

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

June/July 2013

Volume 53, Number 6

*on the
inside . . .*

From the Organ
Bench

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Worship Services:

8:30 a.m. & 10:00 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 to:

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 - Thursday

9:00 a.m. to noon and
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. to noon and
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Call Committee Prepares for Candidate Interviews

The Call Committee spent the past 2 ½ months reviewing data, gathering information, seeking input and discussing the status of St. John's and our congregation. This culminated in completion of a revised Ministry Site Profile. The MSP was approved by Council on May 14 and sent to our Synod the next day.

The Synod makes our Profile information available to all interested and congregation-nominated Sr. Pastor candidates to help them better understand our church, its hopes and its needs. Candidates use the information, in part, to help discern whether to be considered for call to St. John's.

As of mid-May, a total of 23 congregation-nominated candidates had been sent to the Synod for processing. Thank you to all who made submissions!

The Committee is currently preparing for the first round of candidate interviews. These will begin once we receive and screen candidate information that the Synod sends us. We ask for prayers for St. John's and patience on the part of the congregation as we continue our work.

Rhubarb Sunday is June 9!

It's time to cut the rhubarb, search for your special rhubarb recipe, and whip it up...and bring it to St. John's for Rhubarb Sunday on June 9. Whether you bring a rhubarb dessert or not, everyone is welcome to enjoy all the delicious creations between services in St. John's Hall. If you can bring a rhubarb dessert please sign up in the Commons. We need 25 people to bring a dessert of their choice on Saturday, June 8 or before the first service on June 9. Questions? Call Guy Reid (645-7984) or the church office. (If you'd like to bake a dessert but need some rhubarb, please stop by the church on Friday, June 7, and there will be rhubarb available at the Welcome Desk.)

Coming Sunday, July 14 - Strawberry Sunday!



8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship

10:00 a.m. Worship

See you at Church!

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

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.

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.

*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*

Those Who Give Care to Our Congregation

The principal task of Stephen Ministers, in giving care to someone going through a difficult passage, is to listen patiently without judging or advising. That is the way we have been taught to bring Christ's love to our neighbor, one by one. The Stephen Ministry is an extension of pastoral ministry, which is something all our pastors do, and it is through the pastors that most of our referrals come.

In our congregation there are many other groups and individuals whose purpose is to bring care to the neighbor in a wide variety of ways. In a May meeting sponsored by Stephen Ministers, a panel of representatives from such groups described the care they each offer, partly to give information and partly to determine the gaps, the places where we as a congregation need to extend ourselves further.

The following groups were represented in that panel: Mark Johnson, Pastoral Care; John Quam, Visitation Pastor and St. John's Visitors; Stephen Ministers, Jennifer Edwins; Parish Nurse, Lynette Marks; Funeral Lunches, Jane Gelle; Grief Support Groups, Barbara Knaak; Flower Ministry, Corrine and Elvin Heiberg;

Prayer Chain, Mary Cisar; Healing Prayer Group, Richard Beckman; and Melissa Berthelson for a new group now forming to provide meals to people facing a health crisis, called the Congregational Care Committee.

Most people represented above give care that is quiet and invisible in the life of the congregation, care addressed to individuals and families. It is important for us as a congregation to give thanks and pray for this work, for those who give care and for those who receive it.

If you or someone you know might benefit from meeting with a patient listener who will not judge or advise, call one of the pastors (645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (645-8445).

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Northfield Grief Support Coalition: A grief support group meets this month at the First United Church of Christ on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. through June 25. Contact Amanda Pettis for more information, 651-210-2290.

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."

Mildred (Millie) Johnson

June 23, 2012

Ronald (Ron) Sell

July 10, 2012

Signe Austin

July 14, 2012

John Gunderson

July 15, 2012

Kimberly Motzko

July 26, 2012

From our pastors . . .

