

# THE VOICE

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

October 2012

Volume 52, Number 9

*on the  
inside . . .*

Council Update  
◇ p. 3

Adopt-A-Highway  
◇ p. 10

Looking Ahead  
◇ p. 11

## Tenth Graders to affirm their baptism October 14

St. John's gives thanks to God that the following young people in our congregation have indicated their desire to publicly affirm their baptism by participating in the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, October 14, at the 11:00 a.m. service: **Kelsey Bull, McKenna Boyum, Katelyn Canedy, Nicholas Gonnerman, Dylan Matson and Nicholas Pelletier.**

When they affirm their baptism, these young people will renounce all evil, profess their faith in the Triune God, and commit themselves more fully to participate in the life of the congregation, and to live out their faith in the world. This rite follows a six-year education and reflection program at St. John's beginning with Catechism (CAT) classes in grades three, four, five, and six; weekday and Sunday classes in grades seven and eight; and classes, retreats, and a mentor relationship in grade nine. The program concluded with a retreat at Gustavus on Saturday, September 22.

Those being confirmed and their parents will meet in the Fireside Room on Saturday, October 13, at 8:30 a.m. After rehearsal, breakfast with students, families and mentors will be at 10:00 a.m.

Please pray for these young people and their faith and life as they make this commitment and affirmation.

**Worship Services:**  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN. Articles for the *Voice* must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month:  
*office@stjohns-elca.org.*  
For information, contact the Church Office:  
**phone:** 507-645-4429  
**fax:** 507-645-9633  
**e-mail:**  
*office@stjohns-elca.org*  
**website:**  
*www.stjohnsnorthfield.org*

**Church Office hours:**  
**Monday - Friday**  
9:00 a.m. to noon and  
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



*Donations of candy  
would be greatly  
appreciated.  
A donation box will  
be in the Commons.*

## Trunk or Treat!

On **Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>** from 6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., St. John's will be hosting "Trunk or Treat". "Trunk or Treat" is an event where senior high youth and adults can decorate their cars in a fun fashion, and kids (in appropriate costumes) are welcome to "trick or treat" in a fun, safe, family-oriented environment. This is meant as both a fellowship event and outreach event, so tell your friends and neighbors. We will also have cider, coffee, and a campfire for adults as the kids go from trunk to trunk. If you or your family would like to offer up your trunk, contact Julie Brehmer at [jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org) by Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Before "Trunk or Treat", stop by the Wednesday Night Meal for a ghoulish meal. No confirmation Halloween night.



*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](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.

## Bringing Comfort to the Grieving

You see a friend in church who has recently lost a spouse, or relative, or close friend. You know you should say something, but what do you say?

In class sessions, Stephen Ministers learn how to respond in a meaningful way to those who are grieving the loss of loved ones or friends. We also explore what not to say. Perhaps some of these suggestions will be helpful to you.

1. Go to those who are bereaved as soon as possible. Those in grief need to see and feel the concern and the love you have for them. Statements like "You have my sympathy" or "I'm sorry" let the grieving person know you are fully present with them.

2. Often we feel at a loss for words when expressing sentiments to a grieving person. Simply stating, "You've had such a great loss and I'm sorry," sends a powerful message. You can also express yourself through a loving hug, a handshake, or even simply being there as a listener.

## Grief Support Group Continues this Month

A Grief Support Group continues meeting this month - Wednesdays through October 24 from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Northfield Hospital. Contact Catherine Kelley (646-1037) for more information. Starting October 29, - a grief support group begins meeting at St. John's on Mondays through December 3, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Contact Barb Knaak (664-0444) for more information.

3. Avoid saying clichés such as "I know just how you feel" or "Time heals all wounds." While these statements are not meant to be insensitive, they can be perceived that way and they can actually make the grieving person feel worse.

4. Remember important dates to the person who is grieving, such as birthdays, holidays, and anniversaries. Contact the grieving person on these important dates. In this way, you convey your continued concern at times that are special for them.

Working through grief is a process that requires the support of others. If you know someone who would benefit from a Stephen Minister as they move through the grief process, contact Joan Halvorson at 645-8445 or Pastor Johnson at 645-4429.

