

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

September 2013

Volume 53, Number 8

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Summer Worship Services:

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

Fall 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 to:

office@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

For information, contact the Church Office:

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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.

WelcomeFest Week - Invite your neighbors and friends!

Line up of Events!

Wednesday, September 11th

WelcomeFest Week Kick-Off Meal
from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

And . . .

6:00 p.m. Preschooler Open House

6:15 p.m. Orientation for Catechism and Confirmation

7:00 p.m. St. John's Chorale Resumes Practice

7:15 p.m. Laudate Choir Resumes Practice

Invite your neighbors and friends to join us!

Sunday, September 15th

Ministry Fair: between services in St. John's Hall

An opportunity to learn about different ways to
connect and learn and serve at St. John's.

(9:45) Sunday School Begins

Picnic Lunch along with a bouncy tent - All are welcome!

Fall Worship Begins on Sunday, September 15!

8:30 a.m. - Worship

9:45 - Education Hour
(for children, youth and adults!)

11:00 a.m. - Worship

Come and Worship at
St. John's!



The Church building
will be closed on
Monday,
September 2
in observance of
Labor Day.

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

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

Galatians 6:2



*Providing one-
to-one care and
encouragement*

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

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.

A Ministry of Prayer

Stephen Ministers rely upon prayer in our work more than upon any of the skills we learn in training, valuable as these are. One of the first things we learn, and must learn again and again, is that we ourselves have no ability to cure emotional or spiritual maladies. Our task is rather to walk faithfully beside our care receivers, to listen to their pain and sorrow and joy, and to entrust their healing to the power of Christ, in his own time and way.

This sounds simple, even obvious, but to learn this lesson most of us have to make radical changes in our thinking. It is natural to want to relieve the pain of others, right now; it is natural to want to change things for the better, right now; it is natural to see things amiss and offer advice for setting them right. And these natural, merely human, responses in ourselves are what we strive to give up, for they would impede our ministry. When we give up the idea that we know what is best for our care receivers and how to bring this about, when we accept that we are helpless on our own to solve their

Northfield Grief Support Coalition: The Northfield Grief Support Coalition is sponsoring a special presentation by Linda Lehmann, MA Licensed Psychologist, on Wednesday, September 11, 6:30 p.m. at the Northfield Hospital, Conference Center on the Lower Level. The title of the presentation is "How Grief Can Transform Our Lives". For more information contact Barb Knaak at 664-0444.

Grief Support Group Begins This Month: A grief support group will start meeting Wednesday, September 18 from 6:30--8:00 p.m. at the Northfield Hospital in the Long Term Care

Prayers of Intercession: Individual prayers for healing, joys, and all concerns are offered in the Chapel (second floor) every Sunday morning between worship services. If you have other prayer concerns or requests, or if you are interested in joining the Healing Prayer Ministry Team contact Jane Rinehart at jane.s.rinhart@gmail.com.

problems, then we are freed to turn to prayer, to throw ourselves upon Christ and to trust in his mercy and wisdom. We pray for guidance in our ministry, we pray for healing in our care receivers according to Christ's will, and we pray with them if they desire. To do the work we are given, we rely upon our own prayers and upon the prayers of fellow Stephen Ministers. We ask members of the congregation for their prayers on behalf of this ministry, that our work may be fruitful. It is a quiet and underground work, like that of prayer itself.

If you or someone you know would benefit from a Stephen Ministry please contact Joan Halvorson at 645-8445 or one of the pastors.



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."

September 27, 2012
Edlo Solum

Chapel. The group meets weekly until October 23. For more information contact the Hospice Social Worker, 646-1037.

From our pastors . . .

*"And how
are they to
hear with-
out some-
one to pro-
claim
[Christ]?...
So faith
comes from
what is
heard,
and what
is heard
comes
through
the word
of Christ."*

Romans 10:17



Last month, like every month at St. John's, the word of Christ was proclaimed at worship through scripture, preaching, liturgy and hymns. It was proclaimed in the sacraments of baptism and holy communion and it was proclaimed in the prayers we offered in Christ's name and in the Christian care and consolation we shared with one another. The word of Christ was proclaimed last month also in the conversations shared over a meal at the Night to Unite neighborhood event. The word was proclaimed in the late 1800s band music played by Newberry's Victorian Cornet Band during worship; in the Latin American songs and hymns we heard and sang accompanied by the El Milagro musicians and in songs from Tanzania led by the Stubbs family. It was proclaimed as the drywall was put up at the Habitat for Humanity house in Dundas. It could be heard in the voices of sixty children and their teachers and volunteers from different congregations and different denominations singing songs like "Gonna Dance" and "The Hippo Song" at Vacation Bible School held here at St. John's.

