

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

May 2014

Volume 54, Number 5

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Inquirers' Class

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**Worship Services:**

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

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

*office@stjohnsnorthfield.org*.

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.

## Ruth Legvold to Retire

After 28 years of leadership of St. John's high school Laudate Choir, director Ruth Legvold will retire this spring. Under Ruth's direction, hundreds of St. John's youth have learned the pleasure of expressing their faith through music and leading the congregation in song. Ruth says, "The greatest blessing for me...has been to work with our high school aged singers. They have become very dear to me and I will miss seeing them every Wednesday evening and every other Sunday morning."

Ruth's service to St. John's has been a vital part of our music ministry here and a unique feature of this congregation's outreach over the years. This past Palm Sunday, a visitor to St. John's responded to our Laudate singers reading of the Gospel and anthem: "Wow! That (high school singers and readers in leadership) would *never* happen at my church." This is part of St. John's ministry that our congregational leadership is eager to nurture and see continued after Ruth's retirement.

It is a bittersweet thank you we say as we celebrate Ruth's ministry this month, for she has been a key link to so many of our students over the years. As she directs the choir for the last time in worship on Sunday, May 18, we hope to welcome back a number of former high school choir members. Please join us in thanking Ruth for her many years of service and thanking God for her gifts among us. We know, as is usually the case at St. John's, that in retirement she will find new and vital ways to continue to bless us all.



Class of 2014!

On Sunday, May 18, during the 11:00 a.m. service, St. John's will recognize our graduating High School Seniors. After worship, the seniors and their families, along with the students' confirmation mentors will share lunch in St. John's Hall.

Congratulations to the following seniors from St. John's:

<b>Bjorn Bade</b>	<b>Nathan Berthelsen</b>	<b>Lexi Craig</b>
<b>Michael DeCramer</b>	<b>Andrew Dell</b>	<b>Grant Erickson</b>
<b>Bennett Falck</b>	<b>Michael Gasior</b>	<b>Katherine Hirdler</b>
<b>Ian Iverson</b>	<b>Amelia Kimmes Kneser</b>	<b>Alexa Nutt</b>
<b>Hunter Redfield</b>	<b>James Rowley</b>	<b>Rebecca Storlie</b>
<b>Kristopher Swanson</b>	<b>Amelia Tjaden</b>	

God's Blessings on your future plans!

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.

*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*

## Stephen Ministers Learn about Caring for Families with Special Needs Children

St. John's Stephen Ministers meet regularly for continuing education classes to learn more about specific caregiving situations. At the April meeting, the group learned about ministering to families with special needs children and examined the following issues:

- **Grief** - When a child with special needs is born, parents often encounter feelings of grief because they had been looking forward to the birth of the child they thought they would have. Having a special needs child means parents need to adjust to a new reality. Feelings of grief are ongoing and emerge periodically as the child grows and is unable to experience the same milestones and opportunities as other children.
- **Anger** - Feelings of anger surface when dealing with the reality parents face raising special needs children. There is no map for dealing with such children so often times information must be passed along from parent to parent.
- **Frustration** - Parents encounter frustration in trying to deal with barriers the family and child encounter, involving education and social services for their child. Parents have the added stress that when their children are finished with high school and deserve to be out on their own as much as possible, there is no housing available. Group homes in our area are full and the state has put a moratorium on establishing new homes.

*...continued on page 3*

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

*Matthew 5:4*

## Grief Support Ministry

### **Northfield Grief Support Coalition:**

A grief support group for parents grieving the loss of a child will meet on Tuesdays starting April 29 thru May 20, from 6:30-8:00 pm. at Northfield United Methodist Church. A group for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one will meet on Tuesdays starting May 27 thru July 1, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at First United Church of Christ. 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."*

May 1, 2013  
**Kathy Mroz**

May 15, 2013  
**Doreen Ness**

# Pastors' Page

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*"for by  
one  
Spirit  
we  
were  
all  
baptized  
into one  
body"*

1 Cor. 12:13

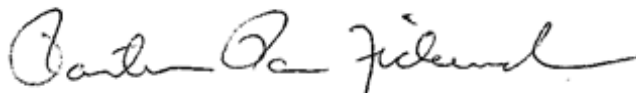
This month of May we will be entirely in the Easter season, that fifty days which celebrates the presence of the risen Christ among us, and our calling to *be* the body of Christ in the world. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "for by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body" (1 Cor. 12:13)

This month as the physical work on our gathering place continues, we will also mark the importance of our many "members" – and the presence of your bodies – in worship.

