

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Extending God's Love

September 2012

Volume 52, Number 8

*on the
inside . . .*

National Youth
Gathering
Reflections

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Welcome Gathering

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New Life Band

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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:

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www.stjohns-elca.org

Church Office hours:

Monday - Friday

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

WelcomeFest Week - Invite your neighbors and friends!

Line up of Events!

Wednesday, September 12th

WelcomeFest Week Kick-Off Meal

from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

And . . .

5:00 p.m. Hosanna and Jubilate Choir Kick-Off

6:00 p.m. Preschooler Open House

6:15 p.m. Orientation for Catechism and Confirmation

Invite your neighbors and friends to join us!

Sunday, September 16th

Ministry Fair: between services in St. John's Hall

An opportunity to learn about different ways to connect and
learn and serve at St. John's

(9:45) Sunday School begins

Fall Worship Begins on Sunday, Sept. 16!

8:30 a.m. - Worship

9:45 - Education Hour
(for children, youth and adults!)

11:00 a.m. - Worship

Come and Worship at

St. John's!

The Church building
will be closed on
Monday,
September 3
in observance of
Labor Day.

Our Mission: *As followers of Jesus Christ, the members of St. John's Lutheran Church welcome all people to join us in celebrating God's grace, nurturing their faith, and reaching out to the world in love and service.*

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

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 provide care during times of Transition

September is a month of transitions. Summer turns to fall. Calendars fill up with school, work, volunteer, and family activities. Some parents may be adjusting to having children back in school or sending children off to college. Some of us may be adjusting to living in a new town or starting a new job. While transitions can be exciting and exhilarating, they can also bring feelings of loneliness, sadness, and anxiousness. There are times when transitions challenge our ability to cope with daily living, and it can be helpful to have people walk with you during these times of change and upheaval. St. John's has seventeen Stephen Ministers who can provide care during times of transition.

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



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."

September 10, 2011

Curtis Reed

*Blessed are they who
mourn, for they shall
be comforted.*
Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Special Grief Support Presentation

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.

Grief Support Group Begins this Month

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.

From our pastors . . .

Dear Members of St. John's,

I have received the official Letter of Call to serve as Associate Pastor at St. John's and I am writing to share with you that I accept this call. I am thankful for the partnership in ministry that we have shared for the past nine years. I am humbled and encouraged by the vote to issue me another call to serve in this role, as together we seek to extend God's love in Christ throughout the congregation and community, and into the world. I keep you in my prayers and ask you to remember me and St. John's in your prayers as we move forward in mission for Christ.

Pastor Mark



Why Anointing of Oil and Prayers for Healing?

The question has been asked, why anointing of oil and prayers for healing? Well, because healing the sick was an important aspect of the ministry of Jesus. It is also an important part of the ministry of the church. As a community of faith, we participate in the healing ministry of Jesus. We do this in a variety of ways, through pastoral visitation, prayers of the church during worship, Stephen Ministry, Prayer Chain, Friendly Visitors, and Parish Nurse. Providing anointing of oil and a prayer for healing during a worship service on the fifth Sunday of the month adds to what we are already doing as a church.

This ministry is really about wholeness and wellness. Healing can mean being free from disease. It is always our hope that people might be healed of their illnesses. But healing can mean much more than that. It can mean being made well even if the disease does not go away, knowing that God is with you, finding peace and comfort through one's faith and hope in Jesus. This ministry can also provide a step towards healing for people who are experiencing all kinds of hurts, including anger and grief.

When a person comes forward for oil and prayer, the pastor will place his hand upon the forehead and pray, "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."

This opportunity may not be for everyone, but it may benefit someone who really needs the prayers and support of the community of faith. There is no better time than when the whole community of faith is gathered together for worship. While we sit in the pew after receiving communion, we can offer up our own prayers for the cares and needs of others.

The Prayer Ministry Team would like to begin this opportunity on Sunday, September 30. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact Pastor Mark.

Mission Outreach



CROP Hunger Walk starts at St. John's – September 30

Ending hunger one step at a time. That's the theme for this year's Northfield CROP Hunger Walk to be held Sunday, September 30, at 2 p.m. Walkers will begin here at St. John's and walk to Bridge Square. Participants will raise funds and raise awareness for programs that help to fight hunger, poverty, childhood and waterborne diseases, through organizations such as Lutheran World Relief. Twenty-five percent of funds raised this year will go to the Community Action Center here in Northfield to help the hungry in our community. Last year over 250 walkers participated in the CROP Hunger Walk, raising over \$37,000.

