

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

February 2013

Volume 53, Number 2

*on the
inside . . .*

Annual Youth
Fundraiser

✧ p. 5

Summer Camp

✧ p. 7 and 8

Greetings from
Partners in East
Africa

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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:

office@stjohnsnorthfield.org

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www.stjohnsnorthfield.org

Church Office hours:

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. to noon and

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

"CREATION WAITS WITH EAGER LONGING"

2013 Lenten Series at St. John's

Our Wednesday Lenten Series this year takes its' theme from chapter 8 of Paul's Letter to the Romans. We will pray and reflect on the meaning of God's grace in the Cross of Christ and in God's creation. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13, with worship at noon and at 6:30 p.m. Worship will continue at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday of Lent. Soup Suppers begin Wednesday, February 20 from 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., in St. John's Hall. For information about Lenten Bible Study on Luke turn to page 13.

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE ~ 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 13: Ash Wednesday - (noon and 6:30 p.m.)

Wednesday, February 20: "Remembrance" - Who are we, and who are we called to be?

Wednesday, February 27: "Reflection" - What deeper reflection are we called to in this time? Why?

Wednesday, March 6: "Rediscovery" - Created "in God's image". What's our place in creation?

Wednesday, March 13: "Reconciliation" - What is meant by a "matrix of grace"? How do we fit into it?

Wednesday, March 20: "Recommitment" - Creation waits with eager longing: how do we respond?

Call Committee Elected

Members of the Call Committee for Senior Pastor were elected at the Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 27, 2013. Members are: Carol Benson, Cheryl Buck, Cameron Judge-Becker, Brad Knoch, Michele Knutson, Alan Marks, David Nitz, Pamela Schwandt and Mark Ulmer.

Director of Music Ministry Position

St. John's Personnel Committee has begun the process of searching for a Director of Music Ministry. This is a full-time position with the responsibility of leading the music ministry of the congregation, serving as organist, directing St. John's Chorale and other ensembles and coordinating all St. John's music programs. The Director works closely with the pastors in planning worship services. Members of St. John's interested in being considered for the 5-person Search Committee should submit their names to the Personnel Committee. Candidates may send letters of application and resumes to the Personnel Committee, St. John's Lutheran Church, 500 Third St. West, Northfield, MN 55057.

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, February 21, 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.

Divorce as a Process

Reports tell us that half of all marriages end in divorce. Those who have been through a divorce have much to teach those who have not. While divorce is the legal termination of a committed relationship, it neither starts nor stops with the two primary parties signing a document. A divorce is not a simple end. It is one step in a painful and often lonely process.

Divorce is a kind of grief involving stages of separation. As with grief, the specifics of the stages (including denial, anger, bargaining, and acceptance) and how they overlap are unique to every individual. The finality of a death carries an agony that a divorce typically does not. In fact, some stages of divorce may end daily discord—while others add new disruptions. Anxiety in the form of everything from worry about finances to fear for safety may shape the reality of the separation that either precedes

or follows a divorce, especially when children are present. And those children of any age will need extra love and support at a time when parents need those things themselves.

As life goes on after a divorce, previously joint relationships with family and friends are likely to take on a sense of awkwardness, embarrassment, or even shame. A listening ear with caring to spare, embodied in a Stephen Minister, may help to make each stage of the divorce process less lonely. If you or someone you know is dealing with the beginning, middle, or end of a divorce or any other struggle, contact Pam Schwandt at 645-6120 or one of the pastors about the benefits of meeting with a Stephen

...continued on page 6

*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

A Grief Support Group meets this month on Mondays, February 4, 11, and 18 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the Northfield Retirement Community. For information, contact Pr. Kristine Braaten-Lee at 664-3478 or Barb Knaak at 664-0444. Coming in March: a grief support group begins March 4 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Grief Care Resource: "Journeying Through Grief" booklets are available for all who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a packet for yourself or to share with a friend.



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."

February 3, 2012
Carroll Palrud

From our pastors . . .

