

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

January 2014

Volume 54, Number 1

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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:

office@stjohnsnorthfield.org

For information, contact the Church Office:

phone: 507-645-4429

fax: 507-645-9633

e-mail:

office@stjohnsnorthfield.org

website:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org

Church Office hours:

Monday - Thursday

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

Friday

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

St. Olaf Choir Sings Here January 5

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 5. This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and as we are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music.

A reception in honor of the choir will be held between services in St. John's Hall. Please take the opportunity to welcome the St. Olaf Choir back to St. John's!



Letter from Pastor Fickenscher

December 6, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am honored to receive your letter of call to serve as Senior Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, and after prayerful consideration I am delighted to accept this call to serve with you in Christ's mission.

I look forward to beginning ministry with you in January and will pray for you in this season of waiting and in the farewells taking place among you in these days. I give thanks for the wise pastoral and lay leadership you have received over these many past months – God has blessed you very richly with wisdom and gifts. I look forward to working with your staff and lay leadership in all the transitions yet to come.

As I complete over eleven years of ministry at Edina Community Lutheran Church this month, I ask that you also keep me and my family in prayer amidst our many good-byes. Will, Katie, Johann, and I all look forward to getting to know you and the whole Northfield community in the months and years to come. We are grateful and hopeful for many new beginnings in 2014, trusting that the Spirit will continue to lead us forward together.

In Christ,

Pastor Pamela Fickenscher

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.

Blues and Depression

In everyday living we experience highs and lows. Feeling sad, or having the blues, can be part of our ordinary emotional cycle. Sometimes normal feelings of sadness are accentuated by the holiday season, the darkness of winter months, or losses and troubles in our lives.

If these feelings continue longer than a few weeks, they may be caused by depression. Depression is a serious medical illness that requires treatment. It is not something that we can “snap out of” with will power. Depression affects everyday living—it may cause changes in eating, in sleeping, and in relationships with others. A person might experience symptoms of depression suddenly, for no apparent reason, or after a life-changing event or medical illness. Some types of depression can run in families, and it is possible that a biological vulnerability can be inherited.

The symptoms of depression can usually be managed with the help of medical professionals. If someone you know could be suffering from depression, encourage that person to talk to a physician. Meanwhile, stay

Northfield Grief Support Coalition:

Grief support group meets this month on Mondays beginning January 13 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the Three Links Care Center. For more information contact Pr. Kristine Braaten-Lee, 664-3478 or Barb Knaak, 646-0444.

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.

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.

in touch with that person by sending cards or e-mailing, by telephoning or arranging time for conversation. People suffering from depression require patience and steady, consistent support from those near to them, as well as professional care.

Stephen Ministers are not trained to treat depression, but they can be listening companions for those with depression, and they can provide support through prayer and Scripture. If you know of someone who would benefit from a Stephen Minister as they deal with depression, call one of the pastors ([507-645-4429](tel:507-645-4429)) or Pam Schwandt ([507-645-6120](tel:507-645-6120)).



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."

January 12, 2013

Lorraine Skaar

January 18, 2013

Caitlin Kelly

January 23, 2013

Kenneth Struss

January 24, 2013

Thomas Porter

January 26, 2013

Lars Kindem

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

December 2013 was a colder month than some Decembers and many nights the evening sky was exceptionally beautiful. A few times I just had to go outside to gaze up at the clear sky, the bright moon and the stars – little brilliant spots dotting the vast darkness. These moments precipitated thoughts of angels over Bethlehem and one of my favorite Christmas poems by Robert Bridges: *In terra pax*.

*A frosty Christmas Eve
when the stars were shining
fared I forth alone
where westward falls the hill...*

*...Then sped my thoughts to keep
that first Christmas of all,
when shepherds watching
by their folds ere the dawn
heard music in the fields
and marveling could not tell
whether it were angels
or the bright stars singing...*

Most musical settings of the angels' Christmas song of *Gloria* are big, energetic, exciting. But I wonder. Could it be that God, whose values often are not ours, does it again, turns our expectations upside down? Could it be that angel singing is a shimmering, quiet, peaceful sound? Could it be that in our ever increasingly busy, noisy world, over filled with music, news, and general hubbub, we drown out the sound of angels?

