

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

January 2013

Volume 53, Number 1

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Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 27

The Congregation Council has set Sunday, January 27, as the date for the Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church, immediately following a potluck dinner in St. John's Hall starting at noon. Items of business will include receiving of reports, election of officers, board, and council members, and action on the proposed 2013 budget.



Annual reports are scheduled to be printed by Sunday, January 20, and there will be an annual meeting preview on January 20 between services.

Farewell Reception for Dan Fenn on January 6

A reception will be held Sunday, January 6 at noon in St. John's Hall to thank Dan Fenn for his work at St. John's as Director of Music Ministry. Dan began serving at St. John's in June, 2009. Dan begins serving as Organist and Music Associate at Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas later this month. Many thanks to Dan for leading us in worship these past years and our prayers and blessings go with him as he goes back South!

Claimed and Called: Baptism Recognition January 13

Sunday, January 13 is the Sunday the church remembers the Baptism of our Lord - the first Sunday after Epiphany. In addition to remembering Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River we will also recognize and give thanks for all those brought through the waters of baptism in 2012. There will be an engraved medallion for each of those newly baptized whom we will name during worship and we will all affirm our own baptisms during worship - as we remember our call to follow Christ and serve in his name.

St. Olaf Choir sings here January 6

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 6. This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and as we are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music.



A reception in honor of the choir will be held between services in St. John's Hall. Please take the opportunity to welcome the St. Olaf Choir back to St. John's!

Worship Services:

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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

office@stjohnsnorthfield.org

For information, contact the Church Office:

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office@stjohnsnorthfield.org

website:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org

Church Office hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. to noon and

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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

Gathered in the Word: a time of prayer guided by scripture meets Thursday, January 17, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

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.

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.

The Blues or Depression?

Are you among the many people who suffer from the blues after the holidays have passed? This may come from too many events and people and calories and too little that nourishes the soul. If so, one way to counteract this lowness, which is often a deep hunger for God, is to begin a routine of daily devotions. Ten minutes of Scripture reading and prayer in the morning before you enter into the world's busy-ness can slowly transform your life. In this way you can tell yourself each day, first thing, "I am a child of God. I walk in the newness of Christ's resurrection," and then go about your daily tasks, even the small and irritating ones, in hope and peace.

Sometimes, however, post-Christmas lowness can be an illness: clinical depression. Symptoms of depression may be triggered by the holidays themselves, by a painful reminder of the absence or loss of loved ones; or by the re-surfacing of old

hurts and resentments during time spent with family. Depression can also descend on people apparently without cause, when everything on the outside seems to be perfect. Its workings can be insidious, and the sufferer may try to deny or hide its symptoms. Depression sometimes runs in families. Depression in its early stages is often characterized by persistent sadness or lack of interest in what once gave pleasure, and in its extreme stages, by feelings of hopelessness and worthlessness, a sense that life is not worth living. It can end in suicide if not recognized and treated by competent professionals. It is important to know that depression is treatable.

...continued on page 4

*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 next Grief Support Group in Northfield meets on Mondays beginning January 14 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the Northfield Retirement Community. For more information contact Pr. Kristine Braaten-Lee, 664-3478 or Barb Knaak, 646-0444.

Care Notes: are one of the grief support resources at St. John's. Stop by the Commons to pick one up for yourself or for a loved one.



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."

January 15, 2012

Ella Aadahl

January 19, 2012

Alice Ims

January 31, 2012

Dominick Costa

From our pastors . . .

Epiphany, because it comes between the “big” seasons of Christmas and Lent, can easily be overlooked as an important time in the church year. But the focus and meaning of Epiphany is significant for our faith and worship life together. Actually, Epiphany is an older festival in the church than Christmas. It originated in the Eastern Church, and in early centuries was a celebration of both the birth and baptism of Jesus, emphasizing the mystery of the Incarnation as the Key to understanding both of these events.

Epiphany has to do with the manifestation of God in the world, always a mystery to us. The Bible witnesses too many ‘epiphanies’, but the Epiphany for Christians is God present in human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. Our worship during the season of Epiphany therefore, centers around Gospel texts which show us who this Jesus born in Bethlehem was, texts that speak to the questions: “Who is this One who has come among us?”