The Blessings of Lent

*"I want
to know
Christ and
the power
of his
resurrection
and the
sharing
of his
suffer-
ings . . ."*

Philippians 3:10

The Season of Lent began as a time of preparation for adults who would be baptized during the Easter Vigil. The church continues to mark the days of Lent, both as a time of preparation for those who enter the faith as adults and as a time of prayer, reflection and renewal for all in the church.

A teacher of mine talked about how the season of Lent reflects an understanding that a person doesn't become a Christian all at once. While a person may have an experience of God that turns their life around; and while the promise is given that through baptism into Christ one is saved from sin, death, and the power of evil, and claimed as a beloved child of God forever; the Holy Spirit's work of shaping one's life in Christ – the work of learning to love God and your neighbor with all your heart, mind, strength, and soul - does not take place in a single instant of revelation. Being made new in Christ is a transformation that takes place over time through the hearing of God's word, and through receiving the gifts of baptism and bread and wine. It happens through the life we share together in homes and congregations: as we wrestle with scripture together and the faith that has been passed down to us; when we ask questions about who God is and who we are; as we learn to accept the truth and grace of God's forgiveness; as we share joys and sorrows; and seek God's will for our life together and in each of our own lives. In all these ways, and more, the Spirit works to deepen our trust in God's promises and helps us to learn to live in the messiness and beauty of this world.

So, one blessing of Lent is how it prepares us to enter, on Good Friday and Easter, into the great mystery of our faith - Christ's death and resurrection. Another blessing of Lent is the reminder of how God's Spirit helps us to live in the truth of Good Friday and Easter. We are given both a season and a lifetime to learn to live as people raised from the dead. With this gift of time and God's grace in Christ, may the Spirit help us go forward in faith, honest about our struggles, patient with ourselves and with others, and thankful for all of God's beautiful gifts.



Mark

Music and Woship Life at St. John's

From the Organ Bench

Some of you as old as I may remember the theme song of singing cowboy Gene Autry: Back in the Saddle Again. Perhaps my theme song should be: Back on the Organ Bench Again. Although I have yet to figure out retirement, here I am on the bench again, and a privilege it is that the bench is at St. John's, the Fergusons' home congregation!

Dan Fenn did a marvelous job building upon St. John's strong musical tradition, and I hope to keep things moving forward and energized so that our next full time church musician will discover a music ministry ready and eager for new leadership. Thanks to Cathy Rodland who will assist as interim associate organist, Carol Benson who will direct the Alleluia Choir and others who will pick up many of Dan's behind-the-scenes work, I will be able to serve approximately half time. Since my other obligations preclude committing more than half time, I am so grateful for all who have stepped up to make this interim arrangement feasible.

One kind of leadership that Dan did provide - leading Gospel hymns from the piano - is not much a part of my skill set. You see Dan grew up Southern Baptist but I grew up Swedish Baptist and we were a bit more staid in our worship. Perhaps that's why I've seemed to fit in so well with Norwegian Lutherans!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve St. John's, which has come to mean so much for the Ferguson family. Please keep up your fine hymn singing. It is a special treat to lead you all in song from the bench!

Dr. John Ferguson
Interim Director of Music



Lenten Soup Suppers begin Wednesday, February 20 and will serve as our regular Wednesday Night Meals for the duration of Lent. The Boards are leading the volunteer effort to serve and clean up the meals but would welcome any additional help. If you'd like to pitch in, let me know. Please join us for dinner at 5:15 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m. throughout the Lenten season.

Volunteers needed for Wednesdays After School! Julie is looking for volunteers during the Wednesday after school recreation/snack time (3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.) to be a presence in St. John's Hall. Can't do it every Wednesday? That's OK - we can work with your schedule. Let Julie or myself know if you are willing to help. Thank you!

The place to check for ways you can serve your church are all posted on the bulletin board outside of the Church Office, or drop an email to me at sharedministries@stjohnsnorthfield.org and offer assistance. Any help would be greatly appreciated. There truly is a place for everyone at St. Johns.