- This month we welcome new families to St. John's by transfer, and baptize into Christ several new babies.
- On May 4, our inquirers' group, which has been meeting throughout Lent, will be recognized in worship with their sponsors in a Rite of Welcome, which physically welcomes them into this community.
- Mid-month you will have the opportunity to meet two finalists for our Organist/Minister of Worship Music and Arts position. We look forward to having this full-time position filled this summer!
- On May 18, we will recognize our high school seniors, who have grown up in body and spirit among us for many years.
- Also on May 18, we celebrate the ministry of Ruth Legvold, who is retiring this fall after 28 years as Director of the Laudate choir.

That is just a snapshot of the many ways that we are the body of the risen Christ to one another and to our world – welcoming, supporting, feeding, singing, teaching, praying and simply *being* there for one another, as Christ is present among us all our lives long.

Whether you are physically present among us or not this Easter season, please know you are as much a part of St. John's as a toe is part of a foot. And remember us all in your prayers, that our lives might become a unified "Alleluia! Christ is risen!"



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## Stephen Ministry ...continued from page 2

· Exhaustion - It is exhausting for parents to deal with all the complexities of living with and advocating for children with special needs. Living with a special needs child adds stress to a marriage. Over 80% of marriages with special needs children don't survive and most parents of such children are single parents.

Children with special needs are part of St. John's church family and value being part of our church community. As a congregation it is important for these families to know they are not alone. Reaching out on Sunday mornings as well as on a daily basis is an important way of ministering to families with special needs.

Stephen Ministers are trained to listen, understand, and empathize with issues parents are facing. If you or someone you know could benefit from a Stephen Minister, please contact Joan Halvorson at 645-8445 or one of the pastors.

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Synagogue Trip

**When:** 5:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.  
Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup>

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

**Who:** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Class  
and Parents.

**What:** We'll cap off our year learning about the Old Testament and build on the previous week's discussion of Judaism by attending an Erev Shabbat service and getting a tour of the Temple of Aaron Synagogue in St. Paul.



## Cannon Canoe Trip

**When:** 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

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

**Who:** 6-12<sup>th</sup> Youth

**What:** Join us for a ton of fun as we paddle down the Cannon and end with a picnic at Riverside Park behind Ace Hardware. Sign-up outside the Youth Room or email Mike at [youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org).



## High School Senior Recognition

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, we'll be celebrating our graduating high school seniors by having them provide integral roles at our 11:00 a.m. worship, blessing their next steps, and honoring them with a luncheon catered by the Quarterback Club afterwards.



## Class of 2014

**Families of Seniors**, please **RSVP** for the luncheon by Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

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### **Important Dates to Remember!**

#### **Sunday School Schedule**

May 4: Sunday School  
May 11: Last day of Sunday School Celebration

#### **"ROCK" – Wednesday Afterschool Programming**

May 7 and 14  
MayFest is on May 14 - *See article on page 8*

#### **Summer Activities**

*See information below*

## **Sunday School Celebration, May 11!**

Come and celebrate the last day of Sunday school for the school year on May 11! The celebration will take place in St. John's Hall from 9:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. with the theme, "Heifer International Project". Enjoy music, story telling, refreshments, games, and crafts with your family and friends.

If you are interested in lending a hand to help at the event, contact Julie Brehmer, 645-4429, or email at [children@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:children@stjohnsnorthfield.org).

## **It's not too late to attend Summer Camp!**



### **Settlers' Camp at Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN (grades 2-3) June 8-10**

This three day, two night camp takes place in the Log Lodge retreat center at GEV. Activities include worship, Bible studies, hiking, campfires, games, creek splashing and more! This is a great first time camp experience!

