

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

March 2013

Volume 53, Number 3

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Annual Easter Egg
Hunt

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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

For information, contact the Church Office:

phone: 507-645-4429

fax: 507-645-9633

e-mail:

office@stjohnsnorthfield.org

website:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org

Church Office hours:

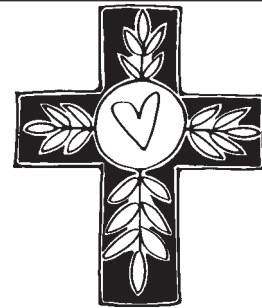
Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. to noon and

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Celebrating 100 Years in a Grace-Filled Space

2013 marks the 100th anniversary of the St. John's sanctuary and the church building that includes the narthex, belltower, sacristy and Fellowship Hall. The last worship service in the small, painted clapboard church on the corner of Washington and Fourth Streets was held on April 13, 1913. Three weeks later the big, new brick structure on Third and Poplar was dedicated. This church building has been a center for worship, learning and fellowship for a whole century. We will mark this anniversary with a special litany during worship on March 17 and with a special presentation on the history of the sanctuary and church building during St. John's Forum entitled "Our House at 100: An Evolving Vessel", presented by Joe Shaw and Steve Edwins. Historic photos of the building will be on display in St. John's Hall this spring. *...continued on page 3*



Worship for Holy Week and Easter

Sunday of the Passion, March 24

Procession with Palms and
Holy Communion

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

*(The Palm Sunday Liturgy begins in the
Commons. All who wish to process,
gather there 5 minutes prior to worship.)*

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Holy Communion

12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, March 29

Liturgy of Good Friday

12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, March 30

The Great Vigil of Easter 7:30 p.m.

at Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College
(Community choir rehearsal at 6:00 in
the chapel. All high school and adult
singers are welcome.)

Celebration of the Resurrection

Sunday, March 31

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

Holy Communion at all services

Easter Breakfast from

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

9:30 service broadcast

on KYMN 1080 AM

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, March 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. Prayers and anointing will be offered on Easter Sunday at all services.

Prayer Chain: Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included in Sunday morning prayers unless specifically requested. Contact Mary Cisar with a prayer request or to become a prayer chain volunteer: macisar@gmail.com or 663-1097.

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

Galatians 6:2



*Providing one-
to-one care and
encouragement*

Stephen Ministry FAQs:

What exactly is Stephen Ministry?

A: Stephen Ministry is a part of St. John's ministry in which trained and supervised lay persons, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life's challenges or difficulties.

What do Stephen Ministers do?

A: Stephen Ministers are caring Christian friends who listen, understand, accept, and pray for and with care receivers.

Who are Care Receivers?

A: Care receivers are the recipients of Stephen Ministers' care. They are people from St. John's or in the community who are facing difficulties such as grief, divorce, loss of job, loneliness, illness. Stephen Ministers usually meet with their care receivers or speak to them on the phone once a week, for as long as the care receiver will benefit from the relationship.

Next month: "Confidentiality, One of the Cornerstones of Stephen Ministry"

Contact one of the pastors (645-4429) or Pam Schwandt (645-6120) if you would like to speak to a Stephen Minister or learn more about this ministry.

*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, starting March 4 (through April 8) from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. For more information contact Nancy Topp at 507-254-7878 or Barb Knaak at 664-0444.

Grief Care Resource: 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."

**Kristoffer Paulson
March 3, 2012**

From our pastors . . .

*"Create
in me a
clean
heart,
O'God,
and
renew
a right
spirit
within
me . . ."*

Psalm 51:10



Our Lenten spiritual journey continues through March this year taking us to Easter, March 31. Lent is always a time to re-focus our hearts and minds, to be renewed in spirit as we reflect on the meaning of the Cross of Christ in our life of faith. Our Wednesday Lenten Series has invited us to relate that meaning to God's creation, and our place in it. As is said so well in an environmental Lenten worship series published by the ELCA; "Never has the need for renewal and restoration of God's world been more urgent than in this decade of the 21st century. The groans of creation, the cries of humankind, the warnings of scientists, the voices of today's 'eco-prophets' – all call to us and urge us to respond in faith that is active in love and hope, with actions of justice and compassion. Such is the fruit that can be born of our deep and earnest reflection this Lenten season."

