

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

April 2013

Volume 53, Number 4

*on the
inside . . .*

"Bullying in Our
Midst" Workshop
✧ p. 6

Adopt-A-Highway
✧ p. 7 and 9

"Road to Reforma-
tion" Conference
✧ p. 10

Check Out Historical
Photos
✧ p. 11

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.

Call Committee to Offer Several Opportunities for Congregational Input

The Call Committee has begun the first phase of work to move us toward calling our next Senior Pastor. This stage involves a thorough review of information and data to better understand the current climate and needs of our congregation.

We are trying to be intentional listeners throughout the process and reach as many constituencies within St. John's as possible. To that end, we will offer several opportunities for members to provide input, comments and suggestions.

On Sunday, April 7, the Call Committee will conduct a "Mini-Survey." This short exercise will gather information and rank certain areas of St. John's programs and ministry for the Call Committee to evaluate.

That same Sunday between services, we will hold a "Listening Session" in the Fireside Room. You are invited to have a conversation with anyone from the Call Committee related to St. John's and the Call Committee's work.

For those who wish to offer input via email, please send your comments to: st-johns-call-committee@googlegroups.com. If you prefer to comment in writing, there is a Call Committee mailbox located in the Church Office.

In addition, we will provide updates on the St. John's website Call Committee area, in the *Voice* and Bulletin.

Committee members are: Carol Benson, Cheryl Buck, Cameron Judge-Becker, Brad Knoch, Michele Knutson, Alan Marks, David Nitz, Pamela Schwandt, Mark Ullmer and Sandi Gerdes (as congregation President she serves in ex-officio capacity).

Service of Renewal Set for April 16

A service of inspiration and renewal for caregivers featuring music, meditation and prayer will be Tuesday, April 16, 7:00 p.m., here at St. John's.

Called "Restore, Replenish, Renew," this service is designed for anyone who is providing care or services to persons in need. This includes family caregivers, nurses, physicians, healthcare workers, therapists, clergy and volunteers. The service will include a litany for healing, readings, hymn singing, anointing of hands, and a caregiver's psalm. Following the service there will be refreshments, massage therapists, and a time for fellowship.

"Restore, Replenish, Renew" was initiated in 2000 by a local network of parish nurses. They wanted to offer a worship service that would reinvigorate the spiritual side of those who provided prolonged care.

Northfield Retirement Community, Three Links, Northfield Interfaith Association and Northfield Hospital & Clinics are sponsoring the service.

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, April 18, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

Individual prayers for healing, joys, and all concerns are offered by members 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.

*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*

The Practice of Silence

A Stephen minister is schooled in silence, trained to practice it and to respect it.

The practice of silence begins with confidentiality, one of the cornerstones of the Stephen Ministry. Everything about the Stephen Ministry relationship—the name of the care receiver, details of what is heard and observed in conversations—is considered confidential, not to be shared.

The Stephen Minister's practice of silence extends to quieting the self while listening to the other speak—active listening, it is called, listening with ears and eyes and heart open and alert.

Stephen ministers respect silence in others. They respect the care receiver's choice of what to tell and what not to tell. They respect silences during a conversation and are

comfortable with them, knowing they allow space for emotion and reflection and understanding, for God's work of healing to take place in God's own time.

Silence allows us to listen for the voice of God.

If meeting with a Stephen Minister might be beneficial to you or to someone you know, contact Pastor Mark Johnson (645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (645-8445).

*Blessed are they who
mourn, for they shall
be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

A Grief Support Group begins meeting this month for parents grieving the loss of a child. The group will meet Tuesday evenings starting April 23 through May 28 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. For more information contact Sherri Bunch Quaas at 645-4300 or St. John's Grief Support Coalition Member 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."

Valborg Hallan
April 8, 2012

John Maakestad
April 10, 2012

Eleanor Blockhus
April 21, 2012

Jean Batalden
April 28, 2012

From our pastors . . .