I think C. S. Lewis would answer these questions with a resounding, yes! *That Hideous Strength* is the third volume of his Space Trilogy, a kind of allegorical saga. He writes of strange goings on behind closed doors in a house in Cambridge, England. There is a soft glow emanating from around the closed doors to a large room; there are gentle, sighing, haunting sounds. The reader is led to wonder if there are angels in the room, God's messengers.

My hope and prayer for all of us during Christmastide and Epiphany 2014, is that we find time to just be still; and, if it's not too cold, venture out on a quiet, clear night and gaze at the heavens. Perhaps, just maybe, through the profound, yet radiant silence we might hear a bit of the angels' song of peace, goodwill to all the earth.

A blessed New Year to all.

John Ferguson
Interim Director of Music

Can You Host a Music Therapy Student?

Laura Baker Services offers a music therapy internship program through the American Music Therapy Association. Students from around the country are eligible to apply for this 6 month, full time internship that begins at various times throughout the year. But, often these students find it hard to find housing for a 6 month term! If you know of a possible short term rental opportunity or would consider hosting a student for a 6-month span of time, please contact Jenny Pelletier. Your contact info would be part of a "resource list", so no specific commitment is needed at this time. Thanks for reaching out to students in this important way!

Contact Jenny via email: jennifer@laurabaker.org or phone, 645-8866 (H)



Annual Meeting Potluck Kitchen Coordinator and Volunteers Needed

Prior to St. John's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26th, the congregation will share in a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to share! If you are available on this day to serve as a kitchen coordinator please contact me. A kitchen coordinator is primarily responsible for delegating tasks and serving as "point person" for the rest of the volunteer crew. Volunteers are needed to help with set up (11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.), serving (11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) and clean up (12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.). If you can help in any of these ways please contact let me know!

Joanne Sommers
Shared Ministries Coordinator
sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org

SERVING TO LOVE  *LOVING TO SERVE*

Notes of Thanks!

Dear Members of St. Johns, Thank you for your blessings and good wishes. God be with you in the new year ahead and always. Peace, Pr. Mark

Thanks to all who helped with the Advent Fair!

Thanks to St. Johns youth who came to bag groceries at Econofoods! The twist was that instead of asking money of people as a fundraiser, St. John's kids bagged groceries and then handed out \$5 bills attached to a card listing various charitable organizations as a way to be of service and to encourage people in the community to be a blessing to someone during Christmas. Students encountered various reactions of excitement, appreciation and confusion upon receiving the gift. St. John's received many positive comments from the community.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Sunday School Christmas Program! Special thanks to the Sunday School Christmas Program team: Sue Brockman, Jenny Pelletier and Frances Boehning.

Thank you to everyone who donated gifts to the Giving Tree this year! Special thanks to Connections for helping put the stars on the tree!

From the Southeastern Minnesota Global Mission Companion Synod Committee: Thank you on behalf of the Southeastern Minnesota Global Mission Companion Synod Committee for the generous gift of \$42,000 for the school at El Cocuy, Colombia. We trust that the funds will be put to good use and be a benefit to many.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

January 5 Sunday School
January 12 Sunday School
January 19 Sunday School
January 26 Sunday School (*Camp Sunday*)

Camp Sunday, 3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday, January 26, 9:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Bowling for 2nd - 5th Grades!

Monday, January 27 (No School Day)
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday, January 29, 4:45 - 6:00 p.m., Youth Room
The Sacrament of Baptism

PJs, Breakfast and Movie Morning

Our next movie morning is during Christmas Break! Kids 5th grade and younger are invited to come in their pajamas to movie morning. Come for breakfast and watch a movie in St. John's Theater.

Feel free to bring friends!

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

When: Friday, January 3

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.

"Analyzing the Bully", Sunday, January 12, St. John's Hall at 9:50 a.m.