Pastor and author Eugene Peterson writes about how Christians are called to use words and ministry for communion not simply for communication because that is what God does. It is for the sake of communion that God sent Christ, the Word made flesh, into the world. It was not enough to tell the world something about love, God wanted to show that love and to share that love with the world. Through Christ God calls humanity and all creation deeper into a relationship, deeper into the wonder and gift of salvation. Peterson writes in his book, Subversive Spirituality, "[Holy Communion] uses words, the simplest of words, "this is my body, this is my blood," that plunge us into an act of revelation which staggers the imagination, which we never figure out, but we enter into. These words do not describe, they point, they reach, they embrace." (Subversive Spirituality, p. 137)

Through water and the simple words, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" - we are made members of the body of Christ and are joined to Christ's mission. As part of this mission we are called to proclaim our hope in Christ throughout our lives, no matter where we find ourselves. The ministry at St. John's provides a variety of opportunities and spaces for the word of Christ to be spoken and to be heard. The promise is that in the hearing of this word, God's Spirit is at work bringing healing, giving courage, and creating faith.

On the topic of hearing the word of Christ, the congregation council this summer approved the purchase of a new sound system in the sanctuary. Watch - and listen - for installation this fall. Not only will the new equipment and wiring improve sound in the sanctuary, including for those who use the hearing devices, but it will also improve our radio broadcast through KYMN and our ability to record worship services for broadcast on NTV, cable channel 12.

In Christ's Peace,

Marks

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

From the Choir Loft

It's that time of year again: back to school sales, Jesse James Days, State Fair, and the beat goes on... Things are beating at St. John's as well as we ramp up for the 2013-2014 program year. Please note the listing of first rehearsals for our choirs below. As I wrote last month, we need new singers in our adult choir, the Chorale, and the support of parents encouraging participation in our choirs for children and youth if the wonderful choral tradition at St. John's is to survive. As the old hymn goes, **Now Is the Hour**.

The beginning of the St. John's program year also marks the beginning of our year of the hymn which I wrote about in the June VOICE. Thanks to those who responded to my request for a list of 10 significant hymns. Many had a hard time limiting it to 10! There's still time to share your thoughts and list by email to ferg@stolaf.edu.

All of the respondents included delightful recollections of experiences singing and learning some of their favorites. "Almost all of these hymns I remember singing since childhood." or "My mother lived to be almost 99... she would lie in bed and softly sing her favorite hymns." or "I was blest in that my pastor had us memorize one hymn a week during my last year of confirmation."

A common thread in the texts of many of the hymns shared with me is an affirmation of God's continuing presence with us, God's love for us, God as ultimate source of "our hope for years to come."

And so for the first three of our hymns I've selected *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, *A Mighty Fortress* and *Now Thank We All Our God*. All three were listed by our respondents and I like to call them "Beefsteak Hymns" – strong texts with sturdy tunes – hymns that have endured over many generations. My hope is that we all will memorize (if we don't know them already) at least one stanza of each and that parents will sing these (or read them) with their kids – that cross generational thing.

We will begin with *Praise to the Lord*. Are beefsteak hymns too sophisticated for children? Do we expect children to understand all the theological implications of Holy Communion before they may participate in the sacrament? A little bit of protein in our hymnic diet is good for all. Perhaps pondering one of these texts as a family could provide a wonderful teaching, bonding in the faith moment for a family.

So, let's begin:

*Let all who hear, now to God's temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration*



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

THANKS TO ALL PROVIDERS OF SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

Again this summer our worship has been enriched by many talented folks in our St. John's family. Thanks to all for sharing their talents.

Also a special thanks to Jo Ann Polley who arranged for all who contributed to our worship this summer.

*Thank
you*

FROM THE DESK OF THE FACILITIES MANAGER...