*"Then
their eyes
were
opened,
and they
recognized
him . . ."*

Luke 24:31



The apostle Paul writes, "If Christ has not been raised...then your faith has been in vain." (First Corinthians 15:14) Christ's resurrection is one of the wonderful and confounding mysteries at the heart of our faith. With help from the Holy Spirit I believe in the resurrection but I don't fully understand it. From time to time, throughout our lives, many of us will wrestle with the amazing assertion that God raised Jesus from the dead – in defiance of all the laws of nature. While this struggle may be uncomfortable at times, it is not always a burden, and it can sometimes even be a source of joy. We are given curious minds and intellect to seek understanding when it comes to the doctrines and beliefs of our faith.

The resurrection, however, must be more than a doctrine that we give our assent to. The witness of Scripture is that Christ's resurrection is an ongoing, life-changing reality in the world and in the lives of believers. Theologians Gerd Thiessen and Annette Merz in their book The Historical Jesus explore early Christian reactions to the resurrection. According to scripture, Jesus was seen by many people after his death. Some people regarded these appearances as fantasies or hallucinations. Others argued that Jesus' appearances after his death made it clear that God was again taking Jesus' side – even after his death. Still others argued that if God could make a dead person alive, could God not fill dead human hearts with living spirit and enable us to do things that no one has thought possible?

In John's Gospel, Jesus prepares and eats a breakfast of bread and fish on the beach with his disciples after the resurrection. Some early Christian communities, in remembrance of this meal, would sometimes eat fish during communion, along with the bread and wine. As a community of the resurrection, we still eat together. Holy Communion is a meal to share our joy in Christ's resurrection from the dead and to be nourished with the power of God's love and forgiveness that is ours through the risen Christ.

In an essay written during the season of Easter in 1991 Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann writes that "*Easter is not a "spiritual" event, but a surging of power that touches all of life. The Easter question for us is not whether you can get your mind around the resurrection, because you cannot. Rather, the question is whether you can permit in your horizon new healing power, new surging possibility, new gestures to the lame, new ways of power in an armed, fearful world, new risk, new life, leaping, dancing, singing, praising the power beyond all our controlled power.*"

In all its mystery, the power of the resurrection comes as light in the darkness; as a way forward where none can be found. The power of the resurrection comes during the simple meal of bread and wine giving us the assurance that we have a place at the table, and giving us the strength to live and to share the good news that Jesus is alive.

The peace and joy of the Risen Christ!

Mark

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

From the Organ Bench...

A church musician's Sunday sometimes involves an unexpected surprise. March 17 was one of "those days." The Rejoice Ringers always arrive at 7:30 a.m. (!) to prepare for the 8:30 service so I was not surprised when director Zach Pelletier walked in to the balcony at 7:15, but was surprised by the frantic look on his face. "John, we have an ill ringer and none of the subs can help, could you sub for us?" "Zach, I've rung lots of bells but never as part of a bell choir, but I'll try." Try I did and the ringers on either side were very helpful in assuring that this novice ringer didn't ding when he should dong.

I have reasons for sharing this insider's tidbit with you.

First, note the time they arrived. Then remember they played both services and stayed after to put away bells, tables and replace chairs so the balcony was ready for a singing choir next week. We ask a lot of our choir members – regular attendance at rehearsals and singing on Sundays. In the average congregation more is expected of choir members than most anyone else. So the next time you see a choir member, thank them for the gifts they give us in time and talent.

Then too we need to thank the parents who encourage their children to participate in our youth choirs. Our young singers serve us and share their faith as they lead us in worship. Also there is no better way to plant basic theological concepts in our hearts and heads than to sing the ideas to a good tune. Think of the power and breadth of the text, "O Day Full of Grace," which we sang on March 17th. It is a hymnic statement of faith. When we were singing last Sunday I was reminded of the need for all generations worshipping together to know the great hymns. They help us grasp who we are as Christians and serve as bridges from one generation to another. Also they often end up as the last working bridge to someone in the Alzheimer's unit.

So this Easter season, let us all proclaim the good news the Christ Is Risen as we lift our voices in the alleluias and hymns for Eastertide. And please mark your calendars now for Sunday morning May 12 when all of our choirs will join in leading a Sunday morning Easter and Pentecost Hymn Festival at both services.

John Ferguson
Interim Director of Music

Notes of Thanks!

From the Community Action Center: "What a unique and imaginative way to "Pay-It-Forward" you came up with to bag groceries at Econo Foods and bring people's awareness to doing good things for others. Thank you for your generous contribution of \$411.08 to the Community Action Center of Northfield or general operations as a result of your effort ..."