*"For God
has
destined us
not for
wrath but
for
obtaining
salvation
through our
Lord Jesus
Christ...
Therefore
encourage
one another
and build
up each
other, as
indeed you
are doing."*

*1 Thessalonians
5:9,11*



This spring the children and youth of St. John's have helped to lead us in worship, fellowship, and outreach. In March, Fourth and Fifth Graders called us to be heroes in the fight against hunger as we raised funds for the Community Action Center Food Shelf. The congregation responded by exceeding the goal – donating over \$12,000. At the end of April, Sunday School students shared with the congregation what they learned this past year about the fight against malaria and told about their contributions to the ELCA malaria campaign. Did you see all the “squashed” mosquitoes? Congregation members joined in the fight and over \$1000 was raised to fight this disease on behalf of our neighbors in Africa, Asia, and South America. Third Graders and families shared their Holy Communion projects with the congregation. Ninth graders led a scavenger hunt for the “DOG” kids and taught a dance to Kindergartners and First Graders. In May congregation members were invited along on Paul's journeys during the Sunday morning fellowship time. There was music, games, crafts, and cake. Members of Alleluia, Hossana, Jubilate, Laudate, and chime choirs helped to lead worship throughout the past year. On June 9 we celebrate with our graduating seniors and remember God's blessing for them in all that lies ahead.

Alongside these youth and children there are parents, Sunday School teachers, choir directors, mentors, staff, and other adults who teach and encourage these young followers of Jesus at St. John's. This work of encouragement is an important part of our life together as disciples of Christ. Kenda Creasy Dean and Ron Foster write in The Godbearing Life, “If faith is the gift of the Holy Spirit (Eph.2:8-9) – if faith ultimately comes in God's time and in God's way to each of us-then...[the job of Sunday School teachers, choir directors, mentors, pastors etc.] is to practice midwifery...to attend to the birth of faith...[by] observing, reassuring, providing comfort and wisdom...Midwives know the struggle is worth the effort, and they encourage us to see it through.” (p. 163)

While parents and teachers and other adults have special roles in encouraging faith it's also clear, from the examples listed above, that children and youth have gifts to share and encouragement to give to the rest of the congregation. The children's choir musical this past spring told that story. “Table for Five Thousand” tells the story of Benjamin who wants to go with his older brothers and sisters and their friends to see Jesus. Benjamin asks, “Can I go with you?” The older kids answer, “No! You're too young, you're too small, you don't fit our plans at all. When we go to meet the master, bringing you would be disaster.”

Benjamin decides to go see Jesus by himself and he brings a little lunch in case he gets hungry. When Jesus and the disciples need food to share with the large crowd that day Benjamin offers what he has and Jesus uses it to provide for everyone. (see John 6:1-14) In the last song of the musical the choir sings, “Those who seem to be the weakest are the greatest in God's eyes. Little hands we lift in service can touch the skies. When we give away our treasure, when we sacrifice our lives, when we lose our hearts to Jesus, love multiplies.” (Table for Five Thousand”, Tom S. Long, Allen Pote)

Encouraging one another in faith is an important part of our life together at St. John's - for both young and old. As God's Spirit moves in our lives, faith is born and through the care we show one another and through the “little hands we lift in service” we see how God's love is multiplied among us, extending out into our community, and around the world. Thanks be to God for calling us in Christ to share this life of faith together. Thank you members of St. John's – young and old and everyone in-between – for living out that call to love and care in Christ's name.

Mark

Music and Woship Life at St. John's

From the Organ Bench...

Long time St. John's member, Gordon Rasmussen, now a member of the heavenly chorus, once told me a story about hymnbooks. As a young seminary student he encountered a respected faculty member, explained that he was attempting to build a solid library of books on theology and the faith on a very limited budget and asked what books he should purchase first. "First, get a hymnal," was his mentor's response.

The hymnal is a treasury of paraphrased scripture, Psalms and a source of theologically sound, faith-filled reflections on the nature of our faith, a source of inspiration and comfort. Much research has concluded that ideas set to music ground themselves much more deeply in our hearts and minds than words alone. Perhaps this is why for many, the last way to make contact with an elderly dementia patient is through the singing of beloved songs.

With these ideas in mind, the Worship and Arts Board has proposed that the church program year 2013-2014 include a specific focus upon a core group of hymns that all Christians should know and be able to share. We will be forming this list over the summer and invite you to help us. Think a bit – what are say 10 hymns that have proven significant for you and your life of faith? Our only qualifier is that they be in our red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Send titles and ELW numbers to me via email (ferg@stolaf.edu) and they will be considered for our list. Your responses will inform our selection of hymns for worship as well.



Perhaps some of your recommendations will be Christmas hymns and carols, songs no longer sung in the schools. If our children are to learn them, God's people must teach them. Perhaps some will NOT be our sentimental favorites but rather sturdy texts proclaiming basic tenants of the faith set to sturdy tunes that have endured the tests of time. Some should be ethnic hymns reflecting the important truth that Christianity is not anyone's personal property but God's gift to the entire world. Perhaps some will be texts and tunes that we will want to sing as we gather 'round a bed in the Alzheimer's unit.