### **Shores of St. Andrews, New London, MN (grades 3-5) June 15-20**

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

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

## **VBS and "On the Road" – Summer 2014!**

This summer St. John's, along with Bethel, Rejoice!, and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Church, will be offering a joint Vacation Bible School/Summer Camp experience for children age 3 (by 9/1/13) – 5th grade.

### **For kids completing Kindergarten – 5th grade**

**"On the Road", August 11-14, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day**

**Held at St. John's Lutheran Church**

Good Earth Village, "On the Road!" will bring the fun of summer camp to Northfield. This 4-day program is filled with games, worship (and water worship!), crafts, Bible study and singing. Registration is through Good Earth Village. Campers can register on-line at [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org). Since this is a community-based event please send your registration in early. Good Earth Village can accommodate about 125 campers.

### **For Kids Age 3 (by 9-1-13) - Kindergarten**

**"Workshop of Wonders", Vacation Bible School, August 11-14, 9:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m. each morning**

**Held at Emmaus Church**

At "Workshop of Wonders" Vacation Bible School, your children will use their hands, hearts and minds to imagine, build, grow, work, and walk with God. Kindergarteners have the option of going to either VBS or "On the Road". The VBS program will be half days whereas "On the Road" is a full day experience. You decide which camp works best for your child. Registration forms are available in the Main Office and in the Commons. Come join us this summer!

**On Wednesday, April 23 the following St. John's 3rd graders attended a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Holy Communion:**

Maddie Aman, Vivian Beeby, Lexi Foster, Rhett Garlie, Tyler Lemke, Lucy Menssen, Luke Redetzke, Thomas Weber, Max Williams, Marion Williams, Lucia Willkomm, Sigrid Zillmer

**At the retreat, our third graders made Communion bread that was shared with the congregation at the April 27 worship services.**

### **Summer Nursery Schedule**

Starting on Sunday, May 25 the Nursery will be providing childcare during worship for only the 10:00 a.m. service during the summer months. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in the Nursery, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer.

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## *Music and Worship Life at St. John's*

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I know that Sunday, May 11 is Mothers' day. But at St. Johns it also will be **ad hoc glee club day**. All men who enjoy singing are invited to rehearse at 8:00 a.m. to lead the 8:30 a.m. service in song. All women who love to sing will do the same, rehearsing at 10:30 a.m. for the 11:00 a.m. service. Of course, youth are invited to participate as well. This is a special opportunity for folks who cannot sing regularly with Chorale or Laudate to contribute to the worship life of this congregation.

John Ferguson  
Interim Director of Music

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## *News and Events*

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### **UPDATE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE**

**Jo Ann Polley, Chair**

The Organist/Director of Music, Worship & Arts search has proceeded on schedule at a quick pace. The committee has worked long hours in a concentrated fashion since February 12, 2014. As of our April 7th deadline, we received 36 completed applications from candidates across the United States, Canada, South Korea, and the Ukraine. Additionally, a number of potential applicants wrote letters of inquiry about our church and/or our music position.

Two candidates have been invited to St. John's for final interviews and auditions Thursday through Saturday, May 8-10th. Interested congregation members are invited to sing along during the hymns and to listen to the live "mock church service/auditions" in the Sanctuary on Thursday evening, May 8th from 8:15-8:45 p.m. and Saturday morning, May 10th from 9:15-9:45 a.m. Immediately following each audition, there will be a short question and answer session with the candidate.



# News and Events

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## Welcome to St. John's

**Welcoming Reception, Sunday, May 4:** New members will be formally welcomed during the 11:00 worship service. A reception will be held at 9:45 a.m. in St. John's Hall.

## Inquirers' Class An Experiment in Listening for God's Call

In March, a dozen households began gathering together during Education hour on Sunday mornings. Families that have come to St. John's recently, many from traditions other than ELCA Lutheran, came together with sponsor families who have been members of St. John's for a while. Our gatherings have consisted of getting to know one another, sharing what's happening in life, and listening to the Sunday lectionary text with a process known as *lectio divina*. This process is an adaptation of the ancient catechumenate, the way the early church welcomed and formed those who were entering the Christian community.

