

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

August 2013

Volume 53, Number 7

*on the
inside . . .*

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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.

Welcome Donald Thompson!

Donald Thompson began work as Facility Manager/Custodian at St. John's on Monday, July 15. We are pleased to welcome Don to our staff and look forward to working with him as we serve St. John's and its' mission together.

Don and his wife, Cindy, live near Stanton, east of Northfield and have 5 children. Don was employed by General Services Corporation in Bloomington, MN for the past 16 years. He also has previous experience in building and grounds maintenance with Green Masters Industries. You can reach Don at 645-4429 or facility@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

Please introduce yourself to Don when you have opportunity and welcome him to St. John's!



**SUMMER
WORSHIP**

Summer Worship hours
will continue thru
Sunday, September 8th.

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Worship

See you at Church!

Latino Worship Music on Aug. 21— Music, Fellowship, and Dessert!

Our family has worshipped periodically over the past several years with the wonderful people at El Milagro Lutheran Church, our former mission partner in Minneapolis. Though we're by no means fluent with our Spanish, the experiences and relationships created in this bi-lingual Latino church have stretched our minds, hearts, and the way we hope to connect within our own community.

The musicians who helped lead worship at El Milagro will visit St. John's on Wednesday, August 21 at 6:30pm. With their incredible musical gifts, they will give us new perspectives on old hymns, and help us to find ways to connect within our congregation and beyond. They will provide an INTERACTIVE opportunity to make music (congas, acoustic bass, hand percussion etc.) and help us learn more about Latino worship music. **BRING YOUR FAMILIES!** Invite a neighbor! Folks of all ages are encouraged to join us for a beautiful summer evening of music, fellowship...and root beer floats!

The Pelletier Family

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*

What Are You Listening To?

Summer is the season for the sounds of lawn mowers' grind and baby birds chirping for food, kids' squeals and waves lapping on sand. What sounds have you heard today? Which of them did you stop and really listen to? Has someone asked you to "Listen to me!" recently? How did you react? Have you wished that someone would just listen to you for once? When has being listened to helped you deal with a crisis or simply get through the day?

Stephen Ministers are trained to listen. They are active listeners who pay careful attention without interrupting. They allow their care receivers time to take a breath, reflect on what is happening, and then talk. All of us need help at times in our lives, especially when dealing with difficult situations. Family members, pastors, friends, and healthcare specialists may provide that help. So may a Stephen Minister who knows how to listen.

Types of situations in which Stephen Ministers provide care include:

- Death of a loved one or facing one's own death
- Illness of a loved one or a personal illness
- Financial or job-related stresses
- Feelings of guilt, loneliness, or worthlessness
- Difficulties with family relationships, including separation from loved ones
- Challenges related to a move, new environment, or a family change (birth of a child, divorce)

Paul Tillich said, "The first duty of love is to listen." If you or someone you know needs a listener's loving care and support, please call one of the pastors at 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at 645-8445.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Northfield Grief Support Coalition:

Save the date: the Northfield Grief Support Coalition is sponsoring a presentation by Linda Lehmann, MA and Licensed Psychologist on Wednesday, September 11, 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Center at the hospital. The title of her talk will be "How Grief Can Transform Our Lives".

The following week the support group facilitated by a Northfield Hospice social worker, will begin on September 18 and continue through October 23, 6:30--8:00 p.m. in the hospital Meeting Room A.



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."

August 17, 2012
Violet (Vi) Jones

August 19, 2012
Charles (Chuck) Lunder

August 25, 2012
Ruth Koester

From our pastors . . .

The July issue of THE LUTHERAN features an “urgent” call for congregations of the ELCA and all of us as individuals to think in “new ways” about our responsibility to the environment.....caring for the earth as our Christian faith calls us to do. “Creation Waits With Eager Longing” was the theme for our Lenten Series this spring, and many of you expressed interest at that time in continuing to keep the theme of Creation Care visibly in our conversations together and as an important dimension of our congregational mission. In his monthly message in THE LUTHERAN, Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson wisely wrote:

“Rather than begin our conversation on the environment with condemnations and judgments, what if we invited each other to reflect on how we show love for creation? God loved the world in Christ’s self-emptying, God’s humble relinquishing of power. What would such self-emptying love toward creation mean for us?”