As I write these words, I realize that it will be hard to narrow the list to a mere ten! But I'll try and look forward to your suggestions. In addition to the hymn number and title, please feel free to share thoughts or stories that help to explain your choices.

Thanks, and have a great summer.

John Ferguson
Interim Director of Music



Food Shelf Volunteers Needed! St. John's has provided food shelf volunteers for the month of July for many years. We will begin signing up volunteers starting this Sunday, June 2nd, in the Commons. Sign-up sheets will be available every Sunday in June. Please contact Don Sahling at 645-9220 if you have any questions.

The Community Action Center is beginning a summer lunch program for children and youth called Meals for Kids. We have committed to this program and will begin our partnership with CAC on Wednesday, June 12th, at Emmaus Baptist Church at 10:45 a.m. Food arrives prepared and we will be serving a sandwich, fruit and a drink (followed by minimal cleanup) from 11:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. It will be a 2 hour commitment and volunteers from 12 and up are welcome - we must provide at least one responsible adult. A sign-up sheet is on the Shared Ministry bulletin board with all 12 lunch dates. If you have any questions please call the Church Office or email me at sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

Volunteers for the Church Office: We are looking for volunteers to help out in the Church Office. There are many ways in which you could help. If you're looking for a new way to serve at St. John's please consider this opportunity. If you have any questions please contact the Office Manager, Leah Garlie at: office@stjohnsnorthfield.org or 645-4429. Any help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Funeral Lunch Coordinator: We are continuing to be in the process of looking for someone to serve as the Funeral Lunch Coordinator. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact me either by phone at 645-4429 or email me at sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org. Jane Gelle has graciously offered to meet with individuals with interest so they may better understand the scope of the job and its responsibilities.

Joanne Sommers
Shared Ministries Coordinator
sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org

SERVING TO LOVE  *LOVING TO SERVE*

Save the Date:
Night to Unite - August 6, 2013
Habitat for Humanity Workday - August 10, 2013



One Great Week, Two Great Programs! August 5 – 8

Programs hosted by the following churches:
Bethel, Emmaus, Rejoice!
St. Peters and St. Johns

"On the Road", Summer Camp

For kids completing Kindergarten – 5th grade, Good Earth Village's, "On the Road" will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church this year. The week begins on Sunday with a 1 ½ - 2 hour welcome. Monday – Thursday, the program runs from 8:00 – 5:00 p.m. Campers may be dropped off anytime between 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and picked up between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. A closing program, open to everyone, will take place beginning at 4:00 p.m. Thursday. You may register online at www.goodearthvillage.com, click on summer programs, "GEV, On the Road", and choose the Northfield site. The deadline is August 1 or until the camp is full.

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School "God's Backyard Bible Camp" will be held the same week as "On the Road". Kindergarteners have the option of choosing between VBS or "On the Road". The VBS program starts on Monday, August 5 thru Thursday, August 8 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church. The cost is \$10.00 per child with a \$20.00 family limit. VBS registration is appreciated by July 15 for planning purposes.

VBS registration form can be found at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org under "Children". Scholarships are available for all summer camp opportunities.

WE NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers needed for VBS (session held from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.):

Crew Leaders – lead a small group of children to various stations

Station leaders and assistants– to lead music, crafts, games, Bible storytelling, snacks

Decorating and prep – prior to VBS

Help with registration on Monday, August 6 from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Nursery Care – help care for volunteer's children who are too young to attend VBS

Volunteers needed for "On the Road":

Provide an evening meal or housing for Good Earth Village camp counselors

Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at children@stjohnsnorthfield or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet!

It's not too late to check out Family Camp!

Interested in going to Family Camp with your family this summer? Check out the family camp options at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN or at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN. Go to Good Earth Village's website: www.goodearthvillage.org, Green Lake Lutheran Ministry's website: www.GLLM.org to find out dates and registration information.

Looking ahead to camp!

Our prayers are with all of our campers this summer as they head off to Camp!

Settlers Camp, grades 2-3, June 9-11

Kids enjoy exploring, faith talks, games, arts and crafts, cabin time and campfires! Settlers Camp is offered through Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN.

Campers attending this year:

Toby Grawe
Halle Pinc
Luke Redetzke
Max Williams
Marion Williams

Homestead, grade 6, June 23-28

Kids unplug for a week and get back to the basics by "roughin' it" old-style! Homestead is offered through Green Lake Lutheran Ministries in Spicer, MN.

