

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

February 2014

Volume 54, Number 2

*on the
inside . .*

Children's Ministry
Appreciation Brunch
✧ p. 5

St. John's Summer
2014 / Camp Info.
✧ p. 8 and 9

Joining St. John's
✧ p. 10

+ + +

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.

Pastor Fickenscher Welcome Sunday Is February 16



We will officially welcome Pastor Pamela Fickenscher and her family to St. John's on **Sunday, February 16**. A reception will be held between services in St. John's Hall. Please take the opportunity to welcome Pam, Will, Katie, and Johann to St. John's!

Call Committee for the Associate Pastor Position

As there had not been the required time in which to present potential candidates to the congregation, there was not a vote on the Call Committee members as part of our annual meeting. We continue to request that members of the congregation interested in being part of the Call Committee please provide your name and a brief biography with picture to Leah in the Church Office no later than **Friday, February 14**. We will be announcing a special congregational meeting for the purpose of voting on the Call Committee in the upcoming weeks. ****A congregational meeting will be held immediately after 2nd service on Sunday, March 9, for the purpose of electing the Call Committee****

Youth Recital

Please join us between services on **February 9th** in the Sanctuary as our youth put their musical talents on display. At 9:50 a.m., students will share their gifts that include playing the organ, harp, flute, piano, cello and more.

This year's participants include:

Ariana Beeby
Anna Weber
Nathan Berthelsen
Jonah Berthelsen
Emma Kmoch
Nicholas Gonnerman
Jeanette Pelletier
Kathleen Thompson
James Bull
Theodore Mattson



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

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

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

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.

Picking Up the Pieces

When a family crisis occurs, you may be called upon to “pick up the pieces.” Putting life back together, for one or more people, can feel like an impossible task. But approaching such a task piece by piece actually can make it more manageable.

For example, an aging relative who lives several states away is hospitalized and you must step in. The pieces to put together may seem overwhelming, but listing them, prioritizing them, and tackling them one by one allows you to stay focused while also taking regular breaths. What to do first? Address the family member’s medical needs with phone calls and find out whether a pet requires tending. Should you be with her or him? Determine whether travel plans should be made, or is a relative’s friend or pastor able to handle some issues for the time being. At some point you will want to contact your relative’s attorney or financial advisor, especially if a change in living arrangements for her or him appears to be called for. Notifying other family and friends of the situ-

ation may not seem like a high priority, but it could help with some decision-making while also offering the patient loving support.

Stephen Ministers are trained to listen calmly and guide another through challenges. If you or someone you know could use help thinking clearly while “picking up the pieces” in the midst of a crisis, or even anticipating one and preparing ahead by gathering information and planning how decisions will be made, consider working with a Stephen Minister. Contact a pastor at 645-4429 or Pam Schwandt at 645-6120.

*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:

Grief support group continues meeting on Mondays thru February 17 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, 664-0444.

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.



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."

February 8, 2013
Christine Stime

From our pastors

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this, it is my second day in the office at St. John's, and already my head and heart are full. So many of you have already greeted me warmly; the staff have impressed me with their competence and dedication; I see and hear so many signs of the gifts of this place. As next Sunday's New Testament lesson proclaims: "You (plural!!) are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Cor 1:7)

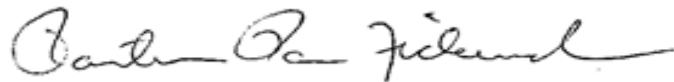
I also know that I have a steep learning curve ahead – not the least of which is getting to know each of you and your stories. I invite you to help me with this over the coming weeks:

- remind me of your name more often than you think I might need it
- invite me to your home, to coffee, for a walk, or to your place of business;
- attend a cottage meeting, gatherings being planned so that I can meet groups of the congregation over the coming weeks
- show me your favorite place in Northfield or tell me about a need you see in our community
- most of all, come to worship, pray for our ministry together and invite those you know and love to be part of this journey we undertake together

As a runner I know the importance of not sprinting at the beginning of a marathon, so I also ask your patience as I do a lot of listening and learning in the weeks ahead. Until the school year ends I will be spending a few nights a week away from my family (I have a place to stay until March) as well as some days in Minneapolis. Our family will be busy with all the logistics of moving and transitioning for some time, but we are so very excited, after many weeks of more good-byes than hellos, to be focused on the hellos.