You can support the CROP Hunger Walk by walking on Sunday, September 30, and raising funds. If you are unable to join in the walk, you are invited to sponsor a walker or contribute directly through St. John's. Make checks out to St. John's with "CROP Hunger Walk" in the memo line. You may also help by assisting with hospitality prior to the walk or serve as contact for St. John's walkers.

Confirmation students, this event is a Hands and Feet project, plus watch for information about a special event for you and senior high youth following the walk called, "Amazing gRace".

The challenges to fight hunger may seem overwhelming, but step by step, together, we can help bring relief to hungry people here in Northfield and around the world.

Introducing the Stubb Family

In May of this year, St. John's began supporting its newest mission partners – Randy and Carol Stubbs and family. The Stubb Family is beginning their seventh year serving in Tanzania through the ELCA's Global Mission unit. Randy and Carol work in the music department at Tumaini University in Makumira, Tanzania. The music program at Tumaini University began in 2005 and it is the only bachelor level degree in music offered in Tanzania. Students can choose an emphasis in church music or music education in the three-year program. Randy serves as head of the Department of Music and teaches conducting, performance skills, music technology, music history, music business, as well as directing a campus choir. Carol teaches all three music education classes, a music elective for Theology and Education students, and required individual voice lessons. Carol also leads a youth choir on campus for youth age seven to sixteen.

In addition to teaching and administrative duties, Randy and Carol are involved with leadership development, evangelism, and capacity building. The goal is that qualified Tanzanians (holding a Master's degree in music) will be leading the program in the next three years – and that Randy and Carol will have worked themselves out of their jobs. The Stubbs are also working on projects that will create an income stream for the music department at the university through recording projects as well help to preserve the rich musical heritage of some of the ethnic groups in Tanzania.

Prior to serving in Tanzania, Randy and Carol led the music ministry at First Lutheran Church in DeKalb, Illinois, for nineteen years. Randy and Carol have three children: Megan – 17, Marissa – 16, and Nathan – 14. Keep the Stubbs family in your prayers and watch for more information about the work they are doing in Tanzania, in the Voice and on the Mission Partner board in the Commons – and go to the family's website: s421181158.onlinehome.us/Site/Welcome.html.

Serving on Sundays in September

Offering Counters

September 2	Kathy Mroz, Bob Gelle, Sue Brockman (date entry), Beckie Judge
September 9	Kathy Mroz, Bob Gelle, Sue Brockman (date entry), Dan Franklin
September 16	Kathy Mroz, Bob Gelle, Sue Brockman (date entry), Chris Weber
September 23	Kathy Mroz, Bob Gelle, Sue Brockman (date entry), Dave Aman
September 30	Kathy Mroz, Bob Gelle, Sue Brockman (date entry), Terry Gilbertson

Communion Servers

September 2	(8:30) Mary Cisar; (11:00) Char Nelson
September 9	(8:30) Linda Anderson; (11:00) Carrie Duba
September 16	(8:30) Peggy Dell; (11:00) John Quam
September 23	(8:30) Zack Bahler; (11:00) John Hanson
September 30	(8:30) Sandy Gerdes; (11:00) Pam Schwandt

Nursery

September 2	Zach and Maren Bahler
September 9	Todd and Connie Menssen
September 16	Betsy McLaughlin, Mara Hessian
September 23	Trish Goodrich, Cora Scholz
September 30	Jodi Doeden, Betsy McLaughlin

Ushers

September 2	(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
September 9	(8:30) Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, 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
September 16	(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
September 23	(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
September 30	(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

Communion Servers Schedule to Begin

If you have served communion in the past or signed up to do so on your Time and Talent Sheet, you should have received a Communion Server's Schedule via e-mail or USPS. To make communion serving run a bit more smoothly, a set schedule has been introduced. Serving communion entails being present for the scheduled service, washing your hands during the offering, and dispersing the bread, wafers, or grape juice. If you are not on the schedule but would like to be, please contact the Church Office.

Wednesday Night Meals Begin September 12!

Wednesday Night Meals at St. John's will begin again on September 12. Every Wednesday night a team of volunteers prepares a meal to be served in St. John's Hall from 5:15-6:15pm. The meals are open to all and do not have a set cost, but free will donations are welcome. Linda Anderson, Peggy Dell and Kristy Harms are coordinating the meals again this year. We need volunteers to help set up and serve (from 4:30 - 6:30) clean up (from 5:45-7:30) and bring a dessert (dropped off at church by 5pm on Wednesday night). If you can help in any of these ways, for an entire shift or just part of one, please contact one of the meal coordinators or the Church Office. If you have volunteered in the past or signed up to do so on the Time and Talent Sheet, you will be hearing from someone.