I would like to thank the staff and congregation at St. John's for giving me such a warm welcome. As your facilities manager, I want you to know that you can feel free to contact me at anytime with questions, comments, or concerns. We have a lot of work ahead of us and I am confident that we will get it all done. It just takes time, so please be patient as we prioritize and initiate various projects. It is my hope to accomplish as much work as possible with little or no disruption to the services or activities at St. John's. It is our goal to provide you with a healthy and safe environment to gather for worship and fellowship. Also, if anyone is interested in volunteer opportunities to assist in the care and maintenance of the building or grounds, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Again, I thank all of you for the very warm welcome you have given me, and again, please feel free to contact me at anytime. You may reach me by calling the church directly or you may call my cell phone at 952-465-2734. All questions, comments or concerns are welcome.

Thank you,

Don Thompson
Facility Manager



Join us for the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 15!

The Ministry Fair provides an opportunity to learn about different ways to connect and learn and serve at St. John's.

Wednesday Night Meals

Yes, they are almost here again! Wednesday Night Meals are an intergenerational event each Wednesday from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall. Linda Anderson, Peggy Dell and Kristy Harms have graciously agreed to take charge of this event AND do the cooking again this year. But as we know there are a few things we need others to volunteer to do. Bringing desserts, cleaning up the kitchen, cleaning up St. John's Hall and running the dishwasher are the major jobs that need to be done each night.

SERVING TO LOVE  *LOVING TO SERVE*

Wednesday Night Meals will begin on September 11th with pulled pork sandwiches. If you know your availability in September here are days and jobs we need volunteers for:

I can help with Wednesday Night Meals:

___ I can bring a dessert On: _____ September 11
___ I can help clean up _____ September 18
___ I can run the dishwasher _____ September 25

Name: _____

Please drop this off in the Church Office or at the Welcome Desk. Thank you.

Important Dates to Remember!

Wednesday, September 11

- **CAT & Confirmation Orientation** for grades 3-9, Fellowship Hall, 6:15 p.m.
- **Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School**, 6:00 p.m., Room 15

Sunday, September 15

- **Sunday School Begins**, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
- **Installation of Teachers** 11:00 a.m. Service

Wednesday, September 18

- **“ROCK”**, *Reaching Out to Christ's Kids*, Wednesday Programming for K – 5th grades begins!

Sunday, September 22

- **Blessing of the Backpacks** Both Worship Services

Sunday, September 29

- **4th Grade Receives Catechisms** 11:00 a.m. Service

Youth Blast! Overnight Retreat

Who: Kids in grades 3 – 6
When: Friday – Saturday, October 4-5
Where: Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN
Cost: \$45.00 (*scholarships available*)
(*No charge for chaperones*)

Youth Blast invites kids in grades 3–6 for an overnight adventure at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. The 24-hour camp experience is filled with games, hikes, good food and Bible time. This is a great introduction to what a week-long summer camp is like. We will carpool from St. John's on Friday leaving at 5:30 p.m. and arrive back on Saturday around 6:00 p.m. Feel free to bring a friend and join us for Youth Blast!

Register by calling Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at children@stjohnsnorthfield.org. Chaperones are needed!
Registration deadline: Sunday, September 29. (Space is limited)

Registration for Sunday School, Preschool – Grade 5

Sunday School begins on September 15 from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. for children who are age 3 (by 9-1-13) – grade 5. If you have not yet registered your child for 2013 –2014 Sunday School year, it's not too late! Please fill out a Registration and Health form as soon as possible. A timely response is one of the best ways to support Children's Ministry at St. John's. Forms are available in the Commons and online at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org. If you have questions, contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.

Blessing of the Backpacks!

Students of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to either the 8:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, September 22, for the "Blessing of the Backpacks".

We want to join with your family in praying for your students as they begin their new school year.



CATechism and Confirmation Orientation is Wednesday, September 11

Catechism and Confirmation Orientation for students in grades 3 – 9 will be held on, Wednesday, September 11, starting at 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend, please call the Church Office at 645-4429.

Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School

All preschool children who are 3 by 9-1-13 are invited to be part of the Preschool 1 Sunday school class this fall. An Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 11, at 6:00 p.m. in Room 15 (lower level) to meet the teachers and help with this important transition. Please make sure you register your child as soon as possible.

Can you help with Children's Programming?