Epiphany Sunday celebrates the revealing of Jesus as the Messiah for all people. The next Sunday is the account of the baptism of Jesus, an event considered as important as Christmas in the early church, and certainly necessary for our understanding, not only of the incarnation but of our baptism. In Jesus’ baptism the heavens open and God’s voice identifies Jesus as God’s Son, and the Holy Spirit descends on him. This event is a fulfilling of Old Testament prophecy; it tells us why Jesus was born! Beneath the waters of the Jordan River Jesus is identified with sinful humanity. It is here that the journey to the cross clearly begins.

On the Second Sunday after Epiphany, the Gospel witnesses to Jesus’ first miracle, the turning of water into wine at the wedding in Cana. The Third Sunday emphasizes the importance of proclaiming the Good News, with Jesus in the synagogue in Nazareth preaching from Isaiah. And on succeeding Sundays in Epiphany, we hear the call to prophetic action, evangelical outreach, the humble caring of the Beatitudes, and to living in forgiving love. Epiphany ultimately leads us to Transfiguration Sunday where the Gospel story shows Jesus on the mountain transfigured before the disciples. Lent begins the next Wednesday.

So Epiphany ties it all together. It gives substance to the Christmas message, showing us who the babe of Bethlehem is. It shows us the kind of God who is among us. It gives content to our baptism. And as Walter Rast states it, “the light of Epiphany streams into a darkened world to illuminate a new way. It is the light of the Christ, the One commissioned to bring the Way of God into the world”. And that way leads us to Lent, to the way of the cross, and to the hope of Easter and resurrection faith!

Pastor Mandbayer

Stephen Ministry ...continued from page 2

If you or someone you know feels a persistent sadness or lowness, take the quiz: "Are You Depressed?" Stephen Ministers are not trained to treat depression, but they can be listening companions. They can also assist you in finding professional help if it is needed and stand by you while you get it. Call one of the pastors or Pam Schwandt at 645-6120.

Are You Depressed?

Depression can affect anyone at any time. Because depression can sneak up on you, you may not even realize you're suffering from it. The following questions can help indicate if you might have symptoms of depression.

Check off any of the following symptoms of depression that you have had almost every day for two weeks or longer.

- I feel very sad or irritable.
- I have lost interest in most activities I used to enjoy.
- I am sleeping much more or less than I usually do.
- I have no energy or feel tired much of the time.
- I am eating much more or much less than I usually do and have gained or lost weight.
- I feel anxious and can't seem to sit still.
- I feel guilty or worthless.
- I have trouble concentrating or find it hard to make decisions.
- I have been having headaches, aches and pains, digestive troubles or other physical symptoms that don't seem to get better with treatment.
- I have recurring thoughts about death or suicide, or I have a suicide plan, or I have actually tried to commit suicide.*

Results

If you checked at least one of the first two boxes and several of the additional boxes, you may be experiencing depression. No matter how many boxes you checked, if you think that you are depressed or have other concerns after taking this quiz, talk with your doctor or call one of the pastors or Stephen Ministry contact Pam Schwandt, 645-6120.

*If you are having suicidal thoughts, it's crucial that you get help immediately. Please call a doctor or the National Suicide Hotline (800-784-2433) or go to the nearest hospital for help.

Source: "Discover," a publication of Health Partners, Spring 2002, pg. 5.



Music and Woship Life at St. John's

Reflections

Time.

I've seemed to lose my sense of time this Advent. Maybe that's a good thing. Thanksgiving was as early as it could be which meant that Advent started later than usual – or so it seemed. Why did this happen?

A seminary professor shared a statement (I forget its origin) that goes something like this: “Worship shapes us like water shapes a rock.” I've been at St. John's for over three-and-a-half years. This means that I have journeyed through the entire three-year Lectionary cycle with you (plus some). The rhythm of Sunday worship, the liturgical seasons, and the yearly remembrances of festival days (like Pentecost, All Saints, and Christ the King) all serve to daily, weekly, and yearly remind us of the incredible Incarnation story of God taking on our frail, human existence in the form of Christ. We remember this Sunday after Sunday in the Sacrament of Holy Communion where we are fed over and over again with spiritual food for this journey. Little by little, like a small stream digging a canyon over a span of millions of years, our worship should transport us into a *kairos* way of thinking about time where we are able to forget about ourselves and focus on a God whose love is for us now, has always been, and will always be.

