

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

October 2013

Volume 53, Number 9

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Worship Services:

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

The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN. Articles for the *Voice* must be submitted by the 15th of each month to:

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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.

Tenth Graders to affirm their baptism October 13

St. John's gives thanks to God that the following young people in our congregation have indicated their desire to publicly affirm their baptism by participating in the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, October 13, at the 11:00 a.m. service: **Jonah Berthelsen, Ryan Buck, Bailey Dell, Evan Heather, Brandon Kimber, Wylie Kneser, Cecilia Kryzda, Maddi Miller, Amanda Nelson, Olivia Riggins, Lydia Storlie, and Emily Westerback.**

When they affirm their baptism, these young people will renounce all evil, profess their faith in the Triune God, and commit themselves more fully to participate in the life of the congregation, and to live out their faith in the world. This rite follows a six-year education and reflection program at St. John's beginning with Catechism (CAT) classes in grades three, four, five, and six; weekday and Sunday classes in grades seven and eight; and classes, retreats, and a mentor relationship in grade nine. The program concluded with a retreat at Gustavus on Saturday, September 21.

Those being confirmed and their parents will meet in the Fireside Room on Saturday, October 12, at 8:30 a.m. After rehearsal, breakfast with students, families and mentors will be at 10:00 a.m.

Please pray for these young people and their faith and life as they make this commitment and affirmation.



St. John's Annual Harvest Festival!

When: Sunday, October 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Where: Evenson's Farm
5061 320th St. W., Northfield

Come and enjoy fall activities:
pumpkin carving, pumpkin bean bag toss,
create a scarecrow, hayrides, and more!

Everyone is welcome!

Feel free to come in costumes!

Bring your friends!

Our Mission: *As followers of Jesus Christ, the members of St. John's Lutheran Church welcome all people to join us in celebrating God's grace, nurturing their faith, and reaching out to the world in love and service.*

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word: A time of prayer guided by scripture meets Thursday, October 24, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

Prayers for healing, joys, and all concerns are offered every Sunday morning between services in the prayer chapel near the choir room on the second floor.

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

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

Galatians 6:2



*Providing one-
to-one care and
encouragement*

Healthy Boundaries

From the day of our birth, each of us struggles to distinguish where our identities end and others' begin. Of course, humans are created to relate to one another and depend on one another. Yet we become who we are only when clear, healthy boundaries allow us to function with one another as separate individuals.

As a caring person, you may sometimes find yourself so invested in those you love that your boundaries become blurred. Blurred boundaries can confuse issues and limit solutions. Whether you are dropping off a five-year-old at kindergarten, a 19-year-old at college, or a spouse at a substance abuse treatment center, healthy letting go is essential as that person takes an important step. And it is also important for you to show that you care by securing appropriate boundaries. Letting go helps you maintain perspective on a challenging situation and offer the objective support or advice the one you care about needs.

Stephen Ministers are trained to recognize problems their care receivers are having with boundaries and work with them to adjust those boundaries. If you or someone you know could benefit from a Stephen Minister's support in dealing with boundaries, please contact one of the pastors or Joan Halvorson at 645-8445.



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."

October 10, 2012
Jane Nelson

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Northfield Grief Support Coalition:

A grief support group continues to meet this month – Wednesdays through October 23 from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the Northfield Hospital. Contact the Hospice Social Worker, 646-1037, for more information. A support group for parents grieving the loss of a child begins meeting in November at the Northfield United Methodist Church – contact Sherri Bunch-Quaas for more information at 645-4300.

"Journey through Grief" booklets are available at St. John's for all who are mourning the loss of loved ones. Contact Barb Knaak or one of the pastors for more information.

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.

From our pastors . . .

