjohns-elca.org](http://www.stjohns-elca.org) and click on the "Children's" tab.

**Volunteers** are needed in many areas. Most shifts are only two hours or less. Can't be here every day? That's OK. Just tell us what days work for you. Middle and High school youth can earn cubits toward confirmation! If you have questions, contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or [jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org).

### **Is your 3-year-old starting Sunday School?**

Children who are three years of age by 9/1/12 are welcome to begin Sunday School this fall!

Parents are invited to bring their preschooler to an Open House on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:00 p.m. to meet the teachers and get acquainted with their classroom before Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 16.

If you have questions, please call St. John's at 645-4429 and speak with Julie Brehmer.



### **"On The Road" Summer Camp for Kids**

"On The Road" summer camp will be offered for kids who have completed K-4, August 5-9 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. St. John's, Rejoice and Bethel Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Church will be hosting the event at Emmaus this year. "On the Road", a program provided by Good Earth Village Bible Camp, will kick off on Sunday, August 5 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. at St. John's. It is open to campers, families, anyone who would like to come! For more information and to register go online to [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) and click on "GEV on the Road".

### **Volunteers do make a difference!**

An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members—parents, grandparents, anyone! Many volunteer opportunities can be on a rotating schedule. Even teaching Sunday school can be as little as a 2-3 Sunday commitment!

Check out the volunteer page in the registration packet or contact Julie Brehmer if you are interested! **P.S.: High School students** – talk with me about how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays too!



# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

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## Magical Mystery Tours

Join youth from around Northfield for the final Magical Mystery Tour of the Summer, Thursday, August 16th. The event is for youth in grades 6-8 and is sponsored by the Northfield Area Youth Workers. Parents will receive a letter providing details of the event but this is a *mystery* tour and so we ask that parents don't share what the event is with their child. Friends are welcome!



## Tenth Graders Prepare to Affirm Their Faith

Tenth Graders are preparing to affirm their baptismal faith this fall in the rite of Confirmation on Sunday, October 14, at the 11:00 worship service. Faith statements and questions are due September 1. Confirmation interviews with a pastor need to be scheduled no later than September 16. And remember that the confirmation retreat is at Gustavus on Saturday, September 22. If you have questions or concerns about anything related to confirmation, contact one of the pastors. God be with the Tenth Graders and their families as they mark this step of faith.

## Brainstorming and Ice Cream

High School youth are invited for conversation, brainstorming, and food on Wednesday, August 8 at 6 p.m. in the Youth Room. St. John's is getting ready to welcome a new Director of Youth and Family Ministry and the Youth Board would like to hear about your ideas and hopes for the year ahead. There will be pizza, pop, and ice cream - along with fellowship and conversation about youth ministry at St. John's!

## Beat the heat and enjoy fun and fellowship at St. John's!

The youth room, game room, and theatre will be open and supervised on Wednesday, August 22 from 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Grab your favorite movie, game or game system, bring your friends and come to St. John's for a night of fun!

Thank you to  
Tracie Peterson

Since July of 2011, Tracie Peterson, an associate of InterServe Ministries, has served as Interim Director of Youth and Family Ministries at St. John's. Tracie has worked with the youth, parents, the Youth Ministry and Education Board, and staff to provide leadership during this year of transition - in programs as well as leading the congregation in a process of developing a new vision for youth ministry at St. John's. This time of reflection has included cottage meetings and the formation of a Transition Team which met this past spring. The Transition Team developed a list of core values for youth and family ministry at St. John's - values which helped shape the job description for the new Director of Youth and Family Ministries and which will guide the future of youth and family ministries at St. John's. Tracie also helped to organize and lead Sunday School, parts of the confirmation program, as well as fellowship events. Most recently, Tracie accompanied St. John's youth to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. While her part-time position ended at the end of July, Tracie will spend a few hours in August at St. John's providing support to the new Director of Youth and Family Ministries.

*There will be an opportunity for youth to thank Tracie and to say good bye on Sunday, August 12. Watch for details in the Bulletin and email. There will also be a liturgy of farewell and blessing for Tracie during worship on August 12.*

## June/July Actions

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### Baptisms

**Alexander Wayne Langen**, son of Natalie & Michael Langen; sponsors are James & Tamara Langen, Amanda Miller, Anthony Kollar; June 10, 2012

**Luka Timothy Scholz**, son of Dara & David Scholz; sponsors are Timothy Westerhaus and Sara Kantor; July 22, 2012

**Ariana Beeby**, daughter of Susan & Alex Beeby; sponsor is Diane Shirk; July 29, 2012

**Vivian Beeby**, daughter of Susan & Alex Beeby; sponsor is Diane Shirk; July 29, 2012

### Deaths

Mildred (Millie) Johnson, June 23, 2012

Ronald (Ron) Sell, July 10, 2012

Signe Austin, July 14, 2012

John Gunderson, July 15, 2012

Kimberly Motzko, July 26, 2012

### Weddings

Sarah Rinehart and Ben Sims, June 30, 2012

Heidi Hartwig and Paul Nichol, July 7, 2012

Dita Rowley and Michael O'Boyle, July 28, 2012

### Radio Broadcasts

June 3, 2012, in honor of **their 50th wedding anniversary**, by **Kenneth and Carolyn Jennings**

