

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

November 2013

Volume 53, Number 10

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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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to:

[office@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnorthfield.org)

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[office@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnorthfield.org)

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[www.stjohnsnorthfield.org](http://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.

## ELCA World Hunger Appeal

November is a time to give thanks for the bounty of the harvest. It is also a time when St. John's makes our annual offering for ELCA World Hunger. ELCA World Hunger is a ministry that makes a difference. One billion of our neighbors – that's one in seven people in our world today – live in poverty. As members of the body of Christ we are called to respond to this need. Working through Lutheran connections in the United States and nearly 50 other countries around the world, ELCA World Hunger programs work with individuals and local communities to help break the cycle of hunger and poverty. From microloans to health clinics, water wells, to animal husbandry, gifts to ELCA World Hunger support innovative solutions that get at the root causes of hunger. Last year \$12,699 was raised at St. John's for ELCA World Hunger. Let's make it \$14,000 this year! How can you contribute? Use the special November 3 ELCA World Hunger envelope in your offering packet. Or use the ELCA World Hunger appeal envelopes in the pews. Through the partnership we share with ELCA World Hunger, we have another opportunity to extend God's love in Christ.

## Free Thanksgiving Dinner!

Laura Baker Services Association is hosting their 14th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in Millis Dining Hall, at 211 Oak Street in Northfield.

Everyone is invited for this delicious buffet-style meal - bring your family! If you need a ride or know of someone who needs a meal delivered to their home call Jan with Laura Baker Services at 645-8866, ext. 107.



## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 27

5:45 - Everyone's Choir Rehearsal  
in Room 209

(All singers age 4th grade and up are  
invited to sing in the Everyone's Choir)

6:30 Worship

7:15 - Potluck Pie Social

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, November 21, 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.

## A NEW VIEW OF THANKSGIVING

Psalms 118 begins, "O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good." But that *for* may lead us down a confusing and disappointing path. We are called to give thanks *because* our God is good, not *for* a list of "goodies." Thinking *because* rather than *for* allows us to appreciate a larger context in which to say a faithful "thank you"—whoever, wherever, however we are.

This November may be a wonderful time in your life, when those close to you are healthy and the events you plan are celebratory. Or you may be living through a stretch of disappointment, anxiety, and pain. Perhaps your days and nights drift along, neither celebratory nor painful—quiet, empty, without clarity of purpose. O give thanks *because* whatever your life, today and tomorrow, God is good.

O give thanks *because* God adds challenges to our days, and stands with us to face them all. O give thanks! O give thanks *because* God opens and closes doors, subtly guiding us

through tough changes and choices. O give thanks! O give thanks *because* God never leaves us—embracing us in sorrow, raging with us at injustice, laughing with us when all is well. O give thanks! O give thanks *because* God keeps us going by throwing in surprises. O give thanks! O give thanks *because* our thankful voices unite with those of all God's people: those living in sadness and joy, those living in despair and hope! O give thanks!

If you or someone you know is struggling to give thanks this Thanksgiving month and would benefit from seeing a Stephen Minister, please contact a pastor or Joan Halvorson, 645-8445.

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

### Northfield Grief Support Coalition:

A grief support group begins meeting this month for parents grieving the loss of a child – meets November 12, 19 and December 3, 10 at the Northfield United Methodist Church from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For more information contact Sherri Bunch-Quass, 645-4300.

**Grief Care Resource:** Care Notes are one of the grief support resources at St. John's. Stop by the Commons to pick one up for yourself or for a loved one.



The following St. John's members died in this month last year. We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."

November 2, 2012

**June Severson**

November 16, 2012

**Charles (Chuck) Anderson**

November 30, 2012

**Obert Grinde**

## *... from the Call Committee*

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To St. John's Congregation:

This is to inform you of the Call Committee's decision to recommend the Reverend Pamela Fickenscher of Edina Community Lutheran Church (ECLC) for call as the next Senior Pastor of St. John's. President Sandi Gerdes has called for a congregational meeting to be held after second service on Sunday, November 3, for the purpose of voting on this candidate and call.