An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members – parents, grandparents, anyone! Are you able to help out on Wednesdays or Sundays? Whether you enjoy working with large or small groups of children or behind the scenes, there is a place for you. Many opportunities can fit into your schedule.

Wednesday afternoons: Snack Servers, Recreation, Bus Angels, Kid's Club leaders for grades K-3rd, DOG leaders for grades 4-5.

Sunday Mornings: Sunday School teachers and team teachers, Rotation Sunday School station leaders (2 Sunday commitment), Nursery volunteers, Library volunteers, Music volunteers.

Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Our thanks to you in advance!

Parent Gatherings during the Education Hour!

We are excited to continue "Parent Gatherings" for parents during the Sunday School hour. The Gatherings are facilitated discussion on issues related to parenting. They will be held on the first Sunday during the months of Oct, Nov, Jan, Feb, March and April. Watch for more information on topics!

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, September 7, at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids, begins on Wednesday, Sept. 18

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K – 5. Wednesday afterschool programs, for all grade levels, consists of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, music opportunities (Alleluia, Hosanna and Jubilate Choirs), art, service projects and more!

St. John's will be providing bussing for children from Greenvale, Bridgewater and Sibley school and from the Middle school for Prairie Creek students who are interested in participating in our Wednesday after-school programs.

For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes an insert you may use to register your child. Registration packets are available in the Commons or online at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org under the Children's tab.

We had a fantastic week in August at VBS and "On the Road" summer camps!

K-5th graders had an awesome time at "On the Road" summer camp lead by Good Earth Village. Many thanks to GEV!

60 preschool – kindergarten children attended "God's Big Backyard"! Many thanks to Bethel, Rejoice! and Emmaus Churches and their volunteers for joining with us in providing a week of fun and fellowship for children in the Northfield community. Thank you to the families who donated to the mission project and CAC Birthday Boxes.

And thanks to the following volunteers from St. John's who helped with VBS: Andrew Becker, Jonah Berthelsen, Sue Brockman, Brian Evenson, Elizabeth Evenson, Bailey Dell, Anne France, Rikka Fjeld-Zillmer, Caroline Hummel, Willa Kmoch, Emma Kmoch, Nancy Kmoch, Amy McBroom, Angie McCarthy, and Mike Skunes. And to our GEV Host Homes: Jim & Judy Cederberg, Brad & Krista Larson, and Saul & Amy McBroom.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

THE AMAZING gRACE

Who: 6-12 Youth

When: Sunday, September 29th @ 4:00 p.m.

Where: Meet in Bridge Square

What: Participants will be in teams of 1 to five and will compete in a series of filled challenges (games, clues, obstacle courses, relays) throughout downtown Northfield. Come for the fun and team-building!



Sunday Small Groups

This fall starting September 15th, we will again be ramping up our Sunday Small Groups. Students in 6th grade through 9th grade will have the opportunity to build relationships with one another and adult mentors, share about themselves, and encounter the gospel text for the week in light of current events and issues.

Each week students will meet in St. John's Hall at 9:45 a.m. for donuts and an opening activity. At 10:00 a.m., pre-assigned groups of four to seven (divided by age and gender) will get together with one of their adult leaders to debrief about their week, go over the gospel text for the week, and pray together till 10:40 a.m. The study for the week will be developed by Mike based on the ELCA's 'Faith Lens' which focuses on bringing relevant context in which view to weekly gospel lesson.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! As we approach the fall, I hope that you carefully consider and pray about being an adult leader of our Sunday Morning Small Group ministry for youth. Three adult volunteers will take turns leading, which ends up being a commitment of *ONLY SEVEN SUNDAYS*. No preparation or theological training is required. A leader sheet will be provided by the Wednesday beforehand to help you familiarize yourself with the text. If you can spare seven Sundays this year to mentor four to seven of St. John's youth on their faith journey, please contact me, Mike, at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org.



CAT/Confirmation Orientation

Orientation for students in grades 3-9 and their parents will be held Wednesday, September 11th, at 6:15pm in Fellowship Hall. Information regarding the year's schedule, expectations, and important changes from year's past will be announced and materials will be handed out. Parents, please have your child's registration packets and health forms turned in prior to the event. If you did not receive a registration packet by mail or have misplaced yours, you can request a PDF document by emailing Mike. If you will be unable to attend, please alert Mike or Julie by email or by calling the church at 645-4429.

