

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

March 2014

Volume 54, Number 3

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Youth Fundraiser

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Sunday Morning
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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.

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website:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org

Church Office hours:

Monday - Thursday

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

Friday

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

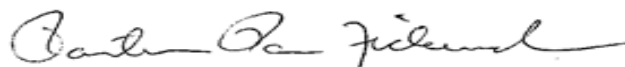
GROUNDING: Living into the Season of Lent

This March 5, we begin the season of Lent with hearing the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Our mortality issues a wake-up call to the reality of our limits, and grounds us in the essentials of our faith as we move with Jesus from death to new life.

The season of Lent was the historic time of preparation for baptism. In this time the church would formally introduce new candidates to the community, and prepare them to enter the waters of baptism for the first time. For all of us, these 40 days offer an opportunity to "return to the Lord our God," and to formative acts of prayer, giving and fasting.

We gather on Sundays around five thick, rich texts which speak of the Gospel's transformative power. Each image is worth dwelling in for more than a day, asking how the Spirit might be calling us *this* year to receive the gifts of new life in Christ. I invite you to return to these stories outside of Sunday worship. Those who wish are invited to share open conversation about the Gospel with me over soup supper on Wednesdays.

At 6:30 each Wednesday night, we will gather in a simple service of Marty Haugen's Holden Vespers, and hear reflections from five members of St. John's about what grounds them in the reality of our humanity and the promises of God. So often, life determines for us what will ground us, but God's gift of grace is always enough to bring healing and life.



March 5 - Ash Wednesday
With Imposition of Ashes
12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
(Preaching - Pastor Fickenscher)

March 12
Haugen Vespers
6:30 p.m.
(Homily - Dr. Mark Granquist)

March 19
Haugen Vespers
6:30 p.m.
(Homily - Mike Skunes)

March 26
Haugen Vespers
6:30 p.m.
(Homily - Rev. Bruce Benson)

LENT IS BAPTISMAL PREPARATION TIME

This Lent, St. John's will offer an inquirer's group for those who are new to the Lutheran tradition, returning to church community, or new to the Christian faith altogether. Beginning Sunday, March 16, Pastor Fickenscher will gather anyone interested in a time of open conversation about the lesson of the day and what God calls us to in baptism. These conversations will continue each Sunday morning in Lent through Palm Sunday, April 13.

Inquirers who wish to be baptized are encouraged to consider Sunday, June 8, the day of Pentecost, as a day of baptism. Other dates in the Easter season may be open for those who cannot be here June 8. Contact Pastor Fickenscher with further questions.

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.

How Stephen Ministers Care for Children and Teens

Stephen Ministers are trained to work with adults who are dealing with stresses or challenges, but not with children or teens. However, the well-being of children and teens may become an important concern for Stephen Ministers when they care for parents or grandparents struggling with family problems.

Here are the kinds of Stephen Ministry assignments that involve children and teens:

—A mother of two has separated from the children's father and is overwhelmed by the tasks before her every day at home and at work.

—A stay-at-home mother of five worries that she often speaks sharply to her children and to her husband; also that her children treat her disrespectfully.

—The father of a toddler feels excluded by his wife from the care of their son and from decisions about the child's welfare.

—A happily married woman eagerly awaiting the birth of their first child is full of anxiety about the birth itself and the changes a baby will bring into their lives.

—A grandmother is distraught over a custody suit between her daughter and her estranged husband.

—A widow on a small pension who lives with a chronic medical condition is drawn into her adult children's daily problems; she is often asked to provide child care or grocery money and to settle disputes between teens and parents.

...continued on page 11

*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 will be meeting on Monday evening from March 24 until April 28th, from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 418 E. Sumner St., Northfield. The groups are open to anyone who has lost a loved one. Further information is available by contacting Barb Knaak at 664-0444 or bknaak4@charter.net

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."

March 15, 2013
Deaun Peterson

March 31, 2013
Lyle Kallestad

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

FROM THE ORGAN BENCH...

I think there is a song that begins, "Spring will be a little late this year." In 2014 we could revise the lyrics to "Lent will be a little late this year." As I write these words on another cold, February morning, both texts seem appropriate.