I leave you with the above thoughts as sort of an explanation. Perhaps you wonder why you've never seen newsletter articles like this from me in the past. It is because I believe that in my particular role as a planner and leader of worship, my primary goal is to “get out of the way” of the Word. So many of you over the years have expressed your gratitude for being able to experience the scriptures in new, fresh, and meaningful ways. That is probably the highest compliment I can ever be given as I have sought to be a faithful servant of the Word here in this place.

-Dan Fenn



Annual Meeting Potluck Kitchen Coordinator and Volunteers Needed

Prior to St. John's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27th, the congregation will share in a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to share! If you are available on this day to serve as a kitchen coordinator please contact the Church Office. A kitchen coordinator is primarily responsible for delegating tasks and serving as “point person” for the rest of the volunteer crew. Volunteers are needed to help with set up (11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.), serving (11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) and clean up (12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.). If you can help in any of these ways please contact the Church Office and let us know!

Lenten Soup Suppers Coordinator

While Christmas festivities are still fresh in our minds, Lent is just around the corner. Again this year, we are looking for a Lenten Soup Suppers Coordinator, someone who can work with the Director of Shared Ministry or the Church Office on planning a menu and ordering soups as well as be available to pick the soup up from Laura Baker House and deliver it to St. John's on Wednesday afternoons during Lent. If you are able to help with this task please contact the Church Office.

SERVING TO LOVE  ***LOVING TO SERVE***

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

January 6 Sunday School
January 13 Sunday School
January 20 Sunday School (*Teacher Brunch*)
January 27 Sunday School (*Camp Sunday*)

4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes

Wednesday, January 2, 4:00 - 4:45 p.m.

Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Sunday, January 20, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room

Bowling for 2nd - 5th Grades!

Monday, January 21 (No School Day)
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday, January 23, 4:45 - 6:00 p.m., Youth Room
The Sacrament of Baptism

Camp Sunday, 3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday, January 27, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes

4th and 5th graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, January 2. CAT classes will meet in the lower level of St. John's; 4th grade in Fellowship Hall and 5th grade in the Youth Room from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays in January: 2, 9, and 16. DOG and Bell Chimes resume on January 23.

Third Grade Catechism Retreat

Third graders will meet Wednesday, January 23 from 4:45 - 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism. Pizza will be provided. If you are unable to attend, please call Pastor Mark or Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.

Parent Gatherings

All parents/grandparents are invited to our next "Parent Gathering" on Sunday, January 6, during the Education Hour. Carrie Duba will be facilitating a discussion on "Faith and Skills for Parenting". We will meet in the Fireside Room from 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Let's Go Bowling!



Monday, January 21, is a NO SCHOOL DAY so we're heading to the bowling alley!

Who: Grades 2-5,

Friends are always welcome!

Where: Jesse James lanes, Hwy 3, Nfld

Time: 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10.00 (2 games & shoe rental)

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Nursery. Please drop off and pick up your child(ren) at the bowling alley. If they need a ride or financial assistance to participate, give Julie a call at 645-4429, ext. 25. Parent or high school chaperones are needed!

Time to think about Summer Camp!

On Sunday, January 27, 3rd - 8th graders are invited to Fellowship Hall to hear about St. John's summer camp options for 2013. Parents - come and learn more about camp with your child. We will be meeting during the Sunday school hour.

Children & 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.

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, January 5, at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Winter Confirmation Retreats

Our winter confirmation retreat is the weekend of January 4th at Good Earth Village Bible Camp in Spring Valley, MN. The Retreat is a once a year tradition where our confirmands gather together for worship, learning, and lots of fun and fellowship. It's a great time for our students to get away and have fun, and to experience confirmation outside of the traditional setting.