SERVING TO LOVE  *LOVING TO SERVE*

Night to Unite = SUCCESS!

Northfield Night to Unite at St. John's was a great success! On Tuesday, August 7th, St. John's hosted a community meal for Northfield's Night to Unite. Over 150 people joined together for food and fellowship and connected with members of the local police department. The evening was a great success and many thanks are owed to the volunteers who set-up, cleaned-up and prepared the meal. What a great way to extend God's love!

Thank you!

I want to express our appreciation to all who helped to make our special dessert Sundays a HUGE success!

A special thank you to all the cooks who provided the wonderful pies, cakes and desserts and to all of the workers, many who volunteered to help.

With grateful thanks,

Guy Reid

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

Hosanna and Jubilate Choir

Kick-off September 12

Before their regularly scheduled rehearsals begin on September 19, the Hosanna and Jubilate Choirs will have a short, joint first rehearsal kick off at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12 – just before the first Wednesday night meal during our WelcomeFest Week. For more information, contact director Cathy Rodland at rodland@stolaf.edu.

Fall Choir Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesdays (beginning September 12):

7:00 p.m. St. John's Chorale (College and Adults)

7:15 p.m. Laudate Choir (Grades 9-12)

Wednesdays (beginning September 19):

4:10 p.m. Alleluia Choir (K-1st Grade)

4:10 p.m. Hosanna Choir (Grades 2-3)

4:45 p.m. Jubilate Choir (Grades 4-8)

Zack Pelletier to lead Rejoice Ringers

We're happy to announce that our own Zack Pelletier is the new director of our adult handbell choir – the Rejoice Ringers. Zack, Jenny, and their three children (Nicholas, Gregory, and Jeanette) have been a part of St. John's for 7 years, and they have shared their musical gifts with us many times before. **Rehearsals will begin in October**, and the day and time will be announced in the October *Voice* and the bulletin. Zack will be in touch with current and former members, and if you are interested in becoming a part of this group (as a regular member or a sub), please contact Dan Fenn at the church.

Dan Fenn to lead Alleluia Choir

Our Director of Music, Dan Fenn, will take over this fall as director of our youngest choir – Alleluia. This musical experience for children in kindergarten and 1st grade is a fun time of learning songs, using percussion and Orff instruments to teach basic rhythms, and giving our youngest musicians a musical foundation to carry on as they go through our graded choir program.

New Life Band Concert September 26

At 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 26, in St. John's Hall, the New Life Band will be here to perform. This 8-member group from Tanzania, East Africa, is an inter-denominational ministry that serves as an instrument to transform the lives of youth and students within Tanzania through the gospel of Jesus Christ, giving them hope and opportunity by knowing that they are loved.

Performers needed for Sunday Morning Concert on October 21

The first **Sunday Morning Concert** of the season will be on October 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. This concert will showcase talent from within our own congregation. Singers and instrumentalists **of all ages** are welcome to sign up to perform. If you are interested, please contact Dan Fenn at the church.

The **St. John's Singers** (an occasional choir for adults, college, and high school singers) will still meet periodically throughout the year. This group rehearses during the Sunday School hour (9:45 to 10:45) and sings at the following service. Those dates will be announced in the bulletin and by e-mail as they are planned.

New singers are welcome (and needed) in all of these choirs!
For more information contact Dan Fenn, Director of Music Ministry, at the church or by email at danieljfenn@gmail.com.

Important Dates to Remember!

Wednesday, Sept. 12

- **CAT & Confirmation Orientation** for grades 3-9, Fellowship Hall, 6:15 p.m.
- **Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School,** 6:00 p.m., rm. 15

Sunday, Sept. 16

- **Sunday School Begins,** 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
- **Installation of Teachers** 10:45 a.m. Service

Wednesday, Sept. 19

- **“ROCK”, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids,** Wednesday Programming for K – 5th grades begins!

Sunday, Sept. 23

- **Blessing of the Backpacks** Both Worship Services

Sunday, Sept. 30

- **4th Grade Receives Catechisms** 11:00 a.m. Service

Youth Blast! Overnight Retreat

Who: Kids in grades 3 – 6

When: Friday – Saturday, October 5-6

Where: Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN

Cost: \$40.00 (*scholarships available*)
(No charge for chaperones)

Youth Blast invites kids in grades 3 – 6 for an overnight adventure at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. The 24-hour camp experience is filled with games, hikes, good food and Bible time. This is a great introduction to what a week-long summer camp is like. We will carpool from St. John's on Friday leaving at 5:30 p.m. and arrive back on Saturday around 6:00 p.m. Feel free to bring a friend and join us for Youth Blast!