In this winter ordinary time we have an extraordinarily long season before Lent begins, and our lectionary allows us to dwell a while in Jesus' first sermon in the Gospel of Matthew. That sermon is challenging in many ways, but it begins in beatitude, which is always a good way to begin. Blessed are we.

Grace and peace to all of you in the name of Christ,



Music and Worship Life at St. John's

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

St. John's is in need of finding rooms for housing 54 singers. We have rooms for 6, leaving 48 singers needing beds. Please consider hosting 2 or more students. If you have a spare bedroom and could house students Thursday, March 6th, please contact Paul Beck either by phone 663-0562 or email pmbeck@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.

Notes of Thanks!

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH THE CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER!! WE SERVED 285 PEOPLE THIS YEAR.

Donations for the Homeless

Thank you so much for all the donations of clothing and bedding gathered in November!

Donations received from St. John's congregants along with Multex Flexible Circuits' employees totaled over 1,100 clothing items. We also received blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, handwarmers, hygiene supplies and some dried food. These items have been and will be distributed to shelters in Minneapolis and St. Paul as well as directly given to homeless individuals on the streets of the Twin Cities.

Your generosity will help to keep - literally - hundreds of homeless Minnesotans warmer, healthier, and perhaps most importantly cared for. This is a blessing for us as well as those we serve. Again we thank you for your kindness. God's blessings to you all,

Blue and Misery Building Outreach Opportunities

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

February 2 Sunday School
February 9 Sunday School
February 16 Sunday School
February 23 Sunday School

"ROCK" – Wednesday Afterschool Programming

February 5, 12, 19, 26

No Wednesday Programming on March 5 & 26

Catechism for 4th and 5th Grades

February 5, 12, 19; 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Children's Ministry Appreciation Brunch – February 2

Fireside Room, 9:45 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Parents Invited to Sunday School Opening

February 23, 10:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Kids Night Out – 1st thru 5th grades

Friday, February 28, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

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, March 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.

Appreciation Brunch!

Sunday School teachers, assistants and Wednesday afterschool volunteers are invited to brunch on Sunday, February 2 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The brunch is an annual event to thank all the volunteers who help keep Children's Ministries thriving!

Teachers and Assistants:

Preschool 1:	Jenny Nystrom, Cheryl Buck, Cheyenne Suarez
Preschool 2:	Trish Goodrich, Betsy McLaughlin, Jamie Forbord
Kindergarten	Barbie Strese, Ashley Hammer, 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:	John and Leah Sand
Fifth Grade:	Julie Becker, Sally Lindell
Music:	Jenny Pelletier, Carol Benson
Library:	Susan Canon, Angie Gehring
Wednesdays:	Andrea Hoff, Christy Hall-Holt, Connie Menssen, Amy McBroom, Jo Franklin, Leah Garlie, Betsy McLaughlin, Katherine Norrie, Kristy Mikula, Sara Redetzke Julie Becker, Kari Heistad, Laura Failenger, Frances Boehning

Please contact Julie if you can help with the brunch or can volunteer to be a substitute teacher in one of the Sunday school classrooms on February 2. Thanks in advance!

4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes in February

4th and 5th graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, February 5. CAT classes will meet in the lower level of St. John's; 5th grade in Room 18 (lower level) and 4th grade in Room 9 (lower level) from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays: February 5, 12, 19.

Join us this summer!

**Check out St. John's Summer Camps/Activities
in this issue of the Voice.**

Opportunities available for all ages!

Registrations forms for children and youth summer camps are available on the children and youth bulletin board in the Commons.

Save the date! March 9 is our Annual Youth Fundraiser.
Proceeds help with the cost of camp for all our campers!

Kids' Night Out - Come have a blast with St. Olaf Students!

The St. Olaf Christian Outreach group is an ecumenical group of energetic college students dedicated to sharing God's love with kids through games, skits and songs. They're coming to St. Johns...



Kids' Night Out

When: Friday, February 28
Where: Meet in St John's Hall
Who: 1st – 5th Graders
Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Admission: Bring a snack to share with the group

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or across from the Nursery by February 23 so we can plan the event! Call Julie if you have questions at 645-4429.