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



*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."*

October 1, 2011

Emilie Larson

*"Journey Through Grief" booklets are available at St. John's for all who are mourning the loss of loved ones. Contact Barb Knaak or one of the pastors for more information.*

# *Update from the Council . . .*

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The Council is pleased to announce that Pastor Orlin Mandsager has accepted a Letter of Agreement to become the Interim Senior Pastor at St. John's beginning on Monday, October 1st!

Since the last congregational update, members of the Executive Committee and Council interviewed two candidates provided by the Synod, who have training and experience working with congregations who have had a pastor resign under circumstances similar to ours. After the process was complete, one candidate clearly stood out as a good fit for St. John's. Pastor Mandsager's energy, enthusiasm for the Word, and willingness to help us work through the interim period offer a great opportunity for our congregation to build for the future and continue its mission.

Orlin Mandsager's past experience includes three formal interim positions, being the Coordinating Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna for seven years, Contextual Education faculty positions at Luther Seminary and Wartburg Seminary, Vice President, Dean of Student Life and Assistant Professor of Religion at Luther College and College Pastor and Assistant Professor of Religion at Augsburg College. Pastor Mandsager is familiar with St. John's and the Northfield community as he is a St. Olaf College graduate and has family living in the area.

Currently living in Burnsville, Orlin is married to VaLois. Together they have 8 children and 12 grandchildren.

Please extend a warm welcome to Pastor Mandsager and please continue your involvement and support of St. John's as we continue our journey together.

Richard J. Falck  
President





# Shared Ministry

*“What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.” - James 2:14-17*

Something I never thought I would do when I left my employment at St. John’s, would be to come back to work at St. John’s. Don’t get me wrong, I enjoyed my job and the folks that I worked with, but I figured I had turned that chapter, and I was excited to be diving head first into a new one in my career. God had other plans, clearly. As a member of St. John’s, I’m asking you to step up and do the same. Serve in ways you didn’t expect, to give fully and freely to the church that you love. That’s why we are all here, right? To worship together, to sing together, to pray together and to SERVE together? Shared Ministry - it’ is at the core of this church. We can all stand in church on Sunday and sing and pray, but if there are not actions to those words, what good are we doing? I’m asking you to Serve your Lord.

I understand busy family lives; I understand balancing work, kids, activities, and homework; I understand if you feel you’ve ‘done your job’, but I am still going to ask you for more. I am asking for two hours on a Sunday morning to help in the nursery; two hours on a Wednesday night to help clean up after a meal that you’ve been served; one hour on a Sunday to help serve communion. It’s the small, little things that have a HUGE impact on the ministries that we do here. We have a very, very faithful core set of volunteers - but they need help too. We need YOU. The goal is this - to create a volunteer list that is rotational and assigned much like our assisting ministers or greeters. Every Wednesday Meal takes 10-15 volunteers to make, serve, and clean up. We serve about 180 people each Wednesday night; if every family that uses this ministry volunteered their time, you’d have to serve once every 2-3 months. That’s it—it’s that simple.

I hope and I pray that you will consider coming together as a congregation, as we feel our way through yet another change, challenge, and opportunity to grow. I pray that you will put actions to your words and BE St. John’s. Join in and serve and love your Lord through your actions.

Blessings,  
Stephanie Aman  
Interim Shared Ministry Coordinator  
stjohnssharedministry@gmail.com

*SERVING TO LOVE*  *LOVING TO SERVE*

## Wednesday Night Meals

I will help set up (3:30-5:00)  I will help serve (5-6:30)  I will help clean up (6:00-7:30)

I can serve on these nights; please add me into a schedule. By checking below you are NOT agreeing to all of the dates, just showing availability!

\_\_\_\_\_ I’m typically at the meal; assign me to a date.