Passion and Palm Sunday, March 24, bring us to Holy Week. We hear the shouts of praise as Jesus enters Jerusalem, only to soon be contradicted by shouts for crucifixion and Peter's denial. Maundy Thursday ("Maundy" is an English form of the Latin word for "commandment") recalls Jesus' new commandment "you shall love one another even as I have loved you". The Gospel for the day from John 13:1-35, tells of Jesus' last Passover meal with the disciples and his institution of the Lord's Supper, the deepest meaning of Jesus' love. The text from John also tells us of Jesus washing his disciples' feet, a demonstration of servanthood and humility. The ritual of foot-washing in Maundy Thursday worship reminds us of our call to humble servanthood in Jesus name. On Good Friday we kneel before the cross, aware of our sinfulness and our forgiveness and hope in Christ's sacrifice. In Christ's journey to Golgatha and in his death on the cross we see God's love....totally self-giving, unconditional and complete! On the cross our sin is atoned for and our despair is shared by a God who lifts us up from the dust and from death, to newness of life. And three days later, Easter dawns! Alleluias return! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Pastor Mandbayer



Celebrating 100 Years in a Grace-Filled Space ...continued from page 1

As we remember God's faithfulness over the past years – we will also take this anniversary as an opportunity to give thanks for the ministry God continues to call us to as the people of St. John's and for the successful completion of the recent debt reduction campaign. A litany of thanksgiving for the retirement of the second mortgage on the 2004 building addition will be included in the March 17 worship service. Thanks be to God for this house of worship where the good news of Christ's death and resurrection continues to be proclaimed in word and sacrament, through music, in the life we share as brothers and sisters in Christ, and in the call to go in peace from this place and serve the Lord.

Music and Woship Life at St. John's

From the Organ Bench...

Ruth and I have been members here for some 30 years but wow, have I learned a lot these past weeks about the depth, breadth and yes complexity of our lives together as the people of St. John's. I knew about the worship life and because of Ruth's long tenure as organist about the music ministry. I knew of the amazing dedication of our choir members who understand that their regular participation both at worship and in weekly rehearsals is essential if our music ministry is to flourish. Without this level of commitment worship at St. John's would be much less rich. But as someone whose "church" was more Boe Chapel at St. Olaf, these past weeks I have been learning about other dimensions of this community's life together and would like to share a few of my "discoveries."

1. The Staff:

We are truly blessed with a fine, creative and dedicated staff. As I come to know them better, discern their passion to serve St. John's, I realize what gifts we members are given through their service to us. They are a busy group, working well together and diligently to nurture the areas of our ministry for which they are responsible without losing sight of the big picture of the congregation as a whole.

2. Complex Schedule:

If you are not around much during the week, you would be amazed to discover how busy this place is, how many different events occur each week. Often our facilities are taxed to the max with barely enough space for the many simultaneous activities.

3. Wonderful, Gifted Members:

We are blessed with an extraordinarily rich and diversely talented membership. Two examples come to mind.

- (1) As I've wandered about the building I've discovered wonderful art, much of it the work of our members.
- (2) This Epiphany we sang *Go Tell It on the Mountain* as our sending song every week with stanzas written expressly for each week's themes. All I needed to do was ask one of our gifted members and it was done.

Our members rise to fiscal challenges as well and a noteworthy example is the recent successful campaign to raise sufficient funds to pay off one of our two mortgages thus freeing financial resources that can be utilized to enrich our ministries.

It is a privilege to be a part of St. John's in a more all-encompassing way and I am grateful that circumstances permit me to serve as Interim Music Director. And...based upon the contents of this month's little essay, perhaps its title should not be *From the Organ Bench* but *From the Busy Place Called St. John's*.