Parents Invited to Sunday School on February 23

Parents are invited to Sunday School's Opening/Music time on February 23 at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. At 10:00 a.m. children will be dismissed to their classrooms and parents are invited to stay for a cup of coffee and conversation with the Children's Ministry and Education Board in regards to Children's Ministry. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

HIGH SCHOOL

EXTREME CAPTURE THE FLAG

WHEN: Sunday, February 23rd (Time TBA)

WHERE: Soccer Fields off Jefferson Parkway

WHO: HS Students from various area churches

WHAT: Northfield Area Youth Workers (NAYW) is organizing a fun fellowship event for community youth. We'll be playing an extreme version of capture the flag with multiple teams hopefully in the snow. Bring your boots... bring your friends... bring your 'A' game.



The Annual Youth Fundraiser,

being held on March 9, helps **all youth** with the cost of summer programs.

6th – 12th graders have the opportunity for additional \$\$\$ when they help with the Easter Breakfast. Information will be mailed to you on how you can participate.

No one will be turned away from attending summer programs because of financial reasons. Please contact Julie Brehmer, or Mike Skunes if you need financial assistance!

**St. John's Lutheran Church
500 West Third Street
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-4429
stjohnsnorthfield.org**

January Actions

Radio Broadcasts

January 5, 2014, given in loving memory of Elmer & Cora Schultz and Ken Struss from their family.

January 12, 2014, given by friends of St. John's.

January 19, 2014, given by Elaine Feroe in memory of Mark Feroe.

January 26, 2014, given by friends of St. John's.

Baptisms

January 5, 2014: Eleanor Allyn May Langford, daughter of Natalie and Jacob Langford.

January 26, 2014: Ingrid Lucille Kromroy, daughter of Sonja and Andrew Kromroy

Deaths

June Swanson, January 14, 2014

Myrtle Nord, January 21, 2014

ST. JOHN'S SUMMER 2014



Preschool 1 – Grade 5

**Vacation Bible
School
For Preschool 1 –
Kindergarten
“On the Road”
For Grades K-5**

Both VBS and “On the Road” are held August 10-14. Volunteers from Northfield area churches provide VBS programming for Pre-K. Good Earth Village provides “On the Road” programming for K-5th graders. It's a fantastic week for children in the community.
Registration information will be available in the spring.



Grades 2-3 “Settlers”, Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN

This three day, two night camp takes place in the Log Lodge Retreat Center at GEV. It's a great first time camp experience!
Enjoy exploring, games, arts and crafts, faith talks, visits to the

Canteen, cabin time and cozy campfires.

Grades 3-5

**“Andy’s Gang”,
Shores of
St. Andrews,
New London, MN**

At this week long Bible camp, kids have lots of fun with friends laughing, learning and growing in their faith. Enjoy swimming, games, campfires, singing, kayaking and more!
This camp is offered through Green Lake Bible Camp.



The Annual Youth Fundraiser

held in March, helps all youth with the cost of summer programs.

6th – 12th graders have the opportunity for additional \$\$\$ when they help with the Easter Breakfast.

Information will be mailed to you on how you can participate.

No one will be turned away from attending summer programs because of financial reasons.
Please contact Julie Brehmer or Mike Skunes if you need financial assistance.
youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org
children@stjohnsnorthfield.org

**St. John's Lutheran Church
500 3rd Street West
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-4429**

Grades 6-8

Magical Mystery Tours!

Northfield area church youth come together for a mystery event once a month. More information will be mailed to families this summer.

Grade 6

Chrysalis Crew, Spicer, MN

Chrysalis Crew is held at Green Lake Bible Camp. Be part of the fun and faith-filled experiences during this awesome week of summer camp!

Grades 7-8

Confirmation Nation, Spicer, MN

We encourage all confirmation kids to come to camp on the beautiful shores of Green Lake. It's a week of adventure, fun and faith building activities. This camp is offered by Green Lake.



Grades 9-12

Student Missions- Philadelphia

Share with us the experience of historic Philadelphia! We'll help with a kid's camp, meet the needs of the homeless, visit historic sites, and eat some fantastic ethnic foods at local restaurants in a city where 40% of the people are at or below the poverty line.

SUMMER FOR ALL AGES

FAMILY CAMPS!