The Committee feels strongly that Pr. Fickenscher has the wisdom, experience, energy and skills needed to guide our congregation forward in mission and ministry.

Pr. Fickenscher has been recognized for her preaching excellence numerous times and has served as a preaching lab facilitator at Luther Seminary since 2006. She also has solid administrative experience. At ECLC she is the staff lead for 10 people working in nearly seven full-time equivalent positions. She has personally been part of ten hiring processes and has managed and overseen budgets and project finances.

She prioritizes the teaching aspect of her ministry across age groups and has written and published teaching materials for Augsburg Fortress and for courses held within her congregation. Youth and family ministry is also a key focus of Pr. Fickenscher. Among her accomplishments at ECLC, she takes pride in the growth of the congregation both in numbers, youth and young families.

She believes in a collaborative approach to planning worship. She recognizes and embraces the importance and tradition of music at St. John's.

Pr. Fickenscher is married to Will Schroeer, who works on regional transportation policy. They have two children, Katie, age 11 and Johann, age 8. Some outside interests include music (flute, choral singing and piano), cooking, running and cross-country skiing. If called, their family looks forward to relocating to Northfield in the near future.

Please join us at the congregational meeting after second service on Sunday, November 3. We will present additional information about Pr. Fickenscher and the Call Committee will answer questions prior to the vote.

In Christ,

Alan Marks

Call Committee Chairperson

Members: Cameron Judge-Becker, Carol Benson, Cheryl Buck, Sandi Gerdes (ex-officio), Brad Kmoch, Michele Knutson, David Nitz, Pam Schwandt and Mark Ulmer

## *October Actions*

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### **Baptisms**

Odella Ann Simon, daughter of Sarah and Jared Simon, October 6, 2013

### **Radio Broadcasts**

October 6, 2013, given in loving memory of Ken Schrader by Jean Schrader.

October 13, 2013, given by Elsie Nelsen in memory of Arne Nelsen.

October 20, 2013, given by friends of St. John's.

October 27, 2013, given by friends of St. John's.

### **Deaths**

Leonard DeWolfe, October 5, 2013

Alice Hanson, October 11, 2013

Mary Anderson, October 15, 2013

David Armstrong, October 20, 2013

# Music and Worship Life at St. John's

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*Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer  
For all things living, you have made good.*

Albert F. Bayly (ELW 689)

*God has done marvelous things,  
I too sing praises with a new song.*

Herbert F. Brokering (ELW 731)

November is a month when praise and thanksgiving is much in our minds both as we conclude our fall stewardship emphasis and look towards our national thanksgiving holiday. Praise and thanksgiving, what is the difference? Many years ago I taught two summers at the University of Notre Dame and often was invited to informal, faculty get-togethers. At one gathering, somehow we got on the subject of praise and what that really implies. A theologian present said he always explained his understanding of praise and thanksgiving by telling a story:

Christmas morning and grandma and grandpa are with their young grandson as he opens their present to him – a magnificent, red fire truck. He exclaims in delight and immediately begins “driving” it around the living room making siren and engine noises.

His mother calls to him above the noise, “Joey, what do you say to grandma and grandpa?” Joey stops playing, goes to his grandparents and dutifully says, “Thank you.”

Praise, observed the theologian, is a spontaneous outpouring of sheer, exuberant delight. Thanksgiving is a more intentional act. Clearly the hymn texts quoted above get the idea. Both praise and thanksgiving are appropriate as we consider the immense blessings God showers upon creation and us.

Of course as a musician, I propose that some of the best praise, especially corporate, communal praise, arises as we sing our praises to a God:

*... who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today... ”*

- Martin Rinkhart (ELW 840)

## November Sunday Singing Schedule for Choirs

November 3: (8:30) Chorale; (11:00) Laudate  
November 10: (8:30) Chorale; (11:00) Alleluia, Hosanna, Jubilate  
November 17: (8:30) Rejoice Ringers; (11:00) Rejoice Ringers  
November 24: (8:30) Jubilate; (11:00) Laudate  
November 27: Everyone's Choir - Thanksgiving Eve



## Thanksgiving Eve Worship Wednesday, November 27

5:45 p.m. – Everyone's Choir Rehearsal in Room 209  
(Any and all singers 4th grade through adult are welcome to sing.)  
6:30 p.m. – Worship  
7:15 p.m. – Pie Social in St. John's Hall



Thank you to everyone who has been stepping up and helping with Wednesday Night Meals. We certainly appreciate the help from the folks who have been willing to serve.