October 3       October 10       October 17       October 24       October 31

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# *Serving on Sundays in September*

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## *Acolytes*

<b>October 7</b>	(8:30) Courtney Nelson, Alison Nelson; (11:00) Parker Aman, Logan Matson
<b>October 14</b>	(8:30) Alex Dell, Andrew Becker; (11:00) Anders Koenig, Aidan Nutt
<b>October 21</b>	(8:30) Cate Carson, Elsa Hoff; (11:00) Cole Little, Dylan Gehring
<b>October 28</b>	(8:30) Anne France, Elizabeth Evenson; (11:00) Hannah Pahs, AJ Pahs

## *Assisting Ministers*

<b>October 7</b>	Gloria Knutson
<b>October 14</b>	Patty Austvold
<b>October 21</b>	Charles Jacobson
<b>October 28</b>	Carrie Duba

## *Offering Counters*

<b>October 7</b>	Otto Reitz, LaVerne Reitz, Mark Ulmer, Beckie Judge
<b>October 14</b>	Otto Reitz, LaVerne Reitz, Mark Ulmer, Dan Franklin
<b>October 21</b>	Otto Reitz, LaVerne Reitz, Mark Ulmer, Chris Weber
<b>October 28</b>	Otto Reitz, LaVerne Reitz, Mark Ulmer, Dave Aman

## *Communion Preparers / Servers*

<b>October 7</b>	Darlene Hand, Marilyn Boschee; (8:30) Kathy Shea; (11:00) David Legvold
<b>October 14</b>	Carolyn Nitz, Christine Anderson; (8:30) Eric Lund; (11:00) Chuck Jacobson
<b>October 21</b>	Alan and Lynette Marks; (8:30) Larry Christenson; (11:00) Maren Bahler
<b>October 28</b>	John and Carrie Duba; (8:30) Dick Dahlin; (11:00) Deanne Weber

## *Ushers*

<b>October 7</b>	(8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (11:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber
<b>October 14</b>	(8:30) Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (11:00) Jonathan Norrie, Zachary Bahler, Andrew Dell, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
<b>October 21</b>	(8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (11:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
<b>October 28</b>	(8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert; (11:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback, Emily Westerback

# Music and Worship Life at St. John's

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## October Sunday Singing Schedule for Choirs

October 7: (8:30) Chorale; (11:00) Jubilate  
October 14: (8:30) Chorale; (11:00) Laudate  
October 21: No choirs (MEA holidays)  
October 28: (8:30) Chorale, Hosanna and Jubilate; (11:00) Laudate



## Rejoice Ringers to begin rehearsals October 4

The Rejoice Ringers, along with new director Zack Pelletier, begin their year together with their first rehearsal at 6:15 p.m. in the Balcony on Thursday, October 4. **We're always looking for new ringers – even occasional substitute ringers!** For more information, call Dan Fenn at the church.

## Hymn-sing with John Ferguson on October 21

The first **Sunday Morning Concert** of the season will be on October 21 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. John Ferguson will get our voices and spirits ready for Reformation Sunday with a look back at some of the great hymns of our faith.

## Reformation Sunday Brass Information

Rehearsal: Wednesday, October 24 at 6:00 p.m.

If you would like to participate, or for more information, contact Dan Fenn at 507-645-4429 ext. 58 or [danieljfenn@gmail.com](mailto:danieljfenn@gmail.com).

## St. John's Singers – Save the Dates!

The **St. John's Singers** (an occasional choir for adults, college, and high school singers) will meet on November 4 and 18. This group rehearses during the Sunday School hour (9:45 to 10:45) and sings at the following service. For more information, contact Dan Fenn at 507-645-4429 ext. 58 or [danieljfenn@gmail.com](mailto:danieljfenn@gmail.com).



## Add Your Voice!

New singers are always welcome in all of our choirs! For more information, contact Dan Fenn.

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

## A Message from the New Director of Youth and Family Ministries

Greetings everyone, I cannot even begin to express what an honor and privilege it is to be here at St. John's Lutheran Church. I'm excited to build on the rich traditions here at St. John's and to play a part in forming new traditions here as well.

If I may take a moment to introduce myself, I can tell you that I am Minnesota born and bred; I grew up in Mahtomedi, MN, and graduated college from the University of Minnesota-Morris while studying philosophy and political science. I spent six summers working at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in various roles and spent this last year as the Children and Youth Music Coordinator for Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Apple Valley. My personal hobbies include Ultimate Frisbee, guitar, basketball, and board games.

It is my belief that the best way to encounter Christ and experience the best of God's love, grace and forgiveness is through the relationships we make with one another, grounded by faith. That said, I look forward to personally building a relationship with you and helping to foster your relationships with the people around you.