Tenth Grade Confirmation



Tenth Graders, blessings to you as you prepare for your confirmation this fall. Here are a few quick reminders about the month ahead:

- 1) Schedule and complete your Confirmation interview with your assigned Pastor by September 13th. Have your faith statement and questions prepared prior to your meeting. If you have questions, contact Mike or Pastor Mark Johnson.
- 2) Be sure to mark your calendars for the Confirmation Retreat at Gustavus from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, September 21st. All tenth graders are expected to attend. We look forward to seeing you then.
- 3) Also, mark your calendars for the Confirmation Rehearsal and Breakfast on Saturday, October 12th. We will take pictures, run through the service, and share a meal with your families and mentors.

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.

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in September

Fellowship Time for children, youth, and adults begins at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School (Lower Level) 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.

September 1:

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall.

Prayers for Healing and Intercession, Chapel (second floor).

September 8:

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall.

Prayers for Healing and Intercession, Chapel (second floor).

September 15:

Fall Sunday Morning Schedule Begins

Ministry Fair ~ Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall.

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 12), Lower Level.

Prayers for Healing and Intercession, Chapel (second floor).

September 22:

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall.

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 12), Lower Level.

Small Group Study: "Faith Alive - In the Bible and In Us", Led by David & Genevieve Quarberg (see description on page 13). 9:50 a.m., Room 212.

Small Group: "Spiritual Practices", Led by Dick Beckmen (see description on page 13). 9:50 a.m., Theater.

Prayers for Healing and Intercession, Chapel (second floor).

September 29:

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall.

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 12), Lower Level.

Small Group Study: "Faith Alive - In the Bible and In Us", Led by David & Genevieve Quarberg (see description on page 13). 9:50 a.m., Room 212.

Small Group: "Spiritual Practices", Led by Dick Beckmen (see description on page 13). 9:50 a.m., Theater.

St. John's Forum: Listening Session on Same Sex Weddings. 9:50 a.m., St. John's Hall.

Prayers for Healing and Intercession, Chapel (second floor).

Listening Session on Sunday, September 29th

Same-sex marriage became legal in Minnesota on August 1, 2013. Earlier this summer Pastors Johnson and Mandsager came to the council and asked for congregational direction, should they be asked to perform a same-sex marriage. The council wanted to give immediate guidance to the pastors so they could respond to any questions they might receive. In doing so, the council reviewed the constitution and by-laws and said that the pastors should act within the guidelines of the constitution. **What does this mean?** This means that pastors are to assess readiness and officiate at a wedding as they would with any couple, including pre-marital counseling and preparation for entering marriage.

The council also felt it was important to understand the will of the congregation and is seeking member input on this policy. A listening session was held in June and another listening session will be held Sunday, September 29 at 9:50 a.m. in St. John's Hall. We encourage all congregation members to attend this listening session so we can hear from the congregation.

Mission Outreach

Thank You St. John's!

The following note was received from the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, ELCA last month:

Dear St. John's Lutheran, Thank you for your generous gift to help the families of the Oklahoma tornadoes rebuild their homes and lives. We appreciate your willingness to participate in God's mission in this way.
Michael K. Girlinghouse, Bishop

In May, St. John's worshipers created twenty five homemade cards for the tornado victims and the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board, on behalf of St. John's sent \$300 to the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod tornado relief fund.

September Service Event: Adopt-A-Highway

This month's service event is the fall clean-up of St. John's section of State Highway 246. Meet in the High School parking lot across from the cemetery on **Saturday, September 28 at 10:30 a.m.** Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons. Remember to wear comfortable shoes and dress for the weather. Safety vests, gloves and a snack will be provided. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Thank you for helping to clean up this small part of God's creation.

Meals on Wheels

St. John's members deliver Meals on Wheels during the month of October. Drivers are needed for this important ministry. Please watch for sign up sheets in the Commons. Contact the Church Office with any questions.