John Ferguson
Interim Director of Music





Time and Talent 2013

Time and Talent 2013 sheets have been printed and are out and available for all to fill out. They were introduced at the services on February 24, 2013 and are presently available in the Church Office, at the Welcome Center desk and at the front door of the church. Thank you for taking the time to review the possibilities for volunteering. You may turn them in at the Church Office or at the Welcome Center desk. There are boxes at both locations to put them in. Thank you so much for your commitment.

Lenten Soup Suppers

It has been great to see the number of individuals volunteering to work at the soup suppers and a huge thank you to all of you. As we look forward to the next four suppers we are in need of volunteers to heat the soups, set up the dining room and serve the soups on March 20, 2013. The cleaning and dishwashing crew is in place so please consider being a part of a group (6 people would do) to put the soup on the table. You can let us know if you are interested by the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the Church Office or emailing (sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org) or calling us at the church. Thank you.

Sunday Coffee

The tradition of Sunday coffee at St. John's is a combination of hospitality and ministry. Lutherans love coffee and a treat. We're looking for volunteers to serve coffee on Sunday for some March and April Sundays. You can call Kristy Harms at [612-802-0801](tel:612-802-0801) if you're interested in serving coffee on Sunday.

Joanne Sommers
Shared Ministries Coordinator

SERVING TO LOVE  *LOVING TO SERVE*

The New Lost and Found Box

For a long time, the Lost and Found Box has been high on a shelf above the coat hanging area. Even if a person were tall, there was no easy way to look for a missing item, without climbing up a stepladder! The box was kept on the shelf instead of on the floor so it wouldn't be in the way when the floor was being washed. A recent idea was to build a new box and keep it on the floor for easy access to lost items. Casters would be added on the bottom, so the box could be easily moved, when the floor was being washed.

This winter St. John's members provided funds for the construction of a new Lost and Found Box. The box was built by Scott Swanson, who did a great job! He also added an open shelf at the bottom of the box, which can be used to store boots and shoes until the owners "find" them.

If you are someone who never loses anything, do take time anyway, to look at this fine, new, very well-made Lost and Found Box. You will also see the beautiful painting on the side of the box, done by Judy Swanson. Thanks go to Scott, Judy and all of the Swanson family members — for everything they have done and continue to do, for St. John's. It is appreciated very much!



Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 30!

Plus: St. John's Children's Board is sponsoring
ELCAs, "BUCK-A-CHICK"

The Annual St. John's Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, March 30! This event invites children up to 5th grade, along with parents, to meet in the Commons at 9:30 a.m. for the egg hunt. Make sure to bring a basket or bag for collecting eggs and feel free to bring a friend!

Again at the event this year! Kids can purchase and decorate a paper chick for \$1. Dollars raised will be sent to **ELCA Good Gifts** to purchase baby chicks. A dollar is all it takes to provide a family living in poverty with a little chick. The chicks begin producing eggs that make nutritious meals and can be sold for income – helping a family escape hunger for good. We'll hang all the colorful chicks in the Commons to celebrate your generosity!

Everyone: We need individually wrapped candy and small items to fill the eggs. Donations can be dropped off in the Church Office or put in the basket in the Commons. Thanks so much!

4th and 5th Grade Catechism, March 6, 13 and 20!

4th and 5th graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, March 6. CAT classes meet in the lower level of St. John's from 4:00 p.m.– 4:45 p.m.; 5th grade in the Youth Room studying the Apostles' Creed, and 4th grade in Room 9 studying the Ten Commandments. Don't forget your CAT books!

Parent Gatherings

All parents/grandparents are invited to our next "Parent Gathering" on Sunday, March 3, and Sunday, April 7, during the Education Hour. Carrie Duba will be facilitating a discussion on "Faith and Skills for Parenting" at both meetings. We will meet in the Fireside Room from 10:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

March 3	Sunday School
March 10	Sunday School (<i>Daylight Savings</i>)
March 17	Sunday School
March 24	Sunday School (<i>Palm Sunday</i>)
March 31	No Sunday School (<i>Easter</i>)

"ROCK" - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

March 6, 13, 20
March 27 - No Programming (*Spring Break*)

Catechism for Grades 4 and 5

Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20

Eggciting Easter Egg Hunt / "Buck a Chick"