We could still use more volunteers for the **meals in November** – please take the time to sign up to volunteer on the board outside of the office, complete the form below or email [sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org)

We welcome **new members** to St. John’s on Sunday, November 24. Would you be willing to serve as a host person/family to one of our families?

\_\_\_ I’d LOVE to be a host family, sign me/us up!

Once again this year, we will be having our **Thanksgiving Pie Social** following our Thanksgiving Eve service. We need some folks to step up and be in charge of the evening. If there are not enough volunteers, we will forgo the social this year. Thank you for considering volunteering!

**Thanksgiving Pie Social Volunteers:**

- \_\_\_ I can serve as the Coordinator for the Pie Social
- \_\_\_ I can help plate pies for the social
- \_\_\_ I will help clean up after the social

We are grateful and thankful to all of you who are helping by readily being willing to volunteer and help out. **There is a place for EVERYONE.** Contact me and I’ll be glad to find a place to plug you into the ministries at St. John’s!

Joanne Sommers  
Shared Ministries Coordinator  
[sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org)

*SERVING TO LOVE*  *LOVING TO SERVE*

**Wednesday Night Meals**

\_\_\_ I will help set up and serve    \_\_\_ I will help clean up and/or wash dishes    \_\_\_ I will bring a dessert

I can serve on these nights; please add me into a schedule. By checking below you are NOT agreeing to all of the dates, just showing availability!

\_\_\_ I’m typically at the meal; assign me to a date.

\_\_\_ November 6

\_\_\_ November 13

\_\_\_ November 20

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Important Dates to Remember!**

**Sunday School Schedule**

November 3 Sunday School  
(Daylight Savings Time)  
November 10 Sunday School  
November 17 Sunday School  
November 24 Sunday School  
December 1 No Sunday School  
(Thanksgiving Break)

**ROCK – Wednesdays programming**

November 6  
November 13  
November 20  
November 27 NO Programming -  
Thanksgiving Break

**Breakfast, PJs and Movie Morning**

Monday, Nov. 4, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Advent Fair!**

Wednesday, Dec. 4, St. John's Hall

**"Pay It Forward", Service Project**

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Children's Christmas Program**

Sunday, Dec. 15, 11:00 a.m.  
St. John's Hall

**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, November 2, at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

**Come in your PJs  
to Movie Morning!**

Kids 5th grade and younger are invited to come in their pajamas to movie morning at St. John's! Come for breakfast and stay to watch a movie! Feel free to bring friends!

**Where:** The Commons for Breakfast,  
Movie in St. John's Theater

**When:** Monday, November 4 – **NO SCHOOL DAY!**

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or call Julie at 645-4429.

**Blessings and congratulations  
to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders who received  
their Bibles in October**

Madeline Aman, Vivian Beeby, Lexi Foster, Rhett Garlie, Tyler Lemke, Ella Loring, Lucy Menssen, Sophia Poquette, Luke Redetzke, James Root, Thomas Weber, Marion Williams, Maximillian Williams, Lucia Willkomm, Sigrid Zillmer

The Bibles given to our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are purchased using money from the Johnson Bible fund.

**Youth Blast 2013!**

We had a fantastic weekend in October at "Youth Blast", a retreat for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. Thank you to Rob Nutt and Stephanie Aman for helping chaperone the event. Kids attending this year were: Maddie Aman, Amelia Becker, Greenlee Dahle, Annelise Hall-Holt, Kaylee Malecha, Ainsley Nutt, Sigrid Zillmer.