*"Merciful
God,
We offer with
joy and
thanksgiving
what you
have first
given us -
ourselves, our
time and our
possessions,
signs of your
gracious love.
Receive them
for the sake of
him who
offered him-
self for us,
Jesus Christ,
Our Lord.
Amen"*

*Evangelical
Lutheran Worship*

CELEBRATING MINISTRY at St. John's is the theme the Stewardship Board has chosen for our appeal this fall. And there is a lot at St. John's to celebrate! Through the month of October, leading up to pledge Sunday, November 3, bulletin inserts and temple talks at worship will highlight the variety and scope of our ministry within our congregation, in our community, and in mission with the larger Church across the world. From great children and youth programs, choirs, study groups and service groups, to worship, outreach and Wednesday night meals, ministry to seniors and caring for the sick, we celebrate our identity as followers of Jesus! Our financial giving, and our sharing of our energy and time....ALL OF US TOGETHER....make it possible for St. John's to be the worshipping, nurturing, serving congregation our Christian faith calls us to be!

Wallace Fisher in his book, "All the Good Gifts", writes: "As Christian congregations we recognize that, having been bought for a price, we are bought for a purpose....the doing of Christ's ministry in the world, beginning in our own community and reaching to the outermost parts of the earth. When a congregation truly remembers in its' worship and its' teaching, its' preaching and its' administering that it was bought to do Christ's ministry here and now, and acts on that remembrance, biblical stewardship results."

Grace Duddy, on the staff at the Center for Stewardship at Luther Seminary, writes: "I love the quote, 'Stewardship is everything you do after you say, "I believe".....it is an act of gracious discipleship founded on the premise that all that we have and all that we are belongs to God.' In other words, we share; we celebrate all that God has given us...and most surely the good news of the Gospel, when we make our financial and personal pledges to St. John's this fall!

We have an identity and mission to celebrate that St. John's Mission Statement expresses so well:

**Created, renewed, and empowered by God's grace,
St. John's Lutheran Church
is a welcoming community in Christ whose mission is to
*celebrate in Word and Sacrament God's gracious actions for the world,
*cultivate growth in faith,
*encourage service and witness, and
*proclaim Christ as the hope of the world.**

Pastor Orlin Mandsager

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

To Parents of Children and Youth

Do you know the old saying: "What I hear I forget, what I see I remember, **what I do I know.**"

One of the best ways to "know" the faith is to sing it. A good tune helps to plant Biblical truths deep in our hearts and minds. Then when times of trouble come we are able to call upon those truths to help support us. One of the simplest of songs - *Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so* - is also a most profound statement of faith. Then there is *Amazing Grace* or *A Mighty Fortress* or the text Jubilate sang last Sunday, "For his mercies shall endure, Ever faithful, ever sure."

Of course, you know where I'm going with this brief epistle - reminding us all of the value of St. John's choir program for children and youth. Not only do they learn Biblical concepts through the texts they sing, they learn about worship as they help lead it and gain muscular coordinations skills as they play Orff and percussion instruments. Much goes on in the rehearsals, led by our well-trained, committed choir directors: Carol Benson, Cathy Rodland and Ruth Legvold. I know, I hear them at work! Theological concepts are not just sung, they are explained.

Then there is the stewardship dimension of membership in one of our choirs. Young people can serve each other and all of us through their participation in and leadership of our worship in song. Again, we are teaching an important concept - the church will no longer thrive without raising up, training by doing, new committed people.

We are anxious to grow our choirs. They are significant components of our Christian education ministries as well as rich contributors to our worship life together. Besides, they are fun!

Parents, we need your help!

John Ferguson
Interim Director of Music

October Sunday Singing Schedule for Choirs

October 6: (8:30) Chorale; (11:00) Alleluia, Hosanna, Jubilate
October 13: (8:30) Chorale; (11:00) Chorale and Laudate
October 20: (8:30) Rejoice Ringers; (11:00) Rejoice Ringers
October 27: (8:30) Chorale; (11:00) Jubilate



Sunday Morning Concert Series Starts in October

The first **Sunday Morning Concert** of the season will be on October 27 at 9:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Join us for a recital by adult members of our congregation.

Sunday Morning Concert series will continue on February 9, 2014, with a recital by the middle school and high school youth members of our congregation.

The Sunday Morning Concerts series will conclude on March 16, 2014 with a recital by the Laura Baker Choir.

Everyone is welcome!