Joanne Sommers
Shared Ministries Coordinator

SERVING TO LOVE  **LOVING TO SERVE**

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

February 3 Sunday School
 February 10 Sunday School (*Youth Fundraiser*)
 February 17 Sunday School
 February 24 Sunday School

"ROCK" - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

February 6, 20, 27
 No Programming on Ash Wednesday, February 13

Youth Fundraiser - Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction

Sunday, February 10

4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes in March

4th and 5th graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, March 6. CAT classes will meet in the lower level of St. John's; 5th grade in the Youth Room and 4th grade in Room 9 from 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: March 6, 13, 20.

Parent Gatherings

All parents/grandparents are invited to our next "Parent Gathering" on Sunday, February 3, 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 - 10:40 a.m.

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, February 2, at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

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.

**ANNUAL YOUTH FUNDRAISER
 PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION SUNDAY,
 FEBRUARY 10**

Our annual youth fundraiser, held in St. John's Hall, helps make our 2013 summer programming opportunities financially possible for all families.

Schedule of the Day!

- 8:00 a.m. Silent Auction Begins with a **BUY IT NOW!** Option
Make sure to check out the donations given by our youth in the Commons area.
- 9:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
 (\$6 per person/ \$20.00 per family)
 - Pancakes
 - Sausages
 - Fresh Fruit
- 11:00 a.m. Children's Games, Crafts
- 11:30 a.m. Breakfast Ends
- 12:15 p.m. Silent Auction/ Activities End



Tickets are on Sale now! Advance tickets will be available on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings in the Commons or you may purchase them at the door the day of the fundraiser. Cost is only \$6/person or \$20/family.

We thank you in advance for your participation and support!

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Join us this summer!

Check out St. John's Summer Camps/
Activities in this issue of the Voice.

Opportunities are available for all ages!

Registration forms for children and youth summer camps are available on the children and youth bulletin board in the Commons.



30 Hour Famine

February 22nd-23rd, we will be having the event “30 Hour Famine”. The event is meant as both a fundraiser for global hunger and to raise awareness of youth on what it means to be hungry. Youth that choose to participate will have a month to take pledges from people to fast for thirty hours leading up to the day of the event. Then from Friday after lunch, till Saturday night, students will fast, learn about places where starvation is prevalent, volunteer at the food shelf, and participate in challenge activities that simulate what people have to go through in extreme poverty. Interested individuals should talk with Mike.

Sunday Morning Small Groups

This month, we will be starting Sunday Morning Small Groups for youth that come during the learning hour. Youth from 6th grade all the way through 12th grade are invited. We will be meeting in St. John's Hall at 9:50 a.m. for donuts and fellowship with the congregation at-large and then break out in groups of four to six with adult leaders for check-in and a brief scripture study till 10:40 a.m.

We are still looking for more leaders! So if you would be interested in getting to know our youth and leading them in devotions once or twice a month, please contact Mike at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org or at [\(507\) 645-4429](tel:5076454429).

Confirmation During Lent

During Lent, which starts with Ash Wednesday, February 13th, we will not have confirmation in our normal locations. We instead ask that students participate in Wednesday night Lenten Worship and fill out at least four of our special worship notes (out of the possible six weeks). Worship services will, however, be held at 6:30 p.m. and will span the normal confirmation time.

Stephen Ministry *...continued from page 2*

Minister. And all members of the congregation are invited to a presentation by Dan Dimick on issues related to divorce and ways to support those going through a divorce. Dan is a licensed psychologist and a licensed marriage and family therapist. Sponsored by Stephen Ministry, the presentation will be Tuesday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Serving on Sundays in February

Acolytes

February 3	(8:30) Cate Carson, Siri Lindell; (11:00) Parker Aman, Aidan Nutt
February 10	(8:30) Courtney Nelson, Alison Nelson; (11:00) Dylan Gehring, Anders Koenig
February 17	(8:30) Isaac Riggins, Andrew Becker; (11:00) Cameron Beedle, Samuel Motzko
February 24	(8:30) Timothy Gasior, Gregory Pelletier; (11:00) Trey Coudret, Creegan Croone

Assisting Ministers

February 3	Pat Fick
February 10	John Hanson
February 17	Judy Swanson
February 24	Sandi Gerdes