7 & 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat:

Friday, Jan. 4 at 6:00 p.m.– Saturday, Jan. 5 at 6:00 p.m.
at Good Earth Village. Cost: \$30

9th Grade Confirmation Retreat:

Saturday, Jan. 5 at 6:00 p.m.– Sunday, Jan. 6 at 6:00 p.m.
at Good Earth village. Cost: \$30

6th Grade CAT Retreat:

Monday, Jan. 21 8:30 – 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$15

Join us for a day filled with fun and fellowship and swimming in Owatonna as we look at the Lord's Prayer.
Watch for Registration Material.

Scholarships are available.

Watch your mail for registration material and schedules.

St. John's Youth "Pay-it-Forward"

While it is not unusual for the casual consumer at Econo Foods to have their groceries bagged for them, patrons at Econo Foods received quite a surprise Saturday, December 1st. Youth from St. John's Lutheran Church volunteered to bag groceries but instead of doing so to raise money; they bagged groceries to give money away. Customers that went through the lines between 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. each received their groceries bagged, a brand-new five dollar bill, and a card with a list of local charities on the back.

The purpose was to inspire members of the community to "Pay-it-Forward" through acts of service and charity by giving away \$1,000 worth of five dollar bills as a starter for people to in turn donate to a worthy charity of their choice. The reactions from those that received the money were quite diverse. Some were skeptical and wanted to know if the money was even real or if they were being filmed on a hidden camera show. Others were deeply touched and excited about the heartfelt gesture.

When asked what the experience was like, eighth-grader Nicole Malecha responded, "It was really cool. One lady was so happy because she had only stopped in to buy a bag of flour. She asked the cashier to make change for the five so she could give it to multiple places. She was so excited to give the money away that she almost left without her flour!" Students were overall glad to have taken part in the event and hoped that their efforts would help inspire people to be generous this Christmas season.

Youth Fundraiser

It's once again time to think about the Youth Fundraiser, happening Sunday, February 10th. The baskets provided by the boards are always popular and help raise money for youth going to Summer Camps. As we work together to focus on a vibrant Children, Youth and Family Ministry and in the spirit of shared ministry, would your board or group of friends consider putting together a "theme basket" for the auction again this year? If interested or looking for ideas, please contact Julie Brehmer or Mike Skunes. Thank you for helping this congregation fulfill the promises we made towards our youth at their Baptism.

Northfield Area Youth Ski Trip

Who:

All youth grades 6-12

When:

Saturday, January 26, 2013
2:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
(Skiing from 4:00 - 10:00 p.m.)

Where:

Welch Village
(Bus leaves from Bethel)

Cost:

\$10 for bus
\$35 for bus and lift ticket
\$50 for bus, lift ticket, and rentals

November Actions

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of **Phyllis Lapham**: by Various Givers.

Baptisms

Patron Geno Dunagan and Payton Michael Dunagan, sons of Amanda Boyum and Padro Dunagan, sponsors are Paul Boyum, McKenna Boyum and Patricia Kadrlik, December 2, 2012.

Lars Samuel Bartley, son of Naomi and Charles Bartley, sponsors are Michael Mandsager and Teresa Johnson, December 9, 2012.

Anthony Mario DeGrego, Jr., son of Elisha and Anthony DeGrego, sponsors are Roy DeGrego and Crystal Nurmela, December 16, 2012.

Lyla Rosalie Darna, daughter of Maria Maakestad and Randolph Darna III, sponsors are Ben Maakestad and Drew Maakestad, December 23, 2012.

Radio Broadcasts

December 2, 2012, in memory of Dagny Christensen and Leslie Gustafson, who share a December 1st birthday, by Judy Christensen.

December 9, 2012, in memory of Ragna Cartford Evenson by Brynnie Rowberg.

December 16, 2012, given by Bob and Marilyn Matta, in honor of their 56th wedding anniversary.

December 23, 2012, in memory of Mabel Trangsrud and Audrey Rinde by Julian Trangsrud.

Notes of Thanks!