In a world where we can no longer assume whether a person has a church background, much less an understanding of Lutheranism, the modern catechumenate is designed to be about *formation* instead of *information*. We are formed together, no matter what our background, into a body by our worship, fellowship and prayer together. In this interactive way of intentional welcoming, we expect that God is doing something in and through the newcomers among us as they become part of Christ's body here. In some parts of the country, this process has transformed dying "established" churches into lively communities of mission and welcome.

On May 4 we will mark one milestone in this process with the Rite of Welcome, a prayer and blessing for newcomers with the sign of the cross. Some of our inquirers' will be affirming their baptisms, or be baptized for the first time, on Pentecost Sunday, June 8.

*How exciting it is to help welcome a new couple into life at St. John's! We look forward to this time where we get to learn more about each other in the context of reading a passage from that Sunday's bible passages. The ancient practice of "Lectio Divina" ("divine reading") in our small groups opens us up to hear where the Spirit is calling us. As we discuss our understanding of the Word as it applies to us personally we also have the precious opportunity to peek into each other's hearts and worlds. We feel drawn together through the experience and last Sunday, two in our group, a man and a woman, described how meaningful the Inquirers Class has been and a desire for it to continue.*

-Christy and Olaf Hall-Holt

*To be honest, it was hard for us when we walked through the doors of St. John's over 10 years ago. We were drawn to the deep liturgical tradition, the incredible music and strong preaching. But it was hard getting to know people, hard to find our place in the community. Over the past 7 weeks, as part of the Inquirers Class, we've gathered around the Word with several who are exploring St. John's as a their church home, returning to the faith, exploring baptism for their children or looking to affirm their own baptism. It was a bit of a risk for us at first, and certainly felt a bit intimidating wondering what we might have to offer to others. Far from being intimidating, it has been an absolute joy. In these gatherings we have gone past the ordinary small talk of strangers getting to know each other and, using the Gospel texts of the week as a catalyst for sharing thoughts, wonderment, and knowledge, we've built a deeper and stronger connection with each other – an intimacy developed that allowed for the opening of our hearts, deepened our inquiry and nurtured our souls. What a delight it has been to witness the intelligent (and sometimes delightfully irreverent and humorous) way the Word is discussed in this group. It has made us realize how much we have taken for granted – how little effort we've made in the past to truly understand what we believe, to relate it to our own lives, to reach out to others. Through the Inquirers group we have found ourselves listening more deeply. We have witnessed that as others have opened up and shared their journeys, we have found the courage, motivation and inspiration to share ours... to realize we are all wrestling with similar questions and on similar paths of exploration. Walking with other Inquirers we have discovered a warm and welcoming environment that we hope we can extend to others who knock on St. John's door.*

- Nancy Ordahl Knoch and Brad Knoch

# News and Events

## MayFest!

This year's MayFest (End of the Year Celebration) will be held on Wednesday, May 14! Starting at 5:15 p.m., come for our Wednesday night meal and stay for the Youth Choir Musical, "Oh, Jonah!", starting at 6:00 p.m.

The musical "Oh, Jonah!", by Allan Pote and Carol McCann, is the story of the prophet Jonah, and how he didn't respond to God's command at first, so he was eaten by a whale. After that he figures things out.

Three of our youth choirs are involved: Hosanna, Jubilate, and the Schola. There is also a special appearance by our youth choir assistant Ingrid Aune who will play the whale.

Please join us for this fun filled celebration which closes out our youth choir season. Everyone is welcome!

## New Facilities Manager to Begin this Month

This month St. John's welcomes Tim Byers as our new Facilities Manager. Tim, a long-time resident of Faribault, comes to us with a wealth of experience in building management as well as construction. He will be responsible for regular cleaning and maintenance of our building and will work with the Properties and Grounds Committees on ongoing projects. Don Thompson, our former Facilities Manager, will continue to contract with St. John's overseeing our restoration project.