"Thank you for your very generous contribution of \$575 to the Community Action Center for general operations. Your financial support is critical to our operations. [The CAC} is grateful for your compassionate partnership ..."

From the ELCA Malaria Campaign: "Thank you for your recent gift of \$500 to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. To neighbors yearning to be free of this preventable and treatable disease, gifts like yours bring not only help, but also hope."

Thank you to Carol V. Johnson for the new festival paraments given to St. John's in loving memory of her parents Lawrence G. Johnson and Alice O. Johnson. The paraments were designed by Judy Swanson and created by Lynette and Judy Swanson.



Reminder: The 2013 Time and Talent Sheets are still available in the Church Office, at the Welcome Desk and various other locations throughout the Church. Please take a few moments to consider the many opportunities of when and where you can give of your time and your talents.

Please volunteer and experience the feeling of SERVING TO LOVE - LOVING TO SERVE.

Traditional Wednesday Night Meals begin again Wednesday, April 3 with pizza and salad! We need volunteers for our April meals to bring dessert and help with clean up. Fill out the form below or watch your inbox for opportunities to sign up and assist with Wednesday Night Meals!

Name:

Phone:

E-mail:

___ I would like to bring a dessert for a Wednesday Night Meal. I will do so on...
___ April 3 ___ April 10 ___ April 17 ___ April 24

___ I would like to help with clean up for a Wednesday Night Meal (5:45-7:30 p.m.)
___ April 3 ___ April 10 ___ April 17 ___ April 24

Joanne Sommers
Shared Ministries Coordinator
sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org

SERVING TO LOVE  *LOVING TO SERVE*

Spring New Member Sessions Continue!

St. John's formally welcomes new members each spring and fall. This spring, new members will be received on Sunday, April 28, at the 11:00 a.m. service. To help new members become better acquainted with St. John's there are the following sessions:

Shared Ministry – Part One: Sunday, April 7, 9:45 a.m., St. John's Hall. 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.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

April 7, 14, 21, 28 Sunday School

Wednesday Afterschool Programming

April 3, 10, 17, 24

"Bullying in Our Midst" Workshop

Sunday, April 14

Third Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday, April 24, 4:45 - 6:00 p.m., Youth Room

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

The last retreat for 3rd grade Catechism this year is Wednesday, April 24 from 4:45 – 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room at St. John's. The topic is The Sacrament of Communion. Parents are invited to join the retreat at 5:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**"Bullying in Our Midst"
Workshop at
St. John's Lutheran Church,
Kasson, MN**

"Bullying in Our Midst" will be presented at St. John's Lutheran Church in Kasson, MN on April 14 from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. It is sponsored by the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and is open to anyone in our congregation who is interested in learning more about this epidemic.

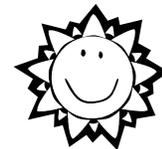
Workshops include:

- Bullying Prevention and Preparation for Parents
- Cyber Bullying
- Young Voices for Change
- What can compassionate adults do when kids call other kids gay?
- Strong Communities Stand Together in Crisis
- A Not So Little Secret: Bullies in Church

Please call the church office by April 7 or speak with Julie Brehmer or Mike Skunes if you are interested in attending.

Join us this summer!

Sign up for summer camp! It's a BLAST!



Settlers' Camp at Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN (grades 2-3) June 9-11

This three day, two night camp takes place in the Log Lodge retreat center at GEV. Activities include worship, Bible studies, hiking, campfires, games, creek splashing and more! This is a great first time camp experience!

Shores of St. Andrews, New London, MN (grades 3-5) June 23-28

At this week long Bible camp, kids have lots of fun with friends laughing, learning and growing in their faith. Enjoy swimming, kayaking, games, campfires, fellowship, singing and more! This camp is offered through Green Lake Lutheran Ministries.

"On the Road" Summer Camp (K-4), comes to Northfield, August 5-9

Good Earth Village, "On the Road!" will bring the fun of summer camp to Northfield. This 5-day program is filled with games, worship, crafts, Bible study and singing. Registration is through Good Earth Village. Campers can register on-line at www.goodearthvillage.org. **It's very popular so register early!** GEV takes approximately 125 campers.