Thanks to all who helped with the Advent Fair! Special thanks to Jill Enestvedt, Katherine Norrie, Jane Rinehart, Peggy Dell, Kristy Harms, Zach Pelletier and Brian Evenson for helping coordinate the Fair.

Thanks to St. John's youth who came to bag groceries at Econofoods! The twist was that instead of asking money of people as a fundraiser, St. John's kids bagged groceries and then handed out \$5 bills attached to a card listing various charitable organizations as a way to be of service and to encourage people in the community to be a blessing to someone during Christmas. Students encountered various reactions of excitement, appreciation and confusion upon receiving the gift. St. John's received many positive comments from the community.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Sunday School Christmas Program! Special thanks to the Sunday School Christmas Program team: Sue Brockman, Jenny Pelletier and Frances Boehning.

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to the Giving Tree this year! Special thanks to Connections for helping put the stars on the tree!

From Luther Seminary: Thank you for your gift of \$1,000 in support of Daniel Rinehart and Alison Hartke's education here at Luther Seminary! Your generosity allows Daniel and Alison to respond to the call of the Holy Spirit by easing the financial generosity will shape God's mission in the world for years to come.

From the Minnesota Council of Churches - Refugee Services: Thank you! You are helping us abundantly to support refugees as they move from addressing basic needs to achieving their dreams. Your gift of coats on 11/21/2012 makes all the difference to a newly arrived refugee family. With your help the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services program offers comprehensive services to refugees including securing housing, finding a job, learning basic job skills and filing for Green Cards.

Serving on Sundays in January

Acolytes

January 6	(8:30) Emily Canedy, Ashley Canedy ; (11:00) Ryan Malecha, Nicole Malecha
January 13	(8:30) Kate Erickson, Synneva Bratland; (11:00) Erin Guhnn, Siri Lindell
January 20	(8:30) James Bull, Alex Dell; (11:00) Harrison Dowd, Nic Zabel
January 27	(8:30) Caroline Hummel, Viveka Hall-Holt; (11:00) Jacob Gonnerman, Griffin Rod

Communion Preparers

January 6	David and Sue Rudser
January 13	David and Debbie Becker
January 20	David and Debbie Nitz
January 27	David and Susan Hagan

Ushers

January 6	(8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen (11:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber
January 13	(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
January 20	(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
January 27	(8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, MarkPolzin, Bruce Rickert (11:00) Michael Gasior, Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback, Emily Westerback



News and Events

A Note on Commitment Cards

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their commitment card for 2013!

For those that are electronic givers, if you have changed your giving in any way - increase or decrease - please know that **your card does NOT give us authorization to increase or decrease your pledge.** Please log in to your online account or contact the Church Office, in writing, to allow us to make the changes for you. Thank you!

Teacher Appreciation Brunch!

Sunday School teachers and assistants are invited to brunch on Sunday, January 20 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. When you see your child(ren)'s Sunday School teacher, remember to express your thanks!

Teachers and Assistants:

Preschool 1: Trish Goodrich, Betsy McLaughlin,
Dodie Mickelsen, Jamie Forbord
Preschool 2: Jenny Nystrom, Kirstin Buck, Ashley Hammer
Kindergarten: Kris Vatter, Amy Willkomm
First Grade: Amy McBroom, Angie McCarthy
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, Amelia Kneser
Middle School and High School: Peggy Hanson, Eva Posfay
Music: Jenny Pelletier
Library: Susan Canon, Angie Gehring

Please contact Julie if you can help with the brunch or can volunteer to be a substitute teacher in one of the Sunday school classrooms on January 20. Thanks in advance!

HOLY LAND SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

A \$2,000 scholarship for a month's stay in the Holy Land is being offered by Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel. This would include a home-stay and volunteering in a school or other worthy place, which could be with the Lutheran church in Bethlehem. Information on the program can be found on www.sirajcenter.org. Opportunities to visit all the important holy sites will be offered as well as some education classes. Anyone who might be interested should contact Ruth Hansen: tulla_ruth@msn.com or 645-8228.