## Tuckpointing Update

Good progress is being made on the Tuckpointing project at St. John's! At times there will be dust and noise during the weekdays around the sanctuary - this is a sign of progress. Building Restoration has now been working a couple of weeks and have been working tearing down the old damaged bricks and concrete. They will then go through a phase of rebuilding what they have torn down. This will be happening repeatedly as they work around the oldest parts of the church. They will be replacing damaged bricks as well as larger pieces of preformed block. The bricks are now on site, but the pre-cast blocks will be taken offsite, formed, and replaced as the new ones are created.

There will be times where entrances to the sanctuary will be closed. Please read the signs and do not exit or enter those closed areas. Your cooperation is much appreciated.



## 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, April 30**  
Potato Bar with fixings

**Wednesday, May 7**  
Taco Boats

**Wednesday, May 14**  
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

**Wednesday, May 21**  
Fried Chicken

Free will offering appreciated!

**Come, Share a Meal!**



# News and Events

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## **“Direct Now . . . and add \$20!” Campaign Can Help Support Congregations**

Your congregation can get an extra boost from the “Direct Now . . . and add \$20!” Thrivent Choice® campaign this spring! The campaign runs from April 1 through May 31, 2014. Here’s how it works:

- During the campaign, a member directs Choice Dollars® to a congregation or nonprofit organization.
- The first congregation or nonprofit organization the member selects will receive an additional \$20 grant from Thrivent Financial.
- The congregation or organization will receive the additional funds prior to June 30 as a one-time payment.

It’s that easy!

Let the members in your congregation know about this exciting opportunity by sharing the information below on a website, bulletin, newsletter, etc.:

Thrivent members, select our congregation the first time you direct Choice Dollars® between April 1 and May 31, 2014, and our church will receive an extra \$20 grant from Thrivent Financial! Through the “Direct Now . . . and add \$20!” campaign, Thrivent will give an extra \$20 for each member who chooses to direct Choice Dollars to our congregation first.

If you have questions please feel free to give me a call: Dayna Norvold, President of the North Rice County Thrivent Chapter, [507-323-5167](tel:507-323-5167).

## **From the Stewardship Board**

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### **Offering Ourselves and Our Time**

You are no doubt used to hearing about stewardship in the fall during our annual pledge drive. However, stewardship is more than just fundraising:

Properly speaking, stewardship is about all of life, about giving ourselves to God and using all that God has given us in grateful and appropriate ways. (*Giving to God: The Bible’s Good News about Living a Generous Life*, Mark Alan Powell, 2006)

This spring, the Stewardship Board would like to emphasize some of these other aspects of stewardship. Consider the familiar offering prayer:

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time and our possessions — signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Note that it does not only say “we offer our money (possessions)”. Rather, it says “we offer . . . ourselves, our time and our possessions”. All three of these are needed if we are to do the work that God calls us to do.

During the fall pledge drive each year, the Stewardship Board invites you to thoughtfully and prayerfully consider how you will give your money (possessions). This spring, we invite you to give that same thoughtful, prayerful consideration to how you will give of yourself and your time. To get started, please contact Joanne Sommers, Shared Ministry Coordinator at 645-4429 or via e-mail at [sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org).

Thank you.

The Stewardship Board

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## *Note of Thanks!*

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**A Special Thank you...** My family joins me to express our deep gratitude for the outpouring of support and sympathy upon the death of Ruth. When I began as interim musician I wrote of my discoveries of the strength and vitality of the ministries of St. John's, all because of you – the people of St. John's. Now I have experienced first hand the caring and compassion of the people of St. John's. From the handshake that lasts just a bit longer to the many cards and notes, I have been overwhelmed by your care.

Thank you. John Ferguson

**Thank you...** to all who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt this year by donating candy, filling and hiding eggs. We welcomed many families from the Northfield community to St. John's for this fun family event. Special thanks to Goodbye Blue Monday for providing delicious coffee and the Boehning family for bringing their Silkie chickens to share with the kids.

