

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

June / July 2014

Volume 54, Number 6

*on the
inside . . .*

Update from the
Call Committee

✧ p. 3

Rhubarb Sunday

✧ p. 11

Night to Unite

✧ p. 16

+ + +

Worship Services:

8:30 a.m. & 10:00 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.

MUSIC SEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT

The St. John's Lutheran Church Music Search Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of Nathan Proctor to the full-time position of Organist/Director of Music, Worship & Arts.

Nathan has been serving as the Associate Director of Music at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina since 2009 and also as the Music Leader at the Montreat Conference Center in Montreat, North Carolina since 2010. During his time in his full-time position at White Memorial, Nathan has worked with all ages of singers from first graders through adults. Additionally, he has served as organist, pianist, cantor, directed a children's handbell choir, and shared the responsibility of directing an adult handbell choir. (Nathan's colleague at White Memorial is a respected handbell authority. Nathan took advantage of this opportunity by playing in the adult handbell choir under this person's direction for a year and half before taking over part of the handbell program himself).

Nathan received a Master of Music Degree in Organ Performance from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana in 2008. His organ professor at Indiana was Larry Smith, a legendary fine organ teacher. In 2006 Nathan graduated from St. Olaf College with a Bachelor of Music Degree in Church Music. While at St. Olaf, he studied organ with John Ferguson; choral conducting from Anton Armstrong and Robert Scholz; and he sang in the Viking Chorus, the St. Olaf Cantorei, and the St. Olaf Choir.

Some of you might recognize Nathan, as he served as a summer organist here in 2006 and was the Assistant Director for the Troubadours Choir of the Northfield Youth Choirs from 2004-2006.

Passionate about worship, Nathan Proctor promises to energize the congregation through his music ministry. He plans to move to Northfield and join our congregation in August.

Jo Ann Polley

Music Search Committee Chair



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

8:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.
Worship

9:30 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship

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*

Circles of Care at St. Johns

Part of being a member of St. John's is caring for members of our church family. Because God in Christ cares for us, we care for one another, in many different ways.

Through prayer we bring the needs and concerns of people in our congregation before God. This may happen through the prayer chain or in the prayers at Sunday morning worship. And of course, many of us remember one another in our own prayers.

Another way we take care of one another is through small group ministries. These groups meet regularly and often allow us to become more closely acquainted with one another's joys and sorrows. Every small group at St. John's can form a circle of care around its members, whether it is a church board, a circle, a choir, or a small group ministry.

We also care for one another by reaching out through notes, visits, and telephone calls. We employ these when we learn that a member of the congregation is sick or hospitalized or bereaved. It is especially important to reach out in these ways when we notice that people usually at church services are no longer attending. A statement like, "We miss seeing you at church," tells them that they are important members of our church family.

Actively caring for one another is one of the most important things we do. If you know someone who would benefit from regular caring visits with a Stephen Minister, contact Joan Halvorson at 645-8445 or one of the pastors at 645-4429.

*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 anyone grieving the loss of a loved one will continue to meet on Tuesdays 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."

June 16, 2013
James Molkenbur

July 15, 2013
Eloise Severson

July 26, 2013
Josef Thompson

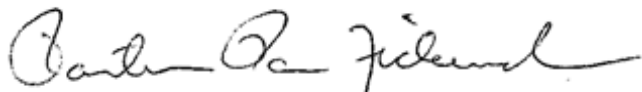
From our pastors ...

Summer is for Blossoming!

Though it seems we've been in "spring on hold" now for some months, there are indeed leaves on the trees and blossoms appearing outside. After a late Pentecost on June 8, we begin the "long green season" of the church in which we respond to God's Word with growth in faith, hope and love. The seeds that have been planted through God's grace in our lives blossom and grow as we live lives of love and service. In the next two months we can look forward to many signs of blossoming at St. John's, the fruits of work begun in the dead of winter:

- Our Music Search Committee has completed its work, and we look forward to welcoming Nathan Proctor as our next Organist/ Director of Worship, Music and Arts in August!
- The tuckpointing project is moving along and we hope to reclaim our courtyard for gardening in midsummer.
- Our children and youth will continue to blossom in faith as they experience summer camp, mission trips, mystery tours, VBS and all the other opportunities that summer schedules allow!
- Many of our inquirers will be baptized or affirm their baptisms on Pentecost, June 8. Watch for an opportunity to experience this process of faith formation yourself this summer!
- We look beyond our own walls to help others flourish in this season. Watch for opportunities to volunteer so that children may eat through CAC's summer meals, or to build new affordable housing through Habitat for Humanity.
- For the long "green" season of the church year we'll dedicate two new banners designed by Judy Swanson and given in memory of Kathy Mrosz. These banners will highlight the abundance of creation that we witness in this season and for which we are ever grateful.