St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesday, Jan. 2
Pizza and Salad

Wednesday, Jan. 9
Taco Boats

Wednesday, Jan. 16
Chicken & Rice Hotdish

Wednesday, Jan. 23
Sloppy Joes

Wednesday, Jan. 30
Potato Bar

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

News and Events

Audio-Visual Team Seeking New Members

The St. John's Audio-Visual Team is seeking new members. The A-V team records services and events at St. John's for cablecast on NTV and for use by the congregation. Video cablecast of St. John's worship services reaches out to members who are no longer able to attend church due to mobility and health concerns. The A-V team also provides support related to amplification, radio broadcast, and equipment updates. We are aiming to recruit and train enough team members so that each person will be on duty for one service every other week. If you are the go-to person for home theater in your home, and if your family and friends think your photography skills are passable, there's a role for you to play on the A-V team! Contact Pastor Mark for additional information.

Mission Outreach



Sandwiches, Pizza, Cinema!

A fun night of service coupled with pizza and movies awaits! We will start out the night by making 150 sandwiches for the organization **363** (aka "The Sandwich Project") which strives to feed people in need on every day not named Christmas or Thanksgiving. Then we will have some time to hang out, eat pizza, and then finish the night with a movie. Look for the sign-up down by the Youth Room. And when you sign up, you'll get to vote on the movie. This event will be a ton of fun and count as a "Hands and Feet" project for confirmands.

High School Night - Sunday, Jan. 20

Middle School Night - Sunday, Jan. 27

Generous Gift to St. John's

St. John's member Val Hallan passed away in April 2012. Just recently, the congregation received an incredibly generous gift of more than \$85,000.00 from Val's estate. Along with St. John's, Val gave a substantial sum of money to Lutheran World Relief, the Mission Board of the ELCA, and Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul. Val's request was that all funds be used to address missions and world hunger needs.

The Congregation Council, Benevolence and Social Concerns Board, Mission Partners Team and staff have been working to determine the best use of this wonderful donation consistent with Val's wishes. While plans have not been finalized, it is our hope that the money not only be used to address missions, but be used in a way that honors Val's vocation as a teacher. To that end, we have been in touch with our partner congregations in Columbia and Tanzania about the current and future needs of their schools.

We look forward to sharing more good news about Val's gift in the near future!

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Mornings in January

Fellowship Time for children, youth, and adults begins at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. and Education Hour for adults begins at 9:50 a.m.

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

Jan. 06: *Coffee served in St. John's Hall.*

*Reception for St. Olaf Choir. **St. John's Hall.***

*Parent Gathering: "Faith and Skills for Parenting". **Fellowship Hall***

No St. John's Forum.

Jan. 13: *Coffee served in St. John's Hall.*

*St. John's Forum: "Kirkegaard and the Danes in Argentina" - Epiphany Mission Presentation by Rev. Andres Albertsen, student at Luther Seminary. **Sanctuary.***

Jan. 20: *Coffee served in St. John's Hall and Commons.*

*Sunday School Teacher Appreciation. **Fireside Room***

*St. John's Forum: Annual Meeting Preview. **St. John's Hall.***

Jan. 27: *Coffee served in St. John's Hall.*

*St. John's Forum: Christian Spiritual Formation - A presentation about seeking a deeper intimacy with God through the practices of prayer, Scripture meditation, spiritual companionship, and other disciplines. Presented by Dick Beckman. **Sanctuary.***

WELCOME to St. John's! New Members, Fall 2012

Chuck and Naomi Bartley

Lars

11155 Kane Trail
Northfield, MN 55057
541-740-8047
nmandsager@yahoo.com
Hosts - Mark & Sherry Benson

Patrick and Mary Kay Bougie

1801 Lake Drive
Northfield, MN 55057
507-217-7552
651-955-1658
patrick.bougie@rsparch.com
mkdemaris@yahoo.com
Hosts - Nathan & Michele Knutson

Elaine Hope

1105 Cannon Valley Drive
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-6221
Hosts- Chuck & Marilyn Jacobson

Mike and Rachel Skunes

1935 Wilson Ave. #103
St. Paul, MN 55119
612-867-4250
youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org
Host - Zach & Maren Bahler