I recommend the reading of the whole July issue of THE LUTHERAN, but want to share the following paragraphs from James Honig’s article: “Environmental Urgency:”

“So let’s start with the possibility of a new way of thinking, a way that acknowledges we aren’t simply a collection of individuals. We are community, not only with other human beings but with the other creatures around us, and even the inanimate created world, from the smallest microbes to the largest mammals.....The way we live has an impact on everyone and everything else in this community.

Honig continues with a reference to theologian Sally McFague’s development of a theological model based on “kenosis”.

“Kenosis is the Greek word that is usually translated with some form of the English word ‘empty’. It’s most well-known in the New Testament: “Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross”. (Philippians 2:5-8)

When God’s relationship with the world is an emptying, self-giving love, it leads to a different way of thinking, not only about what God has done but about the way God has called us to live. The abundant life isn’t getting more and more stuff or creating a life for ourselves, but an intentional giving up of what’s possible for the sake of the common good.

“.....Congregations and leaders can begin to alter the way people think by simply paying attention to climate change as part of the ongoing conversation of parish life. What we pay attention to makes a tremendous difference in the formation of thinking and, eventually, behavior. Helping people pay attention begins the move toward lifestyles that support the interconnectedness at the heart of God’s good creation”.

It is my hope that St. John’s Lutheran Church, strong in worship and deeply committed to the mission of the church, will embrace, prayerfully and thoughtfully, the challenge of creation care, including it in our stewardship, education, and outreach efforts congregationally, and in new thinking and behavior in our personal lives.

Pastor Mandsager

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

From the Choir Loft - Sharing My Concern

As I write this we are in the midst of the hottest week of the summer so far, BUT, I'm thinking about September and the beginning of another program year at St. John's. It's time to issue the annual "call to the choir loft." Elsewhere in this issue of *The Voice* you will find the specifics.

St. John's has been blessed with a rich musical tradition enriching our worship and motivating people to become part of our church family because of that tradition. Many of our members have given so very generously of their time and talents to support and enable this tradition. Like all such activities, constant nourishment is essential if the tradition is to continue and here we have a challenge facing us.

Specifically the St. John's Chorale needs an infusion of good singers if it is to survive. Yes, I wrote survive. The same concern faces our younger choirs. Schedules are so packed these days, demands for time so pervasive that a conscious effort, a significant commitment must be made to participate in one of our choirs. The talent exists in the congregation. The issue is the stewardship of time and talent.

"What about me?" you ask. "I really enjoy the music here but I'm not choir material."

Well, you can note those around you who have lovely voices and encourage them to consider joining one of our choirs. You can thank a choir member for their gifts to St. John's when you happen to bump in to them around town. Or write a note to one of our choirs when their singing has touched you in a special way.

And for those of you who have been given good voices, please consider how you might share your gift with the people of St. John's. We need you. Perhaps it's for a portion of the church program year when other obligations are not as pressing. Certainly the future of all adult choirs will in part depend upon creative, new ways to structure choir schedules. Please understand, I'm not trying to lay a guilt trip on anyone. I know how busy and pressured our lives can become. I just need to share my observations from this past spring and my concerns growing out of those observations.

A few weeks ago I was honored by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians with their Faithful Servant Award. In presenting me for the award, Paul Westermeyer (just retired from Luther Seminary, St. Paul) said that one thing to know about me is that I call things as I see them. I don't beat around the bush. So here it is: the rich musical heritage of St. John's will continue to flourish only as long as members support it by committing to be a part of it.

Well, I got that off my chest. I feel better now!

John Ferguson
Interim Director of Music



Start Dates for Choirs this Fall . . .