**Parent Gathering in November is  
Partnering with Sunday Forum!**

**"Northfield's Promise:  
Every Child, Cradle to Career"**

**For more information see page 10**

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

## High School Movie Morning

**When:** Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** St. John's Hall/Theater

**What:** High School students, come to church, meet up with friends, make your own brunch, and watch a movie together afterwards. Go ahead and sleep-in on your day off, then come in your PJ's or other comfy clothes to make your own brunch (pancakes and sausage). After brunch, we'll head up to the theater to watch a movie of your choosing. Sign-ups are in the Commons.



## Romans and Christians

**When:** Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

**Where:** St. John's Hall

**What:** Northfield Area Youth Workers and St. Olaf Christian Outreach are joining to put on a community-wide night of Romans and Christians. We'll gather with youth from other churches to play multiple games of Romans and Christians, eat pizza, and SCO will lead us in worship. Middle Schoolers are invited to be Christians and High School Youth are welcome to join as Romans and game facilitators.



**Cost:** A non-perishable food item for the CAC Food Shelf

## Middle School Bowling

**When:** Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>  
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Where:** Jesse James Lanes

**What:** Middle School Students, join your friends on your unique day off to go bowling together for a couple hours with Mike and St. John's! Sign-ups are in the Commons.



Adult volunteers are welcome to join!

**Cost:** \$5

## Feed My Starving Children

**When:** Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>  
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Meet at St. John's

**What:** Students and families of Confirmation students are invited to help serve by packing food for "Feed My Starving Children", an international hunger-relief organization.



We will meet at St. John's and then carpool to Chanhassen. This is a great service project for families and as an M&M project!

**Friends and Guests are  
always welcome!**

# Learning and Fellowship

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## Sunday Learning and Fellowship in November

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

*Coffee served in St. John's Hall (unless otherwise noted)*

*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)*

### **November 3:**

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

*New Member Session: "Shared Ministry Part 1" - Exploring spiritual gifts and how Shared Ministry shapes life at St. John's. 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room.*

*Forum and Parent Gathering: "Local Community Series Part 1: Youth Needs and Services", Led by Zach Pruitt, Director of Healthy Community Initiative. 9:50 a.m., Theater.*

### **November 10:**

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

*New Member Session: "New Member Connection" - Fellowship time with hosts who help to welcome and to connect new members with the congregation. 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room.*

*Forum: "Local Community Series Part 2: Hunger in our Midst", Led by Dawn Tommerdahl, Head Start Program. 9:50 a.m., Theater.*

### **November 17:**

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

*New Member Session: "Shared Ministry Part 2" - Exploring the call of belonging to a congregation and sharing gifts followed by a tour of the building. 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room.*

*Forum and Parent Gathering: "Local Community Series Part 3: Health Needs and Services", Led by Charlie Mandile, director of HealthFinders. 9:50 a.m., Theater.*

### **November 24:**

*New Member Reception. St. John's Hall.*

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

*Special Presentation: "Synod Trip to Tanzania", by Olivia Riggins. 10:00 a.m., Theater.*



# *Serving on Sundays in November*

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## *Acolytes*

- November 3** (8:30) Peter Lindell, Aidan Nutt; (11:00) Alex Redetzke, Colby Klotz  
**November 10** (8:30) Ryan Malecha, Griffin Rod; (11:00) Elsa Nystrom, Caroline Hummel  
**November 17** (8:30) Nicholas Boehning, Sam Mikula; (11:00) Halvor Bratland, James Bull  
**November 24** (8:30) Willa Kmoch, Rikka Zillmer; (11:00) Stefany Perez, Anna Weber

## *Assisting Ministers*

- November 3** Gloria Knutson  
**November 10** TBD  
**November 17** TBD  
**November 24** TBD

## *Communion Preparers*

- November 3** Otto and LaVerne Reitz  
**November 10** Duane and Marie Benson  
**November 17** Bill and Char Carlson  
**November 24** John Ophaug, Pam Schwandt

## *Welcome Desk*

- November 3** Shirley Falck  
**November 10** Mary Ellen North  
**November 17** Soveig Bailey  
**November 24** Marilyn Boschee