Register by calling Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org. Chaperones are needed!
Registration deadline: Sunday, September 30. (Space is limited)

Registration for Sunday School, Preschool – Grade 5

Sunday School begins on September 16 from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. for children who are age 3 (by 9-1-12) – grade 5. If you have not yet registered your child for 2012 –2013 Sunday School year, it's not too late! Please fill out a Registration and Health form as soon as possible. A timely response is one of the best ways to support Children's Ministry at St. John's. Forms are available in the Commons and online at www.stjohns-elca.org. If you have questions, contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, ext. 25.

Blessing of the Backpacks!

Students of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to either the 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, September 23, for the "Blessing of the Backpacks". We want to join with your family in praying for your students as they begin their new school year.



CATechism and Confirmation Orientation is Wednesday, September 12

Catechism and Confirmation Orientation for students in grades 3 – 9 will be held on, Wednesday, September 12, starting at 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend, please call the church office at 645-4429.

Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School

All preschool children who are 3 by 9-1-12 are invited to be part of the Preschool 1 Sunday school class this fall. An Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 12, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 15 (lower level) to meet the teachers and help with this important transition. Please make sure you register your child as soon as possible.

Can you help with Childrens Programming?

An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members – parents, grandparents, anyone! Are you able to help out on Wednesdays or Sundays? Whether you enjoy working with large or small groups of children or behind the scenes, there is a place for you. Many opportunities can fit into your schedule.

Wednesday afternoons: Snack Servers, Recreation, Bus Angels, Kid's Club leaders for grades K-3rd, DOG leaders for grades 4-5.

Sunday Mornings: Sunday School teachers and team teachers, Rotation Sunday School station leaders (2 Sunday commitment), Nursery volunteers, Library volunteers, Music volunteers.

Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, ext. 25, if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Our thanks to you in advance!

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. Because of the Labor Day Weekend, the next session is Saturday, September 8, at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

New! Parent Gatherings during the Education Hour!

We are excited to offer a new educational opportunity for parents during the Sunday school hour, "Parent Gatherings". The Gatherings are facilitated discussion on issues related to parenting. They will be held on the first Sunday during the months of Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, March and April. Watch for more information soon!

ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids, begins on Wednesday, September 19

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K – 5. Wednesday afterschool programs, for all grade levels, consists of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, music opportunities (Alleluia, Hosanna and Jubilate Choir plus Chime Choir for 4th – 5th), art, service projects and more!

St. John's will be providing bussing for children from Greenvale, Bridgewater and Sibley school and from the Middle school for Prairie Creek students who are interested in participating in our Wednesday afterschool programs.

For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes an insert you may use to register your child. Registration packets are available in the church Commons or online at www.stjohn-elca.org under the Children's tab.

We had a fantastic week in August at VBS and "On the Road" summer camps!

133 K-4th graders registered for "On the Road" summer camp lead by Good Earth Village. Many thanks to GEV!

63 preschool – kindergarten children attended "Adventures on Promise Island"! Many thanks to Bethel, Rejoice! and Emmaus Churches and their volunteers for joining with us in providing a week of fun and fellowship for children in the Northfield community. Thank you to the families who donated to the mission projects, CAC Birthday Boxes and CAC Hygiene Products program.

And thanks to the following volunteers from St. John's who helped with VBS: Amy McBroom, Katherine Norrie, Jodi Doeden, Elizabeth Evenson, Anne France, Rikka Fjeld-Zillmer, Willa Kmoch, Emma Kmoch, and Bailey Dell

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Tenth Grade Confirmation Retreat and Faith Statements

Tenth Graders, blessings as you prepare to affirm your faith on Sunday, October 14. Here are a few quick reminders about what's ahead this month:

- 1) Schedule and complete your confirmation interview with your assigned pastor no later than September 15. Have your faith statement and faith questions ready to turn in to the pastor. Contact Pr. Mark if you have questions.
- 2) The Confirmation Retreat is Saturday, September 22 from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. All Tenth Graders are expected to attend. This retreat holds special surprises – we look forward to being with you!



Sunday School News

Starting this fall – Sunday School for students in **Grades Six and Seven** will meet on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the Youth Room for a learning series called re:form. The Re:form material is a great way to introduce our people to the wonderful history and practices that contribute so much to their church's life and to help them form consequential faith that will endure. Re:form provides creative and interactive lessons that will help students to have fun, gain new insights, and leave the experience challenged to think in socially responsible ways as they make decisions and interact with others. It is a great way to introduce our people to the wonderful history and practices that contribute so much to their church's life and to help them form consequential faith that will endure. Watch the bulletin boards and the bulletin for specific lessons and schedules. Donuts will be served. All Sixth and Seventh Graders are welcome for learning, food, and fun!