Communion Preparers

February 3	Brian Evenson and Sue Brockman
February 10	Steve and Jennifer Edwins
February 17	John and Marybeth Bremer
February 24	David Sudermann and Mary Cisar

Communion Servers

February 3	(8:30) Judith Stoutland; (11:00) Deanne Weber
February 10	(8:30) Mary Cisar; (11:00) Char Nelson
February 17	(8:30) Mary Polzin; (11:00) Adam Neuger
February 24	(8:30) Pam Schwandt; (11:00) John Quam

Nursery

February 3	(8:30) Maren Bauer; (11:00) Maren Bauer, Angie McCarthy
February 10	(8:30) Maren Bauer; (11:00) Maren Bauer, Kris Vatter
February 17	(8:30) Maren Bauer; (11:00) Maren Bauer, Betsy McLaughlin
February 24	(8:30) Maren Bauer; (11:00) Maren Bauer, Anders Koenig

Ushers

February 3	(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
February 10	(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
February 17	(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
February 24	(8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert (11:00) Michael Gasior, Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback, Emily Westerback

January Actions

Radio Broadcasts

January 6, 2013, in memory of their parents by Curtis and Karen Swenson.
January 13, 2013, in memory of Donna Lee by Walter Lee and family.
January 20, 2013, in memory of Charles Anderson by family and friends.
January 27, 2013, in honor of Leonard DeWolfe by Barb DeWolfe Babel.

Funerals

Theodore Paro, January 3, 2013
Lorraine Skaar, January 12, 2013
Caitlin Kelly, January 18, 2013
Kenneth Struss, January 23, 2013
Thomas Porter, January 24, 2013

Mission Outreach

Greetings from our Partners in East Africa

In 2012 St. John's began sponsoring the ministry of Randy and Carol Stubbs who are serving as missionaries in Tanzania on behalf of the ELCA. Their work in the music department at Tumaini University in Makumira includes teaching music, doing leadership development, capacity building, and evangelism. Below is a portion of an email sent to St. John's on January 16, 2013.

Dear Members of St. John's,

New Year's greetings to you! We are grateful for your prayers. The Lord has been with us, keeping us safe and blessing our ministry because of the prayers of so many supporters. Thank you! We are presently in the middle of hosting an international ethnic music symposium with 80 people from all seven continents! It is going well and the experience of making music with these musicians from all over is quite remarkable...Last week Randy submitted an application for a grant that could help to build a cultural center here at Makumira for music training, documenting, and performance. There are so many exciting happenings as we venture into a new year and we continue to be blessed and inspired by our colleagues and students. Again, many thanks to St. John's for continued prayers and support. Our mission would not be complete without you.

Peace and Blessings, Carol

News and Events

Thinking about joining St. John's? Come to lunch!

Those considering joining St. John's are invited to lunch with St. John's staff on Sunday, March 3 at noon in St. John's Hall. Over lunch there will be opportunity to visit with staff members and learn about life at St. John's, in addition to learning more about the new member process. New members will be received at St. John's on Sunday, April 28. For more information contact one of the pastors or Linda Anderson, at 645-7170 or lsa100@charter.net. RSVP for the March 3 lunch to the Church Office at 645-4429 or office@stjohnsnorthfield.org

News and Events

Presentations on the story of Lutherans this month

Pr. Mark Granquist, St. John's member and professor at Luther Seminary in St. Paul will present a forum entitled, "Beyond 'Alphabet Soup': The story of Lutherans in America" on Sunday, February 3 and Part II on Sunday, February 10 starting both Sundays at 9:50 a.m. in the sanctuary. ELCA, LCMS, ULCA, NLCA, ALC, LCA, WELS, and UELC (and let's not forget LFC!) The history of Lutherans in America is more than the acronyms of synodical names or the "flow-charts" of mergers. We'll try to look at how Lutheranism has taken root and become truly an American religion in its almost 400 year history on this continent.