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

High School Club

Who: Girls in grades 8-12

When: Sunday, October 6th

Where: Peggy Hanson's home

What: Peggy Hanson is opening up her home to facilitate a time of conversation and fellowship for High School girls (8th graders are invited, too). The time has been a highlight of many during their time at St. John's as girls have been able to connect in conversation with one another over treats, games, or other activities. Contact Mike or Peggy Hanson if you are interested.



Mentor/Mentee Service Project

Tuesday, October 12th, 9th graders and their mentors are encouraged to participate in a Mentor/Mentee service project by helping out at Global Health Ministries in Minneapolis. Global Health Ministries is an organization that aids Lutheran health care charities around the world by collecting and distributing health care supplies and organizing medical professionals who wish to volunteer their expertise. Mentors and Mentees will take the opportunity to assist in their warehouse by getting their inventory prepared for distribution or proper storage all while having a hands on activity to get to know one another.

Our carpool from St. John's will leave no later than **5:15 p.m.** and we will return to St. John's between **8:45 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.**

Silent Movie in the Sanctuary

When: October 30th, 6:15 p.m.

Where: St. John's Sanctuary

What: In celebration of Halloween, the whole family is invited to take part in watching the movie *Buster Builds A House* with live organ music by our very own John Ferguson in the Sanctuary. After the conclusion of the movie, there will also be "pumpkin" sing-alongs for everyone to enjoy.

Taking Care of Our Church

Saturday, October 12th,

our Facilities Manager Don Thompson will be leading an intergenerational service event addressing the many facility needs at St. John's.

Youth are invited to help with tasks that will include everything from weeding, raking, and hauling in effort to clean up the exterior grounds of the building. Anyone is allowed to drop in from 8:00 a.m.-Noon and this will count as the October service project.



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) 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.
- 2) Sunday, October 13th, the 11:00 a.m. service will be the Confirmation service. Please arrive and meet in the Fireside Room no later than 10:30 a.m. so that we can get your robes on, your boutonnières pinned, get organized for the processional, and pray together before the service.

We are so proud of you and excited to hear you affirm your faith at this milestone of your faith journey. May God's peace be with you now and always.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

October 6 Sunday School
 October 13 Sunday School
 October 20 No Sunday School (MEA)
 October 27 Sunday School (3rd graders receive Bibles)

ROCK – Wednesdays programming

October 2
 October 9
 October 16 NO Programs (MEA)
 October 23
 October 30

Youth Blast – Good Earth Village

October 4-5 (3rd – 6th Grade)

CATechism

Grades 4 & 5 – Room 9 & Youth Room
 4:00-4:45 p.m.

October 2
 October 9
 October 23

3rd Grade CAT –October 26
 St. John's Hall, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
 Retreat with Parents

Fall Festival

October 27, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
 Event at Brian Evenson & Sue Brockman Home (see article on front page!)

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 Blast! Overnight Retreat

Youth Blast invites kids in grades 3-6 for an overnight adventure at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN on Oct. 4-5. If your child has not signed up and is interested in attending, it may not be too late! Call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 to see if space is available. Thanks to all who are going as chaperones! It promises to be great fun.

3rd Graders to Study the Word

3rd graders and parents meet in St. John's Hall on **Saturday, October 26, from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.** for a Retreat on the Word - an introduction to the Bible. This class will be a primer on the Bible for students who will receive their Bibles at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, October 27. Please call Pastor Mark Johnson or Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either day.

4th & 5th Grade CAT Begins in October

4th and 5th grade students will begin Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, October 2. CAT class will meet downstairs, 4th grade in the Room 9 and 5th grade in the Youth Room from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays in October: October 2, 9 and 23.

Please contact Julie Brehmer if your child would like to ride the St. John's afterschool bus on Wednesdays to CAT. The bus picks up at Sibley, Bridgewater, Greenvale and at the Middle School for PCCS kids.