St. John's is alive and growing in the promises of our baptism – promises to receive God's grace and pass it on to others in word and deed. Join us in worship, fellowship and service as the Spirit empowers us to share Christ's life with all.



FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE ...

The St. John's Call Committee for Associate Pastor has fielded a few questions recently regarding the "job description" we are advertising to candidates.

Although the call process has prompted us to list the gifts and strengths we would like to see in our new associate pastor, we have not created a job description *per se*. Instead, we are taking a more holistic view as we seek an associate pastor who not only demonstrates a certain set of qualities, but will be a good cultural fit for the congregation as a whole and a good partner in ministry with Pastor Fickenscher.

We remain on track as we began interviewing candidates the week of May 19.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue on this journey, and don't hesitate to direct questions to our chair, Gary Wicks (garywicks@charter.net, 507-645-7744).

One Great Week, Three Great Programs!

August 11 - 14

Programs hosted by the following churches:

Bethel, Emmaus, St. Peter's and St. John's



Vacation Bible School for Age 3 (by 9/1/13) – Kindergarten (completed)

Vacation Bible School “Workshop of Wonders” will be held the same week as “On the Road”. Kindergarteners have the option of choosing between VBS or “On the Road”. The VBS program starts on Monday, August 11 thru Thursday, August 14 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Emmaus Church. The cost is \$10.00 per child with a \$20.00 family limit. VBS registration is appreciated by July 15 for planning purposes. VBS registration form can be found at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org under “Children Ministries.”

NEW THIS YEAR!

Vacation Bible School for Ages 2 and 3! (Date of birth 9/1/2010 – 12/31/2011)

Even our littlest ones can come to VBS this year! “Workshop of Wonders” will be held for 2 and 3 year olds at Emmaus Church, same week and same time! Separate Registration forms are available on the St. John's website or in the Main Office.

“On the Road”, Summer Camp, for kids completing Kindergarten – 5th grade

“On the Road” will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church the week of August 11 – 14. The program begins at 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Campers may be dropped off anytime between 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. and picked up between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. You may register online at www.goodearthvillage.com, click on summer programs, “GEV, On the Road” and choose the Northfield site. The deadline is August 1 or until the camp is full.

Scholarships are available for all summer camp opportunities.

We need many volunteers for VBS and “On the Road”!

Volunteers needed for VBS:

- Crew leaders – lead a small group of children to various stations
- Station Leaders and assistants – lead music, crafts, games Bible storytelling, snacks
- Decorating and prep – prior to VBS
- Help with Registration on Monday, August 11
- Nursery Care

Volunteers needed for “On the Road”:

- Provide and housing for Good Earth Village camp counselors

Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at children@stjohnsnorthfield.org or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet!

Looking ahead to camp!

Our prayers are with all of our campers as they head to Camp this summer!



Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, grades 6 – 8,

June 15-20, Spicer, MN

Campers attending this year:

Andrew Becker
Cole Little
Peter Neeb
Aidan Nutt
Cole Johannsen
Kenyon Nystrom

Shores of St. Andrews, grades 3-5,

June 15-20, New London, MN

Campers attending this year:

Maddie Aman
Amelia Becker
Gunnar Benson
Thea Benson
Matthew DeBuse
Clayton Garlie
Prescott Garlie
Rhett Garlie
Oden Hoff
Teigen Hoff
Ethan Little
Kaylee Malecha
Charlie Neeb
Ainsley Nutt
Elsa Nystrom
Jeanette Pelletier
Halle Pinc

It's not too late to check out Family Camp!

Interested in going to Family Camp with your family this summer?