Synod prepares to elect new Bishop

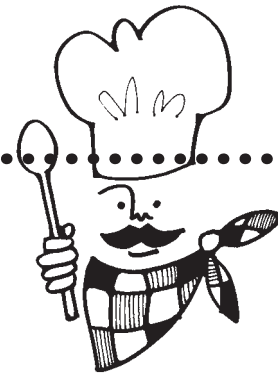
In the Southeastern Minnesota Synod bishops are eligible to serve two terms. Bishop Harold Usgaard will have served two six-year terms later this spring, and therefore, on June 7 and 8, 2013 the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly will elect the next bishop of the synod. As part of the election process, delegates to the Synod's conference assemblies meeting on February 10, 2013, will select up to three candidates from names nominated by congregations. From the names nominated by the conference assemblies, the Synod committee to elect a bishop will select up to nine candidates and will schedule up to three candidate forums throughout the synod prior to the Synod Assembly in June. Delegates to the Cannon River Conference from St. John's include: Rich Falck, Barb Knaak and St. John's pastors. To make a nomination or to learn more about the process go to <http://semnsynod.org/election-of-a-bishop/>, contact Pr. Mark Boorsma (Ascension Lutheran, Albert Lea), 507 -582-3185, Pr. Mandsager or Pr. Johnson.

ELCA guidelines provide the following as a job description for a Synod Bishop

Duties of a Synod Bishop: To serve as the synod's chief pastor and to exercise administrative oversight of the synod's work. Bishops serve for six-year terms and may be reelected. In addition to their synodical responsibilities, the 65 synodical bishops join the Presiding Bishop and the ELCA secretary to form the Conference of Bishops. This 67-member group gathers at least twice each year.

Thoughtful Film Club

Get ready for a Valentine romance: The Thoughtful Film Club will show "An Affair to Remember" with Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr at 7:30 pm on Friday, February 8 in St John's theater. Join us in watching this classic movie! All are welcome.



St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesday, Feb. 6
Chicken Sausage Jambalaya

Wednesday, Feb. 13
Ash Wednesday - No Meal

Wednesday, Feb. 20
Lenten Soup Supper

Wednesday, Feb. 27
Lenten Soup Supper

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Mornings in February

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.

Feb. 03: *Coffee served in St. John's Hall.*

Parent Gathering: "Faith and Skills for Parenting", facilitated by Carrie Duba. **Fireside Room.**

St. John's Forum: Beyond Alphabet Soup - The Story of Lutherans in America Part I (see description on page 11), presentation by Prof. Mark Granquist. **Sanctuary.**

Feb. 10: *Youth Fundraiser in St. John's Hall.* All are invited for breakfast or simply a cup of coffee.

No St. John's Forum

Feb. 17: *Coffee served in St. John's Hall.*

Luke Bible Study. **Room 212 (upper level).**

St. John's Forum: Beyond Alphabet Soup - The Story of Lutherans in America Part II, presentation by Prof. Mark Granquist. **Sanctuary.**

Feb. 24: *Coffee served in St. John's Hall.*

Luke Bible Study. **Room 212 (upper level).**

St. John's Forum: The Hope Center. A report on the organization's work to create zero tolerance for sexual and domestic violence through Healing, Outreach, Prevention and Education and to offer direct support to victims of violence in Rice County. Presentation by Erica Staab. **Sanctuary.**

5th Annual Northfield Peace & Justice Gathering

Bring your whole family to the Northfield Peace & Justice Gathering on February 24.

Join the festivities as we celebrate how local, national, and international peace and justice efforts are being done in the Northfield area.

This community event will feature the music groups Bonnie and the Clydes and the Northfield Youth Choir Troubadours.

More than 20 organizations will share their work for justice and peace, including Northfield High School's Build Bridges Not Walls.

There will be storytelling, face painting, a chance to make a peace pole, an experience in walking the peace path, and more. A nursery will be provided for very young children.

This Gathering offers something for everyone!

What: 5th Annual Northfield Peace and Justice Gathering

When: Sunday, February 24, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Where: Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield

For: The whole family!

For more information, call Paula Mathison at 645-7546.

See you at the Gathering!