## *Communion Servers*

- November 3** (8:30) Sandi Gerdes; (11:00) Carrie Duba  
**November 10** (8:30) Larry Christenson; (11:00) John Walters  
**November 17** (8:30) Marilyn Boschee; (11:00) TBD  
**November 24** (8:30) Ruth Hansen; (11:00) Pam Schwandt

## *Counters*

- November 3** Sue Brockman, Mark and Kathy Granquist, Amy Boxrud  
**November 10** Mark Ulmer, Otto and LaVerne Reitz, Brent Bash  
**November 17** Eldon Zempel, Chris and Martha Erickson, Kasia Gonnerman  
**November 24** Sue Brockman, Bill Carlson, Bob Gelle, Dan Franklin

## *Ushers*

- November 3** (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  
**November 10** (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  
**November 17** (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  
**November 24** (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert; (11:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback, Emily Westerback

# News and Events

## Becoming a Member of St. John's

New member sessions continue this month on Sundays, November 3, 10, and 17. New members will be formally received on Sunday, November 24. It's not too late to be part of this fall's new member group. Contact a pastor or the Church Office for more information. The next new member session will be offered in the spring.

## Parent Gathering and Forum are Partnering in November!

The next **Parent Gathering** is partnering with Sunday's Forum on November 3. The topic: "Northfield's Promise: Every Child, Cradle to Career", will be facilitated by Zach Pruitt, Director of Community Initiative (HCI). HCI is inviting all of Northfield's institutions 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.

## Advent Fair! Wednesday, December 4

Come to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, December 4, in St. John's Hall. You'll find Advent shops and activities for all ages. And, we encourage you to bring friends! The more the merrier!

When: Wednesday, December 4

Time: 5:15 p.m. – Wednesday Meal begins

5:45 p.m. – Advent Fair shops open!

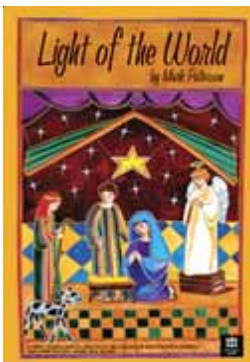
Where: St. John's Hall

Can you help with Advent Fair?

- Dinner – set-up, serve or clean-up
- Set up and/or sell handcrafts from around the world at the fair Trade Fair
- Help with crafts/shops



Contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions at [children@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:children@stjohnsnorthfield.org)



## St. John's Children's Christmas Program – Dec. 15

Mark your calendars! St. John's Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15 in St. John's Hall. The program, *Jesus Light of the World* written by Mark Patterson, begins at 11:00 a.m. and is performed by children in preschool – grade 5.

**If your child is interested in performing either a solo or being part of an ensemble for the pre-service music, please contact Julie Brehmer or Frances Boehning.** Also, if anyone is interested in helping with treat bags, set... give Julie a call! More information will be coming your way in the December Voice.

## 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.

# News and Events

## Community Christmas Dinner

This dinner is presented annually to the Community by St John's Church. St John's will again be recruiting our members for both food and work contributions. The volunteer signup process will begin between services on December 1 (Thanksgiving Weekend). So as you plan your Christmas activities please remember this opportunity for Service. Many of you have been regulars and also we welcome new volunteers. For questions or comments contact the organizing Committee. Thank you.

Char and Bill Carlson [507-645-9642](tel:507-645-9642)

Jeanette and Jon Rondesvedt [507-645-2733](tel:507-645-2733)

Julie and Howard Thorsheim [507-645-9210](tel:507-645-9210)

## LOOK and LISTEN in NOVEMBER by Steve Edwins

The new speech reinforcement sound system will be installed in early November in the St. John's Sanctuary. It will be a significant change, and will require some adjusting along the way, both technically, and with perhaps where you like to sit in the space. What will be different in terms of the sound projection, and the sound control are worth knowing about.