Just what is going on inside the brain of a bully? Join us for this interactive presentation that provides attendees the opportunity to hear about the research regarding bullying, as well as practical, strength-based approaches for addressing the problem of bullying. Our presenter, Adam Arnold, MA, LMFT, LADC is a licensed psychotherapist, practicing at Enliven Psychotherapy in St. Paul, MN. Our St. John's youth are also welcome to attend this gathering and learn about this important topic.

Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, January 27, is a NO SCHOOL DAY so we're heading to the bowling alley!

Who: Grades 2-5, Friends are always welcome!

Where: Jesse James Lanes, Hwy 3, Nfld

Time: 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10.00 (2 games & shoe rental)

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Nursery. Please drop off and pick up your child(ren) at the bowling alley. If they need a ride or financial assistance to participate, give Julie a call at 645-4429. Parent or high school chaperones are needed!

Time to think about Summer Camp!

On Sunday, January 27, 3rd - 8th graders are invited to Fellowship Hall to hear about St. John's summer camp options for 2014. Parents - come and learn more about camp with your child(ren). We will be meeting during the Sunday school hour.

Catechism for 4th and 5th graders will resume in February

CAT classes meet downstairs, 4th grade in Room 9 and 5th grade in the Youth Room from 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. Let Julie Brehmer know if your child would like to ride the Wednesday afterschool bus to CAT!

Third Grade Catechism Retreat

Third graders meet Wednesday, January 29, from 4:45 – 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism. If you are unable to attend, please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.

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, February 1, at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Children & Communion

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

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Northfield Area Youth Ski Trip

Who:

All youth grades 6-12

When:

Sunday, January 26, 2013
2:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.
(Skiing from 3:30 - 10:00 p.m.)

Where:

Mount Kato Village in Mankato
(Bus leaves from Bethel)

Cost:

\$45 for ski pass & ski/boot rental
\$30 for ski pass only (no ski/boot rental)
\$30 tubing only
\$63 for ski pass, ski/boot rental, and tubing
\$45 for ski pass and tubing (no ski/boot rental)

Registration Deadline:

Sunday, January 19, 2014



YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Winter Confirmation Retreat

Confirmands will gather together for worship, learning, playing in the snow and fellowship at Good Earth Bible Camp for our Winter Retreat. It's a time for students to get away and experience confirmation and learn about God outside of St. John's and unplug from the weekly grind for 24 hours. Make sure to get your permission slip in ASAP if you haven't done so already. If you never received the letter, contact Mike at (507) 645-4429 or at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org.



7th and 8th Grade

Friday, January 10th, 6:00 p.m. to
Saturday, January 11th, 6:00 p.m.

9th Grade

Saturday, January 11th, 6:00 p.m. to
Sunday, January 12th, 6:00 p.m.

Remember to bring these items:

Sleeping bag, pillow, jacket, snow pants,
warm clothes, boots/shoes for walking in snow,
Bible, flashlight, toiletries/towel



6th Grade CAT Retreat

When: Monday, January 20th
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: St. John's Hall

What: A special-session of Catechism, we will meet at St. John's for games, a review session of the year, and lunch. Then we'll travel down to Owatonna for an afternoon at the indoor waterpark, The Great Serengeti.

Cost: \$15 to cover waterpark admission and lunch.



Middle School Movie Morning

When: Monday, January 27th
9:30 a.m. - Noon

Where: Commons/Theater

What: Middle School students are invited to come to church in their PJ's for breakfast (donuts and fruit) at 9:30 a.m. Afterwards we'll head up to the theater for a movie (title to be announced later). Sign-ups will be posted on the bulletin board outside the Sacristy.

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in December

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)

January 5:

Reception for St. Olaf Choir. 9:35 a.m., St. John's Hall.

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

No Forum

January 12:

Coffee and Fellowship in the Commons and St. John's Hall.

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

Parent Gathering and Forum: "Analyzing the Bully," presented by Adam Arnold, licensed psychotherapist.

(For more information see page 5). 9:50 a.m., St. John's Hall.

January 19:

Coffee and Fellowship in the Commons and St. John's Hall.

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

Forum: Annual Meeting Preview. 9:50 a.m., St. John's Hall.

January 26:

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

Forum: Joint Religious Coalition Update. (For more information see page 15). 9:50 a.m., Theater.