Check out family camp opportunities at *Green Lake Lutheran Ministries* www.gllm.org, or *Good Earth Village* www.goodearthvillage.org

LUTHERAN NIGHT AT THE TWINS

Sign up to watch the Twins play at Target Field this summer. This event is organized by Thrivent – watch for info this summer.

THRIVENT BUILDS WITH HABITAT

Help build a Habitat for Humanity home! Our church will have a Saturday this summer where those that are 18 and older will be invited to work on the site or provide food. More info to come!

FAMILY NIGHT AT THE NORTHFIELD POOL!

Free food and so much fun! This event is during the week of VBS, “On the Road”, August 10-14.



AS ADULTS we need you to encourage our young people to be intentional about their faith journey all through the year. Ask them which program they're going to – but also ask them about Sunday School, Wednesday programs, Confirmation and activities they attend throughout the week!



St. John's Summer 2014 Opportunities!

Activity or Camp	Grade <small>Refers to grade completed</small>	Dates	Description	Cost	Deposit	Registration deadline
Vacation Bible School	Pre.1 - K	August 10-14	Volunteers come together to provide this fun-filled week. Children enjoy music, crafts, games, Bible stories and friendships building.	\$10 \$20/family to St. John's	No Deposit	Registration coming in May
"On the Road"	K - 4 th	August 10-14	Good Earth Village brings this popular camp to Northfield for 4 full days of games, songs, skits, devotions and fun! The location this year is St. John's Lutheran Church	\$75 Early Bird \$60 or \$70	Register at www.goodearthvillage.org Payable to GEV	
Settlers Camp	2 nd - 3 rd	June 8-13	Settlers is a 3 day, 2 night camp at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. Kids stay in the Log Lodge Retreat Center and enjoy worship, hiking, campfires, games, creek splashing, singing and more!	\$175 Early Bird \$155 or \$165	\$50 payable to GEV Non-refundable	Full amount due May 1
Shores of St. Andrew "Andy's Gang"	3 rd - 5 th	June 15-20	Spend the week on the beautiful shores of St. Andrews near New London, MN. Create crafts, sing songs, share in Bible devos, play lots of games, kayak and swim! Ask about sibling discounts!	\$398 Early Bird by 3/17 receives \$20 off!	\$125 payable to Green Lake Non-refundable	Balance Due by 5/31 After 5/31-\$10 late fee.
Chrysalis Crew	6 th	June 15-20	Chrysalis Crew is located at Green Lake in Spicer, MN. This week long camp is awesome, the best of summer camp! Come for a week full of fun and faith-filled experience. Ask about sibling discounts!	\$398 Early Bird by 3/17 receives \$20 off!	\$125 payable to Green Lake Non-refundable	Balance Due by 5/31 After 5/31-\$10 late fee.
Confirmation Nation	7 th - 8 th	June 15-20	This camp is awesome! Beautiful surroundings at Green Lake in Spicer, MN- adventure and fun activities. Don't miss this faith-building week! Ask about sibling discounts!	\$398 Early Bird by 3/17 receives \$20 off!	\$125 payable to Green Lake Non-refundable	Balance Due by 5/31 After 5/31-\$10 late fee.
Student Missions: Philadelphia	9 th - 12 th	July 12 - 19	High School students will have the opportunity to experience the historic city of Philadelphia while helping meet the needs of a city which 40% of the population is below the poverty line. Help staff a kid's camp, meet the needs of homeless, visit historic sites, have a great week!	\$390	\$100 payable to St. John's by March 2nd	Balance due by June 1st

REGISTER EARLY! For Shores of St. Andrews, Chrysalis and Confirmation Nation – we cannot reserve spaces this year. Please register early to reserve a spot.



Other stuff for middle school'ers... **MAGICAL MYSTERY TOURS!** For youth completing 6th – 8th grades.

Join us and other Northfield area churches for mystery events in June, July and August. More info this summer!

Questions? Contact Mike Skunes or Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, or email youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org, or children@stjohnsnorthfield.org

Our Annual Youth Fundraiser offsets all registration fees! If finances are tight, ask about scholarships!

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in February

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)

February 2:

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

Children's Ministry Appreciation Brunch. 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room.