So, tell me, what will be your Lenten discipline this year? Growing up I had a good friend who was Roman Catholic and this Swedish Baptist was curious about Lent since this season was ignored in my church. "So, Gary, I understand you are supposed to give up something for Lent, what will it be this year?" "Driving," was his quick reply. Since he was 14 and Ohio's legal age was 16, his Lenten discipline did not impress me all that much. The next year I asked again. "Watermelon," was his reply. Now in the 50ties, where in Ohio would one find watermelon in the middle of winter?! I asked about the driving and he explained that it had come to mean too much for him to give it up again.

Hmm — Lent is a challenging time for church staff. Instead of being a quieter time for stillness, reflection, self-examination, it is always more hectic and busy: extra services, extra sermons, extra rehearsals, Holy Week to plan, etc. But then, who is not too busy these days? When **do** we find time for that Lenten introspection, that "amending of our ways" which is part of a Lenten discipline?

My hope and prayer for us all is that we will find time for Lent, participate in the Wednesday soup suppers and the brief worship after. Rethink the schedule and carve out just a bit of time each day to be still, either as family or individually. One Lenten discipline that has been meaningful for me is to seek out a quiet place and open the Bible or the hymnal to the Psalms and let serendipity (or the Spirit) guide my finger to a particular Psalm. Then I read or chant it aloud – this slows the flow of the words, gives me time to savor them. Then, I'm just still for a few minutes. Many Christian brothers and sisters speak of "praying the Psalms" and in this spirit, after a time of silence, I say, "Amen."

May your souls be warmed this Lenten season.

John Ferguson
Interim Director of Music

Update from the Search Committee for the Position of Organist/Director of Music, Worship, and Arts

The search for the full-time position of Organist/Director of Music, Worship, and Arts has begun! Members of the search committee include Jo Ann Polley (Chair), Jonah Berthelsen, John Ferguson, Michele Knutson, Margaret O'Leary, Donna Paulsen, Robert Scholz, and David Sudermann. Please do not hesitate to provide names of potential candidates to committee members. Our goal is to have a full-time Organist/Director of Music, Worship, and Arts in place no later than August 1, 2014. The job description may be viewed at <http://stjohnsnorthfield.org/who/staff/employmentopportunities/musicsearch/>.

Note of Thanks!



Thanks to all who participated in the Youth recital, February 9, and especially to Jo Ann Polley who coordinated and recruited all the performers.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

March 2 Sunday School
March 9 Sunday School (Daylight Savings)
March 16 Sunday School
March 23 Sunday School
March 30 *No Sunday School - Spring Break*

"ROCK" – Wednesday Afterschool Programming

March 12 and 19
No Wednesday Programming on March 5 or 26

Catechism for Grades 4 and 5

Will not be meeting in March
Will resume April 2, 9, 16

Annual Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, March 9 (For more information see page 9)

**4th and 5th Grade Catechism,
April 2, 9, 16**

Our Catechism classes for 4th and 5th graders will resume in April instead of March (as listed on the schedule in the Registration Packet). We apologize if this is causing any inconvenience to families. Please feel free to call Julie Brehmer if you have a question or concern about the change.

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.



Summer Camp Is Fun!

Hope you'll join us for Summer Camp this year!

Kids in PreK – 5th Grades: Vacation Bible School, "On the Road", Aug. 11-14

Kids in Grades 2-3: Settler's Camp, Good Earth Village, June 8-10

Kids in Grades 3-5: Andy's Gang, Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp, June 15-20

Registrations forms and camp information is available on the Children and Youth bulletin board in the lower and upper Commons area. Feel free to call Julie if you have questions, 645-4429!

All St. John's Kids going to Settlers or Shores of St. Andrews receive \$\$\$ towards their camp registration fees from the Annual Youth Fundraiser.

Scholarships for full or partial payments are also available.