September 11 - Laudate (7:15) and St. John's Chorale (7:00) resume rehearsals

September 18 - Alleluia (4:10), Hosanna (4:10), and Jubilate (4:45) resume rehearsals

September 19 - Rejoice Ringers (6:15) resume rehearsals

Night to Unite

Tuesday, August 6, is National Night Out and St. John's is hosting a free community meal! We're inviting all of our neighbors and hope to see you there too. Weather permitting, we'll have a picnic-style meal outside. Expect visits from local police and even a firetruck or ambulance. We need many volunteers (we have served around 200 in the past) to make the meal work. If you can help with set-up or tear-down, preparing the meal, serving or bringing a dessert, please sign up on the "Serve with St. John's" bulletin board outside the Church Office or contact Joanne Sommers.



Habitat for Humanity

St. John's is building with Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, August 10, from 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at 214 Spring Wheat Dr. #1 in Dundas. If you can help with the build or provide lunch for the work crew, please sign up at the display in the Commons or contact Joanne Sommers.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to help St. John's reach our fundraising goal of \$1,200, you may make your check payable to St. John's with Habitat for Humanity in the memo line. Checks may be placed in the offering plate or dropped off in the Church Office.

Joanne Sommers
Shared Ministries Coordinator
sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org

SERVING TO LOVE  *LOVING TO SERVE*

Looking for a church home? You are welcome at St. John's!

St. John's will formally receive new members on November 24, 2013 and April 27, 2014. A gathering for those wanting to learn more about life and ministry at St. John's will be held on Sunday, October 6. The fall new member session begins on Sunday, October 27. Contact a pastor or the Church Office if you would like to join St. John's or if you would like more information. Everyone is invited to participate in worship and all church activities at St. John's, whether a member or not!

Important Dates to Remember

VBS and "On the Road"
August 5-8

Pool Party!
Wednesday, August 7

Sunday School Registrations
Due August 18

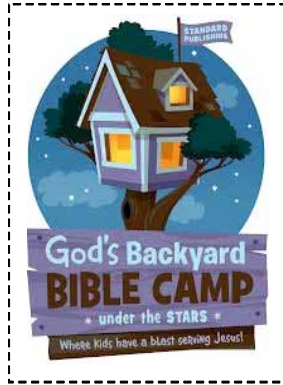
Open House for Preschool 1
Wednesday, September 11, 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation and Catechism Orientation
Wednesday, September 11, 6:15 p.m.

First Day of Sunday School
Sunday, September 15 at 9:45 a.m.

**ROCK, Wednesday Afterschool
Programming**
Begins Wednesday, September 18

**It's not too late to sign up for VBS,
God's Big Back yard!**



Vacation Bible School will be held August 5-8 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at St. John's and is hosted by Bethel, Rejoice and St. John's Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Church. VBS is for children age 3 (by September 1, 2013) to children entering 1st grade. If you are interested in registering your child please pick up a registration form at our church or go online to www.stjohnsnorthfield.org and click the "Children's" tab.

Volunteers are needed in many areas. Most shifts are only two hours or less. Can't be here every day? That's OK. Just tell us what days work for you. Middle and High school youth can earn cubits toward confirmation! If you have questions, contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or jbrehmer@stjohnsnorthfield.org

**"On The Road" Summer Camp
for Kids**

"On The Road" summer camp will be offered for kids who have completed K-4, August 4-8 from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. St. John's, Rejoice and Bethel Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Church will be hosting the event at Bethel this year. "On the Road", a program provided by Good Earth Village Bible Camp, will kick off on Sunday, August 4 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. at Bethel. It is open to campers, families, anyone who would like to come! For more information and to register go online to www.goodearthvillage.org and click on "GEV on the Road".

**Is your 3 year old
starting Sunday School?**

Children who are three years of age by 9/1/13 are welcome to begin Sunday School this fall!



Parents are invited to bring their preschooler to an Open House on Wednesday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m. to meet the teachers and get acquainted with their classroom before Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 15.

If you have question, please call St. John's at 645-4429 and speak with Julie Brehmer.

Volunteers do make a difference!