August Actions

Baptisms

Tyson Daniel Hunkins, son of Ally and Cordell Hunkins, August 2, 2013
Owen Turner Allen, son of Betsy and Ryan Allen, August 2, 2013
Henry Lee Bahler, son of Maren and Zach Bahler, August 4, 2013
Jace Michael Creighton, son of Katie and Jim Creighton, August 18, 2013

Deaths

Josef Thompson, July 26, 2013

Weddings

August 3, 2013
Emily Marks and Aaron Langan

Radio Broadcasts

August 4, 2013, given by Marilyn and Bob Matta in honor of Bob's 81st birthday.
August 11, 2013, given by Guenther and Allene Moesler in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.
August 18, 2013, given in memory of Ted Rudser by family and friends.
August 25, 2013, given by friends of St. John's.

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



St. John's will formally receive new members this fall on November 24, 2013. 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!

News and Events

Direct Debit Giving: A Good Option!

Direct Debit Giving: Direct debit giving is an electronic transfer of funds (EFT) that is fast, secure and a convenient way to give donations directly to St. John's Lutheran Church. With your authorization, your bank will automatically withdraw your contributions from either your checking account or your savings account. You can download an EFT Authorization Form and return it to the Church Office. Whether you wish to give at regular intervals or as a one-time gift, you can decide how much and how often to give. You will need to provide the bank routing number and account number as they appear at the bottom of your check or savings deposit slip. A voided check or slip can be attached to the registration form you get from the Church Office.

Online Giving: The online giving program has some new and exciting features. You can now create and update your password protected personal information, see your payment history, and change the amount or date that you wish to give by creating your own personal profile. By having your own profile you will be able to manage your account at any time and any day. No waiting for someone in the office during normal office hours. To begin, go to the website under Online Giving, and complete the registration form, using a secure payment service provided by Vanco Services. Online giving is the easiest way to support St. John's and our many programs.

"I give electronically" cards that can be placed in the offering plates at Sunday Worship are available from the ushers at the door.

Open Door Nursery School has openings for the 2013-14 School Year

Open Door Nursery School (ODNS) offers 2 and 3 day morning and afternoon sessions. Combinations and extended day options are also available. Visit our website at: www.opendoor nursery school.org or contact Barb Howe at 507-645-5786 or Sue Anderson at 952-652-2937 for further information.

... from the Business Management Board

Treasurers Update

June envelope giving totaled \$68,794, raising year-to-date receipts to \$370,690. This puts us slightly behind our targeted half-year goal for envelope offerings of \$380,000.

However, with only a few exceptions, expenses continue to remain at or below the budgeted amounts. The happy result of careful stewardship of expenses and generous giving by the congregation is that we ended June **in the black**, with a June 30, 2013 surplus of \$3,094.

Thank you all for your generous support of the church's mission here in Northfield and throughout the world. And thanks in particular to the team of reliable volunteers who count our envelope offerings every Sunday, providing a vital link between the congregation's offerings and the church's financial resources. St. John's members who assisted in the second-quarter counting effort include:

Jerry Appeldoorn, Karen Appeldoorn, Brent Bash, Amy Boxrud, Sue Brockman, Wil Brosz, Bill Carlson, Char Carlson, Dick Dahlin, Jim Enestvedt, Dan Franklin, Bob Gelle, Kasia Gonnerman, Dean Ostlie, LaVerne Reitz, Otto Reitz, Mark Ulmer, Elden Zempel, and Solveig Zempel.

We are always looking for new counters to join our ranks. If you're interested, please contact the Church Office.

In gratitude for all of God's gifts, and for this congregation's willingness to share them,

Rebecca Judge, Treasurer

Serving on Sundays in September

Communion Preparers

- September 1** Jill Enestvedt, Judy Smith
September 8 Gorgene Johnson, Judy Smith
September 15 Jim and Judy Cederberg
September 22 John and Barbara Walters
September 29 John and Carrie Duba

Nursery

- September 1** Todd and Connie Messen
September 8 Betsy McLaughlin, Amelia Kneser
September 15 Jennifer Paulson, Katherine Norrie, Sherri Williams
September 22 Kristin Partlo, Saul and Amy McBroom
September 29 Kris Vatter

Welcome Desk

- September 1** Lois Bakko
September 8 Sue Anderson
September 15 JoAnn Kleber
September 22 Arlene Sivanich
September 29 Bette Quinnell

Ushers

- September 1** (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
September 8 (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
September 15 (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, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Basil, Mroz, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
September 22 (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert; (11:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Michael Gasior, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback, Emily Westerback
September 22 (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert; (11:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Basil Mroz, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary

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

Faith Alive

Contact: David & Genevieve Quarberg
645-0089

Gathered in the Word

Contact: Pr. Johnson 645-4429

Grief Support

Contact: Barbara Knaak 664-0444

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Contact: Gary Knutson 663-1522

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

Spiritual Practices

Contact: Dick Beckman 664-3882

Tuesday Noon Bible Study

Contact: Pr. Orlin or Pr. Mark 645-4429

Women of the ELCA Circles

Contact: Shirley Keltto 785-317-9509
Jo Franklin 720-281-5107

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

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,
classysandi@yahoo.com

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

Small Groups By Barbara Eaves

In June I attended my college class reunion, a two-day affair filled with events of all kinds. Worship, lectures, speakers, meals and social receptions—each of which enhanced the whole experience. The large group gatherings helped us realize that we were part of a greater community, the class lectures reminded us that we can keep on learning no matter what our age, and the meals and various small group gatherings gave opportunity to have longer conversations with some people, thus expanding our awareness and the gift of relationships.

“What does a small group do?” A small group can do most any activity, from service to learning to fellowship. It is not what it does that defines a small group, rather it is how it functions. The small size allows people to become better acquainted, helps foster relationships and provides a setting where all are invited to engage in conversation and participate in discussion.

Like other activities at St. John's, small groups will get into full gear in the middle of September. A catalog of small groups will be available at the Ministry Fair on Sep 15 and at the small group bulletin board display in the Commons. Here is a sampling of the groups that will be offered.

Faith Alive—in the Bible and In Us

A six-session inquiry into faith: how it begins, how it develops, how it persists when challenged, and how it is expressed. Inquiry will include personal experiences, biblical witness, and witness of Christians throughout history. Three options offered: Sunday mornings, beginning Sept. 22, 9:45-10:45 and Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 18, 4:15-5:30 p.m. or 7:00-8:15 p.m. Leaders: David & Genevieve Quarberg, 645-0089.

Spiritual Practices

A four-week exploration of spiritual practices that can enhance one's awareness of God's presence in our lives and how that presence affects our finding peace, forgiveness, and insight in scripture and empowerment to follow Christ. Practices to be explored include meditation and contemplation, daily life, and prayer. Offered on Sunday mornings, Sept. 22-Oct. 13, 9:45-10:45. Leader: Dick Beckmen, 664-3882.

Bible Study - In Good Company: A Study of Old Testament Women.

St. John's Women of the ELCA includes seven circles which meet monthly for fellowship and bible study. This year's study (listed above) is found in the magazine, *Gather*, which is published by the Women of the ELCA. Circles meet at various days and times. Contact Shirley Keltto, 785-317-9509 or Jo Franklin, 720-281-5107 for more information.

Bible Study - The Gospel According to St. John

Men's Breakfast Bible Study meets every other Thursday, beginning Sept. 12, 7:30 a.m., for a light breakfast and bible study. Contact: Gary Knutson, 663-1522.



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 2013-2014 is "In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women" by Kay Ward.

MONTHLY EVENTS

- Sept. 9:** Bible Study Leaders meet at 12:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.
Sept. 11, 12, 13, 14: Circles meet. Check with leaders for locations and times.
Sept. 3 & 17: Knitters meet at 9:30 a.m. at home of Kathy Vang (507-645-4849).
Sept. 16 & 19: Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Sept. 26: WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 a.m. in Fireside Room.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 5, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.:** Women of the ELCA general meeting in St. John's Hall. Bernadette Galvin and Steve Johnson will present "Journey of Hope to Color Our World," about her non-profit organization. Our new officers will also be installed at this meeting.
Sept. 21, Saturday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: SE MN Synodical WELCA Convention, Grace Lutheran Church, Albert Lea. Registrations are due September 15th. Call Marilyn Jacobson (663-9060) if you are interested.