Just speak with Julie Brehmer or Mike Skunes, Children's and Youth Directors

**Remember Daylight Saving Time
begins on Sunday, March 9!
Turn your clocks ahead one hour.**

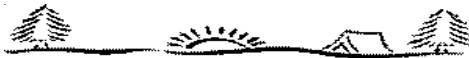


YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Summer 2014

Looking for a fun way to spend your summer? Join us on one of our summer trips through St. John's! Both opportunities offer the experience of a lifetime building faith, friendships, and a ton of unforgettable memories. For more information contact Mike Skunes at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org

GREEN LAKE BIBLE CAMP



Who: 6th-8th Grades (finished)
When: June 15th – 20th
Where: Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, Spicer, MN
Cost: \$398

CSM: Philadelphia

Who: 9th – 12th Grades
When: July 12th- 19th
Where: Center for Student Missions, Philadelphia, PA
Cost: \$390



Youth Fundraiser

When: March 9th, 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Where: St. John's Hall

Reminder Youth

Parents: In order to make the breakfast successful, we ask parents to donate sausage, fruit, orange juice and milk. Please bring the items designated to your child's age group below to the kitchen by *noon on Saturday, March 8th*.



3rd -5th Grades: Two packages of sausages (preferably Johnsville 14 link packages)

6th Grade: One gallon of milk and a bunch of bananas

7th Grade: One half-gallon of orange juice and one pack of sausage links

8th -10th Grades: Container of strawberries plus a melon

11th-12th Grades: Container of strawberries plus a melon

(See page 9 for more details)

Minnesota Timberwolves Game & Jamie Grace Concert

On **Sunday, March 23rd**, twin-cities Christian radio station KTIS is sponsoring a "Faith and Family Day" at the Minnesota Timberwolves game. Watch the Timberwolves take on the Phoenix Suns from midcourt in the upper deck, then enjoy a concert by nationally-renown Christian recording artist, Jamie Grace directly after. The cost of the entire event is **only \$17**. The game starts at 2:30pm and we'll start a carpool from St. John's around 1pm. And if we have 30 or more people that are interested, we will look into getting a bus.



All ages and guests are welcome.

Contact Mike Skunes at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org or 507-645-4429 to reserve your tickets.

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in March

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)

March 2:

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

Forum: "Evolving Liturgy Part 2 - Whatever Happened to That Old Time Religion?". 9:50 a.m., Sanctuary.

March 9:

Youth Fundraiser. St. John's Hall and the Commons.

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

Small Group: "The Active Live" by Parker Palmer. 9:45 a.m., Room 201.

No Forum

March 16:

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

Inquirer's Gathering: Baptism or Reaffirmation of Baptism. 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room.

Small Group: "The Active Live" by Parker Palmer. 9:45 a.m., Room 201.

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

No Forum

March 23:

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

New Member Session: "Shared Ministry Part 1". 9:45 a.m.

Small Group: "The Active Live" by Parker Palmer. 9:45 a.m., Room 201.

Forum: "Faith and Science Part 1 - Water". 9:50 a.m., St. John's Theater.

March 30:

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

Small Group: "The Active Live" by Parker Palmer. 9:45 a.m., Room 201.

Forum: "Faith and Science Part 2 - Ethics of Genetic Engineering". 9:50 a.m., St. John's Theater.

Serving on Sundays in March

Acolytes

- March 2** (8:30) Creegan Croone, Trey Coudret; (11:00) Colby Klotz, Sam Mikula
March 9 (8:30) Allison Nelson, Anna Willkomm; (11:00) Sam Motzko, Matthew Knutson
March 16 (8:30) Aidan Nutt, Cole Johannsen; (11:00) Clayton Garlie, Nicholas Boehning
March 23 (8:30) Peder Lindell, Gunnar Benson; (11:00) Erin Gunn, Ariana Beeby
March 30 (8:30) Rikka Zillmer, Willa Kmoch; (11:00) Cate Carson, Maddi Ims

Assisting Ministers

- March 2** (8:30) Tania & Kai Legvold; (11:00) Schrader Family
March 9 St. John's Youth
March 16 Dennis Rinehart
March 23 Lydia Moe
March 30 Marie Benson

Communion Preparers

- March 2** Mark and Kathy Granquist
March 9 Mary Cisar and David Sudermann
March 16 Jim and Judy Cederberg
March 23 Dennis and Jane Rinehart
March 30 Sandi Gerdes and Marilyn Boschee

Welcome Desk

- March 2** Debby Nitz
March 9 Sue Anderson
March 16 JoAnn Kleber
March 23 Terry Gilbertson
March 30 Bette Quinell