Check out the family camp options at

Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN or at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN.

Go to Good Earth Village's website: www.goodearthvillage.org,

Green Lake Lutheran Ministry's website: www.GLLM.org

to find out dates and registration information.



**Watch for the Children's Registration
Packet for the 2014-2015 school year
coming in July!**



YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Adopt-A-Highway

When: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 26th

Where: Meet in NHS Parking Lot

Who: Anyone 12 years & up

What: Serving Northfield by cleaning up our stretch of highway 246 that extends from Casey's to about a mile past the Middle School. We'll clean up trash for a little over two hours then finish up with a treat at Culver's on St. John's.



HS Bonfires

When: 4th Wednesdays this Summer

Dates: June 25th, July 23rd, August 27th

Who: 8th-12th Grade (recently completed)

Join us as we bust out a portable fire pit for high school bonfire nights at St. John's. Come eat s'mores, play silly games, worship and stay connected with your friends from St. John's throughout the summer. New friends welcome, too!

We'll meet the 4th Wednesday of each month in the St. John's parking lot from **8:00 - 10:00 p.m.**

For June 25th, if we get fifteen or more to show, we'll play Romans and Christians once it starts to get dark. If we get less than fifteen, we'll play sardines.

See ya there!



Magical Mystery

Tours

When: 2nd Wednesday of each Month during summer:

June 11th, July 9th, August 13th

Who: Any 5th-8th Graders
(recently completed)

What is a "Magical Mystery Tour"?

Magical Mystery Tours are events organized by the youth directors of churches in Northfield (NAYW). Other churches include Bethel, Emmaus, St. Peters, St. Doms, Trinity, Rejoice!, The Methodist Church, and Cornerstone. The 'mystery part of it is the youth don't know where we are going. The youth find out where we are going and what we are doing when we get there. They are usually a ton of fun and a great way for youth to stay connected with their friends from St. Johns and area churches. Some examples of past trips; Faribault Aquatic Park, Twins Games, Feed My Starving Children, Drive-In Movies, Sky-Zone, ect.

Letters will go out to parents three to four weeks in advance detailing specific times, cost, and if any specific clothing is necessary for the event. We hope you join us!



Notes of Thanks!

**Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who helped
with Children's Ministries this year!**

We couldn't do great programming without YOU!



A big "THANK YOU" is due to our kitchen
volunteers for the weekly Wednesday night meals.
They will resume in September.

Special thanks to
Linda Anderson, Peggy Dell, and Kristi Harms!

Be on the look-out for
summertime meal & fellowship opportunities.



Get Involved with Children's Ministries! For children to feel connected to their church, it's important for them to build relationships with at least 5 adults, other than their parents. With that in mind, please consider how you can help with Children's programming in September by volunteering with Sunday School or Wednesday afternoon programming. We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities. If you are interested, please talk with Julie Brehmer or check out the volunteer opportunities in the Sunday School registration packet. **P.S. High School students** – talk with Julie about how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Summer Meals for Kids: We are pleased to share with everyone that the CAC (Community Action Center) has announced they will be offering free meals through their Summer Meals for Kids program again this summer. These meals are available free to children through the age of 18 and for a small fee to the adults that accompany these children. They will be serving these meals at Jefferson Square on Monday, Wednesday and Friday each week beginning June 16th and ending August 18th. As soon as we receive notification of the actual times and days they need us to volunteer we will post a sign up sheet on the Volunteer Board next to the office door. Watch the bulletin for further information.

Please Say "Yes" to Being a Greeter: It's always nice to be greeted with a friendly smile and a warm handshake when entering a church. We, at St. John's, feel this is an extremely important service that we, as parishioners, can fill. With this in mind, we hope to set up a new system, whereby people can sign up ahead of time with other names for a particular Sunday each month. Something like the ushers use. That way there will always be "back up" if one can't greet or, even better, we will have several greeters at once, which would be nice. If you can help out in this way there will be a sign-up sheet in the Commons. This is a service that is very important, fun to do, and so very easy. If you have questions please call Marilyn McRae Raadt, Greeting Coordinator, at 645-8403.