LOOKING AHEAD

- October 3, Thursday, 10:00a.m.:** FIELD TRIP!
Joe Shaw will lead us on a tour of three churches founded by B.J. Muus: Valley Grove, Vang & Holden.
Welcome to the Executive Board!
Shirley Keltto and Jo Franklin, Co-Presidents
Genevieve Qquarberg and Jane Gelle, Co-Vice Presidents
Solveig Zempel, Mission Growth/Discipleship
Anita Hellie, Mission Community/Justice
Norma Gilbertson, Mission Action/Stewardship

CIRCLES

PLEASE JOIN US! (Call Shirley Kelto at 785-317-9509 or Jo Franklin at 507-301-3498) 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:

- Abigail/Rebecca — Thursday, 2:00 p.m., NRC Parkview E. *Gert Brosz*
Elizabeth — Thursday, 1:30 p.m. *Marie Benson & Gretchen Hardgrove*
Lydia — Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. *Jo Dahlin & Anita Hellie*
Martha/Claudia — Thursday, 9:30 a.m. *Marilyn Jacobson*
Mary — 2nd Friday, 1:00 p.m. *Rachel Stark*
Sarah — Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. *Char Nelson & Carol Nesheim*
Women's Breakfast Group — 2nd Saturday, 8:30 a.m., Fireside Room *Kathy Melstrom*

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This month we are making a special plea for two important projects:

- *GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRY needs clean white sheets, flat or fitted, any size, used or new. These will be cut up and rolled as bandages for medical dressings.
- *LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS: items especially needed are four 70-sheet notebooks, one 30-centimeter ruler, one pencil sharpener, one blunt Fishers scissors, one box of 16 or 24 crayons.

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!

Please submit items for this WELCA information page to: jo_franklin50@yahoo.com or 720-281-5107 Please submit items for the Sunday bulletin to: kelttos@msn.com or 785-317-9509.

From the Faith and Health Board:

GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN THE FACE OF DISASTER

Emergencies can happen without warning, even at St. John's! Being prepared physically and psychologically to handle accidents or disasters is an individual and a church responsibility. Your safety is of primary importance!

The Faith & Health Board has developed emergency procedures in the event of weather, medical, or fire emergencies. In addition, maps have been produced which contain pertinent information for each floor at St. John's, identifying the location of fire extinguishers, first aid kits, the defibrillator, emergency exits, etc., as well as identification as to the specific area in which you may be located.

Each room at St. John's has both the emergency plan and the appropriate maps posted. Weather radios and flash lights have also been strategically placed throughout the building.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the postings so you too may be prepared should a disaster occur. And be sure to notice that a **storm shelter** is identified as an evacuation area in the halls on the lower level.

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL STATEMENT PASSES AT ASSEMBLY

On August 16, at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA in Pittsburg, the proposed social statement "The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries" was adopted by a vote of 882 to 25. The vote was the culmination of work begun in 2008, by authorization of the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Cynthia Osbourne, chair of the task force that developed the study materials and subsequent drafts of the statement, said that "a deep concern among ELCA members over the massive levels of incarceration in the United States" led to the statement.

The statement commends positive aspects of the US system while recognizing the urgency of reform needed in some areas. Osborne cites the high incarceration rates in the US as one such area. The US ranks among the top 2 or 3 countries in the world in percentage of people under control of a criminal justice system—one out of 31 adults and, for people of color, as high as one out of 11, she said. The statistics come from harsh sentencing and persistent inequalities based on class and race.

Due process of law and the presumption of legal innocence are among the fundamental principles of the US system that the statement supports.

An important part of the statement is its call to ELCA members to respond to the current conditions: to hear with compassion the cries of those affected (both victims and perpetrators suffer), to advocate for restorative justice, to offer accompaniment and hospitality to overcome the prejudices communities hold toward those affected, to work to correct the flaws in the system.

"Our nation's struggle with the question of how to respond to crime is lively," according to Osbourne. "The criminal justice system needs to be remade new."

At the September 22 St. John's Forum Greg Colby will review major points in the document and Chuck Jacobson will lead a discussion of ways we can respond to the challenges in the current system.

The social statement on criminal justice is available at www.ELCA.org/criminaljustice.

JUSTICE CALENDAR

Monday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Peace & Justice Group Meeting: Report from ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Criminal Justice Updates. Everyone is welcome!

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

"Education for Peace": 11th Northfield Community Celebration of the International Day of Peace. Event will be at Bridge Square with drumming beginning at 1:30 p.m.

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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Northfield, MN 55057

507-645-4429

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St. John's
Wednesday Night Meals

Wednesday, September 11

Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Wednesday, September 18

Taco Boats

Wednesday, September 25

Chicken and Rice

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!