Saturday, March 30, 9:30 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, March 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.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Easter Breakfast

The Easter Breakfast is one way we celebrate Easter together as a congregation and with those who visit St. John's. All are welcome to St. John's Hall on Easter Sunday for a delicious breakfast of egg bake (ham, sausage, and veggie), muffins, fruit, juice, and coffee. The breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 11:00 a.m. Suggested donations at the door are \$5 per individual and \$20 per family. The breakfast is being hosted by St. John's youth and parents and the Youth Ministry and Education Board. All funds raised above the cost of the breakfast will be used to support summer programming.



Looking for ways to help? We are still in need of individuals to donate an egg bake or other essentials for breakfast. Watch for more details in the bulletin. Please contact Mike Skunes for your chance to support Youth Ministry at St. Johns.

Thank you for supporting our youth!

Sunday Morning Small Groups

I would like to extend a special "thank you" to **Lance Huston, Steve Mikula, Eva Posfay, Saul McBroom, Christy Hall-Holt, and Peggy Hanson** for leading "Small Groups" so far. As the Small Group program is still in pilot, I would love to hear responses and reactions from both parents and students on how it's going.

SENIOR HIGH: You're invited to come, too! We will be screening and discussing the documentary "The Human Experience" for the first two Sundays in March. Feel free to meet with us at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays for donuts and fellowship and then spend time with your peers.

We also could use your help! To keep the commitment level manageable to our current volunteers and to maintain focused groups of students, we need more volunteers. The commitment is light (45 mins. for two Sundays a month), little to no preparation is required, and groups are manageable sizes (no more than 6 per group). If you find yourself with free time on Sunday mornings and have a desire to be a positive role-model and mentor for our youth, please contact Mike at youth@st.johnsnorthfield.org or at [\(507\) 645-4429](tel:5076454429).

Progressive Dinner

The progressive dinner is an event for youth and their families to enjoy a fun evening of having a traveling three-course meal. Starting at the church we will travel between three host homes for food, fun, and fellowship. We need lots of volunteers for this event between drivers and help for host families so look for an invitation this coming month.

Who: 6th-12th Grade Youth and Families

When: Saturday, April 6th at 5:00 p.m. (Meet at Church)

Why: Because it will be a fun night of food and fellowship!



CAT and Confirmation Schedule

There are no classes for CAT or for Confirmation in the month of March. We do ask confirmation students to fill out at least four worship notes from the Lenten Services that will go towards your total for the year. Sixth Grade CAT and Confirmation for grades 7-9 resume on Wednesday, April 3.

Serving on Sundays in March

Acolytes

- March 3** (8:30) Kate Erickson, Nicole Malecha; (11:00) Alex Gunn, Cole Little
March 10 (8:30) Alaina Falck, Taylor Pleschourt; (11:00) Siri Lindell, Kuchceang Mangok
March 17 (8:30) Rikka Zillmer, Aiden Nutt; (11:00) Griffin Rod, Samuel Motzko
March 24 (8:30) Ellianna Ims, Synneva Bratland; (11:00) Viveka Hall-Holt, Arianna Beeby
March 28 (*Maundy Thursday*) Bergen Hoff, Timothy Gasior
March 29 (*Good Friday*) Gregory Pelletier
March 31 (*Easter Sunday*) (8:00) TBD; (9:30) TBD; (11:00) TBD

Communion Preparers

- March 3** Paul and Maribeth Beck
March 10 Joyce Moore, Sandra Gerdes
March 17 Jane Koskovich, Char Nelson
March 24 Mark and Kathy Granquist
March 28 (*Maundy Thursday*) (12:00) Kathy Vang; (7:00) Joe & Judy Smith

Communion Servers

- March 3** (8:30) Jon Rondestvedt; (11:00) Dave Legvold
March 10 (8:30) Mary Cisar; (11:00) Carrie Duba
March 17 (8:30) TBD; (11:00) Rebecca Judge
March 24 (8:30) Cheryl Buck (11:00) Sue Brockman
March 31 (*Easter*) TBD

Ushers

- March 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
March 10 (8:30) Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Don Sahling, Patrick Bougie, Dick Werdahl; (11:00) Jonathan Norrie, Zachary Bahler, Andrew Dell, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
March 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
March 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
March 31 (8:00) Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Don Sahling, Patrick Bougie, Dick Werdahl; (9:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (11:00)

Lenten Worship, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Ushers

- March 6** Team 7
March 13 Team 1
March 20 Team 2
March 28 (12:00) Team 3; (6:30) Team 4
March 29 (12:00) Team 8; (6:30) Team 5

Serving on Sundays in March (cont.)