SERVING TO LOVE  *LOVING TO SERVE*

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

From the Organ Bench – End of year Musings

In spite of our late spring, the calendar confirms that the school and church program year is about to end. While it is always good to say thank you to the many musicians whose talents enrich our worship life, the end of the program year is an especially appropriate time to do so.

St. John's is blessed with many folk willing to commit to regular participation in one of our choirs. Like any athletic team, choirs don't function well without consistent participation – the essential commitment to be a steward of one's schedule making time for rehearsals and worship. As you encounter any of our choir members old or young, do take a moment to thank them.

Then, too we have talented directors: Carol Benson, Cathy Rodland (fine organist too!), Ruth Legvold and Zach Pelletier. Be sure to thank them or better yet write them a note. Then there are many others as well: Jubilate & Schola accompanist Marilyn Jacobson, faithful Intern Ingrid Aune (who enjoyed being the whale in the choir musical), instrumentalists, librarians, and families and parents willing to adjust their schedules to enable choir participation by other family members. This enabling is also a significant stewardship commitment and it is good to honor that stewardship.

Then there is me. A very special thank you to the people of St. John's for inviting me to be acting organist and director of music. What a privilege it has been to serve you. Your encouragement and support has been a great gift, especially as I have navigated a rocky road these last two years. During my time with you I have been privileged to work closely with an amazing group of committed and gifted people – our church staff. Their commitment to serve the family we call St. John's has impressed me deeply. We are blessed to have them!

Sometime in August we will welcome our new Organist/Director of Music, Worship and Arts, Nathan Proctor. At that time, I'll be delighted to return "downstairs" to a pew and begin my second retirement.

Soli Deo Gloria,

John Ferguson

May Actions

Deaths

Christopher Nevin, April 5, 2014

Edward Sovik, May 4, 2014

Baptisms

May 11, 2014: Ava Victoria Dawson,
daughter of Lacey and Benjamin Dawson.

May 11, 2014: Jack McGregor Zempel,
son of Samantha and Torfinn Zempel.

Radio Broadcasts

May 4, 2014, given by friends and family of Kevin Heiberg who passed away on January 21. Kevin was the son of Elvin and Corrine Heiberg.

May 11, 2014, given by Dave & Anne Brust, Katie & Libby; Cheryl & Dave Buck, Kirstin and Ryan; Mark & Signe Brust, Buren and Liesl, to celebrate an amazing mom and grandma, Pat Fick. We love you Grandma Pat! Happy Mother's Day!

May 18, 2014, given by Wayne and Julie Eddy in loving memory of Millie Johnson. Millie and Wayne shared a May 22nd birthday.

May 25, 2014, given by friends of St. John's.

. . . Mission Outreach

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 \$4,000 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. Thank you for your generosity!



Letter from El Cocuy

April 11, 2014 – El Cocuy Boyacá

St. John's Lutheran Church, Minnesota

May the Resurrected Lord continue filling you with his grace and an abundant life in Him.

We greet you with a fraternal embrace in Christ, thankful for the brotherhood that you have maintained with us during these past years, we constantly remember you in our prayers and give thanks to God for the blessing it has been to us.

We wish to inform you that we received the economic resources that you sent from the estate of our sister Val Hallen of \$42,000, which in Colombian pesos is \$76,440.00 and with these resources we are now beginning to develop the project of repair and improvement of Celco Cocuy (i.e. the school), at this time we are reinforcing the security of the school by: installing a metal grating in the ceiling over the technology room of 3.50 by 7.00 meters, we are reinforcing the doors of the classrooms and the entrance to the main patio by putting in new panels and metal pins, also in the office of the school, they installed two metal grates, one in the library and the other in the rectory. In total 7 sheets of good quality have been installed.

The upgrade of the two bathrooms we will accomplish during the vacation period at the end of the year, the end of June and beginning of the month of July.

In another communication we will try to send a photographic report.