4th graders Receiving Catechisms this year:

Thea Benson, Lindsey Canedy, Trevor Dell, Prescott Garlie, Seth Hansen, Oden Hoff, Annelise Hall-Holt, Spencer Klotz, Zachary McCarthy, Elena Mikula, Nickolas Mikula, Charles Neeb, Ainsley Nutt, Alexander Organ, Jeanette Pelletier, Tate Sand, Olivia Swenson, Kathleen Thompson

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, October 5, at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Thank You, Sunday School Volunteers!

Sunday School is off to a great start thanks to the dedicated teachers and volunteers at St. John's. Our teachers:

Preschool 1

Cheryl Buck, Jenny Nystrom, Cheyenne Suarez

Preschool 2

Betsy McLaughlin, Trish Goodrich, Jamie Forbord

Kindergarten

Ashley Hammer, Barbie Strese, Bailey Dell

First Grade

Kris Vatter, Jamie Forbord, Emily Westerback

Second Grade

Amy McBroom, Angie McCarthy

Third Grade

Hannah Gelle, Amelia Kneser, Elizabeth Evenson

Fourth Grade

Leah and John Sand

Fifth Grade

Julie Becker, Sally Lindell

Also, thank you to Susan Canon for coordinating Library Time, Jenny Pelletier, Carol Benson, Rachel Skunes and Andrea Hoff for helping with Music/Opening and Rob Nutt, Angie Gehring, Maren Bahler, and Kelly Hebzynski.

ROCK,

Reaching Out to Christ's Kids!

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program offered to children from kindergarten to grade 5, is off to a great start. Wednesday afterschool programs for all grade levels consist of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, music opportunities (Alleluia, Hosanna and Jubilate Choir and Orff instrument ensembles), art, service projects and more! St. John's provides a bus to pick up children who are interested in participating. Our bus travels to Sibley, Bridgewater and Greenvale, plus the middle school for Prairie Creek children. For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes an insert you may use to register your child.

Parent Gatherings during the Education Hour!

We are excited to continue our "Parent Gatherings" during the Education Hour when children are in Sunday school. The Gatherings are facilitated discussions on issues related to parenting. They will be held on the first Sunday during the months of Oct., Nov., Jan., Feb., March and April.

On Sunday, October 6, our topic is "What you need to know about choosing a college and the admission's process", facilitated by Dan Franklin, Director of Admissions Campus Programs and Services at St. Olaf.

On Sunday, November 3, our topic is "Northfield's Promise: Every Child, Cradle to Career", facilitated by Zach Pruitt, Director of Healthy Community Initiative (HCI). HCI is inviting all of the major community institutions - schools, government, colleges, businesses, faith communities, social service and healthcare providers - to align their vision and their resources to promise that all children will emerge from adolescence with the skills and the support they need to become successful adults.

Where Does Your Sunday School Offering Go?

St. John's Sunday School offering will be distributed to 2 different missions this year:

We continue to sponsor Romairo Vasquez Polo from Columbia through Compassion International. Our sponsorship of \$38.00 / month provides Romairo with Bible teaching, medical care, nutritious meals, recreational activities, academic support, educational classes and literacy training.

Offering beyond meeting Romario's sponsorship will benefit the "Heifer Project". The first Sunday school rotation in October will help students learn more about this project. Watch for the building of the ark!

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.

Small Groups are part of St. John's small group ministry and meet in various rooms as noted.

October 6:

Coffee and Fellowship. St. John's Hall.

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

Small Group: "Faith Alive - In the Bible and In Us", Led by David & Genevieve Quarberg. 9:45 a.m., Room 212.

Small Group: "Spiritual Practices", Led by Dick Beckmen. 9:45 a.m., Room 203.

Forum: Bible Part 1 - "Bible Translations: Does it make any difference what version you use?",

Led by Eric Lund, St. Olaf Professor. 9:50 a.m., Theater.

Parent Gathering: "What you need to know about choosing a college and the admission process",

Led by Dan Franklin, Director of Admissions Campus Programs and Services at St. Olaf.

10:00 a.m., Fireside Room.

October 13:

Coffee and Fellowship. St. John's Hall.

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

Small Group: "Faith Alive - In the Bible and In Us", Led by David & Genevieve Quarberg. 9:45 a.m., Room 212.