**A great big thank you ...** to our Wednesday afterschool volunteers this year:

**Bus Angels:** Andrea Hoff, Julie Becker, Amy McBroom, Kristy Mikula, Sara Redetzke, Connie Menssen, Betsy McLaughlin,

**Snack Servers:** Frances Boehning, Amy McBroom, Betsy McLaughlin, Katherine Norrie, Sara Redetzke

**Kid's Club:** Our St. Olaf Students; Kari, Jordan, Steven, Laura, Shelby

**Recreation:** Kristy Mikula, Julie Becker, Andrea Hoff, Sara Redetzke, Amy McBroom, Mike Skunes

**Homework Café:** Leah Garlie, Jo Franklin

**DOG:** Christy Hall-Holt

**Middle School Kids:** James Bull, Andrew Becker, Aidan Nutt, Cate Carson, Jacob Gonnerman, Jada Johnson, Anne France

## *April Actions*

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### **Baptisms**

April 27, 2014: Amelia Evelyn VanSickle, daughter of Sarah and Adam VanSickle.

### **Radio Broadcasts**

April 6, 2014, given by Brynhild Rowberg in memory of Andrew, Marie, and Leland Rowberg.

April 13, 2014, given by Judy Christensen in memory of Fritjof (Fritz) Christensen whose birthday was April 14.

April 20, 2014, given by Sharon Bishop in memory of her parents.

April 27, 2014, given in memory of Leonard and Marie DeWolfe by family and friends.

# *Learning and Fellowship*

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## **Sunday Learning and Fellowship in May**

*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)*

### **May 4:**

*Welcoming Reception for Inquirers' and New Members: Between services, St. John's Hall.*

*No Forum*

### **May 11:**

*Last Day of Sunday School: Celebration in St. John's Hall*

*Forum: TBD*

### **May 18:**

*No Sunday School or Forum*

### **May 25:**

*Start of Summer Worship Schedule - 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.*

# *Mission Outreach*

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## **Special Offering in May for Lutheran World Relief**

The special giving envelope in May is designated for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The goal for St. John's is to raise a minimum of \$4000 for LWR. Last year St. John's members donated \$8,703! The total amount is sent to LWR. LWR coordinates relief and development projects around the world on behalf of Lutherans in the United States. In 2013 LWR reached out to 7.7 million people in 35 countries through 185 projects in the areas of agriculture, emergency response aid, water access and quality, the environment, and health care including malaria eradication. Apart from emergency relief, LWR development projects try to focus on the root causes of poverty – in an effort to follow Christ's call to love our neighbor and to care for the least of these. For more information on LWR projects go to [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org). Thank you for your generosity!



# *Serving on Sundays in May*

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## *Acolytes*

- May 4** (8:30) Elsa Nystrom, Stefany Perez; (11:00) Emily Canedy, Caroline Hummel  
**May 11** (8:30) Dale Gehring, Jacob Gonnerman; (11:00) Trey Coudret, Alex Redetzke  
**May 18** (8:30) Siri Lindell, Kucheang Mangok; (11:00) Cheyanne Smith, Viveka Hall-Holt  
**May 25** (8:30) TBD; (11:00) TBD

## *Communion Preparers*

- May 4** Dale and Karen Schuette  
**May 11** Joe and Judy Smith  
**May 18** Joe and Carole Nesheim  
**May 25** Judy Smith

## *Counters*

- May 4** Otto and LaVerne Reitz, Mark Ulmer, Amy Boxrud  
**May 11** Patrick Bougie, Dan Franklin, Sue Brockman, Bill Gasho  
**May 18** Basil Mroz, Adam Solyst, Mark Ulmer, Kasia Gonnerman  
**May 25** Mark and Kathy Granquist, Rebecca Judge, Jim Enestvedt

## *Welcome Desk*

- May 4** Shirley Falck  
**May 11** Mary Ellen North  
**May 18** Solveig Bailey  
**May 25** Marilyn Boschee

## *Ushers*

- May 4** (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  
**May 11** (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  
**May 18** (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  
**May 25** (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

# 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

## Men's Time Out

Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271

## Peace and Justice

Contact: Judith Stoutland 645-7842

## Prayer and Praise

Contact: Mary White 645-4783

## Spiritual Practices

Contact: Dick Beckman 664-3882

## Tuesday Noon Bible Study

Contact: 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

## Everyone Has a Story

*By Barbara Eaves*

Waiting in line to get into the concert hall, we struck up a conversation with another person standing there. One topic led to another, first about what drew us to the concert we came to hear, then to where we each lived and eventually to the realization that we had some common acquaintances. It was a lively conversation that took place over the course of about 10 minutes, and eventually it began to develop into a new friendship.