During my time at St. John's, I aim to invite you as youth and families into a deeper ownership of the youth program and our community as a whole. That means many dreams, voices, hands, and feet all coming together in different ways to experience the gospel. This is no small undertaking, so I hope that when you get the invitation to participate or volunteer, you will take it into thoughtful consideration.

Again, I'm excited to meet everyone, and may God's blessings be with you.

**Mike Skunes**

### Christikon! July 22nd - July 28th

Christikon is a high adventure back packing trip out in the mountains of Montana for senior high youth who have finished grades 9-12. For seven days and six nights, we will hit the beautiful mountain trails of Montana along with guides to show us sights, lead us in bible study, and worship time. Look for more information in next month's edition of the Voice or contact Mike at [youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com](mailto:youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com) with any questions.

### SCO Lock-In

WHO: All youth grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

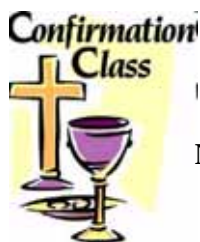
WHEN: Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.

Saturday morning

WHERE: St. John's

St. Olaf Christian Outreach (SCO) will be hosting an all-night lock-in. The night will include fun games, worship, snacks, movies, and of course... **Romans and Christians**. Bring yourself and bring friends. We will need volunteers to chaperone and bring donuts or bagels for breakfast on Saturday morning. We are splitting the night into two shifts (so the kids may not get sleep but you still can). If you're a volunteer willing to take a shift or bring food, contact Mike at [youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com](mailto:youthministry.stjohns@gmail.com).

### Confirmation Reminder



No confirmation on Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> due to MEA break.  
No confirmation on October 31 due to Halloween and the trip to Eagle Bluff.

### Sixth Grade CAT Begins this Month!

Sixth Graders and parents, a reminder that CAT starts **Wednesday, October 3 at 5:45** downstairs in Room 9. Pizza will be served and we will begin our study of the Lord's Prayer and Prayer. Remember to bring your catechisms. Questions contact Pr. Mark or Mike S. See you there!

**Important Dates to Remember!**

**Sunday School Schedule**

October 7 Sunday School  
 October 14 Sunday School  
 October 21 No Sunday School(MEA)  
 October 28 Sunday School (3<sup>rd</sup> graders receive Bibles)

**ROCK – Wednesdays programming**

October 3  
 October 10  
 October 17 NO Programs (MEA)  
 October 24  
 October 31

**Youth Blast – Good Earth Village**

October 5-6 (3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

**CATechism**

Grades 4 & 5 – Youth Room  
 4:00-4:45 p.m.

October 3  
 October 10  
 October 24

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade CAT –October 27**

St. John's Hall, 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
 Retreat with Parents

**Trunk or Treat**

October 31, 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.  
 (see article on front page!)

**Youth Blast! Overnight Retreat**

**Who:** Kids in grades 3 – 6  
**When:** Friday – Saturday,  
 October 5-6  
**Where:** Good Earth Village,  
 Spring Valley, MN  
**Cost:** \$45.00 (*scholarships available*)



Youth Blast! is a 24 hour retreat at Good Earth Village Bible Camp in Spring Valley, MN for kids in 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Enjoy hikes, games, singing, worship, campfires, great food, fellowship and a whole lot of fun! The cost is \$45/per child which includes lodging, meals and programming. Chaperones are free! We leave Northfield at 5:15 p.m. on Oct. 5 from St. John's and arrive back around 6:00 p.m. on Oct. 6. Register by calling Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or shoot me an email by September 30. (*Space is limited*) Parents, please consider being a chaperone/driver.

**3rd Graders to Study the Word**

3rd graders and parents meet in St. John's Hall on Saturday, October 27, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. for a Retreat on the Word - an introduction to the Bible. This class will be a primer on the Bible for students who will receive their Bibles at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, October 28. Call Pastor Mark Johnson or Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either day.