Coffee Servers

- March 3** TBD
March 10 Elizabeth Busa, Dan and Jo Franklin, Kathy Hart
March 17 Jenny Pelletier and Girl Scouts
March 24 Brad and Nancy Kmoch, Kathy Hart
March 31 *(Easter Sunday)*

Nursery

- March 3** (8:30) Maren Bauer; (11:00) Maren Bauer, Sheri Williams
March 10 (8:30) Maren Bauer; (11:00) Maren Bauer, Maren Bahler
March 17 (8:30) Maren Bauer; (11:00) Maren Bauer, Kristy Harms
March 24 (8:30) Maren Bauer; (11:00) Maren Bauer, Connie Mennsen
March 31 *(Easter Sunday)*

February Actions

Radio Broadcasts

February 10, 2013, in memory of Jim Braulick by Georgia Braulick.
February 17, 2013, in honor of Gunnar Benson's 10th Birthday
by Duane and Marie Benson.

Funerals

Lars Kindem, February 9, 2013

Mission Outreach

March Food Share Campaign!

Northfield Community Action Center has its annual March Minnesota Food Share Campaign. During the month of March, more than 300 food shelves across Minnesota turn to their local communities and talk about hunger and food insecurity within the community and seek donations to augment supplies and run the program. Last year, the CAC raised \$104,439 and collected 39,983 pounds of food during the campaign. 28% of the monetary donations came from 16 area churches.

The CAC has the ability to purchase food items at a much lower cost per pound than the average consumer can, so monetary donations are preferred. **Please indicate that your donation is for the FoodShare Campaign. St. John's 4th and 5th grade Wednesday "DOG" kids will be helping track our congregation's monetary donations with a display in the Commons. Our goal is to reach \$10,000.**

If you prefer to donate food items, these are the items most needed: Cooking oil, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned meat, meal helper, pasta, rice, soup, canned beans, dry beans, spaghetti sauce, and healthy snacks.

We are grateful for your support!

News and Events

Thanks to all for a successful Youth Fundraiser!

This year's Youth Fundraiser raised approximately \$4400! Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, and contributed to this year's event! All proceeds will be used to offset the cost of summer camps, trips, and activities for our youth.

Thanks to All Who Served Coffee

Thank you to the following who served coffee in January and February: David and Susan Hagen, Kristy Harms, Linda Anderson, Bruce and Audrey Moe, Jo Chambers, Rachel Peterson, Mark and Mary Polzin, David and Cheryl Buck, Paul and Maribeth Beck, Paul and Carol Benson, Kristy Harms, Peggy Dell, Jim and Judy Cederberg, Christopher and Deanne Weber, Ted and Tricia Peterson, Robert and Sharon Bastian.

Thoughtful Film Club

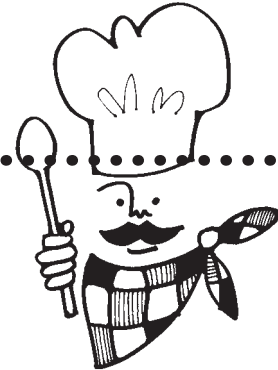
"Beasts of the Southern Wild" is this month's feature for the Thoughtful Film Club. We'll show it on **Friday, March 8, at 7:30 p.m.** Nominated in three Oscar categories, the film features a down-and-out dad teaching his little daughter to survive life in a stormy Louisiana swamp. The film is disconcerting, beautiful, and revolting at the same time. A short discussion will follow. St. John's Theater, 2nd Floor, is the location. All are welcome.