Sunday School for students in **Grades Eight and Nine** will meet on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in Room 9 for a variety of learning experiences using lessons from Faith Lens, Way to Live, and other resources. All Eighth and Ninth Graders are welcome for food, learning, and fun!

The Amazing gRACE – September 30

High School and Middle School youth are invited to take part in

**The Amazing gRACE on
Sunday, September 30**

Participants will be in teams and compete in a series of fun-filled challenges (games, obstacle courses, relays) throughout downtown Northfield.

Participants should be prepared to get a little dirty!

Come for the fun and team-building and to support the fight against hunger in the CROP Hunger Walk!

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

National Youth Gathering Reflections by Tracie Peterson

A huge thank you to the congregation for their amazing support of the 9 youth and 3 adults who were able to attend the 2012 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans LA. Lives were changed. Even the kids will tell you that they are not the same people that left from Northfield a week ago. I have had kids ask me to teach them to pray as well as hearing them talking about how they will make a change back home. I am hoping Northfield is ready for them.

Some Highlights:

We practiced Justice by heading over to the 7th Ward - the second hardest hit area during Katrina. While there - half the group painted houses while the other half picked up garbage in the neighborhood. Each group had a chance to talk with a few locals who had stories to share. Make sure to take some time to ask about what they did.

We practiced Discipleship by taking a look at our baptismal promises and how we are living them out. We talked about tearing down the walls that separate each of us and how we could use the gifts God has given us in order to serve. Ask them about their small groups. It was a great chance to meet others from SE Minnesota.

We practiced Peacemaking making through many different avenues. Most took the water challenge to learn (just a taste) of what it is like to have to carry your own water each day. Others learned more about the Malaria Initiative. They expressed their faith through art, music, support and play. Make sure you ask the students what they all experienced in the "Fun Zone".

Evening worship each night brought us new experiences and stories. From the young man who was almost killed due to "extreme bullying" to the single mom of four who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her work in Liberia. There was the crack addict turned pastor and the woman who got sick of local violence and opened her doors to neighborhood youth. Ask the students who their favorite speaker was and why. There were some powerful messages.

Don't forget about the food - from Alligator and Beneits to Po'Boys, Jambalya and Gumbo. The youth were great at trying new things with a smile on their faces. Try to guess the favorite.... You can also ask about the restaurant that was flooded the day we got 7 inches rain. The floor was wet but the food was awesome.

And God was everywhere. From the woman we met from the 7th ward who was scared to park her car in front of the place she worked due to gunfire to the people handing out free pizza next to the Superdome. It was beautiful to behold. I saw God work through each person on this trip: Zach giving high 5's to everyone he passed, Bennett's concern that everyone was included and accounted for, Kirstin reaching out to individuals in need - there is a story to tell for each person on the trip. I encourage you to take some time to ask the youth who represented St. John's down there about their experience. Watch the bulletin and The Voice for stories and opportunities to hear what everyone experienced. A special thank you to Brian Evenson and Terry Dell for serving on this trip. A huge thank you to Terry Dell and Betsey Gasior for maintaining the Facebook site dedicated to the event. Once again, thank you to all of you for keeping this group in your prayers and for all your support. Watch for more reports and reflections from the National Youth Gathering participants in upcoming editions of The Voice.

News and Events

Welcome Party for Mike Skunes!

Mike Skunes is the new Director of Youth and Family Ministries at St. John's and there will be a party to welcome Mike. Here are the details:

Who?

Mike Skunes (pronounced *Sk(y)ü-nes*), new DYFM at St. John's, of course, and all youth in Grades Six through Twelve.

What?

A time to meet Mike, see friends, play some games, and eat ice cream! And to welcome Mike to Northfield – bring a small gift for Mike that represents something you like about Northfield, e.g. a bag of Malt-O-Meal cereal or an NHS lanyard.



When?

Sunday, September 16, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where?

Oddfellows Park

Erik Berthelsen in India

Erik Berthelsen, son of Mike and Melissa Berthelsen and St. John's member, is spending the year in Pune, India as a Rotary exchange student. Keep Erik in your prayers and follow his adventures on his blog: erikberthelsen.blogspot.com. You can send greetings to Erik at erik.revne@gmail.com.

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.