Vacation Bible School, (Pre 1 – K), August 6-9, AT ST. JOHN'S THIS YEAR!

VBS is sponsored by St. John's, Bethel, Rejoice! and Emmaus Churches of Northfield. Volunteers come together to provide this fun-filled week where children enjoy music, crafts, games, Bible stories and make new friends!

Kindergarteners have the option of going to either VBS or "On the Road". The VBS program will be half days whereas "On the Road" is a full day experience. You decide which program works best for your child! Registration forms available in late April/May.

No one will be turned away from attending summer programs because of financial reasons. Please contact Pastor Mark, Julie Brehmer or Mike Skunes if you need financial assistance.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Progressive Dinner

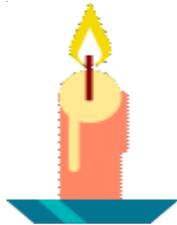
WHEN: Saturday, April 6th
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
WHERE: Meet at St. John's
WHO: All Youth 6th-12th



We'll be having a traveling meal hosted by the families of St. John's. We'll meet at church and travel to three different houses for a three course meal. A fun time of fellowship and food awaits!

UNDERGROUND CHURCH

WHEN: Friday, April 12th
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: St. John's
WHO: 6th-8th Graders

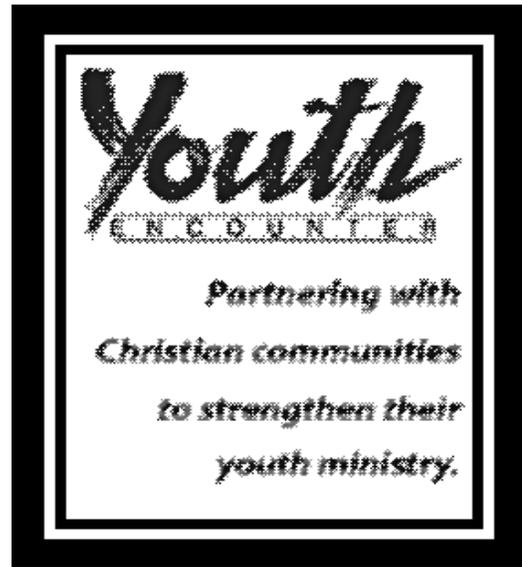


Northfield Area Youth Workers (NAYW) and St. Olaf Christian Outreach are getting together to host a middle-school night here at St. John's. We'll be playing **Romans and Christians**, enjoying snacks, and having an "underground-worship." Sign-up is outside the Youth Room. The event is open to the community so invite your friends!

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

WHEN: Sunday, April 28th
TIME: 1:30 p.m.
WHERE: Meet in NHS parking lot

Join us in service to keep our stretch of highway litter-free. We'll meet at the high school, clean up for an hour then go out for **Cherry Berry** after. Confirmands, this counts as a "Hands and Feet" project! Sign up outside the Main Office or email Mike @ youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org.



Family Night

WHEN: Saturday, April 20th
TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
WHERE: St. John's Hall
WHO: Families of St. John's Youth

The group Captive Free will be coming to host a night of fellowship and worship for families of St. John's youth. Captive Free is a traveling youth and music ministry team supported through Youth Encounter that is trained in relational ministry and contemporary-style worship. They'll be leading family-friendly mixers and games, join us for supper, and will lead us in worship with guitars, puppets and youth-centered testimony.

The team relies on the kindness of hosts for lodging. If your family would be willing to host either the three male members or the one female member for Friday and/or Saturday night, contact Mike at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

CAT (GRADE 6) AND CONFIRMATION REMINDER

Sixth Grade CAT and Confirmation for grades 7-9 resume on Wednesday, April 3. See you there!