Communion Servers

- March 2** (8:30) Kathy Shea; (11:00) John Walters
March 9 (8:30) Gary Knutson; (11:00) TBD
March 16 (8:30) Trish Goodrich; (11:00) Chuck Jacobson
March 23 (8:30) Chuck Hellie; (11:00) Pam Schwandt
March 30 (8:30) Ruth Hansen; (11:00) TBD

Lenten Worship Ushers

- March 5** (12:00) Team 3; (6:30) Team 7
March 12 Team 1
March 19 Team 2
March 26 Team 4

Ushers

- March 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
March 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
March 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
March 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
March 30 (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

Serving on Sundays in March (cont.)

Counters

March 2	Brent Bash, Bill Carlson, Dean Ostlie, Char Carlson
March 9	Amy Boxrud, Kathy Granquist, Mark Granquist, Elden Zempel
March 16	Kasia Gonnerman, Dick Dahlin, Basil Mroz, Sue Brockman
March 23	Jim Enestvedt, Martha Erickson, Chris Erickson, Mark Ulmer
March 30	Bill Gasho, Otto and LaVerne Reitz, Beckie Judge

February Actions

Deaths

Lois Bjorlie, February 2, 2014

Elna Hansen, February 13, 2014

Radio Broadcasts

February 2, 2014, given by Eugene and Joyce Schrader in honor of Joyce's 90th birthday.

February 9, 2014, given in memory of Leonard and Marie DeWolfe by family and friends.

February 16, 2014, given in memory of Marion Boyd by Mary and Jim Bierman.

February 23, 2014, given in honor of Bernard Blanness' 94th birthday on February 25 by family and friends.

Mission Outreach

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT CARRIES ON FAMILY LEGACY OF MINISTRY

For Kristofer Coffman, member of St. John's studying at seminary, a calling to ministry runs in the family. When his great-grandparents served as missionaries in China, they began a legacy that would extend across generations and lead Coffman to pursue his calling at Luther Seminary. Scholarship gifts help support students like Coffman, a Presidential Scholarship recipient.

Get to know Kristofer Coffman:

Degree program and year: Master of Divinity junior

Hometown: Los Angeles, Calif.

Passion: Rural ministry

Hobbies: Fishing and cooking

Favorite Bible Story: John 21:1-14,

Jesus appearing to the disciples on the lake shore

Favorite hymn: "Children of the Heavenly Father"



"Our Lord once observed that where our treasure is, there also our heart will be," Coffman says. "With that in mind, it is a blessing and a comfort to know that there are many people whose hearts are committed to supporting the ministry and raising up a new generation of pastors."

News and Events



"Beach Party" Annual Youth Fundraiser Silent Auction and Breakfast Sunday, March 9 St. John's Hall

*Kids!
Come in flip
flops and
shorts to
Sunday School!*



Fundraiser Schedule of the Day!

- 8:00 a.m. Silent Auction Begins with a **BUY IT NOW!** Option
Make sure to check out the donations given by our youth in the Commons area.
- 9:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
(\$6 per person/ \$20.00 per family)
- Pancakes
 - Sausages
 - Fresh Fruit
- 10:30 a.m. Camp Songs by St. John's Kids
- 11:00 a.m. Breakfast Ends and Silent Auction Ends

Tickets are on Sale now! Advance tickets will be available on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings in the Commons or you may purchase them at the door the day of the fundraiser.

Our annual youth fundraiser helps make our 2014 summer programming opportunities financially possible for all families. We thank you in advance for your participation and support!

If you have an item or service to donate to the auction, please contact Julie Brehmer at St. John's, 645-4429 or email; children@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

News and Events

Sunday Morning Concert Series: The Laura Baker Choir

The Sunday Morning Concert Series will present The Laura Baker Choir in a recital on Sunday, March 16, 2014 in St John's Hall between the services. Come and get your coffee, and then sit down to enjoy listening to these performers, some of whom are St. John's members.