Meals for the Motzko Family

In an effort to surround the family of Kim Motzko with comfort and the love of God, we are organizing the delivery of weekly meals to them for the coming school year. Meal delivery will begin in September. It is our hope that these meals will help support them as they mourn Kim's passing and be a reminder for them of God's constant support and presence. To sign up to deliver a meal to the Motzko family, please type the following address into your internet browser: <http://www.foodtidings.com/SignUp.aspx?ScheduleGuid=bfa46fba-6c09-41f7-bee3-b7090214123f> and select a date to provide a meal. Details about their meal preferences are included on the right side of the website. No internet access? No worries, please contact Cheryl Buck at 507-663-9056 to sign up for a date.

**A memorial account
in Kim Motzko's name**
has been set up at Wells
Fargo Bank in Northfield.

Funds raised will help with
college costs for Kim and
Dewey's sons,
Nick and Sam.

Thank You

I want to say a huge *Thank you* to St John's Lutheran Church for welcoming me into your presence and walking with me as we took some time to dream of what St. John's is capable of and starting to dream how we could get there. A special thank you to Pr. Mark and the members of the youth committee for the wonderful reception. I thank the youth for the beautiful necklace and the Caribou gift card. Most of all, I thank the staff and the congregation for welcoming me in and supporting me as I served alongside you. You will all continue in my prayers. I hope you will keep me in yours as well.

Blessings,

Tracie Peterson

Volunteers Needed for Youth Ministry

We are still in search of individuals who are able to help us make the Sunday School Program a success. Please contact Pr. Mark if you are able to help out in any of the following ways

1. Donuts: Purchase and deliver 3 dozen assorted donuts for Sunday Morning Education Hour
2. Sunday School Teacher: Whether it is for just one session or on a regular schedule, we need individuals who are able to lead a lesson for either the 6&7 grade class or the 8&9 grade class. Check out our material or use some of your own.
3. Supervise the Undercroft (Game Room): We are looking for individuals for both Sunday morning and Wednesday night.
4. Sunday School Helpers: This year's Sunday School classes have the opportunity to be HUGE! Please consider helping out in the class rooms to keep the class moving forward so everyone can have an enjoyable time.



St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Let's get together for Dinner -
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.

Menu for September 12th - Tacos!
(watch the bulletin for menu updates)

All meals are free will offering.

Come, Share a Meal!

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!

News and Events

New Life Band is Seeking Host Families

The New Life Band from Arusha Tanzania will be visiting and performing at St John's on Wednesday evening, Sept 26 at 5:30 p.m.

We are seeking 4 host families to provide an overnight visit and breakfast on the evening on Sept 26, 2012. Each home would host two male members of the band. This is an opportunity to meet and visit with some of our fellow Lutherans from Tanzania after having heard their wonderful music. Please contact the St John's Church Office if you could support our effort to have this wonderful group in Northfield.

August Actions

Baptisms

Jude Jacob Samuel Hassanally, son of Regina & Terrence Hassanally; sponsors are Jacob Downing and Tonnia Hassanally; August 19, 2012

Deaths

Violet (Vi) Jones, August 17, 2012

Charles (Chuck) Lunder, August 19, 2012

Ruth Koester, August 25, 2012

Radio Broadcasts

August 5, 2012, in honor of **their 55th wedding anniversary**, by **Elvin and Corrine Heiberg**

August 12, 2012, in memory of **John Gunderson**, by Family and Friends of John

August 26, 2012, in memory of **Roger Mahachek & Lee Mahachek**, by Bev Mahachek

. . . from our Boards

The **Adult Ministry Board** is developing several mini retreats on Saturday mornings from 8:30 to 12:00. The overall theme of these retreats is NUTURING SOUL AND SPIRIT. The first retreat is September 29th with The Journey of Prayer as the theme. Pastor Mark Johnson and Pastor Dick Beckmen will lead the retreat.

You are invited:
The Tenth Northfield Community Celebration of the International Day of Peace
"SUSTAINABLE PEACE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE"
Bridge Square
Friday, September 21, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
Questions: contact judithstoutland@gmail.com

Peace and Justice Calendar

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

September 21 - International Day of Peace: Northfield Community Celebration

September 30 - Forum: CRIMINAL JUSTICE -- Greg Colby and Tom Neville

October 7 - Forum: CRIMINAL JUSTICE -- Pastor Mark

October (TBD) - Bread for the World Offering of Letters

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

“What is good news to those who are in prison?”

“Why do we lock up so many people?”