Serving on Sundays in April

Acolytes

- April 7** (8:30) Ander Koenig, Samuel Motzko; (11:00) Anders Koenig, Cole Little
April 14 (8:30) Courtney Nelson, Alison Nelson; (11:00) Elsa Hoff, Logan Matson
April 21 (8:30) Alaina Falck, TBD; (11:00) Jacob Gonnerman, Dylan Gehring
April 28 (8:30) Ellianna Ims, Andrew Becker; (11:00) Berit Hendel, Ariana Beeby

Communion Preparers

- April 7** Jill Enestvedt, Judy Smith
April 14 Jon and Jeanette Rondestvedt
April 21 Dennis and Jane Rinehart
April 28 David and Pat Halsor

Communion Servers

- April 7** (8:30) Ruth Hansen; (11:00) TBD
April 14 (8:30) Jane Rinehart; (11:00) Andrea Hoff
April 21 (8:30) Suzanne Sylvester; (11:00) Britta Anderson
April 28 (8:30) TBD; (11:00) TBD

Counters

- April 7** Jim Enestvedt, Solveig Zempel, Elden Zempel, Amy Boxrud
April 14 Jim Enestvedt, Solveig Zempel, Elden Zempel, Dan Franklin
April 21 Jim Enestvedt, Solveig Zempel, Mark Ulmer, Kasia Gonnerman
April 28 Jim Enestvedt, Solveig Zempel, Sue Brockman, Brent Bash

Ushers

- April 7** (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
April 14 (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
April 21 (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
April 28 (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 Actions

Baptisms

Aaliyah Emanuelson, daughter of Bethany Emanuelson and Cody Hommedahl, sponsors are Shelby Emanuelson, Jennifer & John Ward and Jeff & Tanya Malecha, March 24, 2013.

Radio Broadcasts

March 24, 2013, given by Shirley Falck in honor of the birthdays of grandchildren Bennett Falck, March 22, and Alaina Falck, March 24.

March 31, 2013, given by Sharon Bishop in honor of her parents.

Mission Outreach



Another Sign of Spring – Highway Clean Up!

Volunteers are needed for the spring clean-up of the St. John's section of State Highway 246. Meet in the High School parking lot – across from the cemetery on Sunday, April 28 at 1:30 p.m. (NOTE change of day from past clean-ups). Wear comfortable shoes. Safety vests and gloves will be provided. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up in the Commons or contact the Church Office. Thank you for helping to care for this small part of God's creation.

Follow-Up to Lenten Creation Care Series

Faith and Creation Lecture at Luther Seminary this Month:

Dr. Frederick Kirschenmann, Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Iowa State University and Distinguished Fellow, Leopold Centre for Sustainable Agriculture will present a lecture entitled, "Anticipating our Future Food and Faith World" at Luther Seminary on Monday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. The lecture will be held in the Northwestern Hall Auditorium and is free of charge. Dr. Kirshenmann will preach at the Luther Seminary chapel service on Tuesday, April 23 at 11:00 a.m. For more information go to www.luthersem.edu.

Update from East Africa

The following article was posted on March 10, 2013 from Randy and Carol Stubbs, ELCA missionaries serving in the music department at Tumaini University in Makumira, Tanzania. St. John's has supported the ministry of the Stubbs family since 2012.

We are still behind, but this week we should be able to catch up on the blog. The biggest recent news is that Nathan, Carol, and I (Randy) made it the summit of Mt. Meru on March 2nd. That's 14,977 ft. and we discovered that is really high and very awesome.

February was busier than we expected in part due to the funeral of Bishop Laiser of the Arusha Diocese. Setting sound for a huge area (3 blocks for 10,000 persons, plus helping with music for the 2 days of service) was an unexpected adventure. Still, we give thanks for the ability and skills to do the work before us.

Home Assignment will be this year. We are finalizing dates, but it will generally be July 19 to September 23. Lots of details coming soon. Thank you for continued prayers and other forms of support.

In His Hands,

Randy, Carol, Megan, Marissa, and Nathan Stubbs and Juliana

News and Events

“Road to Reformation” at Gustavus Faith Conference

All are welcome to attend the Gustavus Faith Conference, “Road to the Reformation: Deepening our Lutheran Theological Roots,” on Saturday, April 20, 2013 at Gustavus Adolphus College. The conference will include worship featuring Gustavus student musicians, with the Rev. Corrine Chilstrom preaching and two keynote presentations by Dr. Martin Marty speaking on “What do Lutherans Have to Offer the 21st Century?” and Dr. Kenneth Mtata speaking on “Lutheranism in the 21st Century – African Perspectives.” Lunch will be served. To register and for lunch pre-arrangements (April 12 deadline) contact GAC Church Relations at 507-933-7001 or www.gustavus.edu/churchrelations/. St. John’s is a member of the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations. Chuck and Marilyn Jacobson are the St. John’s representatives to the association.