**4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT Begins in October**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, October 3. CAT class will meet downstairs, 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the Youth Room and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Fellowship Hall from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays in October: October 3, 10 and 24

**4<sup>th</sup> graders receiving Catechisms this year:**

Amelia Becker, Gunnar Benson, Nicholas Boehning, Jaida Gehring, Will Knutson, Sylvia Koenig, Kai Legvold, Peder Lindell, Ethan Little, Kaylee Malecha, Elsa Nystro, Stefany Perez, Hayden Poquette, Anna Willkomm

**Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Baptism**

Parents who wish to have their baby or child baptized at St. John's are asked to attend a preparation session to discuss the meaning of baptism and to talk about the details of the day. Baptism preparation is held on the first Saturday of each month in the Fireside Room. The next session is Saturday, October 6, 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!

## **Thank You, Sunday School Volunteers!**

Sunday School is off to a great start thanks to the dedicated teachers and volunteers at St. John's. Our teachers:

### **Preschool**

Betsy McLaughlin, Trish Goodrich,  
Dodie Mickelsen

### **Kindergarten**

Kris Vatter, Amy Willkomm

### **First Grade**

Angie McCarthy and Amy McBroom;

### **Second Grade**

Connie Menssen, Rachel Skunes

### **Third Grade**

Andrea Hoff, Kristy Mikula, Hannah Gelle

### **Fourth Grade**

Julie Becker, Sally Lindell

### **Fifth Grade**

Julie Ims, Cheryl Buck and Amelia Kneser

Also, thank you to Susan Canon for coordinating Library Time and Jenny Pelletier for coordinating Music/Opening.

## **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.

## **ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids!**

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program offered to children from kindergarten to grade 5, is off to a great start. Wednesday afterschool programs for all grade levels consist of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, music opportunities (Alleluia, Hosanna and Jubilate Choir plus bell chime and Orff instrument ensembles), art, service projects and more! St. John's provides a bus to pick up children who are interested in participating. Our bus travels to Sibley, Bridgewater and Greenvale, plus the middle school for Prairie Creek children. For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes an insert you may use to register your child.

## **Where Does Your Sunday School Offering Go?**

St. John's Sunday School offering will be distributed to 3 different missions this year:

We continue to sponsor Romairo Vasquez Polo from Columbia through Compassion International. Our sponsorship of \$38.00 / month provides Romairo with Bible teaching, medical care, nutritious meals, recreational activities, academic support, educational classes and literacy training.

Offering beyond meeting Romario's sponsorship will benefit the "ELCA Malaria Campaign". The ELCA Malaria Campaign partners with 11 churches in Africa to provide lifesaving medication and healthcare, educate people about the disease and prevent the spread by distributing mosquito nets and supporting water treatment projects to control the environments where mosquitoes breed. The first Sunday school rotation in November will help students learn more about this campaign.

# News and Events



## Hands and Feet Project: Adopt-A-Highway

This month's Hands and Feet project is the fall clean-up of St. John's section of State Highway 246. Meet in the High School parking lot across from the cemetery on **Saturday, October 6 at 10:30 a.m.** Sign up on the board outside of the church office. Remember to wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Safety vests, gloves and a snack will be provided. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Thank you for helping to clean up this small part of God's creation.

## A FEW GOOD READS

St. John's Library has 3 new books dealing with FOOD.

1. The Spirit of Food: 34 Writers on Feasting and Fasting Toward God. Edited by Leslie L. Fields, 2010.
2. Year of Plenty: One Suburban Family, Four Rules, and 365 Days of Homegrown Adventure in Pursuit of Christian Living. Author Craig Goodwin, a Presbyterian pastor, and family embarked on a yearlong experience in 2008. Published by Sparkhouse, a subsidiary of Augsburg Fortress, 2011.
3. Food Rules: An Eater's Manual, by Michael, 2009. A New York Times best seller.

These books were among those reviewed in Christian Century magazine, March 7, 2012. They are on the new book shelf, checked out, or in the stacks under call number 613. Enjoy!

## Reflections from New Orleans

In July, members of St. John's travelled to New Orleans to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Their reflections of where they saw God during their trip are printed as a way to share their faith and to thank the members of St. John's who supported them through prayers and financial contributions. Watch for more reflections in next month's *Voice*.



*Where did you see God?*

"Arriving in the stadium, hearing everyone cheer on the Lord, the energy surrounding the over 33,000 youth and the youth of St. Johns was unimaginable. It was as if God were there with us, cheering us on."