Our congregation, Lutheran Church of El Salvador sends you our sincere thanks and many greetings.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ

Serving on Sundays in June and July

Acolytes

June 1	(8:30) Grant Huston; (10:00) Kenyon Nystrom
June 8	(8:30) Willa Kmoch; (10:00) Griffin Rod
June 15	(8:30) Siri Lindell; (10:00) Parker Aman
June 22	(8:30) Sam Mikula; (10:00) Cate Carson
June 29	(8:30) Rikka Zillmer; (10:00) Alex Dell
July 6	(8:30) Emily Canedy; (10:00) Maddi Ims
July 13	(8:30) Anna Webber; (10:00) Cole Johanssen
July 20	(8:30) Isaac Riggins; (10:00) Peter Neeb
July 27	(8:30) Alison Nelson; (10:00) Alex Redetzke

Communion Preparers

June 1	Elvin and Corrine Heiberg, Judy Smith
June 8	Kathy Vang, Anita Hellie, Judy Smith
June 15	Dale and Karen Schuette, Judy Smith
June 22	Betsy Busa, Judy Smith
June 29	Dale and Karen Schuette, Judy Smith

Counters

June 1	William Carlson, Adam Solyst, Char Carlson, Amy Boxrud
June 8	Patrick Bougie, Dan Franklin, Sue Brockman, Bill Gasho
June 15	LaVerne Reitz, Otto Reitz, Mark Ulmer, Kasia Gonnerman
June 22	Basil Mroz, Wil Brosz, Mark Ulmer, Brent Bash
June 29	Mark Granquist, Kathy Granquist, Rebecca Judge

Nursery

June 1	Saul and Amy McBroom
June 8	Angie McCarthy, Elsa Hoff
June 15	Kris Vatter and Syneva Bratland
June 22	Amelia Kneser, Siri Lindell
June 29	Katherine Norrie, Cecilia Kryzda
July 6	Jenn Paulson, Ariana Beeby
July 13	Emma Kmoch, Shari Williams
July 20	Kristy Harms, Elizabeth Brockman
July 27	Kristen Partlo and Anna Webber

Serving on Sundays in June and July

Ushers

- Jun 1/Jul 6** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Gordon Mickelsen; (10:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber
- Jun 8/ Jul13** (8:30) Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Don Sahling, Patrick Bougie, Dick Werdahl; (10:00) Jonathan Norrie, Zachary Bahler, Andrew Dell, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
- Jun 15/Jul20** (8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, David Gonnerman, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Basil Mroz, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
- June 22/Jul 27** (8:30) Dallas Berg, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Rob Nutt, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert; (10:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback, Emily Westerback
- June 29** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Doug Johnson, Gordon Mickelsen; (10:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber

News and Events

Rhubarb Sunday is June 15!



It's time to cut the rhubarb, search for your special rhubarb recipe, and whip it up...and bring it to St. John's for Rhubarb Sunday on June 15. Whether you bring a rhubarb dessert or not everyone is welcome to enjoy all the delicious creations between services in St. John's Hall. If you can bring a rhubarb dessert please sign up in the Commons. We need 25 people to bring a dessert of their choice on Saturday, June 14 or before the first service on June 15. Questions? Call Guy Reid (645-7984) or the Church Office. (If you'd like to bake a dessert but need some rhubarb, watch for information about families who have rhubarb to share.) Coming Sunday July 13 – Strawberry Sunday!

News and Events

From Bread for the World *Development Works* Series...

Development Works from Bread for the World Institute is a series of messages and reports supplying information about global hunger and poverty issues. The intent is to equip us with knowledge and understanding, separating myth from reality, as we advocate with elected representatives as individuals, congregations and synods for policies that will reduce hunger and poverty.

Myth: U.S. leadership on development isn't really essential.

Reality: U.S. leadership leverages additional funding from other donors. Conversely, U.S. withdrawal from development initiatives sends a signal that often leads to a decrease in support from other donors as well. At the end of the 1980s the U.S. cut back its support for agricultural development leading to a decline in support from other developed countries. Recently USAID told Congress that it is increasing its contributions to multilateral funds to combat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria knowing that each U.S. dollar will generate \$2, \$3, or \$4 from other sources.