An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members—parents, grandparents, anyone! Many volunteer opportunities can be on a rotating schedule. Even teaching Sunday school can be as little as a 2-3 Sunday commitment!

Check out the volunteer page in the registration packet or contact Julie Brehmer if you are interested! **P.S. High School students** – talk with me about how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays too!

Fall Programming is Coming!

- Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 15 for children age 3 (by September 1, 2013) – grade 5 from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
- ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program for children in kindergarten – grade 5, begins on Wednesday, September 18. Bus transportation will be offered from the Northfield Elementary schools to St. John's so kids can jump right into Wednesday's fun!
- Catechism, (CAT) for 4th and 5th graders begins in October! Orientation for Catechism will be held on Wednesday, September 11 at 6:15 p.m.



Check out the Youth and Children's Registration Packet for specific details! If you did not receive a registration packet in the mail, please give the Church Office a call or pick one up in the Commons. You may also download the information on St. John's website by clicking on the "Children" or "Youth" tabs. **We appreciate having registrations turned in by August 18 for returning members.** Visitors and new members are invited to register at anytime during the year.

Dive in on August 7!



Northfield area churches invite families with children in 5th grade and younger to our Annual Pool Party at the Northfield Outdoor Pool on Wednesday, August 7 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The cost for admission is \$2.75 per person or you may use your pool pass. Churches will be providing free food at the event so come eat, swim and enjoy! (We will cancel the event if the pool closes because of the weather.)

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 Saturday, August 3. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Children & Communion

Holy Communion is the meal of all the baptized children of God. Communion preparation for children and parents is provided on an individual basis throughout the year at St. John's. A retreat on Holy Communion is held each spring for Third Graders and their parents. If you have questions about communion or if your baptized child has expressed an interest in receiving Holy Communion, please contact a pastor.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Magical Mystery Tours

Join youth from around Northfield for the final Magical Mystery Tour of the Summer, Wednesday, August 14th. The event is for youth in grades 6-8 and is sponsored by the Northfield Area Youth Workers. Parents will receive a letter providing details of the event but this is a *mystery* tour and so we ask that parents don't share what the event is with their child. Friends are welcome!



High School Bonfires



Join us on the third and final High School Bonfire on Tuesday, August 20 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.

Getting Ready for the Fall!

Sunday School for grades 6-12 begins

Sunday, September 15 - 9:45 a.m.

Sixth Grade CAT and Seventh, Eighth & Ninth Grade Confirmation Orientation

Wednesday, September 11 - 6:15 p.m.

Confirmation Classes for Seventh and Eighth Grade begin

Wednesday, September 18 - 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Registration packets are available in the Commons or you can download the registration materials by going to the St. John's website and clicking "Youth" or "Children".

Thanks!

Tenth Graders Prepare to Affirm Their Faith

Tenth Graders are preparing to affirm their baptismal faith this fall in the rite of Confirmation on Sunday, October 13, at the 11:00 worship service. Faith statements and questions are due September 1. Confirmation interviews with a pastor need to be scheduled no later than September 15. And remember that the confirmation retreat is at Gustavus on Saturday, September 21. If you have questions or concerns about anything related to confirmation, contact one of the pastors. May God be with our Tenth Graders and their families as they mark this step of faith.

Serving on Sundays in August

Acolytes

- August 4** (8:30) Caroline Hummel; (10:00) Alex Gunn
August 11 (8:30) Peter Neeb; (10:00) Alex Redetzke
August 18 (8:30) Kate Erickson; (10:00) Jacob Gonnerman
August 25 (8:30) Isaac Riggins; (10:00) Andrew Becker

Communion Preparers

- August 4** Elvin and Corrine Heiberg, Judy Smith
August 11 Betsy Busa, Judy Smith
August 18 Marilyn McRae Raadt, Judy Smith
August 25 Darlene Hand, Judy Smith

Nursery

- August 4** Kristen Partlo, Ariana Beeby
August 11 Amy McBroom, Elizabeth Evenson
August 18 Amy Willkomm, Bailey Dell
August 25 Alyssa Ness, Anne Sovik