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

St. John's will formally receive new members on April 27, 2014. A gathering for those wanting to learn more about life and ministry at St. John's will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2014. The spring new member session begins on Sunday, March 16. 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.



Serving on Sundays in January

Assisting Ministers

January 5	Steve and Judy Swanson
January 12	Ruthie Neuger
January 19	Becker-Judge Family
January 26	Richard Dahlin

Communion Preparers

January 5	Dave and Sue Rudser
January 12	David and Cheryl Buck
January 19	Jim and Mary Bierman
January 26	Jon and Guy Reid

Counters

January 5	Basil Mroz, Dick Dahlin, Elden Zempel, Amy Boxrud
January 12	Brenda Bultman, Wil Brosz, Beckie Judge, Dan Franklin
January 19	Chris and Martha Erickson, Sue Brockman, Brent Bash
January 26	Kathy Granquist, Dean Ostlie, Mark Ulmer, Kasia Gonnerman

Ushers

January 5	(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
January 12	(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
January 19	(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
January 26	(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

Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 26



The Congregation Council has set Sunday, January 26, as the date for the Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church, immediately following a pot-luck dinner in St. John's Hall starting at noon. Items of business will include receiving of reports, election of officers, board, and council members,

and action on the proposed 2014 budget.

The preview of the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 19 between services in St. John's Hall.

Kenyon College Chamber Singers to present a concert Thursday, March 6th, at St. Johns

Kenyon College is a private liberal arts college in Gambier, Ohio. Pastor John Quam's grandson is a member of this ensemble. We will be housing the choir that night. If you have a spare bedroom and could house students Thursday, March 6th, please contact Paul Beck either by phone 663-0562 or email pbeck@gmail.com. Shared rooms and double beds are fine. Students will be assigned in groups of two or more. Expectations are to meet students after the concert and provide breakfast in the morning and return them to St. John's Friday morning. We look forward to this concert.



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, January 8
Sloppy Joes and Tots

Wednesday, January 15
Turkey Tetrizzini

Wednesday, January 22
Baked Potatoe Bar

Wednesday, January 29
Baked Mac/Cheese and Hot Dogs

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

News and Events

Claimed and Called: Baptism Recognition January 12

Sunday, January 12, is the Sunday the church remembers the Baptism of our Lord - the first Sunday after Epiphany. In addition to remembering Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River we will also recognize and give thanks for all those brought through the waters of baptism in 2013. There will be an engraved medallion for each of those newly baptized whom we will name during worship and we will all affirm our own baptisms during worship - as we remember our call to follow Christ and serve in his name.

A Note on Commitment Cards

Thank you to everyone who has turned in their commitment card for 2014!

For those that are electronic givers, if you have changed your giving in any way - increase or decrease - please know that **your card does NOT give us authorization to increase or decrease your pledge**. Please log in to your online account or contact the Church Office, in writing, to allow us to make the changes for you. Thank you!

December Actions

Baptisms

Corban Walter Conn, son of Ingrid and James Conn, December 8, 2013

Jazmine Rose Tuomala, daughter of Katherine Hirdler and Scott Tuomala, December 22, 2013

Kaitlyn Marie Gunderson, daughter of Desirae and Matthew Gunderson, December 29, 2013

Deaths

Arlene Rudser, November 29, 2013

Ruth Helgen, December 10, 2013

Radio Broadcasts

December 1, 2013, given by Judy Christensen in memory of Dagny Christensen and Leslie Gustafson who shared a December 1 birthdate.

December 8, 2013, given by friends of St. John's.

December 15, 2013, given by Van Miller in memory of Teddy Miller.

December 22, 2013, given in memory of Leonard and Marie DeWolfe by family and friends.

December 24, 2013, given by Dean and Dorothy Ostlie in thankfulness of their family and the congregation.

December 25, 2013, given by friends of St. John's.