Learn much more at www.bread.org

NORTHFIELD NOONTIME ORGAN RECITALS 2014

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals enter their eighth season this summer beginning July 2 and concluding on August 13. All seven recitals will be held during the Wednesday noon hour from 12:15 to 12:45 p. m. with the following schedule:

Wed. July 2 - Dr. James Bobb, Assistant Professor of Organ and Church Music at St. Olaf College
Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College

Wed. July 9 - Jacob Fuhrman, Eastman School of Music,
St. John's Lutheran Church

Wed., July 16 - Rev. Richard Collman and David K. Miller, Organ & Piano, "Basically Bach",
Northfield United Methodist Church

Wed. July 23 - George Fergus, St. Olaf College Organ Graduate,
Studio A., Christiansen Hall of Music, St. Olaf College

Wed. July 30 - Stephen May, Director of Music, Our Saviour's Episcopal Church in Faribault,
Playing at Skinner Chapel, Carleton College

Wed. August 6 - Rosalie Alcoser, Music Director and Organist, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Rochester, MN,
Playing at First United Church of Christ

Wed. August 13 - Dr. John Ferguson, Emeritus professor of Organ and Church Music,
St. Olaf College, Boe Chapel., St. Olaf College

Some recitals will include a free-will offering to defray publicity expenses. For more information, contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357 or email him at rkcollman@msn.com

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

The Grace of Relationships

By Barbara Eaves

A recent day on the calendar reminded me of a childhood friend whose first name I share and whose birthday is exactly a month earlier than mine. In the summer we were usually outside in the early morning, playing jacks on the front porch waiting for the rest of the neighborhood to wake up.

One of my favorite memories of Barb is when we would take the city bus downtown where I had an accordion lesson and her grandmother lived. I was the proud owner of a brand new 120-base piano accordion...bright red...which was just about as big as I was. So Barb would help me tote the heavy accordion one block to the bus stop, onto the city bus and downtown to the music studio. While I had my lesson, she would go across the street to visit her grandmother who lived in the only remaining house on a popular city street of movie theaters and retail businesses. After my lesson, I would go across the street where Barb's grandmother treated us to cookies and milk. Then we would walk a few doors down the street to the furrier shop where Barb's dad worked and we would always visit the women in the back room who were sewing fur coats and hats, and they would give us fur scraps to take home. I have no idea where Barb is today, but would so enjoy connecting with her once again.

How about you? As you recall days and years gone by, what people or events still linger in your memory as precious gems? In opening our memory boxes we usually find that the real treasure there is people—the people we have met and known and the relationships we have formed and shared. Each of us has stories to tell—stories which in some way have shaped and informed who we are even now.

If we think back on our own faith journey, we usually can point to people who were central in teaching, mentoring, and nurturing us along the way. In so doing, we discover the preciousness of relationships which have blessed and enriched us in countless ways.

Stories and relationships can be gifts of grace—for opening, remembering and passing on.

*In Christ called to baptize, we witness to grace
and gather a people from each land and race.
In deep, flowing waters, we share in Christ's death,
then, rising to new life, give thanks with each breath.*

*Unite us, anoint us, O Spirit of love,
for you are within us, around us, above.
Equip us for service with gifts you bestow,
In Christ is our calling. In Christ may we grow.*

ELW 575, vs. 1 & 4

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.

"Two are better than one" is an idea that stands behind the strong leadership among women in St. John's WELCA. At the May meeting, new women were added to the group of officers who will continue serving the next year. **Jane Gelle** and **Genevieve Quarberg** moved from vice-president into president's position while **Shirley Keltto** and **Jo Franklin** went off the board after 2 years of loyal service. **Carol James** will continue as secretary and **Barbara Walters** will continue as treasurer. **Anita Hellie** and **Mary Hoff** will be co-vice-presidents. There are three mission positions which really do much of the work within the women's group. (Since the national office has just changed the name designations I will include both old and new names.) **Debbie Becker** will be going off as Mission Growth/Justice co-chair after two years of helping produce wonderful programs while **Solveig Zempel** will continue along with **Mary Beth Beck**. For Mission Community/Discipleship chair, **Carol Benson** will stay on, adding **Jo Dahlin**, while Anita Hellie became co-vice president. **Norma Gilbertson** and **Judy Pinc** will continue serving as co-chairs of Mission Action Stewardship.