Campers attending this year:

Andrew Becker
James Bull
Aidan Nutt

Shores of St. Andrews, grades 3-5, June 23-28

Kids have fun with friends laughing, learning and growing in their faith during this week long camp. Shores of St. Andrews is offered through Green Lake Lutheran Ministries in New London, MN.

Campers attending this year:

Parker Aman
Amelia Becker
Gunnar Benson
Thea Benson
Cate Carson
Drew Clark
Matthew DeBuse
Clay Garlie
Oden Hoff
Teigen Hoff
Cole Johannsen
Ethan Little
Kaylee Malecha
Charlie Neeb
Peter Neeb
Ainsley Nutt
Jeanette Pelletier

Confirmation Nation, grades 7-8, June 23-28

Youth will experience beautiful surroundings, all kinds of adventure and challenging activities. Nationally known, Christian Rapper, "Agape", will join them at worship! Confirmation Nation is offered through Green Lake Lutheran Ministries in Spicer, MN.

Campers attending this year:

Kate Erickson
Cole Little
Ryan Malecha
Nicole Malecha
Griffin Rod

Christikon, grades 9-12, July 22-28

Youth will experience high-adventure backpacking in the beautiful mountains of Montana!

High School Youth attending:

Andrew Dell
Michael Gasior
Wylie Kneser
Kurtis Roy
Lydia Storlie

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

High School Bonfires

Join us on the third Tuesday each month this summer for High School Bonfires. From 7:30-9:30 p.m., anyone who has completed 8th grade is welcome to meet us in the St. John's parking lot for a campfire.

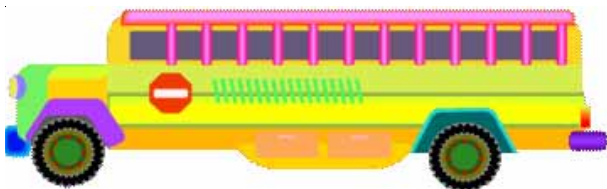
This is a great opportunity for older youth to relax and reconnect with their friends, roast marshmallows, and have a chance to spiritually recharge with music and devotions.



DATES: June 18th, July 16th, August 20th

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOURS

Youth who have completed 6th through 8th grade are welcome to join us on our annual **"MAGICAL MYSTERY TOURS"** hosted by Northfield Area Youth Workers. We'll meet up and hop on a bus at Bethel to an undisclosed location for a fun time with other youth groups from Northfield. Some examples of past destinations have included waterparks, Dundas Duke's games, and volunteering at Feed My Starving Children. **Parents:** We will release information to you regarding cost, any items that youth need to bring, and destination prior to the event.



DATES: June 19th, July 17th, August 14th

Summer Camps 2013

This year we have a great group of students coming to summer camps. In June we have eight youth attending **Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp** in Spicer, MN for a full-week of fun and faith immersion. Our group includes **Andrew Becker, Aidan Nutt, James Bull, Kate Erickson, Cole Little, Nicole Malecha, Ryan Malecha, and Griffin Rod.**



In July, we have five high school students going to **Christikon**, our weeklong backpacking camp in the mountains of Montana. Our youth include **Michael Gasior, Wylie Kneser, Lydia Storlie, Andrew Dell, and Kurtis Roy.**

MEALS FOR KIDS

CAC is starting a new initiative this year to provide lunch for kids K-12 this summer to support families that often rely on free and reduced lunches during the school year. They are setting up two sites off Jefferson Parkway and at Emmaus from 11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. every weekday for twelve weeks.

St. John's is planning on sponsoring the Emmaus site on Wednesdays for the entire summer. Youth and families that are interested in helping out on either a consistent or one-time basis should contact Mike at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org or Joanne Sommers at sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org.