“End Prisons’ Brutalizing Use of Isolation for Unconscionable Periods of Time, Lawyers Say”
“No Death Penalty for Children”

“Private Prisons: Sheriffs and politicians have financial incentives to keep people locked up”

Headlines scream that issues of criminal justice are on the minds of many groups and individuals in the USA at this time. They point to the urgency of reform. ELCA efforts in developing a social statement on this topic are very timely and very important. We hope you will have time to give attention and thoughtful response to the current draft before the P&J meeting Sept. 10, and the Forums September 30 and October 7 so that responses will come to the ELCA Task Force by October 31. Copies of the Draft Statement are available in the Church Office, at the Welcome Desk, and online at www.elca.org/criminaljustice. Also, check the P&J bulletin boards for more information.

This ELCA Draft is in response to the 2011 study “Hearing the Cries” which included many personal stories as well as Biblical guidelines. In addition, articles in magazines and newspapers plus reports and editorials on TV and radio bring many facts, opinions and arguments to consider. Here are few we have read recently:

- Metro Lutheran, July 2012, p. 16: The story of a ministry Pastor Darren Green began to those at the St. Cloud Correctional Facility. “Bringing the good news to those who are in prison.”
- From a class presentation that he attended at Carleton by two staff members of the Institute for Juvenile Justice Reform and Alternatives project in New York City, Dick Dahlen reports that they asserted that the number of people confined to prisons in the USA increased from 200,000 in 1970 to 3.5 million in 2012. Young black men are disproportionately imprisoned, with the “War on Drugs” largely responsible for what some call a seemingly new wave of segregation or slavery. In addition, they reported that the average cost of maintaining a prisoner for a year is \$70,000; prison costs have escalated while spending on education has decreased. Also, the increased use of private companies to supply prison space poses significant ethical issues, especially as the private companies lobby state governments to ensure that they will have a continuing supply of incarcerated citizens.
- “The Caging of America” by Adam Gopnik, New Yorker, Jan. 30, 2012. This includes analysis and review of “The Collapse of American Criminal Justice” by William J. Stuntz, Harvard Law School and “The City (NYC) that Became Safe” by Franklin E. Zimring. Gopnik reports that six million people are under correctional supervision in the US—more than were in Stalin’s gulags.

The problems as well as solutions are complex. There are opportunities for improvement, if not perfect resolution, Gopnik concludes. And in most cases, he asserts, these come through humanity and common sense. He urges us all to pay attention and to take more care.

We will not all agree, but we can talk together as a community of moral deliberation. As Lutherans we need “to reclaim our Reformation heritage of doing and talking at the same time, of simultaneously nailing provocative ideas to the door and thinking about how these ideas might be publically defended.” As members of the ELCA we are “committed to address social ills through the use of human reason and in conversation with all the faithful.

<p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting: Open to everyone! Monday, September 10, 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room Topics: Group Budget for 2012 Discussion of the Draft for the ELCA Social Statement</p>



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

For newsletters and information: www.semnsynod.org and www.womenoftheelca.org

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thurs., Sept., 6 at 1:00 p.m.: Installation of officers, and Pastor Beverly Lundeen's introduction to this year's Bible study "Our Present, Christ's Presence." Jean Wakely will then present "The Purple Sandwich Quilt." Jean's mother was a master quilter and storyteller, and this quilt depicts stories of the one-room school houses on the northern plains of Montana in the early 1900's.

Sept. 10: Bible study leaders meet at 12:00 noon in Fireside Room w/ Beverly Lundeen.

Sept. 4 & 18: Knitters meet at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang. 645-4849.

Sept. 8, 12, 13, 14, 20: Circles meet. Check with leaders for locations.

Sept. 17 & 20: Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall from 9 - 11 a.m.

Sept. 27: WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 a.m. in Fireside Room.

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study, "Gathered by God" begins in September. 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 & Action" magazine. For a subscription to "Gather" or to renew, either e-mail:

subscriptions@augsbu.org —

or call: [800-328-4648](tel:800-328-4648). The cost for one year is \$15.00. NOTE: A subscription to "Gather for Faith & Action" magazine, for one year, has been given to all women who became members of St. John's this past year.

CIRCLES

Circles meet the second week of each month (the week following the first Thursday of the month.)

Note exceptions below.

Anna — 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m. Fireside Room — Susan Rudser, leader.

Abigail / Rebecca — Thursday, 2:00 p.m., meet at NRC - Parkview East, Gert Broz, leader.

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., Dorothy Ostlie, leader.

Women's Breakfast Group — 2nd Saturday, 8:30 a.m., Meet in Fireside Room, Kathy Mellstrom, leader.

Welcome to the Women of the ELCA Executive Board !