At the front corner 'piers' of the Nave, two very thin and tall speaker units will be installed. The many small speakers within each case are electronically aimed to provide a wide and strong sound pattern. Its width direct sound side to side throughout all the seating, including the seats near the front and sides. Its strength will push sound towards the back and under the edge of the Balcony. The pattern is also 'flat', that is the sound doesn't reflect off the high walls and ceiling, so that the clarity is greatly improved by much reduced bouncing around with reverberations and echoes in the tall part of the room. Secondary speakers will be mounted on a rear roof truss for even and clear sound in the Balcony.

With this new wider and deeper coverage in the Nave, you might try out various seating locations to take advantage of the new sound quality. Those with hearing assistance devices may find new areas where the sound is captured much better than others. The new electronics of the sound system will be more automated in order to 'follow' better the variables in voice strength by leaders, cantors, assisting ministers, and particularly when at the Lectern.

We ask for some patience, too, as it is typical that this kind of state-of-the-art technology will need fine-tuning and adjustment for at least a month or two.



## St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Let's get together for Dinner!  
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, November 6**  
Meatloaf and Mashed Potatoes

**Wednesday, November 13**  
Chicken and Noodles

**Wednesday, November 20**  
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Free will offering appreciated!

**Come, Share a Meal!**

# Mission Outreach

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In July, St. John's member Olivia Riggins traveled to Tanzania with other youth from around the Southeastern Minnesota Synod to visit and serve in our companion synod, the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Olivia, the daughter of Dan Riggins and Catherine Dominguez, was confirmed at St. John's in October, and will give a presentation on her trip Sunday, November 24 at 10:00 a.m. in the Theater upstairs. Olivia shared the following comments at worship in September:

I was able to travel to Tanzania for two weeks this summer. I was interested in traveling but I wanted to help and connect with people in other countries, not just sightsee or go on a safari. Our American group, organized through the Youth Servant Leadership Institute, was eight youth and four adults. Before going, we had several meetings at Good Earth Village to prepare for the trip. In Tanzania, we partnered with a group of similar numbers and age, ranging from 15 to 20. We began at Kijota Lutheran School, where we worked with our Tanzanian partners to create a day camp like VBS for younger children. We traveled to three towns with the program, doing skits and songs with kids in Nkungi, Singida and Iambi, our partner congregation. At Iambi, I was able to see a well donated by St. John's and was given baskets by former Pastor Alan Kingu for the congregation. I was amazed at the generosity and kindness we were shown by the many people we met along the way. One of the best parts of the trip for me was overcoming the language barrier (we hardly spoke Swahili at first and the Tanzanian youth knew some English, but not a lot) and becoming friends with youth there. Altogether, it was an amazing experience. I'd like to thank the church for this opportunity and the support!

## "Paying It Forward" . . . by grocery bagging?



Calling all youth in grades 4-9!!! On Saturday, December 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., we're heading down to Econo Foods to help bag groceries. **This is not meant to be a fundraiser**, but rather it's meant to encourage service by "Paying it Forward".

What does that mean? It's something new and exciting, so come and see! If we have enough youth sign up, we can divide the time into shifts. We also need adults and high school kids to help supervise. Sign up in the Commons or by talking with Mike Skunes or Julie Brehmer. This counts as a service project for those in confirmation!

## The Giving Tree, November 17 – December 6

Our annual "Giving Tree", a program sponsored by the Northfield Community Action Center, will be displayed in St. John's Commons from **November 17 - December 6**.

The Giving Tree is decorated with paper stars. Each star has a gift idea, along with the name, age and gender of a child whose family needs help purchasing Christmas gifts this year.

Purchased gifts should be placed, unwrapped, with the paper star attached, and put under the tree by Friday, December 6. In addition, we will also offer gifts to our Companion Synod, the Central Diocese of Tanzania. The tree will be decorated with 50 envelopes for making donations to the Tanzania Scholarship Fund. Thank you in advance for your donations!



# Notes of Thanks!

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The following message was received from Daniel Rinehart, student at Luther Seminary. Daniel is the son of Dennis and Jane Rinehart.