December 29, 2013, given by David and Joan Halvorson in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

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: The Leadership Team 645-4429

Grief Support

Contact: Barbara Knaak 664-0444

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Contact: Gary Knutson 663-1522

Mens 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: The Leadership Team 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

Richard Nelson, 650-0203,
richardnelson_03@q.com

Richard Beckmen, 664-3882
dickbeck32@q.com

Bearers of The Light

By Barbara Eaves

Taking down the Christmas decorations and storing them for another year often results in a mix of emotions. On the one hand is the desire and readiness to get back to more routine and less clutter; on the other hand the house may seem somewhat bare and colorless. In our home we continue to use some strings of white lights and candlelight throughout the winter, enjoying their warmth and also knowing that light is one of the strongest symbols of hope.

In Herman Melville's novel, *Moby Dick*, the sailors on board the boat hunting for the white whale, encounter a fierce storm at sea which swamps their boat, threatening the lives of all on board. In an attempt to send a distress signal to nearby boats, the first mate, Starbuck, ignites the lantern and hands it to Queequeg, the standard bearer. "There, then, he sat, holding up that imbecile candle in the heart of that almighty forlornness. There, then he sat, the sign and symbol of a man without faith, hopelessly holding up hope in the midst of despair."

This quotation is a great metaphor for those of us who are receivers of the light of Christ. The season of Epiphany reminds us that we, too, become standard bearers, boldly holding up The Light as a beacon of hope in the midst of the storms and dark passages of life.

*Guided by the star, they found
him whose praise the ages sound,
We too have a star to guide us,
which forever will provide us
with the light to find our Lord,
with the light to find our Lord.*

ELW #301

* Small Group Coming in February * *Loving God and Neighbor*

The words of the great commandment found in Luke read, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Using the book, *God's Five Love Languages*, by Gary Chapman, this group will explore the ways we communicate love.

Group will meet for four Sundays in February.
Facilitator: Susan Beeby



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.

WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S will go "up the hill" on **Thursday, January 9, 2014** to have lunch together at 11:30 in the King's Dining Room at St. Olaf College. This is a fine opportunity to invite a friend or friends to join you. After eating, we will sing Christmas carols led by our own musicians, Carol Benson assisted by Jenny Pelletier on flute and Jane Rinehart on cello. Eat at the best place in town for \$14.00; sign up at church.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY, plan to view a remarkable documentary by Paul Krause about the local painter Fred Somers, "*Genesis: The Art of Creation.*" It will include Fred's preparation of the canvas on through the painting and to the installation at Carondolet Village in St. Paul. Actually, both the documentary by Paul Krause and the painting are both arts of creation. The meeting will be on **Thursday, February 6, at 1:00** in the St. John's Theater on second floor. (Elevator across from office door)

CIRCLE SCHEDULES

Bible study leaders — Monday, Jan. 6, noon in Fireside Room

Lydia — Wednesday, Jan. 8, 9:30 am

Sarah — Wednesday, Jan. 8, 9:30 am

Martha/Claudia — Thursday, Jan. 9, 9:30 am in Parkview West

Elizabeth — **no meeting**

Abigail/Rebecca — Thursday, Jan. 9, 2:00 pm in Parkview East

Mary — Friday, Jan. 10, 1:00 pm at Carol Benson's, 670 Green Meadow Court

Women's Breakfast Group — Saturday, Jan. 11, 8:30 am in Fireside Room

HANDCRAFT SCHEDULES

Knitters of easy children's sweater, Tuesdays, Jan. 7 & 21, 9:00 – 11:00 am at Kathy Vang's, 414 Waterwheel Dr. Dundas. Get help in knitting from experts who've sent 80 sweaters to World Vision!

Quilters, Mon. Jan. 13 and Thurs. Jan. 16, 9:00 – 11:00 am Fellowship Hall. If you want to sew a quilt at home, pick up cut squares on table in the Commons. Add to the 99 quilts sewn this year!

COFFEE SALES

Sunday, Jan. 19 - - - time to stock up for a month! You can also buy tea and chocolate, all from small farmers who are helped by your purchase, as is WELCA .