The Laura Baker Choir is an adult choir comprised of singers ages 18-80+ years. This differently-abled group has many challenges to overcome yet demonstrates an incredible love for music and enthusiasm that rivals any other choir! Though many of the singers receive support through Laura Baker Services here in Northfield, others live semi-independently in other communities. The Choir performs on a monthly basis in and around Northfield, though they have also traveled to Rochester, Minneapolis, Shakopee, Minnetonka, and Blaine. Jenny Pelletier, music therapist at Laura Baker Services and member of St. John's, has directed the choir for the last eight years.

Laura Baker Photo Exhibit

Laura Baker Services Association invites you to take a new look at lives of people with disabilities at our "A Day in the Life" photography exhibit, on display beginning March 9. In partnership with St. Olaf photography students we created a distinctive series of portraits that show what a day in the life of our clients is like.

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

Help is needed in hosting Kenyon College Chamber Singers. 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 by 7:45 a.m. Friday morning.

TRANSFERRING TO ST JOHN'S?

Those who wish to formally join St. John's are invited to orientation sessions this spring:

Shared Ministry: Sunday, March 23, 9:45 a.m. Exploring spiritual gifts and how Shared Ministry shapes our life together at St. Johns.

New Member Connections: Sunday, April 6, 9:45 a.m. Fellowship time with new member hosts and a tour of the building— St. John's members who help to welcome and connect new members will be present to answer questions and get acquainted.

New Member Reception and Litany: Sunday, May 4: New members will be formally welcomed during either of the two morning worship services. A reception is held at 9:45 a.m. in St. John's Hall.

News and Events

Make Your Thrivent Choice Dollars Designation

Thrivent Dollars help nonprofit organizations near and dear to you — even St. John's. Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable outreach funds through its Choice Dollars program. Since the program's inception, members at St. John's have directed over \$30,000 of Thrivent Choice Dollars to nonprofit organizations. Roughly \$10,000 of St. John's eligible benefit member's 2013 Thrivent Choice Dollars have yet to be directed this year.

Thrivent members have until March 31 to direct these funds. In order to do so, Thrivent members can call 800-847-4836 (800-THRIVENT) and ask for the Thrivent Choice area. Members can also go to Thrivent.com if they have a username/password to view their account info and direct the dollars from their online account if they choose. Please note that each family member that has a product may have Choice Dollars and would need to make their selection separately.

Currently, we do not have any Thrivent Advocates for St. John's. If you are interested call Dave Hagen at 507-645-2504.

Stephen Ministry *...continued from page 2*

Typically, in such situations what the parents or grandparents need most is a listening ear to help them sort through these problems and come up with their own steps toward solution. But sometimes beneath the first issue lies a tangle of emotional problems or a deeply dysfunctional family. In those cases the Stephen Minister would help the care receiver get the needed professional care. The Stephen Minister might continue to walk with the care receiver, or the relationship might end by mutual agreement. Either way a Stephen Minister will have guided a care receiver (and one or more children or teens) out of a dark place and toward a place of light and hope.

If you or someone you know might benefit from talking about family problems with a SM, who will listen without judging and maintain strict confidentiality, please call one of the pastors (645-4429) or Pam Schwandt (645-6120).



St. John's Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Suppers

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, March 5
Ash Wednesday - No Meal

Wednesday, March 12
Zuppa Toscana & Tortellini Soup
w/Bread

Wednesday, March 19
Chili & Vegetarian Chili w/Bread

Wednesday, March 26
Turkey Noodle
Corn/Potato Chowder
w/Bread

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

News and Events

Women of the Cannon River Conference at St. John's

A **SPRING GATHERING** will be held at St. John's on Saturday, April 12, 2014 - - even if spring doesn't arrive in time. The women of the Cannon River Conference (one of the five 'river' conferences of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA) have invited several campus pastors to speak about their work. Pastor Corrine from Winona, Pastor Tammy from Mankato, Chaplain Brian from St. Peter and a representative from the congregation at St. Olaf will give us a picture of Lutheran Campus Ministry. It is a way in which our church has pastors on 180 state and private colleges and connects with 400 campuses nationwide through contact pastors. This ministry is on or near campuses and is for students, faculty and staff. It is a place where people can struggle together over questions and difficult events encountered in daily life. Just as we do within a congregation, people discuss, eat, serve and pray together, gaining strength from each other as followers of Jesus Christ. This gathering would be a good opportunity for both parents and students contemplating college to hear and to ask questions.

WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) has been looking at the many ways generations can connect and interact, and this gathering of women from several Lutheran churches continues that emphasis with the speakers. It is also carried out in all the music for that day. The Northfield Youth Choir will sing, a Quintet of women from St. John's - - Kristen Partlo, Elizabeth Bade, Ruth Smestad Anglin, Ruth Legvold, and Nancy Ordahl Knoch - - will sing, and Donna Paulson will lead us joyfully along with her piano playing.

Coffee and rolls will be served during registration, 8 - 9 AM, lunch will be served at 11:30 AM. People can preregister on forms in a packet on the WELCA board in the Commons, or on the day, April 12. Adults are \$12.00, students \$5.00 for lunch and program. An offering will be taken and given to the following: Crossroads Campus, Mankato; Gustavus Adolphus Campus, St. Peter; Lutheran Campus Ministry, Winona; and St. Olaf Campus Ministry, Northfield.

From Bread for the World

Americans know that hunger and poverty is not partisan issue. This is why Bread for the World has a strong track record of working in partnership with people all along the political spectrum—both at the grassroots and in Washington, DC—to improve our country's policies so we make more progress against hunger in the United States and around the world.

The Bread for the World Institute has launched *Development Works*, a compelling series of essays and reports that will inform us and enable us to advocate for continuing development assistance from the U.S. and other wealthy nations. Pick up a copy of the illuminating and inspiring publication *Development Works: Myths and Realities* from the Peace and Justice shelf in the library and look for "Myths & Realities" and other excerpts each month in the VOICE.

Myth: Development assistance is a big part of the U.S. budget and is fueling our record budget deficit.

Reality: Development assistance is less than 1 percent of the U.S. budget, so cutting it would not help fix the deficit. It does, however, save millions of human lives every year.

Myth: Not much progress can be made against a problem as big as hunger.

Reality: In less than two generations, global hunger has been cut in half. Instead of one person out of every three suffering from hunger and malnutrition, it's now one person out of every six—still far too many, but a big improvement.

****WATCH for Bread for the World Prayer table tents at Soup Suppers****

Small Groups Ministry

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

Lenten Practices: Then and Now

By Barbara Eaves

Recently, my husband and I were talking about Lenten practices in the congregations where we grew up. It was a fun conversation that brought to mind such things as the mid-week worship (mandatory for one of us during confirmation years), Lenten denial offering boxes, attending a performance of the Messiah during Holy Week, Good Friday when businesses and stores were closed from 12pm to 3pm, three-hour come-and-go worship services and being part of the high school choir that was present throughout the three hours and sang during each segment of the “seven last words,” being a member of the high school choir which joined the adult choir during Lent and sitting next to your math teacher, seeing him in a whole different light. No doubt many can relate to some of these remembrances and add many more of their own which are now imbedded on the hard drives of our minds.

While Lenten observances have changed over the years in many places...and in some congregations they have been dropped altogether, at St. John's we are fortunate to have Lenten practices. We are able to come together to enjoy a soup supper and conversation and then gather for Evening Prayer. In addition, we can choose to participate in a book read and small group conversation about it. Each of these opportunities provides for us the added bonus of creating community and nurturing relationships...it's a good place to be.

There is still time to sign up for the Lenten Book Read, *The Active Life*, by Parker Palmer. Quotes from the book's cover:

“*The Active Life* is Parker J. Palmer's deep and graceful exploration of a spirituality for the busy, sometimes frenetic lives many of us lead. Telling evocative stories from a variety of religious traditions, including Taoist, Jewish, and Christian, Palmer shows that the spiritual life does not mean abandoning the world but engaging it more deeply through life-giving action. He celebrates both the problems and potentials of the active life, revealing how much they have to teach us about ourselves, the world, and God.”

“Parker J. Palmer is a highly respected writer, lecturer, teacher, and activist. He is the author of six other books—including the bestsellers *Let Your Life Speak*, *The Courage to Teach*, and *A Hidden Wholeness*. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley.”