*"...a note of thanks to [St. John's] for supporting me, financially and in prayer, while I study at the seminary. I feel very thankful to have grown up at St. John's, and most grateful that you have been so generous in helping me as I prepare to be a pastor. I [am] on internship at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul for one year... I would be most grateful for your continued prayers. I will likewise continue to pray, with gratitude and love, for St. John's. In Christ, Daniel*

The following note of thanks was received in August following a gift given on behalf of St. John's from the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board:

*Dear People of God at St. John's Lutheran Church,*

*On behalf of Friends of Mwangaza, a sincere thank you for your welcome donation of \$150.00 on July 25, 2013. You and many others are responsible for future educational progress in schools and health initiatives in villages across Tanzania. We are so very grateful... These are exciting times! You can find more information on our website [www.mwangazapartnership.org](http://www.mwangazapartnership.org). Pictures and stories are also on Facebook (Mwangaza Education for Partnership) if you would like to read more.*

*Joy and blessings to you! Lois Rimbo, Treasurer, Friends of Mwangaza*

**A special thank you** to John Gorder who built an infill system for the balcony so that the grand piano could be moved into the corner much improving the flexibility of use for the balcony, allowing the Chorale to gather around the organ console enabling singers to better hear each other and improve sightlines for conductors and singers.

## From the Peace and Justice group . . .

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The Peace and Justice Group continues its focus on gathering information about local needs and opportunities to respond to the ELCA Statement on Criminal Justice. Angela Brewer, probation officer with Rice County Community Corrections, will meet with the Peace and Justice Group on Monday, November 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Angela has extensive experience working with juveniles in the probation system in Rice County, and she was a member of the Rice County Gang Suppression Unit. All are welcome.

November 11 is both Veterans Day and a day of fasting for peace and justice. Please keep all those who strive for peace at the local, regional, national and global levels in your prayers.

### TWO MIDDLE EAST EVENTS

A former officer in the Israeli Defense Services and author of "The General's Son" will be flying into Minnesota on Saturday, Nov. 2, expressly for presenting his message of hope for the Middle East at St. Olaf College. Miko Peled is a compelling speaker who will tell of his life journey from soldier to peace activist. The speech will be in the large lecture room at Tomson Hall on the campus Saturday night, Nov. 2, at 7:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public. His book will also be for sale and there will be time for discussion following the lecture.

A second chance to hear about the present situation in Israel/Palestine will be on Saturday, Nov. 20, from 3:00p.m. until 4:30 p.m. when the two recipients of the Ruth Hansen Scholarship will tell of their month-long visit in August. Besides visiting many of the major sites, they did volunteering with youth groups and meeting many local people in Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Hebron. They stayed with a family in Beit Jala, a village in the shepherd's field outside Bethlehem. Soraya Dangor and Grayson Chapman are recent graduates of St. Olaf and their presentation and slides will be at the UCC Church in downtown Northfield.

# 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

## Givers of Blessings

*By Barbara Eaves*

I remember the first Thanksgiving dinner I prepared. Phil and I had been married for a little over a year and my parents and my sister and husband were coming to Michigan where we were living. I was nervous about fixing the turkey so I wrote to my mom who then sent me a letter that contained detailed directions for preparing the turkey and stuffing. It was important to me to follow her instructions to the letter, so after the turkey was in the oven I reread the letter and that is when I discovered I had not salted the cavity of the bird (remember this was some 50 years ago when we used copious amounts of salt). So, after a few tears I took the turkey out of the oven, opened up the cavity, removed the stuffing, faithfully salted the inside of the bird, put the stuffing back in and sewed the cavity closed. I do not remember anything else about the rest of that meal, but at least the turkey had been properly prepared.

I still have mom's letter in my recipe book and although I don't salt the bird like I used to, I still pull that letter out to get the recipe for the stuffing and in so doing I read the rest of the letter. In that simple ritual I remember my mom and give thanks for her.

During the month of November we place particular emphasis on gratitude by commemorating All Saints Day, responding to the stewardship invitation, and celebrating Thanksgiving. While we remember and give thanks for the blessings we have received, it is also good to remember and give thanks for the givers of our blessings.