Welcome Desk

- August 4** Gert Broz
August 11 Suzanne Sylvester
August 18 Alyssa Ness
August 25 Chris Lee

Ushers

- August 4** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Gordon Mickelsen; (10:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber
August 11 (8:30) Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Don Sahling, Patrick Bougie, Dick Werdahl; (10:00) Jonathan Norrie, Zachary Bahler, Andrew Dell, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
August 18 (8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
August 25 (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert; (10:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Michael Gasior, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback, Emily Westerback

Mission Outreach

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity in August



Volunteers are needed from St. John's to help build the Habitat for Humanity house in Dundas, *Saturday, August 10*. Volunteers are also needed to provide lunch for the work crew. Sign up on the Shared Ministry Board outside the Church Office. Along with other Lutheran congregations in Rice County, St. John's is also committed to raising funds to help build this year's Thrivent Builds house. The goal is to raise \$1,200. Checks can be made payable to St. John's with "Thrivent Builds" in the memo line. Contact Joanne Sommers for more information.

Stubbs Family to Visit St. John's

ELCA Missionaries Randy and Carol Stubbs and their family will visit St. John's and help to lead the congregation in worship on Sunday, August 25. The Stubbs have served the church at Tumaini University, Makumira, in Tanzania for seven years. Their primary work is teaching in the music department doing leadership development, capacity training, and evangelism. Prior to serving in Tanzania, Randy and Carol led the music ministry at First Lutheran in DeKalb, Illinois for nineteen years. The Stubbs Family became one of St. John's mission partners in June 2012.

June & July Actions

Baptisms

- Soren Alexial Luckman, son of Gabriel and Cheyenne Suarez, June 9, 2013
- Phoebe Maria Suarez, daughter of Gabriel and Cheyenne Suarez, June 9, 2013
- Gabriel Suarez, June 9, 2013
- Violetta Della Rea, daughter of Patrick and Kristin Rea, June 30, 2013

Deaths

- James Molkenbur, June 16, 2013
- Eloise Severson, July 15, 2013

Radio Broadcasts

- June 2, 2013, given in memory of Erik Ellingboe by his wife, Doris Ellingboe, and daughter, Karen and Dale Schuette.
- June 9, 2013, given by friends of St. John's.
- June 16, 2013, given by Alan and Lynette Marks in memory of Alan's mother, Doris Marks.
- June 23, 2013, given by Milo and Eloise Quinnell in honor of their 63rd wedding anniversary.
- June 30, 2013, given by Lowell and Barbara Johnson in gratitude of 60 years of marriage on 6/28/13.
- July 7, 2013, given in honor of Shirley Falck's 80th birthday by her son, Rich, and daughter, Tracy, and their families who were happy to celebrate this milestone with her.
- July 14, 2013, given by Steve and Judy Swanson in memory of Ralph Haugen.
- July 21, 2013, given by Mary White in honor of Mary and Adolph White's wedding anniversary.
- July 28, 2013, given by friends of St. John's.

News and Events

From the Congregation President:

On May 14, Minnesota became a state that legally allows same-sex marriage when Governor Dayton signed legislation to that effect. The legislation goes into effect on August 1. This legislation creates both a need and an opportunity for us at St. John's. Our pastors came before the Executive Committee and asked for guidance should they be asked to perform same sex marriages, as they are called by us, and are required to act at the congregation's direction.

The Council discussed the issue, and directed Pastors Johnson and Mandsager to follow the dictates of the Constitution and By-laws in regard to such requests, until such time that the congregation could fully make its wishes known.

To give the congregation an opportunity to make its wishes known, the Council held a listening session following the second service on Sunday, June 23. Another listening session is scheduled for Sunday, September 29. After that session, the Council will determine if we have enough information to make a recommendation and decision, or if we need to have further conversation as a congregation.