Parent Gatherings

All parents/grandparents are invited to our next “Parent Gathering” on 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 from 10:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m., place TBD. Coffee and treats will be provided.

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, April 6, 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.

OPEN DOOR NURSERY SCHOOL

Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction Fundraiser

Saturday, April 6th

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

St. John’s Lutheran Church

Adults: \$6 (\$8 at the door)

Children ages 4-12: \$4 (\$5 at the door)

Children 3 and under: Free

Tickets can be ordered by phone or email:

Rebecca Heath 507-210-6839 or rlheath6@gmail.com

Money raised will be used for art supplies, books, and maintenance for the outdoor play area!



St. John’s Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesday, Apr. 3
Pizza and Salad

Wednesday, Apr. 10
Tator Tot Hotdish

Wednesday, Apr. 17
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Wednesday, Apr. 24
Cook’s Choice

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

News and Events



Check Out Historical Photos and Records of St. John's on the NHC Website!

The Northfield History Collaborative began in 2007 with the goal of creating an online one-stop shop for Northfield history. The collaborative includes 11 members, including St. John's. Visit the collaborative website at <http://northfieldhistorycollaborative.org> and read the blog post on the recent St. John's contributions. Questions? Call Debby Nitz at 645-7978 or email at nitz402@gmail.com.

St. John's ELCA College Scholarship

All St. John's students who will be attending an ELCA college next fall are eligible for a scholarship from St. John's and the St. John's Lutheran Church Foundation. Each ELCA college will likely match the scholarship amount. The amount of the individual scholarship will be determined by the number of scholarship applicants. This is a non-competitive scholarship. Students can request a scholarship each year, up to four years for each year of full-time enrollment at an ELCA college. Applications must be submitted each year. Application forms are available in the Church Office and are due April 21, 2013.



... from the Business Management Board

Treasurer's Update

At its January annual meeting, the St. John's congregation voted unanimously to approve a budget that called for \$760,000 in regular envelope offerings. Regular envelope offerings contribute 90% of our congregation's annual source of income; they are key to helping us stay "on budget."

To help us all better steward the responsibility we have assumed for ourselves, I will be providing you with monthly updates on our progress in meeting our budget target. The reports will come with a bit of a lag, since we want to give Council and the Business Management Board the opportunity to double check them before they are published, but I hope you will find them useful nonetheless.

I am therefore pleased to offer you the following update on our success in meeting our budgeted envelope offering income. In the month of January, 2013, we received \$63,332 in envelope offerings. Given a budgeted goal of \$760,000 for the year, we should be averaging \$63,333 per month in envelope contributions. This means that we ended the month of January just \$1.00 behind our target. Not bad at all!

Thank you for your generous support of this congregation and its mission in the community and the world.

Beckie

Rebecca Judge, Treasurer
St. John's Lutheran Church

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in April

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.

April 07:

Coffee served in St. John's Hall.

*New Member Event: Shared Ministry Part I - Fellowship and tour of the building. 9:45 a.m., St. John's Hall
(NOTE change of location).*

Parent Gathering: "Faith and Skills for Parenting", facilitated by Carrie Duba. 10:00 a.m., TBD.

Small Group Study on Criminal Justice: Facilitated by Chuck Jacobson. 9:50 a.m., Room 212.

Call Committee Listening Session. 9:50 a.m., Fireside Room.

St. John's Forum: "A Pilgrimage to Faith: the life and poetry of Denise Levertov" presented by Judith Stoutland. Denise Levertov was born in 1923, raised in the Jewish Hasidic tradition, and converted to Catholicism in 1989. A few key poems will be read during this presentation as a way of learning about the basic themes of this prolific poet and how Levertov articulates the role of christian faith in a world in need of healing. 9:50 a.m., Theater.

April 14:

Coffee served in St. John's Hall.

New Member Event: New Member Connection - Fellowship time with hosts - St. John's members who help to welcome and to connect new members with the congregation. 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room.