Serving on Sundays in June & July

Acolytes

June 2	(8:30) Siri Lindell, Anna Weber; (11:00) Kucheang Mangok, Anne France
June 9	(8:30) Halvor Bratland, Synneva Bratland; (11:00) Aidan Nutt, Willa Kmoch
June 16	(8:30) Timothy Gasior, Greg Pelletier; (11:00) Matthew Knutson, Anders Koenig
June 23	(8:30) Cameron Beedle, Elizabeth Evenson; (11:00) Bergen Hoff, Harrison Dowd
June 30	(8:30) Ellianna Ims, Taylor Pleschourt; (11:00) Kenyon Nystrom, Samuel Motzko
July 7	(8:30) Grant Huston, Logan Matson; (11:00) Alex Dell, Cole Little
July 14	(8:30) Kate Erickson, Nicole Malecha; (11:00) Parker Aman, Cole Johannsen
July 21	(8:30) Halvor Bratland, Synneva Bratland; (11:00) Eric Gunn, Anna Weber
July 28	(8:30) James Bull, Creegan Croone; (11:00) Griffin Rod, Cameron Beedle

Assisting Ministers

June 2	Ruth Hansen
June 9	Christy Hall-Holt
June 16	TBD
June 23	Solveig Beckmen
June 30	TBD
July 7	TBD
July 14	TBD
July 21	Christy Hall-Holt
July 28	Brad Kmoch

Communion Preparers

June 2	Darlene Hand, Judy Smith
June 9	Jill Enestvedt, Judy Smith
June 16	Elvin and Corrine Heiberg, Judy Smith
June 23	Jill Enestvedt, Judy Smith
June 30	Elvin and Corrine Heiberg, Judy Smith

Counters

June 2	Elden Zempel, Solveig Zempel, Dick Dahlin, Amy Boxrud
June 9	Rebecca Judge, Char Carlson, Bill Carlson, Dan Franklin
June 16	Rebecca Judge, Karen Appeldoorn, Jerry Appeldoorn, Kasia Gonnerman
June 23	Sue Brockman, Lavern Reitz, Otto Reitz, Brent Bash
June 30	Mark Ulmer, Will Broz, Lavern Reitz, Rebecca Judge

Ushers

Jun 2/Jul 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
Jun 9/Jul 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
Jun 16/Jul 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
Jun 23/Jul 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
June 30	(8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (11:00) Jonathan Norrie, Zachary Bahler, Andrew Dell, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams

May Actions

Deaths

Kathy Mroz, May 1, 2013
Doreen Ness, May 15, 2013

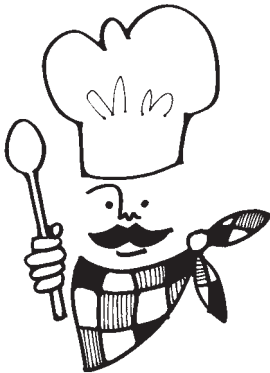
Baptisms

Wyatt Richard Strese, son of Jeff and Barbara Strese,
May 19, 2013

Radio Broadcasts

May 5, 2013, given in memory of Helen and Leon Ingram by their children - Mary Ingram Zentner, Tom Ingram and Donna Ingram Hogenson.
May 12, 2013, given in memory of Donna DeMann Lee by the Walter Lee Family and the Chuck DeMann Family. Donna's birthday was May 14.
May 19, 2013, given by Lester and Della Gunderson in honor of their 65th Wedding Anniversary on May 22.
May 26, 2013, given by friends of St. John's.

Notes of Thanks!



A big "THANK YOU" is due to our kitchen volunteers for the weekly Wednesday night meals. They will resume in September.

Special thanks to
Linda Anderson, Peggy Dell, and Kristi Harms!

Be on the look-out for
summertime meal & fellowship opportunities.

Mission Outreach

Olivia Riggins to visit Tanzania with Synod Youth Trip



St. John's member Olivia Riggins will travel to the Tanzania this July visiting the Central Dioceses – a companion synod with the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. Olivia is the daughter of Dan Riggins and Catherine Dominguez. Keep Olivia and the group in your prayers, along with all those whom they will meet during their travels. St. John's is providing some financial support for Olivia's trip. Olivia wrote the following description of her trip for this edition of the Voice:

I will be going to Tanzania this summer. I'm going with the Youth Servant Leader Institute (YSLI) to Singida, one of the Tanzanian provinces. Before going, our YSLI group will be learning about leadership, the theology of missions, community building, and cross-cultural sensitivity through a series of workshops. These will prepare us for meeting a partner group of Tanzanian young adults and chaperones and working with them to share language, music, and customs while creating skits and activities for a Bible camp-style program. After building the program, we'll travel through Singida province for three days, implementing the day camp activities in three different villages.