Marilyn Jacobson, President;

Shirley Keltto & Jo Franklin, co-vice Presidents;

Barbara Walters, Treasurer;

Carol James, Secretary;

Shirley Falck & Judy Pinc, Mission Action;

Bette Quinnell & Carol Benson, Mission Community;

Jane Rinehart & Debby Becker, Mission Growth.

These board members will be installed at the September meeting.

LOOKING AHEAD

The October 4 meeting: We will leave from St. John's at 9:00 a.m., for Minneapolis, where we will have a tour of the Lutheran World Relief Office and of the Art Collection in the Thrivent Building, followed by lunch there. Sign up on the sheet on the WELCA bulletin board.

Please submit items for this WELCA information page to: Jo Franklin, danjofranklin@yahoo.com or 720-281-5106
 Please submit items for the Sunday bulletin to: Shirley Keltto, kelttos@msn.com or 785-317-9509.

Small Groups Ministry

Providing small group study and fellowship opportunities

Change Can Be a Good Thing

By Barbara Eaves

I am a person who likes to make changes, including physical changes around the house as well with the activities I pursue. This past spring...in the midst of considering some modifications to my daily patterns...we became the owners of a three-month-old puppy. Suddenly, our daily routines were obliterated as this 3.5 pound bundle of soft red fur dictated and directed our days and consumed our energies. While the training regimen continues, we are beginning to settle into new habits and to see the benefits of why we decided to begin this journey as this loveable creature delights us with her antics and showers us with her affection.

Fall is a natural season to consider something new or different...a change in routine ...such as becoming a choir member, helping with a service project, or participating in a small group. These are but a sampling of the many blessings at St. John's—such good things.

Two new small groups will be offered this fall. They are briefly described below.

Everyone Has a Story

Sometimes we don't think about how stories have shaped who we are today. In this small group, participants share the simplest of stories, such as: where did you live when you were 12; what is a favorite holiday remembrance; talk about a person who influenced you in your growing up years.

This four-week small group will begin in September with two options for participation

Wednesdays Sep 19-Oct.10 5:45-6:45pm Room 212 (upper level)

Sundays, Sep 23-Oct.14 9:45-10:45am Room 212(upper level)

Group size is limited to six participants so that each person has time to relate a story.

Contacts: Phil & Barb Eaves, 645-4172, pbeaves@hotmail.com or sign up in the Commons in September or at the Ministry Fair.

The Gospel of Luke Bible Study

Most of us have some kind of picture of God in our minds. That picture influences our thoughts and behavior. The writer of the Gospel of Luke was aware of that so he writes to Theophilus ("friend of God") that he may be assured of what he has been taught. The writer then proceeds to write of specific people in specific places and times—all related to Jesus, and meant to reveal the truth of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. That will be the focus of this group...and it may be that our pictures of God will change as a result.

This four-week study will begin at the end of November and will cover stories around the themes of Christmas. Sign-ups will begin in October with options on Sunday morning or Wednesday evening

Another four-week study will be offered during Lent, covering stories leading up to Easter.

Contacts: David & Genevieve Quarberg 645-0089, davidquarberg@hotmail.com or Barb Eaves, 645-4172, pbeaves@hotmail.com.

From the Faith and Health Board:

Pastors
Mark Johnson
John Quam
Building Security
Marvin and Irene Perez
Children's Ministry
Julie Brehmer
Music Ministry
Daniel Fenn
Music Staff
Daniel Fenn - Alleluia
Cathy Rodland - Jubilate
Ruth Legvold - Laudate
Zack Pelletier - Rejoice
Ringers
Office Manager
Leah Garlie
Parish Nurse
Lynette Marks
Shared Ministry
Interim
Youth Ministry
Mike Skunes
Congregation
President
Richard Falck



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**CATechism and
Confirmation
Orientation is
Wednesday,
September 12**

Catechism (CAT) & Confirmation Orientation for students will be held on, Wednesday, September 12 starting at 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend, please call the church office at 645-4429.



Welcoming Children, Youth, and Families Presentation, September 23!

"Welcoming Children, Youth, and Families" is the title of the St. John's Forum presentation on Sunday, September 23 at 9:45 a.m. in St. John's Hall. Marilyn Sharpe, a congregational coach, trainer, writer, and speaker based in the Twin Cities, will help us reflect on how we at St. John's can live out the radical welcome and hospitality of the Great Commission found in Matthew 28 for the sake of sharing the love of Christ with all ages. Two of the core values identified in the recent strategic planning process are developing an effective youth and family ministry and building a culture of welcome and hospitality. Come and hear ideas how we might continue to live into these values and be part of the conversation and change as we seek to extend God's love to our children, youth, families, and into the community!