Helen Quello is 100!

Join her family in celebration on March 9th
(Her actual birthday is March 7th)

Northfield Retirement Community
Parkview West Dining Room
910 Cannon Valley Drive
Northfield, MN 55057
2:00- 4:00 in the afternoon

Please no gifts- cards and flowers are greatly appreciated.



St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesday, Mar. 6

Chicken Dumpling
Potato Chowder

served with choice of bread

Wednesday, Mar. 13

Split Pea w/ham & w/o ham
served with choice of bread

Wednesday, Mar. 20

Veggie Beef Barley
Broccoli and Cheese

served with choice of bread

Wednesday, Mar. 27

No Meal

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Mornings in March

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.

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

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

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

*St. John's Forum: Faith and Theology - Part I, presented by Gregory Walter. **Sanctuary.***

Mar. 10: *Coffee served in St. John's Hall. All are invited for breakfast or simply a cup of coffee.*

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

*St. John's Forum: Faith and Theology - Part II, presented by Gregory Walter. **Sanctuary.***

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

*New Member Beginnings. **Fireside Room.***

*St. John's Forum: "Our House at 100: An Evolving Vessel" - Reflections on the 100th Anniversary of St. John's Sanctuary and church building. Presented by Joe Shaw & Steve Edwins. **Sanctuary.***

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

*St. John's Forum: Icons of the Orthodox Church: Easter. Even though our calendars don't often match, the Orthodox and the Western churches do agree on one thing and that is that Pascha or Easter is the central highlight of the entire year for Christians. Come and see how the Eastern Orthodox commemorate the occasion through the use of their iconic tradition. Presented by Keith Homstad. **Theater.***

Mar. 31: *Happy Easter! Easter Breakfast served in St. John's Hall.*

No Forum or Small Groups.

Spring New Member Sessions – Welcome to St. John's!

St. John's formally welcomes new members in the fall and spring. This spring, new members will be received on Sunday, April 28 at the 11 a.m. service. Those wishing to join St. John's are asked to complete and return a Member Information Form by Sunday, March 17. Forms are available in the Church Office. If you have questions or need more information, please contact one of the pastors. To help new members become better acquainted with St. John's there are the following sessions:

New Member Beginnings: Sunday, March 17, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room. Getting acquainted and building connections at St. John's.

Shared Ministry – Part One: Sunday, April 7, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room. Exploring spiritual gifts and how Shared Ministry shapes life at St. John's.

New Member Connections: Sunday, April 14, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room. Fellowship time with hosts – St. John's members who help to welcome and to connect new members with the congregation.

Shared Ministry – Part Two: Sunday, April 21, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room. Exploring the call of belonging to a congregation and sharing gifts, followed by a tour of the building.

New Member Reception and Litany: Sunday, April 28, Reception at 9:35 a.m. in St. John's Hall. New members are formally received during the 11 a.m. worship service.

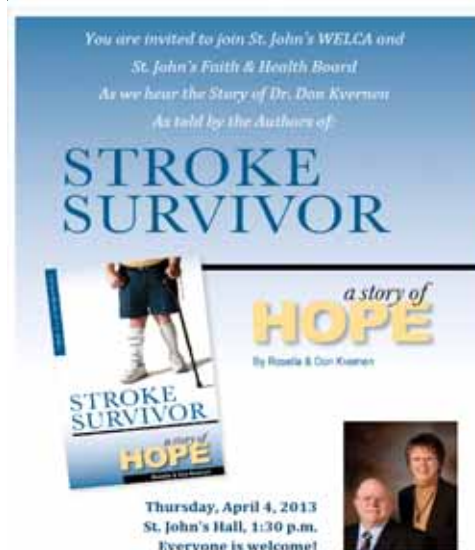
From the Faith and Health Board:

A Story of Hope

According to the American Heart/Stroke Association, about 795,000 Americans suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

At the age of forty, a stroke ended Don Kvernen's career as a psychologist in Rochester, and left him with permanent physical and cognitive disabilities. Two decades later he and his wife Rosella will reveal the truth about his struggles and share how he maintains meaning and joy in his life. Their account offers encouragement, hope, and insight to fellow stroke survivors, their families, and friends, as well as relevant information about strokes.