St. John's Benevolence Support Neighbors Around the World

St. John's extends God's love in a variety of ways. In May, the Benevolence and Social Concerns (BSC) Board designated \$500 to help congregation evangelists in the Central Diocese of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania to receive continuing education. Evangelists are lay leaders who are the primary spiritual caregivers and outreach coordinators for the smaller preaching posts or sub-congregations which are connected to larger congregations in the diocese. \$100 pays for one evangelist per year to attend a six-week training session. The St. John's gift will allow evangelists at Iambi Lutheran Church, our partner congregation, along with evangelists from other congregations to attend the education course in 2013.

The BSC Board also approved a gift of \$375 to Mwangaza, an organization started by former St. John's member Shoonie Hartwig, that supports Lutheran congregations in Tanzania and their communities through education, health care, and family and faith training programs. In 2012 Mwangaza sponsored a Literacy Immersion program at Iambi Secondary School. The program included teacher training, lesson plan development, and contextual reading materials (mini books), and a resource inventory. The funds given by St. John's will enable Mwangaza to provide follow-up evaluation to help the long term success of the education seminar.



News and Events

Something to think about over the summer!

For children to feel connected to their church, it's important for them to build relationships with at least 5 adults, other than their parents. With that in mind, please consider how you can help with Children's programming in September by volunteering with Sunday School or Wednesday afternoon programming. We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities. If you are interested, please talk with Julie Brehmer or check out the volunteer opportunities in the Sunday School registration packet. P.S.: High School students – talk with me how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Wake, Walk and Talk!

You've been thinking about walking and getting out more, right? So why not join our group? You'll have a fun time forming friendships and getting in shape at the same time, with the support and encouragement of other women.

We will meet every Saturday morning at St. John's at 7:30 a.m. starting on Saturday, June 8. Our walk will end at one of our local coffee houses. This is a perfect way to have some fun while we get in shape, start new exercise routines, and experience better health and vitality outdoors with friends.

Weather Advisory: If there is rain in the forecast (other than a mist) consider the Wake, Walk and Talk canceled. Please call Julie Brehmer if you have any questions, 645-4429.

Sunday School Offering

Thank you to our Sunday School children and their families for giving to the Sunday School offering missions this year. Offering was given to provide support for the following:

- Our Compassion International child, Romario Vasquez Polo, from Bocachica, Columbia. Our \$38/month sponsorship provides Romario with Bible teaching, medical care, nutritious meals, recreational activities, academic support, educational classes and literacy training.
- \$500 was given to support the ELCA Malaria Campaign to purchase mosquito nets for countries in Africa. With the congregation's contributions, we will be sending a check totaling over \$1,000! Thanks so much for your donations.

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 sessions are Saturday, June 1, and July 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. Preparation for children and parents is provided on an individual basis.

News and Events

ACT Garage Sale – Lighten Up!

Come to the Carleton College ACT Center's Lighten Up Garage Sale! This year, Lighten Up will take place on Friday, June 21 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 22 from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Carleton College's West Gym. In 2012, ACT's community garage sale raised over \$25,400 for local non-profits. Please come support this amazing fundraiser for Northfield Special Olympics, Northfield Union of Youth, and Project Friendship. Questions? [507-222-7020](tel:507-222-7020).



... from the Business Management Board

Treasurers Update

I am pleased once again to offer you the following update on our success in meeting our budgeted envelope offering income. In the month of March, 2013, we received \$65,895 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 our March offering was \$2,562 *more* than budgeted. Added to our past successes, our first quarter ended with envelope offerings one-quarter (25.8 percent, to be more precise) of the way to our targeted goal.

These envelope offerings are counted each and every Sunday by a team of volunteers, whose reliability and professionalism is simply unparalleled, and who create a vital link between the congregation's offerings and the church's financial resources. St. John's members who assisted in the first quarter counting effort include

Brent Bash, Amy Boxrud, Sue Brockman, Dick Dahlin, Jim Enestvedt, Dan Franklin, Bob Gelle, Kasia Gonnerman, Dean Ostlie, LaVerne Reitz, Otto Reitz, Mark Ulmer, Elden Zempel, and Solveig Zempel

As we approach the summer months and the promise of a weekend or two at the cabin, we could use some help. If you are able to join our ranks on the occasional Sunday, or on a regular basis, please call me at 507-645-9628.

Thank you for all the ways you support the efforts of this congregation and its mission in the community and the world.