The May program was about the increasing crime of human trafficking. The WELCA board, meeting with circle chairs, voted to send \$500 from Thrivent gifts to Mission 21 for its work on behalf of young women who are rescued from this criminal world. Many of this past year's programs have been concerned about women and children, about education, in Rice County and the world. This theme was part of the idea behind 'mission growth/justice.'

Next year, the women planning the programs are focusing on "immigration." St. John's started out as immigrants, which we will look at by going to the immigrant rural churches Holden, Valley Grove, and Vang. We are so fortunate that we will be led by our own church historian Joe Shaw. Put that on your calendar for October 2. We will also look at the significant efforts on the part of St. John's members working with refugees and immigrants, especially after WWII. And again we will call on one of our own, De Ane Lagerquist, Professor of Religion at St. Olaf to lead us. Put that on your calendar for September 4.

But first, there's the summer. Two women from St. John's, **Jane Rinehart** and **Christy Hall-Holt**, will be attending the WELCA Triennial Convention July 24 - 27, in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Thrivent gift also made it possible for us to send two women. We wish them God-speed and a thrilling experience to be with so many other Lutheran women from all over the country.

Summer means schedules for women's groups stop - - - except for **quilting!** Those busy fingers will continue on the third Monday and Thursday of each month. Some circles will meet for lunch or picnics. If you have a group of friends who would like to be a part of a circle Bible study, WELCA will help you start a new one!

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

New Synod Goal: Achieving Food Security for All

At the synod assembly on May 2-3, our churches were given the challenge to partner together to end food insecurity in southeastern Minnesota by 2020. As people of faith, God calls us to work together to feed the hungry.

In our synod, 62,750 people (9.8%) are food insecure. Bishop Delzer and other speakers urged us to work together as a synod, so we can truly cause a decline in hunger rates throughout our region.

By educating one another about the depth of the issue, creating realistic action plans, strengthening existing networks, and sharing stories of success, **we can truly impact change!** This endeavor will be an area of primary focus over the next six years.



How is our congregation currently involved in food related ministries?

- Our \$11,528 March donation to the Northfield CAC Foodshelf, as well as personal donations in cash or food to the Foodshelf throughout the year
- Volunteering to work at the Food Shelf, especially in July, St. John's month to assist
- Wednesday night suppers open to all (invite someone to join us!)
- Distributing Meals-On-Wheels in October
- Hosting community "Dinner Time Cooking Club" the first Monday of each month
- Supporting Thursdays Table at the Northfield Resource Center
- Free community Christmas Day dinner
- Member of Bread for the World, and writing letters to Congress about food issues.

WHAT ELSE COULD WE DO? Are there new ways we might consider engaging with this critical issue? Our churches are asked to share stories of how we are working to eradicate hunger. This month's issue of River Crossings, the synod newsletter, celebrates a variety of ways congregations are connecting food and faith. Powerful ministry stories abound! You can read them at: <http://semnsynod.org/news-and-events/river-crossings/>

Food Insecurity Taskforce. The synod has a new task force with four working groups to get at the food insecurity. If any of these areas interest you, contact Pastor Pete Reuss (507-280-9457, reuse@semnsynod.org).

1. **Advocacy**, to educate about hunger and to advocate ways to counter systemic causes of hunger.
2. **Hands-On**, to increase activities in congregations to eradicate food insecurity.
3. **Healthy Food**, to ensure access to nutritious food.
4. **Relationships**, to build relationships with the food insecure and to eradicate its stigma.

If you have ideas for more we can do at St. John's, contact one of our staff, or Judith Stoutland, chair of the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board.

St. John's was represented at the assembly by Shirley Keltto, David Norman, Jane Rinehart and Pastor Pam Fickenschier.

JUSTICE CALENDAR

June 9: Peace & Justice Meeting: Planning for Summer and Fall

June 20: World Refugee Day

June 22: Refugee Sunday

June 26: UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

July 30: International Day of Friendship

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



500 Third Street West

Northfield, MN 55057

507-645-4429

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 36
Northfield, MN

Return Service Requested



Save the Date - Night to Unite

Tuesday, August 5, is National Night Out and St. John's is hosting a free community meal! We're inviting all of our neighbors and hope to see you there too. Weather permitting, we'll have a picnic-style meal outside. Expect visits from local police and even a firetruck or ambulance.