June 10, 2012, in memory of **Dorothy Wolff**, by Duane and Marie Benson

June 17, 2012, in honor of their **50th wedding anniversary**, by Bill and Charlotte Carlson

July 1, 2012, in memory of **Edgar Larson**, by Helen Larson

July 15, 2012, in honor of their **wedding anniversary**, by Mary White

July 22, 2012, in honor of **their 58th wedding anniversary**, by Dean and Dorothy Ostlie

## News and Events

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### Fall programming is coming!

- Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 16 for children age 3 (by September 1, 2012) – grade 5 from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
- ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program for children in kindergarten – grade 5, begins on Wednesday, September 19. Bus transportation will be offered from the Northfield Elementary schools to St. John's so kids can jump right into Wednesday's fun!
- Catechism, (CAT) for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders begins in October! Orientation for Catechism will be held on Wednesday, September 12 at 6:15 p.m.

**Check out the Youth and Children's Registration Packet for specific details!** If you did not receive a registration packet in the mail, please give the office a call or pick one up in the Commons. You may also download the information on St. John's website by clicking on the "Children" or "Youth" tabs. We appreciate having registrations turned in by August 15. It's a great way to support Youth and Children's programming at St. Johns!

# News and Events

## St John's is Unbinding!!

We recall that the theme of our Debt Reduction Appeal is the unbinding of Lazarus!

Thanks to the amazing response of you, the members of St John's, we find that God is working with us and we are almost unbound. After the June contributions were submitted to Thrivent the remaining loan balance was \$41,989.21. Recall that we started in Fall of 2010 with a loan balance of almost \$800,000. If the remaining pledges are completed, we will have successfully eliminated the loan. And this will provide almost \$80,000 each year into the future for programs instead of debt payment. This will provide solid support for our new revitalized St. John's. And, of course, if you can complete your remaining pledge early, we can save additional interest cost.

We are so close to completing this amazing task and look forward to the day when our debt has been lifted. So please maintain the continual commitment. Lazarus will be unbound!!

Best,

*Gen, David, Char, Bill*

## Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Parents who wish to have their baby or child baptized at St. John's are asked to attend a preparation session to discuss the meaning of baptism and to talk about the details of the day. Baptism preparation is held on the first Saturday of each month in the Fireside Room. The next sessions are Saturday, August 4, and September 1 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the church office if you plan to attend.

## Children and Communion

Holy Communion is the meal of all the baptized children of God. If your baptized child has expressed an interest in receiving Holy Communion please contact a pastor. Preparation for children and parents is provided on an individual basis.

## SE MN Synod Women's Retreats

There are two SE MN Synod Women's Retreats entitled "A Day at Assisi Heights" on Monday, August 20th or Tuesday, August 21. Check-in time 9 a.m. with refreshments, and the retreat will end with a short Sending Service about 3 p.m.. Assisi Heights is at 1001 14th St. NW, Rochester, MN. Choose which day to attend. Same program each day.

Meet Bishop Usgaard and the synod staff and see the synod office space. Tour Assisi Heights -- home of the Franciscan Sisters. Enjoy delicious lunch included in the day. Attend a session about Human Trafficking. Participate in a short Sending Service at 2:30 p.m..

Cost --- \$10 for the day (lunch included). Registrations by August 1, 2012. See the WELCA bulletin board for registration forms and signup sheets for car pooling.

### **Peace and Justice Calendar**

No Peace & Justice Group Meeting in August

August 6 - Hiroshima Remembrance Day / Nuclear Weapons Disarmament - Abolition

September 10 - P&J Group -- Criminal Justice; business items

September 21 - International Day of Peace: Northfield Community Celebration

September 23 - Forum: CRIMINAL JUSTICE -- Greg Colby and Tom Neville

September 30 - Forum: CRIMINAL JUSTICE -- Pastor Randy and Pastor Mark

# News and Events

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## For your consideration from the Peace and Justice Group . . .

### FAITH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

In September, we will study the current ELCA Social Statement Draft on Criminal Justice prepared after the study and response to “Hearing the Cries: Faith & Criminal Justice”. These responses shaped the draft which is now before congregations and which we are invited to respond to by October 31, 2012.