**Nick Huschle**

"One place I saw God: it was raining really hard and everyone was heading to the Superdome for worship and there were two girls in front of our group who were soaked and a car stopped and a lady ran out of the car and gave the girls her umbrella. Another place I saw God was everywhere in the Superdome - whenever a new speaker stepped on the stage to talk about how important faith is in their life, everyone would stand up and cheer and clap non-stop for the first minute of their speech."

**Mike DeCramer**

## Becoming a member of St. John's

Interested in becoming a member of St. John's? New member sessions begin this month on the following Sundays: October 7, October 28, November 4 and November 11, at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 18. The next new member session will be offered in the spring. You are always welcome to worship and participate in activities at St. John's whether you are a member or not! Contact a pastor or the Church Office for more information or to sign up for the new member sessions.

# News and Events



## Looking Ahead

**Thursday, November 1**  
Vesper Service, 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

**Monday, November 5**  
No School - Breakfast/Movie Morning,  
9:00 a.m., Commons/Theater

**Tuesday, November 6**  
Election Day

**Sunday, November 18**  
New Members Received,  
11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary

**Wednesday, November 21**  
No Wednesday Programming,  
Worship, 6:30 p.m., Sanctuary  
Pie Social, 7:15 p.m., St. John's Hall

**Thursday, November 22**  
Thanksgiving  
Community Worship, TBA, Sanctuary

**Thursday, November 22**  
Church Office Closed



## St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

**Wednesday, October 3**  
Basil's Pizza and Salad

**Wednesday, October 10**  
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

**Wednesday, October 17**  
MEA Week - No Meal

**Wednesday, October 24**  
Baked Potato Bar

**Wednesday, October 31**  
Chili

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

# September Actions

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## Weddings

September 15, 2012  
Brittany Welch and Joseph Blankenberger

## Radio Broadcasts

September 23, 2012, in memory of Allen Menssen who passed away on September 21, 2011, by Todd and Connie Menssen.

# Adult Ministry and Education

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## Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Sunday Morning Learning and Fellowship

**Education Hour starts at 9:50 a.m.**

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

- October 7:** *Coffee served in St. John's Hall and the Commons.*  
*St. John's Forum:* Study on proposed ELCA Statement on Criminal Justice led by Pastor Chuck Jacobson, **St. John's Hall.**  
*New Member Session:* New Member Beginnings, **Fireside Room.**
- October 14:** *Coffee served in St. John's Hall.*  
*St. John's Forum:* St. John's Ministry Update led by St. John's Executive Committee and Staff, **St. John's Hall.**
- October 21:** *Coffee served in St. John's Hall.*  
*Sunday Morning Concert Series:* Hymn-sing led by John Ferguson, **Sanctuary.**  
*Bread for the World Offering of Letters:* A Circle of Protection, **St. John's Hall.**  
*No Forum*
- October 28:** *Coffee served in St. John's Hall.*  
*St. John's Forum:* National and Global Economic Issues Part I - What does the Bible say about economic values? What are some of the different views about the economic order that have divided Christians for centuries? This presentation will consider the vastly different arguments Christians have made in defense of capitalism, socialism and everything in between., presented by Eric Lund, **Sanctuary.**  
*New Member Session:* Shared Ministry - Part I, **Fireside.**  
*Luke Bible Study:* Part I, **Room 12.**

# Small Groups Ministry

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*Providing small group study and fellowship opportunities*

## **Coming Together...It's What We Do**

*By Barbara Eaves*

*The more we get together, together, together,  
The more we get together, the happier we'll be.  
'Cause your friends are my friends  
and my friends are your friends;  
The more we get together the happier we'll be.*

The truth of this little song was made quite evident in the past few weeks as we marked the beginning of this year's activities with the first Wednesday supper, the Ministry Fair, the beginning of Sunday School and the start of many activities that have had a summer recess.

Wednesday suppers are truly intergenerational events, as well as a coming together of people who on Sundays mornings tend to worship different services. These lively evening meals also provide a bridge between children's after-school activities on one end, and confirmation, choir and small groups on the other.