In recounting the people who have touched and blessed our lives, we may not always recall them for anything specific they did or gave, but rather for *who* they were or are. Such remembrances probably bring to mind attributes like kindness, understanding, compassion, caring. And often we realize that through them we have found support, healing, encouragement and hope.

These are but a few of the gifts of grace by which God showers us with goodness and blessing.

*O God, for saints and servants,  
those named and those unknown,  
in whom through all the ages  
your light of glory shone,  
we offer glad thanksgiving  
and fervent prayer we raise  
that, faithful in your service,  
our lives may sing your praise.*

ELW #419 vs 2

*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](mailto:classysandi@yahoo.com)

Susan Beeby, 650-0998,  
[susan@beeby-us.com](mailto:susan@beeby-us.com)

Barb Eaves, 645-4172,  
[pbeaves@hotmail.com](mailto:pbeaves@hotmail.com)

Mark Johnson, 645-4429  
[mjohnson@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:mjohnson@stjohnsnorthfield.org)

Richard Nelson, 650-0203,  
[richardnelson\\_03@q.com](mailto:richardnelson_03@q.com)

Richard Beckmen, 664-3882  
[dickbeck32@q.com](mailto:dickbeck32@q.com)



## WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Mission Statement:

To mobilize women to act boldly  
Women of the ELCA (WELCA) includes ALL women of St. Johns!

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

**The First Thursday** is the day of each month for the general meeting of WELCA, intended for all women of the congregation. On Thursday, **November 7**, Gordon and Betty Olson, residents of Northfield, members of Bethel Lutheran Church, will speak to us of their experience of starting a global ministry and how it has grown. After the death of their son Tim Olson while supervising the building of a Lutheran church in Africa, they founded **Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry** in 1995. Their story will be an exciting one of finding people of faith throughout the world who are anxious to serve and learn in Christ's name. We begin at 1:00 in the afternoon and Elizabeth Circle women will serve light refreshments.

**From Jo Franklin:** "Celebration of Many Generations: Past, Present, and Future" was the theme of the 15<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Southeast Minnesota Synod Women's Organization. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to represent St. John's at this inspirational event. I was able to witness the projects of the past and present through the rolling of bandages (157) and the display of quilts (51). I was alerted to present situations through the emphasis on the justice issue of human trafficking and was inspired with hope for the future by two young women who are chaplains at Mankato State and Winona State. I am looking forward to a focus on this theme as we continue to bring all generations of women together and reach out to others in our work at St. John's.

**The second week** offers seven opportunities for women to gather for Bible study.

**Fri. Nov. 8** (exception)

Mary 1:00 p.m. at Sharon Sherman-Akre's, 5008 90th St. E, 507-301-4123

**Sat. Nov. 9** (exception)

Women's Breakfast Group 8:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

**Mon. Nov. 11, 12:00 p.m.**

Bev Lundeen leads circle Bible study leaders

**Wed. Nov. 13**

Sarah 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Lydia 9:30 a.m. at Jo Dahlin's, 645-5978, jodick@charter.net

**Thurs. Nov. 14**

Abigail/Rebecca 2:00 p.m. at Parkview East

Elizabeth 1:00 p.m. at Marie Benson's, 1509 Waters Edge Circle

Martha/Claudia 9:30 a.m. Parkview West

Please submit items for this WELCA information page to:  
Genevieve Quarberg at davidquarberg@hotmail.com

Please submit items for the Sunday bulletin to:  
Jane Gelle at bandjgelle@yahoo.com

**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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## *November Highlights*

***Wednesday Night Meals***

Wednesdays, from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.  
(No Meal November 27th - Thanksgiving Break)

***Daylight Savings Time (Fall Back)***

Sunday, November 3

***Movie Morning for Kids 5th Grade and Younger***  
Monday, November 4, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

***High School Movie Morning***  
Monday, November 4, from 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

***Middle School Bowling***  
Friday, November 8, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

***Thanksgiving Eve Worship / Pie Social***  
Wednesday, November 27

***New Member Reception***  
Sunday, November 24, Between Services

***Advent Fair***  
Wednesday, December 4th