Perhaps the most valuable lesson from that chance meeting is the reminder that everyone has a story. When, in conversation, we begin to share our story, even bits and pieces in a ten-minute exchange, we begin to discover the common humanity which ties us to one another. I remember a time when a young mother shared what she thought was a unique problem she was having with a toddler, only to find out that several others in the group had experienced the same thing. At that moment she realized she was not alone in her feelings but was part of a community of understanding and support.

A congregation is a community of relationships uniquely woven by the events and life passages which bring us together. We gather to worship, share a meal, learn and serve. We surround one another for a baptism and at the time of death. In and through such experiences we get to know one another and receive strength, support, and encouragement for each day. In like manner, we are enabled to extend these same gifts of grace to the people we encounter in our daily lives.

*Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine, and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

ELW #641, vs.1 & 3

*If you are interested in leading a small group or have a suggestion for a new small group please contact a member of the Small Group Leadership Team:*

Sandi Gerdes 645-2290,  
[classysandi@yahoo.com](mailto:classysandi@yahoo.com)

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

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

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





# WOMEN OF THE ELCA

## Mission Statement:

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

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

## WELCA May Program - - - Thursday, May 1

To buy and sell human beings has been outlawed by a tragic war and strong laws - - - hasn't it? Not according to statistics in **human trafficking**. If you were to google that term, you would be overwhelmed by the number of sites giving information - - - information that would sicken your mind and heart. Yet, once again, WELCA will bring a knowledgeable and God-driven speaker, Sister Judy Chiodo, who will tell us of what her organization of Rochester Franciscan nuns is doing to inform about and prevent such a horror. She will speak of the people who are targeted as "products" to be marketed for easy profit. She will speak of what is being done by law enforcement and about safety nets for the victims. She will speak of what we can do to help prevent this growing "criminal industry."

Hostesses who will serve refreshments on this "May Day" will be the women from Martha/Claudia Circle. Bring a friend and join the women of St. John's at **1:00 PM on Thursday, May first in St. John's Hall.**

**Thank you, thank you Barb Walters** and all the women whose help you enlisted to serve a fabulous lunch at the **Spring Gathering** of the Cannon River Conference on Saturday, April 12. The lunch was the conclusion of a morning where 80 some women from many churches in the Conference heard from campus pastors and students talking about their involvement in Lutheran ministries on college campuses. Chaplain Brian Konkell (Gustavus) spoke of being a spiritual mentor to students who may be Lutheran, or Buddhist or unsure of what they were. Pastor Tammy Dahlvang (Mankato) told about her active group which provides a food shelf to students and their "entry level" worship. Pastor Corrine Denis (Winona) related the individual students she knows to women in the Bible (from hymn #419, For All the Faithful Women). The two women students from St. Olaf spoke of their participation in the congregation on campus. It was a kaleidoscopic, hopeful view of the church.

**Northfield Ecumenical Women** will have their annual gathering at Little Prairie Methodist Church on **Saturday, May 3 at 9:30 am** for women from all the local churches to bring their "least coin offering." This is a movement started about 53 years ago under the umbrella of *Church Women United* as a way of involving women around the world in a project of prayer and positive action. It was an encouragement to demonstrate unity in Christian faith, regardless of country or economic circumstances. The "least coins" given add up to thousands of dollars and are given as grants of \$4000 to \$5000 to women's programs in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific islands. This May morning is a chance to talk to and pray with other Northfield Christian women - - - and have morning coffee together.