The Ministry Fair gave us an opportunity to get a visual picture of some of the ministry and mission projects with which we are involved. It was truly heartwarming and encouraging to get a glimpse of all the good things that are happening at St. John's. It is important that we continue coming together as a faith community, not only for worship, but also to support to one another and to carry out the ministry and mission that we share.

*"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another..."* Hebrew 10:23-25a

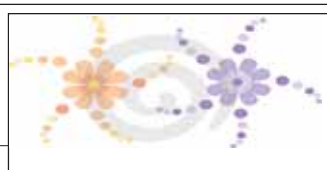
### **.....Small Group Option Coming Soon.....**

A four-week journey into the Gospel According to St. Luke. Luke is the appointed gospel text for Sunday worship during the new church year which begins with Advent. The author of Luke writes many stories—of people, places, and times—all related to Jesus. These four sessions will deal with the stories relating to the birth of Jesus and his early ministry.

Three choices of days and times are being offered for this study: Sunday morning from 9:50-10:50, beginning on Oct, 28, and Wednesday afternoon from 4:00-5:00 or 5:45-6:45, beginning Oct. 24. Small groups will be formed after it is known how many people want to participate.

You may sign up by contacting David & Genevieve Quarberg, 645-0089, [davidquarberg@hotmail.com](mailto:davidquarberg@hotmail.com), Barb Eaves, 645-4172, [pbeaves@hotmail.com](mailto:pbeaves@hotmail.com), or by signing at the Luke Bible Study display in the Commons.

*A second four-week session during the Season of Lent will deal with Lukan stories leading up to Easter.*



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

Women of the ELCA (**WELCA**) includes ALL women of St. Johns!

The study theme for 2012-2013 is **Gathered by God**, by Dr. Audrey West. This theme is found in the monthly "Gather for Faith and Action" magazine and will be studied at the monthly Circle meetings. To order or renew a subscription: [subscriptions@augsburgfortress.org](mailto:subscriptions@augsburgfortress.org) or [800-328-4648](tel:800-328-4648). If you would like to join a circle call Marilyn Jacobson at [507 663-9060](tel:507-663-9060).

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Oct. 4th:** Our **WELCA** general meeting this month will be a Field Trip to the Lutheran World Relief Office and Religious Art in the Thrivent Building in downtown Minneapolis. **REMINDERS:** If you signed up, we will meet in the St. John's parking lot at 8:45 a.m. Personal ID's are required to visit the Thrivent Building. Bring money for lunch at the Thrivent Cafeteria, \$8.00 - \$10.00, and for transportation, \$8.00.

- Oct. 9:** Bible Study Leaders meet at noon in Fireside Room
- Oct. 2 & 16:** Knitters meet at 9:30 a.m. at home of Kathy Vang (645-4849)
- Oct. 10, 11, 12, 13, 18:** Circles meet (see below)
- Oct. 15 & 18:** Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall from 9-11 a.m.
- Oct. 25:** WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 a.m. in Fireside Room

**CIRCLES:** PLEASE JOIN US! (call Marilyn Jacobson: [663-9060](tel:663-9060))

Small groups of St. John's women meet for fellowship and Bible Study during the second week of each month (the week following the first Thursday), with a few exceptions as noted:

- Anna — 3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room — Susan Rudser, leader
- Abigail / Rebecca — Thursday, 2:00 p.m., 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., Char Nelson, leader
- Women's Breakfast Group — 2nd Saturday, 8:30 a. m., Fireside Room, Kathy Mellstrom, leader.



**LOOKING AHEAD**

NOV. 1, Thursday, 1:00 P.M. Speaker, Kathy Magnus: "The 25th Anniversary of the Women of the ELCA: We Make a Difference." Magnus was VP of the ELCA ('90-97) and served on the staff of Lutheran World Federation. A \*Thankoffering will be collected at this meeting. We will also be inviting women from the other two ELCA churches in Northfield.

**\*What is THANKOFFERING?**  
 This is more than a one hundred year old tradition for Lutheran women as a tangible way to express our gratitude for God's blessings. Each time you think of something for which you are thankful, add a small donation in your "Thankoffering" box or container, then present it at this annual event. The money helps support total outreach projects for Women of the ELCA.