Everyone is invited to attend this informative program at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4th in St. John's Hall. The program is sponsored jointly by St. John's WELCA and the Faith and Health Board.



Seeking Nurses or Other Health Professionals: Young and Old, Working and Retired!

Christ's ministry was holistic; He ministered to the "whole" person—physically, emotionally and spiritually. As Jesus says in John 10:10, "I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Following Christ's example, health professionals and the church increasingly began to see the possibilities and potential for a healthcare-based ministry. That realization caused parish nursing programs to be developed.

A parish nurse is called and committed to the healing ministry of the church. The parish nurse serves within a congregation to promote wellness of body, mind and spirit. Parish nurses *do not* provide home healthcare nursing. Rather, they work in partnership with clergy and other healthcare organizations to advocate for the health and well-being of the faith community.

As your Parish Nurse, I would like to meet with other St. John's nursing and health professionals for a brainstorming session. We will discuss and consider ways we might better develop and integrate the parish nursing concept within our congregation.

If you are interested in contributing your thoughts and ideas, please contact me at lynmarks@deskmedia.com or 663-0802. Once I hear from you, we will schedule a date and time to meet in the near future. I hope all St. John's members with nursing or other healthcare backgrounds will consider participating in this effort!

Lynette Marks
Parish Nurse

From the Peace and Justice Group . . .

Continuing Our Study of the US Criminal Justice System . . .

“I was in prison and you visited me.”

For some members of St. John’s, our study of the ELCA draft statement on Criminal Justice this fall raised the questions: “How can I make a difference?” and “How can we make a difference?”

At our February meeting, Cindy Robinson of Northfield explained the structure of the Alternatives to Violence program which is used at the State Prison in Faribault. Cindy has participated in this program for more than 15 years.

At our upcoming March 4th meeting, Ruth Anderson of Barron, WI, will add to our understanding of ways to respond to the challenges as she tells of her 28 years of prison ministry.

Ruth began her Jail Ministry through Calvary Lutheran Church (Golden Valley, MN) in the early 1980s. With the leadership of Fern Hanwick, a teacher at Augsburg College, women in her WELCA circle went in groups of three to the Hennepin County Adult Correction Facility for Women in Plymouth, MN.

In 1988, she moved to Barron, WI, where the County Jail is located. Now a member of First Lutheran Church there, she played a role in beginning a ministry to the jail. With the approval of the First Lutheran Evangelism Committee and the Barron Ministerial Association, a program was begun. Currently the group from First Lutheran has 7 members who take turns, two or three going together each Tuesday evening. They meet with the women and men separately, bringing Sunday bulletins, reading texts, and doing lots of singing. An average of 100 a month, 25 each week, attend.

Ruth, a sister of Dorothy Ostlie, is eager to share her story. For more details of their work and program, come on March 4th to hear Ruth talk about her experiences and answer your questions.

As the time for the distribution of the second draft approaches, think about the issues that are most important to you.

Reflect on how your religious commitment enters into your thinking about these things.

There will be opportunities to share concerns and faith.

JUSTICE CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------|---|
| March 4 | Peace and Justice Group, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room. <i>All are welcome!</i>
Topic: A Prison Ministry presented by Ruth Anderson from Barron, WI |
| March 8-10 | Peace Prize Forum: The Power of Ideas, U of MN & Augsburg College
Scheduled Speakers: Muhammad Yunus, Tawakkol Karman, Dr. Paul Farmer
(A rich program - for more details google Nobel Peace Prize Forum) |

What is it to be a companion of Jesus today?