Sign up in the Commons

- to purchase a book for \$12.00
- to participate in a five-week small group conversation

Sunday groups begin March 9

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



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.

When the women of the church gather together in small groups for Bible study, we concentrate on stories and words that have come to us from the past, about people who are essentially like us living in times very different from ours. When we gather together in a large group we often hear from people living now, with issues and problems unique to our complicated and complex culture. Both times are ways of making us aware of the possibilities of ways we can live as Christians. On Thursday, March 6, we will hear from **Tammy Filzen** as she tells us about "**Whispers of Hope.**" This is both an idea and a place, a residential and non-residential facility where young women who have suffered abuse, depression, or unwanted pregnancy can gain self-control and self-respect. A 22-week residential program for ages 16 – 21 will include life-skills training, biblical teaching, mentoring, chores and self-reflection; non-residential counseling will be available to girls/young women ages 14 – 25. Tammy has already come a long way toward realizing the dream she has had of such a facility, for it will be on a beautiful farm near Faribault. Much has been done to be able to begin this ministry this summer. We expect her excitement will be contagious. Our program begins at **1:00 PM on Thursday, March 6.** Lydia Circle will serve refreshments.

Women at St. John's have responded to the continuing need in countries facing war, starvation, floods or earthquakes with quilts, baby care kits, and health kits. The last **quilts** delivered to the warehouse in the cities were quickly packaged into plastic-wrapped bales and loaded into ocean freight containers -- 40 quilts in a bale, 280 bales in a container with 5 containers (about 56,000 quilts!) being shipped to the east coast, intended for ocean shipping to Africa. This kind of Lutherans-working-together started during WWI, increased in WWII and continues today.

Our **April** program will be held on Saturday, April 12, not on our regular first Thursday of the month. Women from Lutheran churches all around us are invited to be part of a full morning of hearing from campus pastors, music and having lunch. (See article on p.) In **May**, we will hear from Sister Judy from Rochester on her involvement with countering human trafficking. We will also be electing new officers at that meeting.

CIRCLES

Saturday, 3/18: Women's Brkfst. Grp 8:30 a.m. (Fireside Room)

Monday, 3/10: noon, BS leaders

Wednesday, 3/12: Sarah & Lydia 9:30 a.m.

Thursday, 3/13: Martha/Claudia, 9:30 a.m. (Parkview W.)

Elizabeth, 1:30 p.m. (Barb Walters, 1204 Woodland Tr.)

Abigail/Rebecca 2:00 p.m. (Parkview E.)

Friday, 3/14: Mary, 1:00 p.m. (Winnifred Alberg, 11125 Kane Trail)

Monday, 3/17 & Thursday, 3/20: Quilters 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Fellowship Hall)

COFFEE SALES

Sunday, 3/16: Coffee, tea, baking chocolate, eating chocolate

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 . . .

Action and Advocacy

At our February 3 Peace & Justice meeting Angela Brewer mentioned the following possible projects for us as we consider action and advocacy for the needs of our criminal justice system. They will be the focus of our meeting at 7:00 p.m., March 3, in the Fireside Room.

- Community Impact Panel
- Drug Court
- Truancy project
- Legislative effort to expand diversion, to take cases involving 16 and 17 year olds out of public hearing and making them confidential again.
- Partnering with the Northfield Alternative Education Center
- Rice County Community Corrections workforce group that helps felons about to be released from prison with clothing and/or job interview assistance.

Ms Brewer identified the biggest needs as employment and/or employment training, apprenticeships, and on the job training.

Greg Colby, who has been a leader in our 2 year study, suggests that the workforce group would be a good place for us to start. He says, “It calls for limited assistance, concrete and defineable effort and limited contact. [which would make it easier for individuals or groups to render assistance and aid] However, we also need to consider proactive steps in helping troubled youth. I am a strong believer in prevention and working to avoid major problems.”

Please join us for this continuing discussion. Everyone is welcome to participate, whether or not they have been at any other meeting.

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. For further information and to register in advance go to www.jrlc.org/day-on-the-hill. For car pool transportation call Paul Peterson – 507-645-9245.

JUSTICE CALENDAR

Monday, March 3

*Peace & Justice Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
Action and Advocacy for Criminal Justice Needs*

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

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