Small Group: "Spiritual Practices", Led by Dick Beckmen. 9:45 a.m., Room 203.

Forum: Bible Part 2 - "What to Expect When Reading the Bible",

Led by Darrell Joddock, St. Olaf Visiting Professor. 9:50 a.m., Theater.

October 20:

Coffee and Fellowship. St. John's Hall.

No Sunday School

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

Small Group: "Faith Alive - In the Bible and In Us", Led by David & Genevieve Quarberg. 9:45 a.m., Room 212.

Forum: "Palestine and the Christian People There", Led by Tala Raheb, St. Olaf Student. 9:50 a.m., Theater.

October 27:

Coffee and Fellowship. St. John's Hall.

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

New Member Session: New Member Beginnings. 9:45 a.m., Fireside.

Small Group: "Faith Alive - In the Bible and In Us", Led by David & Genevieve Quarberg. 9:45 a.m., Room 212.

St. John's Forum: Sunday Morning Concert Series. 9:50 a.m., St. John's Hall.

2013-2014 Forum Calendar

Date	Topic/Event	Contact Person	Location
<i>Please see page 8 for October Schedule</i>			
Nov 3	Local: Youth Needs & Services, Part I-Healthy Community Initiative led by Zach Pruitt	Barb Knaak	Theater
Nov 10	Local: Hunger In Our Midst, Part II Dawn Tommerdahl, Head Start Program	Guy Reid	Theater
Nov 17	Local: Health Needs & Services, Part III, HealthFinders Charlie Mandile, Director of HealthFinders	Guy Reid	Theater
Nov 24	New Member Reception - No Forum	Staff	St. John's Hall
Dec 1	Bible Series, Part I	Eric L, M.Gleason	Theater
Dec 8	Bible Series, Part II	Eric L, M.Gleason	Theater
Dec 15	Bible Series, Part III	Eric L, M.Gleason	Theater
Dec 22	OPEN, to be assigned later		
Dec 29	Carol Sing - No Forum	John Ferguson	Sanctuary
Jan 5	St. Olaf Choir Reception - No Forum	Staff	St. John's Hall
Jan 12	Global Mission Work Luther Seminary Student	Pastor Mark J.	Theater
Jan 19	Annual Meeting Preview - No Forum	Church President	St. John's Hall
Jan 26	Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC)	Paul Peterson - Peace & Justice	Theater
Feb 2	Caring Ministries at St. John's: Panel	Barb Knaak - Faith & Health	Theater
Feb 9	Sunday Morning Concert Series #2 - No Forum	Jo Polley	TBD
Feb 16	Hymnody: A Historical Review of Our Hymns	John Ferguson	Worship & Arts Sanctuary
Feb 23	Evolving Liturgy Part I-Why Do Lutherans Do What They Do? Tom Schattauer	Jon R. & Mark Granquist	Theater
Mar 2	Evolving Liturgy, Part II-Whatever Happened to That Old Time Religion?	Jon R. & Mark Granquist	Theater
Mar 9	Youth Fundraiser - No Forum	Staff	St. John's Hall
Mar 16	Sunday Morning Concert Series #3 - No Forum	Jo Polley	TBD
Mar 23	Faith and Science: Part I, Water David VanWynen, St. Olaf Professor	Mark Gleason	Theater
Mar 30	Faith and Science: Part II, Ethics of Genetic Engineering Doug Schurman, St. Olaf Professor	Mark Gleason	Theater
Apr 6	Poetry-National Poetry Month Schwewha Kaeta,	Mark Gleason	Sanctuary
Apr 13	Existing Visual Art in Church, Needed or Nice?	Jon Rondestvedt	Sanctuary
Apr 20	Easter Breakfast - No Forum	Staff	St. John's Hall
Apr 27	New Member Reception - No Forum	Staff	St. John's Hall
May 4	OPEN, to be assigned later		
May 11	Sunday School Musical Program - No Forum		TBD
May 18	OPEN, to be assigned later		