Small Group Study on Criminal Justice: Facilitated by Chuck Jacobson. 9:50 a.m., Room 212.

St. John's Forum: Respite Care presented by Sandi Gerdes. 9:50 a.m., Sanctuary.

April 21:

Coffee served in St. John's Hall.

New Member Event: Shared Ministry Part II - Exploring spiritual gifts and the call of belonging to a congregation. 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room.

Small Group Study on Criminal Justice: Facilitated by Chuck Jacobson. 9:50 a.m., Room 212.

St. John's Forum: Mental Health and Young presented by Dr. Susan Jenkins, psychiatrist at Methodist Hospital, Rochester, MN. 9:50 a.m., Sanctuary.

April 28:

New Member Reception - Coffee served in St. John's Hall.

Small Group Study on Criminal Justice: Facilitated by Chuck Jacobson. 9:50 a.m., Room 212.

St. John's Forum: No Forum.



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

New Life...Again and Again by Barbara Eaves

During the years we lived in Arizona, when the calendar turned to September I thought, "Ah the long hot summer is over, the temperatures will be cool now and soon we can plant the petunias." However, the hot temperatures usually did not subside for good until the end of October. In Minnesota when the calendar turns to March, something in me says, "Ah winter is over, the temperatures will be warm now and soon we can plant the petunias." However, the cold of winter tends to hang on, sometimes for a couple more months.

Of course, the reality in both those cases is that the seasons don't change with a simple turn of a calendar. This year, since patience and waiting have never been personal strengths, I decided in mid-March to bring a touch of spring indoors even if outdoors it looked like winter would never let go. So, silk flowers, bird houses, birds and bright colors took their places around the house. Also, a trip to a local greenhouse, where arrays of spring flowers were in full bloom, proved to be cathartic and a gentle reminder that spring will indeed come again.

Just as we wait through the dark and cold days of winter for the promise of spring that brings new life to the earth year after year, so we wait through the Lenten journey of Jesus' last days on earth for the promise of Easter that brings new life to us day after day.

*'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days's sleep in death as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise undying.*

ELW 363, vs 2

Coming in April

"Hearing the Cries" is a five-session ELCA study on the social statement, "Faith and the Criminal Justice System." The statement, currently in draft form, will be considered at the Churchwide Assembly this coming August. The five-session study will be led by Chuck Jacobson, one of the facilitators who introduced the statement to St. John's during two forum sessions this past fall.

Copies of the study will be provided to those who participate and there is no need to sign up prior to attending the study. Sessions will be held on Sundays, April 7-May 5, 9:50-10:50am in Room 212 (upper level).

For questions or more information, contact Chuck Jacobson at 663-9060.

*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



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@augsburgfortress.org or [800-328-4648](tel:800-328-4648).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 4, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. - Program (hosted by Martha/Claudia Circle and co-sponsored by the Faith and Health Board): "Stroke Survivor: A Story of Hope". Don & Rosella Kvernen will be sharing their story and their book, which encourages stroke survivors and their families, and promotes stroke awareness.

Apr. 13, Saturday - Spring Assembly, Cannon River Conference, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Welch, 8:00a.m. registration, 11:30a.m. lunch. Speaker: Patty Reidold from Connecting Generations. Call Marilyn Jacobson (663-9060) if you wish to be part of a car pool to this event.

CIRCLES: PLEASE JOIN US! (call Marilyn Jacobson: 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*)

LOOKING AHEAD

May 2, Thursday, 1:00 p.m. - Program: Judy Swanson and Marilyn Engstrom will share Reflections and Memories of the WELCA Constituting Convention, which took place twenty five years ago.

Save the Date - Sept. 21: WELCA Synod Convention in Albert Lea.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A big thank you to the Mary Circle and those who made donations for the Personal Care Kit project! Twenty five kits were assembled and shipped to those in need.

QUILT PROJECT: Ongoing HELP is needed 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 or blankets (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.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Apr. 8: Bible Study Leaders meet at 12:00 p.m. in Fireside Room.

Apr. 2 & 16: Knitters meet at 9:30 at home of Kathy Vang, 645-4849.

Apr. 10, 11, 12, 13, 18: Circles meet. Check with leaders for locations.