Small Group: "God Speaks Your Love Language", facilitated by Susan Beeby. 9:45 a.m., Room 201.

Forum: "Grief: Lost in Translation", presented by Naomi Mandsager Bartley. 9:50 a.m., Sanctuary.

February 9:

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

Small Group: "God Speaks Your Love Language", facilitated by Susan Beeby. 9:45 a.m., Room 201.

Sunday Morning Concert Series - Youth Recital: 9:50 a.m., Sanctuary.

No Forum

February 16:

Welcome Reception for Pastor Pam Fickenscher in St. John's Hall.

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

Small Group: "God Speaks Your Love Language", facilitated by Susan Beeby. 9:45 a.m., Room 201.

No Forum

February 23:

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

Small Group: "God Speaks Your Love Language", facilitated by Susan Beeby. 9:45 a.m., Room 201.

Forum: Evolving Liturgy Part I - Why Do Lutherans Do What They Do?, facilitated by Tom Schattauer.

9:50 a.m., Theater.

Thinking about joining St. John's? Come to lunch!



Those considering joining St. John's are invited to lunch with St. John's staff on Sunday, February 23, at noon in St. John's Hall. Over lunch there will be opportunity to visit with staff members and learn about life at St. John's, in addition to learning more about the new member process. New members will be received at St. John's on Sunday, April 27. For more information contact one of the pastors or Linda Anderson, at 645-7170 or lsa100@charter.net. RSVP for the February 23 lunch to the Church Office at 645-4429 or office@stjohnsnorthfield.org

Serving on Sundays in February

Acolytes

February 2	(8:30) Parker Aman, Peter Neeb; (11:00) Cole Little, Ryan Malecha
February 9	(8:30) Elsa Hoff, Anna Weber; (11:00) Griffin Rod, Dylan Gehring
February 16	(8:30) Aidan Nutt, James Bull; (11:00) Courtney Nelson, Viveka Hall-Holt
February 23	(8:30) Caroline Hummel, Jaime Rice; (11:00) Logan Matson, Isaac Riggins

Assisting Ministers

February 2	Michael and Rachel Skunes
February 9	Leif Knecht
February 16	Jeff and Betsy McLaughlin
February 23	Thomas and Paul Schattauer

Welcome Desk

February 2	Gert Brosz
February 9	Suzanne Sylvester
February 16	Alyssa Ness
February 23	Chris Lee

Communion Preparers

February 2	Paul and Maribeth Beck
February 9	Bill and Char Carlson
February 16	Steve and Jennifer Edwins
February 23	Mary Cisar and David Sudermann

Communion Servers

February 2	(8:30) Chuck Hellie; (11:00) Marilyn Boschee
February 9	(8:30) Mary Polzin; (11:00) John Walters
February 16	(8:30) Sandi Gerdes; (11:00) TBD
February 23	(8:30) Ruth Hansen; (11:00) Pam Schwandt

Counters

February 2	Basil Mroz, Dean Ostlie, Elden Zempel, Kasia Gonnerman
February 9	Dick Dahlin, Brenda Bultman, Elden Zempel, Amy Boxrud
February 16	Chris and Martha Erickson, Sue Brockman, Brent Bash
February 23	Otto and LaVerne Reitz, Char Carlson, Dan Franklin

Ushers

February 2	(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
February 9	(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
February 16	(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
February 23	(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

Important Dates for New Board and Council Members

Sunday, February 9, new board and council members will be installed at both worship services.

Tuesday, February 11, is Board Orientation. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. Pizza, fruit, and dessert will be served starting at 5:30 p.m.

Please contact your board chair or the Church Office with any questions or if you are unable to attend.

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!

Depression 101

Thursday, January 30, February 6 & 13, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Have you worried that a close friend may be suffering from depression? Would you like to be able to help, but aren't sure how? Or perhaps you experience ups and downs, and would like to know more about how to deal with those low, gray days, and become more resilient and less prone to depression. This program will cover the signs of depression, and the ways you can help yourself or others you care about feel better.

Presenters:

Rose Kormann, retired psychotherapist and active Senior Center member

Jane Rinehart, counseling psychologist, practicing in Northfield

Session 1: basic understanding and discussion about depression

Session 2: methods of alleviating depression

Session 3: panel representing local resources (medical, psychotherapy, WRAP, clerical, et. al.)