We encourage everyone to attend the listening session and take this opportunity to share your thoughts about how St. John's wants to respond. As you consider your thoughts, I would encourage you to read the following excerpt from SE MN Synod Bishop Harold Usgaard's letter to congregations regarding this matter:

- Now is the time for congregational leaders to discuss what it means to "recognize" people in their midst who are in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships. I do not believe our social statement supports marriage or even blessings of such relationships. But that social statement does speak of recognition. Some of our congregations will be very supportive of such opportunities. Other of our congregations will not.
- I hope such conversations can lead to decisions reached by consensus. Congregations do not need to be again divided by taking votes in which there are winners and losers. Prayer needs to be at the very center of such a process.
- Pastors, remember that we also need to be part of such conversations. We serve under call to communities of believers. We need to facilitate discussion and direction as to what those communities expect of their pastor in these matters. I suspect pastors are going to receive requests to lead or participate at a variety of occasions both in the church building and outside of it. I would think it helpful if the congregation and the pastor would make policy decisions before such requests demand hurried and anxious decisions.

To read Bishop Usgaard's letter in its entirety, go to: <http://semnsynod.org/a-message-on-same-sex-marriage-legislation-in-minnesota/>

From the St. John's Constitution, section *C9.03:

Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,

b. Each ordained minister with a congregational call shall, within the congregation:

- 1) offer instruction, confirm, marry, visit the sick and distressed, and bury the dead;
- 2) supervise all schools and organizations of this congregation;
- 3) install regularly elected members of the Congregation Council; and
- 4) with the council, administer discipline.

Facility use would be in accord with our policy.

Respectfully,

Sandi Gerdes

Congregation Council President

News and Events

Thrivent Seminar: Social Security Benefits

As you near retirement, one of the biggest financial decisions you'll need to make is when to begin receiving your Social Security retirement benefits. With pensions disappearing, Social Security remains the major source of guaranteed lifetime retirement income for most Americans, so it's important to take the time to explore your options and make an informed, well-reasoned decision.

In this seminar on Social Security Retirement Benefits, you'll learn:

- What your full retirement age is and how your benefit is determined
- How retiring earlier than, or later than, your full retirement age will affect your Social Security benefit
- Why it's important to plan together with your spouse, and strategies you can use to boost retirement and survivor's benefits
- How working after you begin receiving Social Security could affect how much you receive

You'll also receive a free workbook created just for this presentation. The workbook contains key information, worksheets, and questions to help you remember important points from the seminar.

The seminar will be on Thursday, August 8, at 2:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall. Contact Andrew Gray at 507-645-2427 or andrew.gray@thrivent.com with any questions or to reserve a spot.

Apple Sunday is August 25!

Search for your favorite apple recipe, whip it up...
and bring it to St. John's for Apple Sunday on August 25.

Whether you bring an apple dessert or not,
everyone is welcome to enjoy all the delicious creations between services in St. John's Hall.

If you can bring an apple dessert, please sign up in the Commons.

Questions? Call Guy Reid (645-7984) or the Church Office.



... from the Business Management Board

Treasurer's Update

I am pleased once again to offer you the following update on our success in meeting our budget of \$760,000 in envelope offerings. As of May 31, 2013, the church has received \$301,896 in envelope offerings. This presents us with a bit of a challenge, as it represents a shortfall, relative to our budgeted income, of \$14,770. We have plenty of time to make this up before the books close in December, and indeed, the preliminary figures from June indicate that we are making progress towards shrinking the size of this shortfall. Thank you all for your generous contributions to the work of this congregation, here and throughout the community and 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

A Holy Hug

By Barbara Eaves

My brother-in-law died this summer as the result of a freakish bicycle accident. As his children, now adults with families of their own, related stories about their dad, one poignant story seems fitting to relate. A daughter told about the time, when as a teenager, her dad caught her involved in an activity that she shouldn't have been doing. Upon being discovered, the daughter expected, and felt she deserved, to be properly reprimanded; instead her dad simply enfolded her in a long warm hug which he explained was a "holy hug." Nothing more was said.