Dick and Nancy Wright

809 Quie Lane
Northfield, MN
507-301-3315
richardtwright@me.com
Hosts - Duane & Marlene Engstrom

Kristofer Coffman

1500 St. Olaf Avenue
St. Olaf College
Northfield, MN 55057
818-731-8183
Kristofer.d.coffman@gmail.com
Hosts - Mark & Kathy Granquist

Charles and Anita Hellie

1129 Heritage Drive
Northfield, MN 55057
507-301-3609
cchellie@charter.net
ahellie@charter.net
Hosts - Doug Bratland & Amy Boxrud

Small Groups Ministry

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.
Matthew 18:20

Providing opportunities for fellowship, Bible study, health and wellness, faith in daily living, learning, and service.

Connections	
Contact: Carol Schoen	645-6840
Gathered in the Word	
Contact: Pr. Johnson	645-4429
Grief Support	
Contact: Barbara Knaak	664-0444
Healing Prayer	
Contact: Dick Beckman	664-3882
Mens Breakfast Bible Study	
Contact: Dean Ostlie	645-2597
Mens Time Out	
Contact: Greg Kneser	663-0271
Options Bible Study: Gospel Of Luke	
Contact: Dave and Gen Quarberg	645-0089
Peace and Justice	
Contact: Judith Stoutland	645-7842
Prayer and Praise	
Contact: Mary White	645-4783
Tuesday Noon Bible Study	
Contact: Pr. Orlin or Pr. Mark	645-4429
Women of the ELCA Circles	
Contact: Marilyn Jacobson	663-9060
Women of the ELCA Knitting	
Contact: Kathy Vang	645-4397
Women's Bible Study at Parkview West	
Contact: Dick Dahlin	645-5978
Women of the ELCA Quilting	
Contact: Kathy Vang	645-4849
Women's Breakfast Group	
Contact: Kathy Mellstrom	663-1451

A Credo for 2013

By Barbara Eaves

It may be a silly practice, but I have always made some New Year's resolutions. And just as many times as they have been made, they were not kept. It seems pretty obvious that one of two things was at work: either the resolutions were very unrealistic or the maker of them didn't have very much self-discipline (actually both are true).

Making resolutions is not necessarily a bad practice; it is something we all do day after day in some form or other. A friend recently reminded me of a credo developed by Robert Fulghum in his book, *All I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Reading his statements on "how to live and what to do and how to be" make a pretty good set of resolutions. There is nothing new here, but it sure beats anything I have come up with in the past. So I am adopting it in 2013 instead of the usual list of New Year's Resolutions:

Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some. Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: the roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are all like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup—they all die. So do we. And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned—the biggest word of all—LOOK.

Living in God's grace, LOOK with confidence and hope into 2013.

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

Group Leadership Team:

Sandi Gerdes 645-2290,
sandi@laurabaker.org

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

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

Mark Johnson, 645-4429
mjohnson@stjohnsnorthfield.org

Richard Nelson, 650-0203,
richardnelson_03@q.com

Richard Beckman, 664-3882
dickbeck32@q.com



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Mission Statement:

TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY

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@augzburgfortress.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

Jan. 3, Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - St. John's Women's Luncheon at St. Olaf College, Valhalla Hall . . . all are welcome! Carol Benson will be leading us in a festive Christmas Carol Songfest. Cost for food, beverage, tax and tip is \$13.00. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons.

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, 7:30 p.m., Fireside **Please note time change.*
- Abigail / Rebecca — Thursday, 2:00 p.m., NRC Parkview East
- Elizabeth — Thursday, 1:30 p.m.,
- Lydia — Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.,
- Martha / Claudia — Thursday, 9:30 a.m.,
- Mary — 2nd Friday, 1:00 p.m.,
- Sarah — Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.,
- Women's Breakfast Group — 2nd Saturday, 8:30 a.m., Fireside Room

MONTHLY EVENTS:

- Jan. 7: Bible Study Leaders meet at 12:00 p.m. in Fireside Room.
- Jan. 8 & 15: Knitters meet at 9:30 at home of Kathy Vang, 645-4849.
- Jan. 9, 10, 11, 12, 17: Circles meet. Check with leaders for locations.
- Jan. 14 & 17: Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall from 9-11 a.m.
- Jan. 3 & 31: WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 in Fireside Room.