## Womens Circles & Work Groups

5/5 **Bible Study Leaders** - noon, Fireside Room

5/7 **Lydia** - 9:30 a.m., M. Boschee, 1714 Humphrey Ct.

5/7 **Sarah** - 9:30 a.m., C. Nesheim, Fireside Room

5/8 **Martha/Claudia** - 9:30 Pkv. W

5/8 **Elizabeth** - 1:30 p.m., J. Pinc, 1422 Blue Flag Ct.

5/8 **Abigail/Rebecca** - 2:00 p.m., Pkv. E

5/9 **Mary** - 1:00 p.m. 1604 Cannon Valley Dr.

5/10 **Women's Brkfst. Group** - 8:30 a.m., Fireside

5/6, 5/20 **Knitters** - 9:00 a.m., K. Vang

5/12, 5/15 **Quilters** - 9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**Fair Trade Coffee & Tea Sale** will be Sunday, May 18

Submit items for **Voice** to Genevieve Quarberg ([davidquarberg@hotmail.com](mailto:davidquarberg@hotmail.com))

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

# From the Peace and Justice group

*Development Works* is a project of Bread for the World Institute that can help us to understand the realities of global hunger and poverty and the efforts of the U.S. and allies among developed countries to lift millions out of misery and deprivation. Here is another selection from the project's list of "Myths and Realities."

**Myth:** The U.S. provides more than its fair share of development assistance.

**Reality:** Multilateral programs are supported financially by a variety of donors. For example, the L'Aquila global agriculture initiative includes not only pledges of \$3.5 billion over three years from the U.S. and \$3 billion each from Germany and Japan, but also \$2 billion from the Netherlands (population 16.7 million) and \$1 billion from Canada (population 34.7 million).

The U.S. saves millions of lives every year with programs like child immunizations, PEPFAR, and food aid. There is no doubt that our efforts make a big difference. But the amount the U.S. gives per person is less than average for donors and far less than Scandinavian countries. Preliminary data for 2011 indicate that Sweden and Denmark devoted more than 1 percent of their national income to development assistance. The U.K. gave 0.56 percent, the average for 23 donor countries was 0.46 percent, and the U.S. was near the bottom of the list at 0.2 percent.

Learn much more at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

## ***JUSTICE CALENDAR***

**Monday, May 5, 2014**

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

*Topic: Projects in Response to Needs Discovered plus Topics and Concerns for Summer and Fall*

*All are welcome!*

After our two year study of the criminal justice system, we are pleased that we have found some things that we can do in response to needs that we learned about. These are described in a separate article nearby.

At our meeting on May 5, we will discuss the projects which we will be paying attention to in the time ahead. We will also look at topics and actions that we can focus on in the summer and fall. Please join us, bringing your ideas and concerns. Our group is a very open group. We welcome a variety of opinions. And there is much to learn and to do.

If you have any questions and/or comments you may call or write Judith Stoutland (645 7842 or [judithstoutland@gmail.com](mailto:judithstoutland@gmail.com))

## Projects that Respond to Needs in the Rice County Justice System

After two years of studying the US Court system and, more closely, the Community Corrections department of the Rice County system, members of the Peace and Justice Group are now focusing on two projects.

The first project is translating important materials into Spanish. At this time the focus is on pamphlets in the County Attorney's office and on victim letters. Having these resources will help in the work of that office and will benefit the citizens involved. We have a source of funds to pay for this. Our interest and our help in finding translator/translators will aid in getting this done as soon as possible.

A second project is a 'clothes closet' which will help provide newly released persons to make the best possible impression as they move into society and interview for jobs, for example. This is in a beginning - planning stage. This project may also provide other opportunities for citizens to help with re-entry needs.

Members of the Peace & Justice Group are keeping alert for further ways that we might serve in this area. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Greg Colby.

**Pastors**

*Pam Fickenscher*

*John Quam*

**Children's Ministry**

*Julie Brehmer*

**Facility Manager**

*Tim Byers*

**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*



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Summer is almost here! Worship hours will  
change on  
Sunday, May 25.

8:30 a.m. Worship  
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship  
10:00 a.m. Worship

See you at Church!