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 Beckmen	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

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 Beckmen, 664-3882
dickbeck32@q.com

Drawn to the Light

by Barbara Eaves

Perhaps you, like I, are drawn to light: the flickering light of candles, the dancing light from a fireplace or campfire, the warm and colorful lights of Christmas. There are lights from a single lamp and lights from the stars in the heavens, all of which capture our attention. Some lights bring us warmth and comfort, some help us to see more clearly or lead us through dark places, while others beckon us to awe and mystery.

One year, while visiting a cave, our guide told everyone to hold hands while she turned off the lights. In the darkness and discomfort, our son whispered, "I need light." We all need light: light that goes far beyond what we can see with our own eyes, light that dispels the darkness within us, light that shows us a new way to live out our days, light that teaches us compassion, kindness and mercy. This is the Light that we long for, the Light that offers peace and comfort, belonging and worth. As we journey through the season of Epiphany, we pray that the Light of Christ may illumine our lives.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through our darkness.

*Christ be our light! Shine in our church
gathered today.*

ELW #715

Small Group Bible Study

A four-week look into the Gospel of Luke

"The question of 'Who is Jesus?' leads us with Jesus' disciples to other questions that fill us with concern: 'Who are we?' 'What does it mean to follow Jesus?' We are drawn into the story with both hope and fear. In the light of Jesus' transfiguration, we sense that Jesus is on a path to unavoidable conflict, suffering, and death. Why must Jesus die? Our fear, 'What will be become of us?' is illumined by our faith that through difficulties and even death, God's reign is coming. As Paul and Barnabas later encouraged the disciples in Antioch 'It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.' (Acts 14:22)."

From "Luke", Book of Faith Series, by David Tiede

What are the dates of this bible study?

Sundays, Feb. 17-Mar 10 (9:50a.m.-10:50a.m.)

Wednesdays, Feb 20-Mar13 (10:00-11:00a.m. or 4:30-5:30p.m.)

When can I sign up?

January 20-February 10 in the Commons

Bible study guides available for the cost of \$6.00



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

Feb. 7, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. Program (hosted by Sarah Circle): PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL". This PBS documentary chronicles the remarkable story of the courageous Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country. We will gather in St. John's Hall, and then move to the theatre to view the DVD.

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 (*Susan Rudser*)

Abigail / Rebecca — Thursday, 2:00 p.m., NRC Parkview East
(*Gert Brosz*)

Elizabeth — Thursday, 1:30 p.m.

(*Marie Benson and Gretchen Hardgrove*)

Lydia — Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. (*Marilyn Boschee and Judy Smith*)

Martha / Claudia — Thursday, 9:30 a.m.

(*Marilyn Jacobson and Joyce Schrader*)

Mary — 2nd Friday, 1:00 p.m. (*Rachel Stark*)

Sarah — Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. (*Char Nelson*)

Women's Breakfast Group — 2nd Saturday, 8:30 a. m., Fireside
(*Kathy Melstrom*)

MONTHLY EVENTS:

Feb. 11: Bible Study Leaders meet at 12:00 p.m. in Fireside Room.

Feb. 5 & 19: Knitters meet at 9:30 at home of Kathy Vang, 645-4849.

Feb. 8, 9, 13, 14, 21: Circles meet. Check with leaders for locations.

Feb. 18 & 21: Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall from 9-11 a.m.

Feb. 28: WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 in Fireside Room.

LOOKING AHEAD

Mar. 7, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. - Program (hosted by Lydia Circle): "A Labyrinth Pilgrimage: A Stay-at-Home Journey", presented by Keith Homstad.

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).

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Lutheran World Relief works with Lutherans and partners around the world to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. They are especially in need of more QUILTS and more PERSONAL CARE KITS, which is our focus this month:

Why PERSONAL CARE KITS? When LWR distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything. In the wake of an earthquake, or having fled from violence as their homes were overtaken, they clasp a towel from a faraway place, with a bar of soap, a toothbrush...and washing up, they know that they have not been forsaken by the world.

***Mary Circle has graciously offered to purchase supplies and assemble these kits.

YOU CAN HELP them by making a monetary donation to WELCA, memo: Personal Care Kits (checks can be submitted to the church office).