Apr. 15 & 18: Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall from 9-11 a.m.

Apr. 25: WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 in Fireside Room.

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).

from the Peace and Justice Group . . .

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FORUM, March 8-10

THE POWER OF IDEAS : People and Peace

Ideas were plentiful during The Nobel Peace Prize Forum (NPPF) – 2013 in Minneapolis. Plenary presentations were followed by Q/A time between the audience and presenters. Live streaming, You Tube, and other contemporary media increased the participation beyond those in the lecture halls.

Robert Flaten, a long-term member of the NPPF Board, will continue the consideration of some of these ideas as he leads a discussion at the Peace and Justice Group meeting Monday, April 8, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

Key participants were two Nobel Peace Prize Laureates: Muhammad Yunus, the 2006 laureate, founder of micro credit from Bangladesh, and Tawakkol Karman, the 2011 laureate, the “Mother of the Revolution” from Yemen.

Before Professor Yunus had his idea for a way to offer loans to people who needed modest amounts of money there was no bank or system that would do that. The success of his early projects has extended beyond his dreams. Using his principal of ‘social business’, the Grameen bank has been adapted to many places and had extraordinary results. Speaking of his life-work he says, “If we put our human power into [developing] the creativity of human beings to solve problems...we can overcome the problems of the world.”

Ms. Karman began her campaign for freedom in 2005, well before the beginning of the Arab Spring, earning her honor as mother of the revolution. Her key idea and number one priority is the Freedom of Expression which she has pursued with protests and demonstrations. The youngest Laureate, she has experienced turmoil and violence her entire life. Her commitment to help Yemen overcome this destructive situation guided her insistence on a peaceful, nonmilitary struggle. Women were to play an important role in this.

Also participating as speakers were Lois Quam of Global Health Initiative, joining Robin Wright of the US Institute of Peace and Nina Easton of Fortune magazine to underline the role of women in development and peace.

Geir Lundestad, Secretary of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, participated, as he has for the past 22 years. Augsburg and the Humphrey School were the major academic sponsors, joined by Concordia, Pacific Lutheran, and U of M Schools of Management, Biological Sciences, Public Health and the Institute on the Environment. Augustana, Luther, St. Olaf and St. Thomas were partners. 5000 persons registered.

Started at St. Olaf in 1989 by the five Norwegian Lutheran colleges in the area, The Nobel Peace Prize Forum, celebrated its 25th year at this event.

JUSTICE CALENDAR

April 8 Peace and Justice Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room. *All are welcome!*
(note date change) Topic: The Power of Ideas - People and Peace. A conversation about ideas from The Nobel Peace Prize Forum led by Robert Flaten.

ELCA Bishops Say Addressing Violence Begins By Listening

ITASCA, Ill (ELCA) — Expressing grief over the tragedy of gun violence in the United States, the 65 synod bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) offered a pastoral letter on violence to the 4-million-member church. In their letter, the bishops invite members to address together the cause and effect of violence, engage in prayer and respectful conversation, and care for one another and the communities impacted by violence.

“We recognize that we serve in different contexts and have different perspectives regarding what can and should be done,” they wrote. “But as we live out our common vocations, knowing that the work will take many forms, we are committed to the work of reducing and restraining violence. In this time of public attention to gun violence, local communities of faith have a unique opportunity to engage this work. We begin by listening: listening to God, to Scripture, and to each other. Providing a safe place for people to share their own stories, together we discern courses of action. Together we act.”

To read the entire letter check out the P&J bulletin boards or Google “ELCA Bishops’ Letter on Violence.”

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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April Highlights

Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, & 24, from 5:15 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Progressive Dinner for Youth and their Families

Saturday, April 6, at 5:00 p.m.

(For more information, check page 7)

"Restore, Replenish, Renew"

Tuesday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m.

(For more information, check page 1)

Family Night: for Families of St. John's Youth

Saturday, April 20, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(For more information, check page 7)

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday, April 24 from 4:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

(For more information, check page 6)

Adopt-A-Highway

Saturday, April 28, at 1:30 p.m. (NHS Parking Lot)

(For more information, check page 7 and 9)

62nd Annual Northfield Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 2, at 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

St. John's Hall



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