Cost: \$27 members / \$36 non members



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, February 5
Tator Tot Hotdish

Wednesday, February 12
Pulled Pork Sandwiches and Chips

Wednesday, February 19
Lasagna with Bread and Salad

Wednesday, February 26
Jambalaya

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

Small Groups Ministry

*For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.
Matthew 18:20*

Walking in the Light

By Barbara Eaves

In this time after Epiphany, we begin to glimpse who this Jesus was as we hear of his teaching, healing, and acts of compassion. And, we are invited to follow his example...to be a people who reflect his light by welcoming the stranger, extending kindness, and being compassionate.

With that in mind, and before the Christmas season fades into the distance, it seems appropriate to reflect on some of the comments heard at the annual community Christmas dinner. Bussing and resetting tables provided an opportunity to engage in a few short conversations with some of those who came from beyond the St. John's family. Their thoughts are worth remembering:

* I was nervous about coming here because I didn't know what to expect, but I was so welcomed...it is friendly...I will be back.

* This is such a wonderful thing you do here, using the gifts you have received. (This person was looking at a baptismal banner about using the gifts we are given).

* My husband's biggest worry was that we would have to negotiate steps and we are so grateful that was not necessary.

* My buddies want to eat and go, but I want to stay and visit. This is my second year of coming here and I see different people here this year.

* (In giving carnations to two women from the table centerpieces:) "thank you...I will take them to my mother who is in a nursing home."

In his sermon on the Baptism of our Lord Sunday, Pastor Nichols reminded us that Jesus was baptized into us before we were baptized into him and that we are invited to walk each day knowing that Christ dwells within us as we walk in his light.

Arise, your light has come!

The Spirit's call obey;

show forth the glory of your God

which shines on you today.

ELW #314

-Lenten Book Read- A Small Group Opportunity

This year's book is
The Active Life
by Parker J. Palmer

Sign up during February to participate in a five-week small group to discuss "*The Active Life*" and to purchase a book.

Based upon the the number of sign-ups, groups will be formed to meet at various times on Wednesdays as well as on Sunday mornings during the education hour.

If you are interested in leading a group to discuss this book, please call a member of the Small Group Ministry Team listed in the box below.

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 Beckmen, 664-3882
dickbeck32@q.com

February Small Group
God Speaks Your Love Language
(How to Feel and Reflect God's Love)
Sunday mornings: Feb 2-23, 9:45-10:45, Room 201
Leader: Susan Beeby
650-0998- susan@beeby-us.com

You are invited to come to any or all of the sessions.
No sign-up required.

Book is available for purchase, but is not necessary for participation.
(To order a book, sign your name on the list next to the poster in the Commons)



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.

CIRCLES

Mon. 2/10

Bible Study Leaders, 12:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Wed. 2/12

Sarah & Lydia, 9:30 a.m.

Thur. 2/13

Martha/Claudia, 9:30 a.m., Parkview W.

Elizabeth, 1:30 p.m., JoAnn Kleber, 616 Meldahl Lane

Abigail/Rebecca, 2:00 p.m., Parkview E.

Fri. 2/14

Mary, 1:00 p.m., Cora Scholz, 704 St. Olaf Ave.

Sat. 2/15

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

HANDCRAFTS

Tues. 2/4 & 2/18

Knitters, 9 - 11 a.m., Kathy Vang's, 414 Waterwheel Dr., Dundas

Mon. 2/17 & Thur. 2/20

Quilters, 9 - 11 a.m., Fellowship Hall

COFFEE SALES

Sunday. 2/16

Coffee, Tea, Baking Chocolate, and Eating Chocolate

FEBRUARY WELCA MEETING

Two talented men in our own community have put together their creative abilities in a remarkable documentary. Fred Somers has been painting with oil and pastels in his rural studio near Northfield since 1974. Paul Krause garners his multiple technical and story-telling skills from teaching and working at WCAL to record Fred Somers going through the steps of painting his large work of visual art, *Genesis*. Together, their efforts are "***Genesis: The Art of Creation***," showing Fred prepare his canvas, painting and installing this large work of art. We are able to see this documentary screened at our next WELCA meeting on Thursday, February 6 at 1:00 in our own theater on second floor at St. John's. After seeing this documentary, you will want to see the finished painting itself which has been installed at Carondelet Village in St. Paul.