Submit items for **Voice** to Genevieve Quarberg (davidquarberg@hotmail.com)

Submit information for **Sunday bulletin** to Jane Gelle (bandjgelle@yahoo.com)

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Reflecting on the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 20, 2014 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Dr. King was a graduate of Morehouse College and received his PhD in systematic theology from Boston University. He became one of the great leaders of the American civil rights movement during the 1960s which advocated for equality for black Americans. Dr. King's philosophy of non-violence was greatly influenced by the teachings of Jesus as well as Mahatma Gandhi and Leo Tolstoy. For his work to change the great wrong of racial discrimination through peaceful means, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1964. Upon receiving the award, Dr. King's comments included his admiration for the non-violent example of Gandhi who had successfully opposed the British Empire in India with only weapons of truth, soul force, non-injury, and courage. Keep Dr. King, this great man of peace, in mind on January 20.

—Greg Colby

An Invitation

CREATING A BELOVED COMMUNITY

Northfield's tradition of a double celebration of the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. continues this year with a program at Arcadia Charter School on Friday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. and a second one sponsored by the Northfield Human Rights Commission on Monday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Dominic Church.

Both are open to all interested persons.

The Friday program by the students at Arcadia and members of the community reflect the message and accomplishments of Dr. King. Responses in visual arts, speeches, and music indicate "Arts for Martin." Be alert to invitations to community members to join in the chorus. Sharif Keita is the featured speaker on the life of John Dube, a precursor in Africa to Dr. King and Nelson Mandela.

"Creating a Beloved Community" — a central focus of King's legacy — is the theme of Monday's community event. Recognizing that the Beloved Community is the framework for the future, our Human Rights Commission has chosen to emphasize the role of Northfield youth.

"Northfield is a community composed of a wide variety of people. Each one is important and valuable; each has her or his own contributions to make and needs and desires to be respected and supported," says Corinne Smith, chair of the Commission. "The most important and vital part of our community is the youth. They provide us energy and a pathway and guide to the future," she asserts.

During this Martin Luther King, Jr. Day event, the focus will be on a few youth groups within our community, she continues. "These young people will share with us what community means to them and what they are hoping for in our community."

Providing them a community in which they can grow and thrive is the role of the Commission, all citizens, and citizen groups. "We do this, as with all persons, by building relationships in which we strive to know and understand them as full people," Smith adds. This echoes the goal expressed by the MLK Center in Atlanta of a reconciled world where relationships are so healthy that justice prevails and all persons can attain their full human potential.

Creating a such a community asks for positive action on the part of every citizen and in turn benefits each of us.

Plan to attend both celebrations if you can!

From the Peace and Justice group (cont.). . .

Learning More About the Challenges in the Rice County Justice Systems

Peace and Justice continues to examine opportunities to address the issues raised by the ELCA study on Crime and Justice. We have invited Rice County probation officer Angela Brewer to speak on Monday, January 6, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Ms Brewer has been a probation officer for over 15 years. She will be speaking about her agency, juvenile delinquency, and gangs as well as opportunities on how we might be able to help.

Forum Topic on Sunday, January 26: Joint Religious Coalition Update

Organizing for Social Justice is the mission of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) comprising the Minnesota Council of Churches, the Minnesota Catholic Conference, the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Islamic Center of Minnesota. The JRLC website states: "We tap into deeply held religious principles and organize faithful citizens across Minnesota to build civic capacity for our advocacy work and for a healthier democracy."

The speaker at the St. John's Forum on Sunday, January 2, will be Brian Rusche, JRLC Executive Director. He will acquaint us with current Minnesota Legislative issues and encourage us to advocate with our legislators for social justice as they write legislation that addresses such issues as health care, hunger, eliminating poverty, child care, education and housing.

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA, is a member of the Minnesota Council of Churches.

JUSTICE CALENDAR

January 6

*Peace & Justice Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
Presenter: Angela Brewer-Community Corrections*

January 17

*Arts for Martin, Arcadia Charter School, 7:00 p.m.
Open to all!*

January 20

*Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration:
"Creating the Beloved Community" (Human Rights Commission),
7:00 p.m., St. Dominic Church.*

January 26

Brian Rusche, Directory of Minnesota Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Forum, 9:50 a.m.

Pastor
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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St. John's Annual Meeting
will be held on
Sunday, January 26
(following a potluck lunch)