Serving on Sundays in October

Acolytes

- October 6** (8:30) Alex Dell, Anne France; (11:00) Kenyon Nystrom, Jacob Gonnerman
October 13 (8:30) Peter Neeb, Trey Coudret; (11:00) Confirmands
October 20 (8:30) Will Knutson, Matthew Knutson; (11:00) Ethan Little, Cole Little
October 27 (8:30) Gunnar Benson, Grant Huston; (11:00) Arianna Beeby, Alison Nelson

Assisting Ministers

- October 6** Mary Cisar
October 13 (8:30) TBD; (11:00) Confirmands
October 20 Dennis and Jane Rinehart
October 27 Sandra Gerdes

Communion Preparers

- October 6** Gene and Lois Bakko
October 13 Dave and Sue Hagen
October 20 Sharon Bishop and Char Nelson
October 27 Marilyn Boschee and Pam Swandt

Welcome Desk

- October 6** Peggy Dell
October 13 Elsie Nelson
October 20 Eulalie Smestad
October 27 Debby Nitz

Communion Servers

- October 6** (8:30) Chuck Hellie; (11:00) Chuck Jacobson
October 13 (8:30) Judy Smith; (11:00) Confirmands
October 20 (8:30) Ruth Hansen; (11:00) TBD
October 27 (8:30) Dick Dahlin; (11:00) TBD

Counters

- October 6** Sue Brockman, Chris and Martha Erikson, Amy Boxrud
October 13 Mark Ulmer, Bob Gelle, Basil Mroz, Kasia Gonnerman
October 20 Eldon Zempel, Jerry and Karen Appeldorn, Dan Franklkin
October 27 Sue Brockman, Beckie Judge, Wil Brosz, Brenda Bultman, Brent Bash

Ushers

- October 6** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Gordon Mickelsen; (11:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber
October 13 (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
October 20 (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
October 27 (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 Actions

Deaths

Joyce Madole, August 30, 2013

Inez Munckton, September 17, 2013

Jennifer Koenig, September 20, 2013

Weddings

Kyle Whitworth and Shantelle Thody, September 14, 2013

Radio Broadcasts

September 1, 2013, given by Bruce and Audrey Moe in memory of her parents, Christine and Orval Hoyt.

September 8, 2013, given by Howard and Julie Thorsheim in gratitude to God for 49 years of marriage.

September 15, 2013, given by friends of St. John's.

September 22, 2013, given by Helen Larson in memory of Edgar Larson.

September 29, 2013, given by friends of St. John's.

News and Events

Becoming a member of St. Johns

Interested in becoming a member of St. John's? You are invited for lunch on Sunday, October 6, at noon in St. John's Hall to meet and visit with staff and to learn more about life at St. John's. If you decide to join St. John's you are welcome to attend a series of gatherings beginning Sunday, October 27 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. New members will be received this fall on Sunday, November 24. The next new member session will be offered in the spring. Everyone is welcome to worship and participate in activities at St. John's whether you are a member or not! Contact a pastor or the Church Office for more information and if you plan on attending the October 6 lunch. Welcome to St. John's!

\$15 Million Thrivent Choice Double Direction Church Campaign

Help our church "see double" by directing Choice Dollars during this exciting campaign!

Here's how it works:

Between October 1 and November 30, 2013, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will:

- Give up to \$15 million to churches across the country through Thrivent Choice.
- Double all Choice Dollars directions made to churches-including our church - during the campaign, or until \$15 million has been awarded, whichever comes first.

Direct Choice Dollars today:

Thrivent Choice allows eligible members of Thrivent Financial to recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable dollars are distributed. To make your direction, simply:

- Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice, or
- Call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and say "Thrivent Choice."

CLEAN UP DAY, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

St. John's is a very active facility in a very active community. It takes a lot to properly care for a facility that is as busy as this one. Sometimes, we need help doing this. So, we have decided to have a fall clean up day on the exterior of the property. This will take place on Saturday, October 12th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We will be sweeping debris from the curbs in the parking lot, sweeping sidewalks and steps to the entry ways, pulling weeds and raking leaves as needed. I encourage all who are able to join us. If we have enough volunteers we can get through this pretty quickly. Sign up sheets are posted throughout the church. Even if all you can spare is an hour, every little bit makes a large difference. Don't be shy! Come out and enjoy fellowship and the satisfaction of a job well done!