***It is to engage,
under the standard of the Cross,
in the crucial struggle
of our times:
the struggle for faith
and that struggle for justice
which it includes.***

-Bishop Oscar Romero

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
- Luke Bible Study**
Contacts: Dick Beckmen 664-3882
Chuck Jacobson 663-9060
David & Genevieve Quarberg 645-0089
- Men's Breakfast Bible Study**
Contact: Chuck Jacobson 663-9060
- Men's Time Out**
Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271
- 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 of the ELCA Quilting**
Contact: Kathy Vang 645-4849
- Women's Breakfast Group**
Contact: Kathy Mellstrom 663-1451

A Surprising Twist **By Barbara Eaves**

Perhaps you have noticed it as well.

During the past weeks, as the flu season hit hard and spread so rapidly, a decision was made at St. John's to refrain from shaking hands during the sharing of the peace. It was a simple request and a small gesture to avoid the possibility of spreading the flu; it was made out of care and concern for all.

It appears (at least from this person's point of view) that, in an interesting twist, this somewhat awkward "words-without-a-handshake" version of sharing the peace added to the liveliness and warmth (even mirth) of the verbal exchanges as we greeted one another in Christ.

There may not be anything earth-shattering or revelatory about this observation, but it does bring to mind how easy it is to become almost automated with the routine and familiar. During the years when I commuted long distances to my work, there were occasions when the car seemed to be on auto-pilot as suddenly I would come to the realization that I couldn't recall the past 15 minutes of my drive.

Perhaps it is a good thing to move from the routine and familiar from time to time in order to jar us awake to what we are doing and saying. Change, which may simply bring new life to the familiar, has the potential for leading us to refreshing understandings and insights.

What changes might the One who makes all things new be calling you, me, our congregation to during this season of Lent? May we be alive, aware and awake to the wooing of the God's Spirit.

*Give us eyes to see you clearly;
make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright.
ELW #334, vs. Lent 4*

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

Susan Beeby, 650-0998,
susan@beeby-us.com

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

•••••
• **Connections** will meet **Friday, March**
• **22, at 7:30 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. We will
• complete our discussion on the book, *Power of*
• *Parable*. Assignment is Chapters 9 and 10 and
• the epilogue.
•••••



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

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

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:

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

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

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

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

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

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

WE NEED YOUR HELP to reach our goal: creating 25% more quilts this year to celebrate WELCA's 25th birthday, and to help Lutheran World Relief meet the increasing needs of refugees around the world.

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)

BUY FAIR TRADE COFFEE!

Don't forget to purchase your month's supply of coffee on the third Sunday of each month in the Commons! This is an important project aimed at creating sustainability for small farmers and reducing poverty.

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

Luke 16:10a

LOOKING AHEAD

Apr. 4, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. - Program (hosted by Martha/Claudia Circle): "Stroke Survivor: A Story of Hope". Don & Rosella Kvernen are excited to share their story, encourage stroke survivors and their families, and promote stroke awareness. Readers of their book, (same title as above) say their story is an encouragement to anyone who has dealt with tragedy in their lives. In addition to telling their story, they will respond to questions and comments.

Apr. 13, Spring Assembly, Cannon River Conference, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Welch. Call Marilyn Jacobson (663-9060) if you wish to be part of a car pool to this event.

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).

Pastors

*Orlin Mandsager
Mark Johnson
John Quam*

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

Music Ministry

John Ferguson

Music Staff

*Carol Benson - Alleluia
Cathy Rodland - Jubilate
& Hosanna, Organist
Ruth Legvold - Laudate
Zack Pelletier - Rejoice
Ringers*

Office Manager

Leah Garlie

Shared Ministry

Joanne Sommers

Youth Ministry

Mike Skunes

Security & Building

Maintenance

Assistants

Marvin and Irene Perez

Parish Nurse

Lynette Marks

Congregation

President

Sandi Gerdes



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Remember
Daylight Saving Time
begins on Sunday, March 10th!
Turn you clocks ahead one hour.

March Highlights

Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesdays, March 6, 13 & 20, from 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

St. John's Forum: "Our House at 100: An Evolving Vessel"

Sunday, March 17, at 9:50 a.m.

(For more information, check page 11)

New Member Beginnings

Sunday, March 17, at 9:50 a.m.

(For more information, check page 11)

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30, 9:30 a.m.

(For more information, check page 6)

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, March 31 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

(For more information, check page 7)