Why is the ELCA developing this Social Statement? From the first study document, we learn that “The ELCA does not have a comprehensive teaching and social policy document on criminal justice. *The Death Penalty* (1991) social statement deals with only one important area of the system. The social message *Community Violence* (1994) adds further, but still limited, reflection on the system as a whole. Neither of these two documents provides a framework for approaching the wide-ranging and complex issues associated with criminal justice. In response to concerns raised by numerous synods, the 2007 Churchwide Assembly authorized development of a comprehensive social statement on criminal justice for consideration at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

Those who urged the development of this statement observed that Jesus tells his disciples that ministry to individuals in prison is ministry to him (Matthew 25:40). They also noted that this church’s interest in criminal justice is based on its long-held concern for:

- the dignity of all;
- just and fair laws;
- the common good;
- the protection of the innocent;
- justice in matters of crime and punishment;
- the support of those who live their callings in assuring justice;
- the care of those who suffer the effects of crime; and
- the restoration of those who commit crimes.

This study engages these issues as it seeks to assist the church in thinking about both criminal justice in our society and the church’s ministry with victims, the accused, offenders, families and communities, and those who work in the criminal justice system.” We will discuss this document at the September meeting of the Peace & Justice Group.

At the September 23 St. John’s Forum, Greg Colby, a public defender in the Criminal Court System, and Tom Neville, District Judge, will discuss the needs for support and reform.

At the September 30 Forum, Pastors Randall and Mark will lead the discussion and responses.

The month of October gives us time to continue discussions before the deadline for responses on October 31st.

Copies of the Draft Social Statement and the Summary of that Statement are available in the Church Office and online at [www.elca.org/criminaljustice](http://www.elca.org/criminaljustice).

Check the P&J bulletin boards for further information and suggestions for reading.



Mission Statement:  
**TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY  
ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST**

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

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

## Notices

Thursday, August 2, at 10:30 a.m.  
Women of ELCA general meeting (birth-day coffee, election of officers and celebration of the 25th anniversary of Women of the ELCA).

Monday, August 13, at 9:00 a.m.  
Thursday, August 16, at 9:00 a.m.  
Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall.

The knitters will not be meeting in August.

Bible Study leaders will not be meeting in August.

The circles will not be meeting in August.

Thursday, August 23, at 9:30 a.m.  
WELCA Executive Board meets in the Fireside Room.

NOTE: Please keep checking the Sunday Bulletins for any plans that may develop during August.

## Looking Ahead

Thursday, September 6, WELCA general meeting.

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

The Women of the ELCA Churchwide Organization is sponsoring the fifth cross-cultural immersion experience on the Rocky Boy's Chippewa Cree Reservation in Box Elder, Montana, Sept. 22-27, 2012. The members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, who have been working among the people of the Chippewa Cree tribe since the early 1920s, will host the event; and accommodations will be in communal cabins located at Our Saviour's. You'll learn and experience the history and culture of the Chippewa Cree and several other tribes in the area; bead work, dancing and drumming --- along with visits to an archeological dig and buffalo jump, an historical battle field, and Lewis and Clark interpretative centers. Registration deadline is August 31st. If you are interested, please call the ELCA Director of Justice for the ELCA, Inez Torres Davis, 800-638-3522, ext. 2428. Registration is limited to 12 people.

The Women of the ELCA Gather for *Faith and Action Bible Study* beginning in Sept., is titled "Gathered by God." The theme verse is: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matt. 18:20. This study is authored by Dr. Audrey West, who holds a doctorate in New Testament from Duke University.

This study is found in the "Gather for Faith and Action" magazine. To renew or order new subscriptions call Augsburg Fortress. 800-328-4648 or e-mail: [subscriptions@augsbuurgfortress.org](mailto:subscriptions@augsbuurgfortress.org). Subscriptions are \$15 for 10 issues.



# Small Groups Ministry

*Providing small group study and fellowship opportunities*

## **In the Summer Time**

***By Barbara Eaves***

As this column goes to press, we are right in the middle of the summer. It is hot...and often muggy. In Minnesota these are days that make you want to be at the lake, or in a hammock under a shade tree, or somewhere cool engrossed in a good book. These days also bring back memories of the hot days of summer growing up in Wisconsin. When it was too hot to play active games, the kids on the block were often found in the shade of a large maple tree, playing board games or reading comic books and drinking lemonade. About the middle of the afternoon one or two of us would plead with our mothers to take us to the beach...that was the best way to spend a hot summer day.

There is also another marker to the middle of summer. It is the reality that now is the time to get things rolling for the fall. In congregations, like St. John's, that means planning events and activities for the coming school year, securing volunteers and establishing teams of people to help things happen and work smoothly. It is a good time for all to be thinking about how we might become involved in ministry, learning and service.

Sunday, September 16, is the *Annual Ministry Fair and Sunday School Open House* at St. John's. It is a great opportunity to visit displays and classrooms to learn of all the bright and beautiful things that are happening within our congregation. People continue to comment, "I had no idea all this was going on at St. John's."