We will return to St. John's Hall for a short meeting and refreshments served by Sarah circle.

Synods, Conferences, Denominations - - - Do you ever feel confused when you hear these words? If you are like most of us, the word "church" means St. John's with only fuzzy connections to the first three words. Our local congregation is our closest experience of "church" even though we are aware of a much greater connotation, such as the ELCA.

On **Saturday, April 12, 2014** St. John's women will host a **meeting** of the women from the churches in the **Cannon River Conference**. That conference is one of five conferences (groups of geographically located churches) which make up the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, which in turn is one of 65 synods in nine regions (with about 10,000 congregations) that make up the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), which is a Christian denomination. On **July 24 - 27, 2014** the women from ELCA congregations (WELCA) will meet at the Ninth Triennial Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. St. John's WELCA plans to send a delegate to that convention.

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 . . .

Day on the Hill

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) Day on the Hill is a day when clergy and laypersons, community leaders and congregation members gather in St. Paul to learn about social justice issues being debated and voted upon by the Minnesota Legislature. This year more than 800 participants are expected to assemble at **8:30 a.m. in the St. Paul RiverCentre on Thursday, March 13**. A keynote address will be given by Rabbi David Saperstein of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Washington, DC, and briefings on legislation will be given by JRLC Executive Director Brian Rusche. Following table discussions organized by legislative district, participants will be bussed to the Capitol for a brief program in the Rotunda and scheduled meetings with senators and representatives. JRLC regards Day on the Hill as a “cornerstone to our collective commitment to social justice ...as informed, active, hope-filled advocates” visit with legislators about “laws and policies that protect human dignity, especially among the vulnerable and powerless.”

St. John's has been represented at Day on the Hill for many years. Anyone interested in attending should call Paul Peterson at 507-645-9245 to arrange for car pool transportation. Further information at www.jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill.

Learning Active Nonviolence

In an interview with Bill Moyers in 2010, Louise Erdrich responded to his question about her book about her first baby's first year—“The Blue Jay's Dance.”

What was the metaphor there? He wondered.

“It was a blue jay's dance of courage in front of a hawk. I saw a blue jay from the window as I was nursing my baby...and then a hawk came down and missed it. And the blue jay knew it was doomed. But it started to dance at the hawk. And it so startled the hawk that the hawk sort of adjusted its vision, I think, because the blue jay was confusing it. The dance of an inferior bird against a superior raptor finally so mortified the hawk that it flew away.”

“So this is the mother's role,” Moyers responded, “the blue jay's dance to keep the aggressive hawk at a distance, right?”

“I never really thought of it exactly that way,” Erdrich replied. “It may be that I thought about it in the book, but—yes. Well, it's the advantage so many of us have, in a small way. It's the advantage of behaving in a surprisingly courageous fashion, when the odds are completely against you.”

JUSTICE CALENDAR

February 3

Peace & Justice Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Peace & Justice will continue its discussion of the ELCA's Statement on Crime and Justice.

We will have a guest speaker to help us understand more fully the challenges facing crime victims, offenders, and the professionals who work in the criminal justice system in Rice County.

We continue to investigate how we can help as individuals and as a congregation.

You are most cordially welcome even if you have not been at earlier meetings.

Come join us!

Pastors*Pam Fickenscher**John Quam***Children's Ministry***Julie Brehmer***Facility Manager***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***Nathan Knutson*

500 Third Street West

Northfield, MN 55057

507-645-4429

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 36

Northfield, MN

Return Service Requested



February Highlights

Children's Ministry Appreciation Brunch

Sunday, February 2, 9:45 a.m.

4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes

Wednesday, February 5, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning Concert Series: Youth Recital

Sunday, February 9, 9:50 a.m.

Pastor Fickenscher Welcome Sunday

Sunday, February 16, 9:30 a.m.

Parents Invited to Sunday School

Sunday, February 23, 9:45 a.m.

Prospective New Member Luncheon with Staff

Sunday, February 23, 12:00 p.m.

High School Extreme Capture the Flag

Sunday, February 23, Time TBD

Kid's Night Out

Friday, February 28th, 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.