That precious moment gives us an appealing picture of God, whose ever-present love steps forward with open arms to embrace us in a "holy hug." As recipients of such grace and goodness we are invited to be "holy hugs" of blessing for all of God's children.

*To be your presence is our mission here,
to show compassion's face and list'ning ear,
to be your heart of mercy ever near,*

*Alleluia
(ELW 546, v.1)*

* * * *

Next month, programs at St. John's will get into full swing. A menu of small group opportunities will be available the first week in September. If you have not experienced a small group before, there is nothing mysterious about them. They simply take place in a setting which allows more time for conversation and discussion among participants. A small group is also a good place to become acquainted with other people. Below is a one of the small groups that will be offered in September.

Faith Alive – In the Bible and In Us

Six-session group led by David & Genevieve Quarberg
An Inquiry into faith: how it begins, how it develops, how it persists when challenged and how it is expressed. Inquiry will involve our personal experiences, biblical witness, and witness of Christians throughout history.

Three different time offerings

Wednesdays, beginning September 18

4:15-5:30 p.m. or 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Sundays, beginning September 22

9:45-10:45 a.m.

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.womenoftheelca.org/2013-summer-study-pages-121.php.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Bible Study: Resumes in September

Knitters: Resumes in September

Quilters: Meet in Fellowship Hall from 9-11a.m. on August 12 & 15

****WELCA Board Meeting:** August 22, 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

LOOKING AHEAD

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

The new Bible Study, "In Good Company," by Kay Ward, will be introduced by Beverly Lundeen.

September 5, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.: General Meeting to include Installation of new board members and program by a group called "Journey of Hope to Color Our World". Steve Johnson and Bernadette Galvin from Red Wing, MN will talk about the non-profit they established to help the people of Sudan and East Africa. Their efforts there seek to improve education for children by providing supplies and financial support for schools.

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

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; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

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 — *Eulalie Smestad 663-0186*

Mary — *Rachel Stark 645-9269*

Sarah — *Norma Gilbertson 664-9591*

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

****The Sarah Circle and Martha/Claudia Circle will present a program and refreshments at Three Links, Monday, August 12th at 2:30 p.m.**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

QUILT PROJECT:

- *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 YARN 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.

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 . . .

Criminal Justice . . .

When the ELCA meets in national assembly in August, it will adopt a final draft of the Criminal Justice Statement. We will discuss this final statement at our September meeting and at the Adult Forum on September 22.

You can follow the press releases from the assembly online at www.elca.org and in the newspapers.

You may have read the recent articles in the Minneapolis Tribune regarding the issue of whether released felons should be required to give information regarding previous convictions when applying for a job. Articles and Letters to the Editor have been both pro and con.

Criminal Justice is a relevant issue.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

It is time to mark your calendar for the

**ELEVENTH NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY
CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

"EDUCATION FOR PEACE"

Saturday, September 21
from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Bridge Square

Drummers Experiences of Peacemaking Music Learning Peace Definitions of Peace
Sharing with friends and neighbors ways of peacemaking

If you wish to participate in the program or planning or have any ideas to share
please be in touch with

Judith Stoutland, Marie Vogl Gery, Matt Rohn, Bill McGrath, Norm Watt

Pastors

Orlin Mandsager
Mark Johnson
John Quam

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

**Facility Manager/
Custodian**

Don Thompson

Financial Manager

Bernie Renander

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 and
Custodial Assistants**

Marvin and Irene Perez

Parish Nurse

Lynette Marks

**Congregation
President**

Sandi Gerdes



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August Highlights

"On the Road", Summer Camp
August 5 - August 8

Vacation Bible School (VBS)
August 5 - August 8

Night to Unite
Tuesday, August 6

Pool Party
Wednesday, August 7

Habitat for Humanity Work Day
Saturday, August 10

Magical Mystery Tour
Wednesday, August 14

High School Bonfire
Tuesday, August 20

Latino Worship Music: Music, Fellowship and Dessert!
Wednesday, August 21

Stubbs Family Visit & Apple Sunday
Sunday, August 25