One example of a new opportunity this fall is a bible study in the Gospel of Luke. Luke will be the gospel used for most of the readings in Sunday worship beginning with Advent. You can participate in the bible study on Sunday mornings between services or Wednesday evenings between supper and choir. Read the box below and plan now to become part of this study.

### ***Hold the Date***

"A friendly Gospel for friends of God" is on the horizon! Beginning Wednesday, October 24 or Sunday, October 28, you are invited to don your study duds and join your St. John's friends and other likely-inclined persons for the first leg of a journey through the Gospel according to Luke. Four sessions this fall get us ready for Christmas; four sessions after the holidays get us ready for Easter. Luke's Gospel is a friendly Gospel to study in familiar surroundings within a small group conversation zone of friends who can always come up with fresh insights that illuminate our understanding of God's mysterious moves in Jesus.

***Hold the date...more to come!***

# From the Faith and Health Board:

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## Concussions

*by John Sand*

In the past five years, very few words have been used more in the sports world than “concussion”. A concussion is really a Brain Injury, and must be taken very seriously. I receive multiple questions every season, from coaches, parents, and athletes, as they try to figure the injury out. Here is a handful of the most commonly asked questions.

**Starting with which sports/seasons have more concussions?** I see the most during the fall. However, I see more of every injury in the fall. In the fall there are more athletes per sport than any other season. The average number of kids on a varsity football team approaches 60 versus basketball that may only have 15-18. The other top reason for more concussions is contact. The more body-to-body contact you have in a sport, the more concussions.

**What equipment out there can we put in place to prevent concussions?** The best answer is, there isn’t. There is no football helmet or soccer headband that will prevent a concussion. Contrary to what a lot of people think, spending more money on equipment will not reduce our athletes’ concussions. In reality, the reverse could be true. Some athletes get a sense of invincibility with top of the line equipment and play more recklessly.

**How come that NFL athlete or college athlete returned back to their sport so soon, but I can’t?** There are several answers to this question. First, no two concussions are alike. Each injury needs to be treated by itself, and should be treated by a medical provider that has training and experience in treating concussions. Second, the brain does not fully mature until the early twenties. And, the younger the brain, the longer the symptoms can last. A professional athlete who is 28 years old will heal faster than a 14-year-old.

**If the computer test is o.k., then I am o.k.** The new neurocognitive testing like IMPACT, that has come out in the last few years has helped us treat concussions, but it does not tell us everything. When used correctly, it is most useful in making sure an athlete does not return too quickly from an injury. Even if their tests look good, they still have to follow a gradual return to activity.

**I have a headache, but not a concussion.** Maybe! Everyone wants to dismiss a headache, but a headache is not normal after exercise. There is a reason you have a headache and it is important to find out why. Headaches are the most common symptom of a concussion. They are also the symptom that usually lasts the longest. You simply cannot ignore headaches.

**Why are there so many concussions today?** First, there have always been a lot of concussions; we just didn’t call them concussions. Think about how many times you have heard someone say, “Bell ringer”, “Dinged”, or “Dazed” after a play. Those were all concussions. Any time you were ever hit in the head or fell hard and felt a little out of it, that was a concussion. We are just understanding them better and labeling them.

Second, our athletes today, especially youth sports, have so many more opportunities to get concussions than before. Practices are longer, we have Saturday and Sunday practices, more games. Plus our athletes are participating in more than one sport, not only during the year, but in one day. All that equals more opportunities to get a concussion.

If you or your athlete do get a concussion, the days following a concussion are very important. The athlete needs complete brain rest. To rest your brain, it cannot be used. The best way to not use your brain is sleep, rest quietly in a dark room. Sitting on the couch watching TV, texting on your phone, using the computer is extremely taxing to your brain, and hard for younger athletes to avoid. Second, make sure you are fully healed before you return to exercise. To do that you need help from a medical provider who treats concussions.

**Pastors**

*Randall Johnson*

*Mark Johnson*

*John Quam*

**Building Security**

*Marvin and Irene Perez*

**Children's Ministry**

*Julie Brehmer*

**Music Ministry**

*Daniel Fenn*

**Music Staff**

*Tyler Forsythe - Alleluia*

*Cathy Rodland - Jubilate*

*Ruth Legvold - Laudate*

**Office Manager**

*Leah Garlie*

**Parish Nurse**

*Lynette Marks*

**Shared Ministry**

*Regina Hassanally*

**Youth Ministry**

*Tracie Peterson*

**Congregation**

**President**

*Richard Falck*



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**NIGHT TO UNITE**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 7 at**  
**5:15p.m.!**

St. John's is hosting a free community meal.  
We are inviting all of our neighbors  
and hope to see you there too.  
This is a wonderful community event!