Thank you,

Don Thompson
Facility Manager

St. John's Supports Rice County Habitat for Humanity

In August, five members of St. John's volunteered time at the Habitat for Humanity house being built in Dundas. St. John's also contributed \$1030 to the Rice County Habitat for Humanity, \$250 of which was designated through the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board. Thank you St. John's for helping to serve our neighbors in Rice County through Habitat for Humanity!



St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Let's get together for Dinner -
Come, share a meal!
All are welcome, it's a fantastic time for
fellowship for ALL ages!
Supper is served from 5:15- 6:15 p.m. in
St. John's Hall

Wednesday, October 2
Tator Tot Hot Dish

Wednesday, October 9
Chili

Wednesday, October 16
Pizza

Wednesday, October 23
Sloppy Joes

Wednesday, October 30
Baked Potato Bar

Free will offering appreciated!

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

The Light of Grace By Barbara Eaves

Several weeks ago, the Sunday gospel lesson was about the lost coin and the lost sheep and Pastor Orlin told a story about a lost boy. Those stories reminded me of a lost diamond.

One summer evening many years ago, I discovered with dismay that the diamond was missing from my engagement ring. In panic I began to search throughout the house, even combing through the fresh laundry that I had put away earlier. My husband, Phil tried to console me, saying we could buy another diamond, to which I replied through tears, "I don't want another diamond, I want the one you gave me." As we searched to no avail, we recalled that we had played tennis that afternoon and wondered if that might be where the diamond was lost. But it was nightfall and too dark to look.

So early the next morning, as the sun was getting ready to rise, we headed to the tennis courts where we got down on our hands and knees and began to search thinking it was probably a futile exercise because the diamond was very small. However just as the sun peeked above the horizon, Phil shouted, "I found it." The sun was at the perfect angle to illuminate that tiny stone, making it sparkle majestically in the morning light. We whooped with delight!

And so it is with us: as small or insignificant as we sometimes may feel we are, the light of Christ can still shine through us to bring the gifts of God's love and grace to those we encounter each and every day.

*"You are the light of the world..
Let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father in heaven."
Matt. 5:14-16*

*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 Group Catalog

If you would like to learn about
St. John's Small Groups,
please stop by the Small Group bulletin board
display in the Commons and
pick up a copy of the new 2013-14 catalog.



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.

The Thursday, October 3, Tour of the Rural Churches Postponed

The tour of rural churches served by B.J. Muus (Valley Grove, Vang, and Holden) to be led by Joe Shaw will be postponed indefinitely. Watch for upcoming information in the bulletin and on the website.

Since the church tour is cancelled, the **women will meet that day, Oct. 3, at 1:00 p.m. at St. John's**. The topic for the substitute **program will be "Women in Agriculture in Poor Countries**, led by Dr. David Norman, Professor Emeritus in Agricultural Economics, Kansas State University. David will give an informal presentation, including slides, concerning women in agriculture, based on his experiences in working with small-scale farmers in about 80 countries around the world. Anyone is welcome, including men!

Last month our speakers inspired us with their efforts to bring educational helps (pencils, crayons, paper!) to children in Sudan. But they also surprised us by telling of Christian Sudanese congregations in Rochester, Owatonna and Mankato, all new Americans.

Next month we will hear from Betty and Larry Olson who have done mission work in Africa and India. "Mission" is a central emphasis in the programs presented at the monthly meetings.

"Mission" is also a central emphasis in the many activities that so many women at St. John's

participate in - - - making quilts, knitting sweaters, selling coffee, rolling cancer bandages, assembling Personal Care Kits and Lutheran World Relief School Kits and Baby Kits and hosting parties at the Northfield Care Center and Three Links.

Once a month, during the second week many women also participate in "circles," not going round and round but talking and listening as they discuss the Bible study for that month. This year, the study is about women in the Bible, starting with Hannah, the mother of Samuel.