**OTHER NEWS:**

\*FAIR TRADE COFFEE will be sold in the Commons every third Sunday. Your purchase of Equal Exchange coffee helps Lutheran World Relief projects that support coffee farmers and their families.

\*HELP NEEDED: Quilters and Materials  
 The ELCA has challenged all churches to a 25% increase in quilts to support the overwhelming increase in refugees world wide. You can help by sewing squares together at home, putting quilts together at church (see above for times), or bring in queen size or larger sheets (no stains or holes) or 62"x82" fabric.

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

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

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### From Bread for the World

Each year, churches and private charities provide thousands of tons of food to hungry people around the world. Here in the United States, thousands of soup kitchens staffed by church volunteers serve hot meals to hungry families. However, only 5 per cent of the food provided to hungry people comes from these private sector efforts.

Every day, nearly 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes. That's one child every five seconds. In the U.S. nearly one in five children lives in a family that struggles to put food on the table.

We have the knowledge and resources to end wide-spread hunger both in the U.S. and abroad. But our nation's decision makers must be persuaded to lead the way in changing policies and allocating resources to end hunger. Sixty-two percent of the \$5.3 trillion in cuts in the House's FY13 budget are to programs vital to poor and hungry people. By making our voices heard in Congress, we can make our nation's laws more fair and compassionate to people in need.

Hunger is not a partisan issue and Bread for the World works with a network of thousands of individual members, churches and denominations to ensure a presence in all congressional districts. Bread inspires its members to meet with, call, and write personal letters and emails to their members of Congress.

These communications urge congress to:

- Create a circle of protection around funding for programs vital to hungry and poor people in the U.S. and abroad;
- Increase U.S. investment in global agricultural productivity in a way that improves nutrition for mothers and young children;
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance so it is clearly focused on poverty reduction and helps hungry people to feed themselves;
- Assure that federal programs like SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) continue to provide for the basic nutritional needs of families facing economic hardship;
- Support policies for low-income working families, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, proven effective at enabling families to move out of poverty.

On October 21, **Bread for the World Sunday**, we at St. John's are invited to join with other churches across the country to participate in an **Offering of Letters**. Members of the Peace and Justice Group will be at tables in St. John's Hall from 9:30 to 12:30 with paper, pens and a sample letter. You can take a few minutes to write brief letters to our Senators and Representative there, or write at home and mail the letters during the week.

*Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice...to let the oppressed go free?...Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house—when you see the naked to cover him?...Isaiah 58:6-7, NRSV*

#### *JUSTICE CALENDAR AUTUMN 2012*

October 1—Peace and Justice Group Meeting ~~ Criminal Justice: Considering the Draft of the ELCA Statement, 7:00 p.m., in the Fireside Room

October 7—St. John's Forum ~~ Overview and discussion led by Pastor Chuck Jacobson, 9:45 a.m. to 10:35 a.m., in St. John's Hall

October 21—Bread for the World Offering of Letters: A Circle of Protection

October 31—Responses to the draft statement due at ELCA office

November 3—Palestine Fair in Northfield's Methodist Church. Food, music, dance and beautiful items for sale plus focus is on sending a few people over to the West Bank via <http://www.sirajcenter.org>.

**Pastors**

*Orlin Mandsager  
Mark Johnson  
John Quam*

**Security & Building**

**Maintenance**

**Assistants**

*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 Coordinator*

*Stephanie Aman*

**Youth Ministry**

*Mike Skunes*

**Congregation**



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## October Highlights

### **Wednesday Night Meals**

Wednesdays, from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. (No Meal October 17th - MEA)

### **Youth Blast**

Friday, October 5 - Saturday, October 6

### **Adopt-A-Highway**

Saturday, October 6, at 10:30 a.m.

### **10th Grade Confirmation**

Sunday, October 14, at 11:00 a.m.

### **Sunday Morning Concert**

Sunday, October 21 at 10:00 a.m.

### **Bread for the World Offering of Letters**

Sunday, October 21 at 9:50 a.m.

### **SCO Lock-In for 6th-12th Grades**

Friday, October 26 - Saturday, October 27

### **3rd Grade CAT Retreat**

Saturday, October 27, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

### **Trunk or Treat**

Wednesday, October 31, from 6:15 - 6:45 p.m.