LWR has launched a 2013 QUILT Campaign: 1 Year: 500,000 QUILTS!

Did you know that St. John's women finished 111 quilts in 2012? We are hoping to complete even more this year to meet the urgent needs of LWR.

YOU CAN HELP by:

*Piecing squares at home (pick up and drop off at the WELCA table in the Commons)

*Joining the Quilters in the Fellowship Hall on the 3rd Thursday or previous Monday of each month.

*Donating clean sheets (full size or larger)

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

Luke 16:10a

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

A CHANCE TO TALK IT OVER

Work that we at St. John's began last autumn in response to the ELCA draft for a social statement on the US Criminal Justice system generated interest and concern for correcting flaws and making improvements. Now as we wait for the revised draft in mid-February, these challenges are increased by the violence of the Newtown, CT, tragedy. And that tragedy has spurred President Obama's proposals for gun control as part of a plan to increase safety for all Americans. These proposals confront controversies among Americans over the interpretation of the Second Amendment.

Where do we begin to understand each other and to work for a solution that helps us work for our common goals—our common good?

Would you be interested in a conversation, or series of conversations, in which we learn what others believe? Can we hear each other and learn WHY we believe as we do. Might this lead to understanding that increases our ability to work together in faith?

If you are interested in helping to plan such conversations or being in such conversations, please be in touch with the pastors. You can also leave your name with Leah at the Church Office at 645-4429.

HELP!

Whether or not you are a regular participant in the Peace and Justice Group activities, you are eligible for these tasks:

—Coordinate rides for St. John's members participating in DAY ON THE HILL, Thursday, February 21, 2013, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the River Centre and State Capitol. Speaker: Sayyid M. Syeed, Director of Islamic Society of North America's Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances. Visits scheduled with our elected legislators. With peace workers from the entire state and well-organized material on the issues important to people of faith, this day is always inspiring.

—Liaison between iCAN and St. John's—Receive the excellent summaries of legislative action affecting the needs of Minnesota children. Bring to the attention of the congregation through Sunday bulletin, the VOICE, and other appropriate means for understanding and action.

While the work can be done by one person, it would be great if 2 or 3 people could work together. For further information contact Judith Stoutland 645 7842, judithstoutland@gmail.com

Learning More: Faith and the Criminal Justice System

Hearing the Cries," an ELCA 5 session study on faith and the criminal justice system will be offered after Easter (April/May) led by Chuck Jacobson for the Peace and Justice Group.

"The material explores the challenges facing our society and the opportunities for people of faith—as individuals and as a church—to address these needs," Chuck reports. Furthermore, he states, "These issues touch the lives of all of us and deserve our attention. The booklet provides information and moving testimony for our study." Copies will be provided to those who attend. You may reach him at 664- 9060 for more information.

Watch for announcements to sign up for this timely study.

JUSTICE CALENDAR

February 4	Peace and Justice Group, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
February 21	Day on the Hill: Change Begins With Us, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
February 24	Community Peace and Justice Celebration, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Bethel Church
March 8-10	Peace Prize Forum: The Power of Ideas, U of MN & Augsburg College
March 8	Peace Prize Festival (K-12 groups), 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.—Augsburg College / World Citizen
April	"Hearing the Cries" - Faith and the Criminal Justice System, Dates / Times TBA

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Mark Johnson

John Quam

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

Music Ministry

Dr. John Ferguson

Music Staff

Carol Benson - Alleluia

Cathy Rodland - Jubilate

& Hosanna, Organist

Ruth Legvold - Laudate

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February Highlights



Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesdays, February 20 & 27, from 5:15 - 6:30 p.m.

Thoughtful Films Club: "An Affair to Remember"

Friday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Annual Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, February 10

(For schedule of events, check page 5)

Ash Wednesday Worship Services

Wednesday, February 13, at 12:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

30 Hour Famine

Friday, February 22 - Saturday, February 23

5th Annual Northfield Peace & Justice Gathering

Sunday, February 24, starting at 1:30 p.m.