LOOKING AHEAD

Feb. 7, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. - Program: "PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL" (DVD viewing of a PBS documentary). This documentary chronicles the remarkable story of the courageous Liberian women (Christian and Muslim) who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country. New York Times call this "Uplifting, disheartening, inspiring, enraging".

Please submit items for this WELCA information page to:

Jo Franklin, jo_franklin50@yahoo.com or [720-281-5107](tel:720-281-5107)

Please submit items for the Sunday bulletin to:

Shirley Keltto, kelttos@msn.com or [785-317-9509](tel:785-317-9509).

OTHER NEWS:

- FAIR TRADE COFFEE is 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.

- YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Lutheran World Relief works with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. They need more Mission Quilts, Personal Care Kits and School Kits to be able to respond to the needs of millions of people whom they serve. Here are some ways that you can share these signs of God's loving presence in a hurting world:

- donate wrapped hotels soaps
- donate sheets (double size or larger)
- sew quilt squares or hem blankets
- join the quilters
- buy Fair Trade coffee
- Or make a monetary contribution to help defray shipping costs for these projects (make check payable to St. Joh's WELCA and write LWR Shipping Costs in memo line).

- "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much..."

Luke 16:10a

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

IS NONVIOLENCE MORE THAN A DREAM?

Is nonviolent action as a tool of peacemaking more than a dream?

Are efforts to organize nonviolent protests a waste of time?

Is "nonviolent protest" an oxymoron?

Does it distract from more important ways to oppose violence?

What efforts would be more effective to reduce "man's inhumanity against man"?

What are the challenges in using a nonviolent approach?

Have you seen the power of actions that did not use violence in working towards greater justice in our lives?

How does our commitment to nonviolence resonate with "The Dream Continues," the theme of the Northfield community celebration honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.?

Is the violence that we have seen in recent years (both at security for the political conventions and at Occupy events, for example) caused by the people seeking change or by opportunists who are looking for a fight, or by "plants?" Persons in Northfield who have been present at some of these historic events have experiences to share. There is more to the work and effectiveness of nonviolent behavior in the US and the world than we see in our papers, TV, or other media. We can look at some of that history on January 7.

These questions which are central in our work for peace will be the focus of our January meeting. It is important to discuss the issues, to share our experience and to hear the positions we each hold. The purpose of the conversation will be listening to each other and to sort out misunderstandings as well as different positions.

The questions can stimulate a thoughtful, interesting, exciting discussion which will give us energy for our work in 2013.

Please come and add your voice!

JUSTICE CALENDAR

Monday, January 7:	The Peace and Justice Group Meets, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room <i>Topic: Continuing King's Dream of Nonviolence</i>
Monday, January 21:	Martin Luther King Day / Community Celebration (see below)
Sunday, February 24:	Northfield Community Celebration for Peace, Bethel Lutheran Church

You are invited to Northfield Community Celebrations of Martin Luther King Day

Friday, February 18, 7:00 p.m., Arcadia Charter School
"ARTS FOR MARTIN" - NHS Latino Playwrights with Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin
and Community Chorus

Monday, February 21, 7:00 p.m., Emmaus Baptist Church
"THE DREAM CONTINUES" - Caroline Ticarro-Parker (Founder of The Catalyst Foundation)
and Youth Choir Troubadours

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

Youth Ministry

Mike Skunes

Congregation

President

Richard Falck



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Northfield, MN 55057

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January Highlights



Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesdays, from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Winter Confirmation Retreats (7th, 8th & 9th)

Weekend of January 4th

St. Olaf Choir Sings at St. John's

(Reception between services)

Sunday, January 6, at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Farewell Reception for Dan Fenn

Sunday, January 6, at 12:00 p.m.

Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Monday, January 20, at 9:45 a.m.

Bowling

Monday, January 21, at 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

6th Grade CAT Retreat

Monday, January 21, at 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting / Potluck Dinner

Sunday, January 27