WELCA is our lazy way of saying "Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America" yet refers to the more organized way women in each congregation work together for common goals. It surely is not the only way women work within the activities of the church, for women serve on council, as teachers, and in a host of ad hoc ways at St. John's, yet it is a way we can hear about and contribute to the numerous ways Christians work within local, national and worldwide ways to 'tell' others about Jesus unique message to all of us. It is also a way in which women can be part of a 'small group' as in the circle Bible studies. It is a way in which we can personally invite new and old friends to share time with us. Sunday bulletins and weekly email notices print specific days, times and places for all WELCA activities.

Please submit items for this WELCA information page to: [Genevieve Quarberg at davidquarberg@hotmail.com](mailto:Genevieve.Quarberg@davidquarberg@hotmail.com) Please submit items for the Sunday bulletin to: [Jane Gelle at bandjgelle@yahoo.com](mailto:Jane.Gelle@bandjgelle@yahoo.com)

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Bread for the World Sunday

The Parable of the Persistent Widow puts us in an uncomfortable spot (Luke 18:1-8). We admire the widow whose determination wins her justice. But if we're honest with ourselves, we may well relate to the judge, who is reluctant to administer that very same justice.

As with the judge, our problem lies not in our ability but in our will to do justice. Confronted by the scope of hunger in our world, we might find ourselves tempted to lose heart, precisely the response Jesus warns against in Luke 18:1. Yet the capacity to end widespread, hunger lies already in our hands—not as individuals but as citizens of the United States and the planet. This is why Bread for the World and other organizations call us to become advocates for justice.

As we look to the widow's example, we confront the reality of our own position. In the terms of Jesus' parable, those of us who are not vulnerable to hunger have more in common with the judge than with the widow. We enjoy the privilege of deciding whether or not to get involved, a privilege that relies upon our security as people who have more than enough to eat. We face a hard truth: our question, like the judge's question, involves whether we are willing to execute justice. God, who has been so abundantly gracious to us, calls forth our capacity to seek justice for others.

The parable of the Persistent Widow invites us to step out of our secure homes and offices. It invites us to take sides with countless widows and others who face hunger and its many effects.

Excerpted from a lectionary study for Luke 18:1-8 by Dr. Greg Carey, professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

This month St. John's can join with congregations throughout the United States to advocate for justice—to take sides with those who are hungry and seek a place at the table of our abundance. Here are the steps to take:

1. Write a brief letter to our Senators and Representative urging them **to protect programs vital to hungry and poor people and work with the president on a plan to end hunger.**
2. Bring your letters to the church and deposit them at the welcome desk in the commons or at the church office
3. Sign a petition to President Obama at the welcome desk or in the office urging him to work with Congress to end hunger in the United States and abroad.

In our worship on **Bread for the World Sunday, October 20**, we will offer the collected letters and petitions and then will mail them to Washington.

Addresses for Senators Klobuchar and Franken – U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510; for Congressman Kline – U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Some facts:

16,000 children die every day from hunger-related causes

In the U.S. one in five children still lives in a family struggling to provide food.

One in 24 bags of food assistance comes from a charitable organization. Federal nutrition programs must provide the rest.

God of justice, deliver us. Our world is broken and hurting. Babies go to bed with empty bellies and families worldwide struggle to meet their basic needs. Help us to advocate for the least among us, so all may have food on their table and peace in their hearts.

From a Litany for Bread for the World Sunday

JUSTICE CALENDAR

October 7

Peace and Justice Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room. *All are welcome!*

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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October Highlights

4th and 5th Grade CAT Begins
Wednesday, October 2, 4:00 p.m.

New Member Luncheon with St. John's Staff
Sunday, October 6, 12:00 p.m.

Clean Up Day
Saturday, October 12, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Confirmation Sunday
Sunday, October 13, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Sunday Morning Concert Series
Sunday, October 27, 9:50 a.m.

Fall Festival
Sunday, October 27, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Silent Movie in the Sanctuary
Wednesday, October 30, 6:15 p.m.