Beckie
Rebecca Judge, Treasurer
St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Turning to the Psalms

By Barbara Eaves

There was a slogan in the military, "When in doubt, salute." While struggling to settle on a topic for this month's article, the thought finally came to mind, "When in doubt turn to the Psalms." In so doing, I turned to a favorite: Psalm 121.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

This psalm is one in a group of 15 psalms called Songs of Ascents which very likely were used for groups going up to Jerusalem for one of the festivals. These psalms, often referred to as "pilgrimage psalms," frequently dealt with issues of everyday life.

Psalm 121 is about leaving on a journey with concerns about safe travel and protection from illness and harm and then moves to assurances that the God of all creation also is a God who is ever with us. The psalmist is continually reminded that God is "your keeper."

And then the psalm concludes by moving from a particular situation to the broader understanding that God is our keeper throughout all of our days.

*The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.*

Although this psalm was written for a time of farewell, it also can serve as a reminder that all of life is a journey. Whether our days are filled with perils or pleasures, doubts or certainties, God's presence continues to surround and sustain us with grace and mercy. Martin Luther called this psalm a "Psalm of Comfort" as it reminds us that "God is surely awake and watching over us...Eventually we will learn that, if we can only hold fast."

When in doubt, turn to the Psalms....a practice which can bless us any day.

*I'm going on a journey, and I'm starting today.
My head is wet, and I'm on my way.
Christ's mark is on me; it's on you, too;
it says he loves me, and he loves you too!*

ELW 446, vs.1

+++

While many of the Small Groups take a recess for the summer, watch for a new menu of opportunities with the coming of Fall.

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!

ALL WHO HUNGER GATHER GLADLY is the theme for the WELCA three session summer Bible study. It is available online as a free download at www.womenofthelca.org/2013-summer-study-pages-121.php.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Bible Study: Resumes in September

Knitters: Resumes in September

Quilters: Meet in Fellowship Hall from 9-11 a.m. on June 17 & 20 and July 15 & 18

LOOKING AHEAD

June and July: No General Meeting

August 1, Thursday, 10:00a.m.: Birthday Coffee and Election of Officers in St. John's Hall

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

CIRCLES

Please check with your circle leader if you have questions about whether or not you are meeting during the summer months. Otherwise, all groups will resume in September.

Anna — *Susan Rudser 645-5415*

Abigail/Rebecca — *Gert Brosz 645-7707*

Elizabeth — *Marie Benson 645-8958*

Gretchen Hardgrove 645-6340

Lydia — *Marilyn Boschee 645-9365*

Judy Smith 645-8617

Martha/Claudia — Thursday, June 13, 9:30 a.m.,

Bev Mahacheck's at 1808 Estate Ln

(Eulalie Smestad 663-0186)

Mary — *Rachel Stark 645-9269*

Sarah — *Norma Gilbertson 664-9591*

Women's Breakfast Group — *Kathy Melstrom 663-1451*

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

QUILT PROJECT: In order to reach our goal of creating 25% more quilts this year please consider one of the following:

*Lend a hand during our quilting sessions this summer

*Donate full size or larger clean sheets or blankets

*Take home a packet of squares to piece (pick up and drop off at the WELCA table in the Commons)

KNITTING WORSTED YAM is needed for our Knitters...donations are welcome!

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

This logo that is displayed on the WELCA website and on printed materials used by WELCA organizations throughout the United States was conceived and designed by our own Judy Swanson for the constituting convention of Women of the ELCA twenty five years ago! Thank you, Judy!



What does our logo mean? Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

Please submit items for this WELCA information page to: Please submit items for the Sunday bulletin to:

Jo Franklin, jo_franklin50@yahoo.com or 720-281-5107

Shirley Keltto, kelttos@msn.com or 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

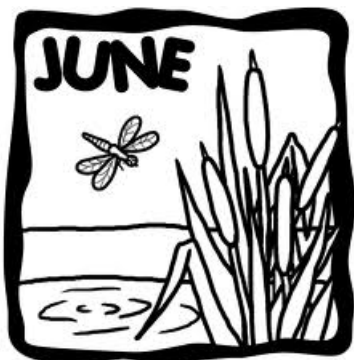


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June & July Highlights and Save the Dates



Summer Worship Hours

8:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.

Magical Mystery Tours

June 19, July 17, and August 14

(For more information, check page 8)

High School Bonfires

June 18, July 16, and August 20

(For more information, check page 8)

"On the Road", Summer Camp

August 5 - August 8

(For more information, check page 6)

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

August 5 - August 8

(For more information, check page 6)

Night to Unite

Tuesday, August 6