

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

August 2014

Volume 54, Number 7

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**Worship Services:**  
8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

The *Voice* is a monthly  
publication of St. John's  
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each month to:

[office@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnorthfield.org).

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**phone:** 507-645-4429

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[office@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnorthfield.org)

**website:**

[www.stjohnsnorthfield.org](http://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.

## Greetings from our new Organist & Director of Worship, Music, and Arts...

Friends,

My name is Nathan Proctor and I am glad to introduce myself to you as the new Organist & Director of Worship, Music and Arts at St. John's. I am so happy to be coming back to Northfield. After I graduated from St. Olaf in 2006, I have always hoped that one day I might once again be a part of this community. I am excited to be called to this position where we have the opportunity to explore how music and other forms of creative expression can enliven our praise to the Creator. It is an honor to be a part of the historical music tradition that has come out of this congregation, and I am humbled by the opportunity to add my voice to your song.

I am passionate in my belief that music ministries are sustained by deep and caring relationships. So as I begin my time with you, I want to spend time getting to know you and learning about the work and worship of St. John's that is important to you. I want to know what music matters to you. Singing in worship takes on a whole new level when we care about each other -- when we sing, we not only proclaim praise to God but we share a part of ourselves.

I will begin my time with you in August, meeting you in worship on the 3rd and then at the organ on the 10th. Our choirs will begin again in September (see page 4 for start dates) and I look forward to welcoming you back to a group or inviting you to join a group for the first time. All are welcome.

Thank you to all of you that have shared kind words of welcome with me already. If you don't mind the steps up to the organ, please take a moment to come introduce yourselves after worship. Find me during the week and show me your favorite place in Northfield. Let's get coffee and go to a St. Olaf chapel service. I look forward to navigating Northfield life and being in community together soon.

Peace,

Nathan



The graphic features a colorful illustration of a smiling sun, a green leaf, and a pink flower above the word "Summer" in a playful, multi-colored font. Below this, the words "WORSHIP SCHEDULE" are written in a large, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text "Summer Worship Hours will continue thru Sunday, September 7" is followed by "8:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m. Worship" and "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*

## Who Is Stephen?

The name Stephen Ministers comes from an incident in the early Christian church described in Acts 6:1-7. The number of believers, Jewish and Gentile, was growing rapidly. The twelve disciples did not have time enough to oversee the increasing number of tasks that came their way, like distribution of food to the needy. When the Greek-speaking believers complained that their widows were not getting a fair share of the community's food, the twelve disciples solved the problem by delegating the work to the laity: "select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and serving the word."

Everyone was pleased with this solution, and the congregation chose and commissioned seven men. The first mentioned among the seven is Stephen, "full of faith and the Holy Spirit."

We later learn that Stephen did more than distributing food. "Full of grace and power," he "did great wonders and signs among the people." His preaching and miracles brought him into conflict with the Jewish religious authorities and led to his being stoned to death (Acts 6:8 - 7:60). Stephen is best known as the first Christian martyr. The name "Stephen Ministers," however, refers to an earlier stage of Stephen's life, his being chosen by the congregation to help the twelve disciples extend the work of ministry in an expanding young church.

If you or someone you know is going through a time of difficulty, contact one of the pastors (645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (645-8445) to discuss the possibility of receiving the care of a Stephen Minister.

*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 death of a loved one will be on Wednesdays beginning on Sept. 24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Northfield Hospital in Meeting Room A. Further information is available by contacting Katie Jacobi, MSW, at 507-646-1037.

**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."*

August 30, 2013  
**Joyce Madole**

# *From our pastors ...*

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## **Growing Together**

Although midsummer is a time of travel and recreation for us all, at the St. John's office it is also a time of putting our heads together for launching our fall programming. This year we look forward to new faces, new approaches, and new opportunities for us all to **grow together**.

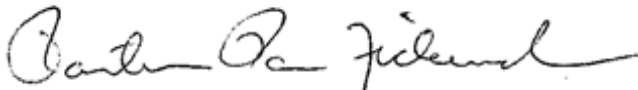
In **confirmation**, you'll see a new approach that allows more creative teaching that allows for different learning styles. With 6-8 grades combined, our youth will have both time to learn together across grades as well as time in smaller groups to build deeper relationships with one another and with mentoring adults in the congregation. *As youth prepare to affirm their baptisms, you are invited to deepen your own faith by participating as a small group leader, resource teacher or mentor.*

Our **Music Ministry** welcomes new leadership as Nathan Proctor begins his work among us this month. Nathan brings to us gifts working with both youth and adults, and together we are working to assure that our worship life and our faith formation ministry have plenteous opportunity for cross-fertilization! *You are invited to offer your gifts in music ministry and to support Nathan's ministry among us!*

In **evangelism** you're invited to continue the work of welcoming newcomers. Please make the effort to greet visitors, and come and sample Accompany, our new inquirers' process designed to deepen our sense of baptismal calling. *Sponsors and new members alike grow together in this process.*

Our **Call Committee** continues its faithful search for our next Associate Pastor. In the mean time, we will welcome John Schwehn as our Interim Pastoral Intern. John will be assisting with preaching, teaching and visitation in this program year until such time as our new associate can begin work among us. *You are invited to pray for St. John's leadership as we continue to build this new ministry team together!*

In **Stewardship**, we continue to be grateful for your generous support of St. John's ministries. Everything we do relies on your financial gifts, and generous giving is an important way that we continue to step out in faith and rely on God's "rich and endless store" as we grow together.



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## **Interim Intern to Provide Pastoral Coverage this Fall**

In order to fill some of St. John's pastoral teaching and care needs until a new associate pastor is called, St. John's welcomes John Schwehn as an Interim Pastoral Intern starting in August.

John is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and recently finished a full-time internship at Westwood Lutheran Church in the Twin Cities. He will be assisting Pastor Fickenscher with visitation and care, preaching, and confirmation and catechism teaching this fall. We're grateful that John is able to step in during this "gap" time while our call committee continues its work of identifying our next full-time associate pastor (update from the call committee on page 11). John will begin work among us on August 5 and will be present at St. John's most Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

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

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## **From the Organ Bench**

Well, this will be my last “From the Organ Bench” as I prepare to turn the bench over to Nathan Proctor in early August and return to a pew below. Thus, a few thoughts to share:

1. I knew much more about the music ministry here than most “interims” because I experienced it as a member attending when I was not at work on the hill. Son Christopher grew up here participating and learning much in the various choirs for youth and, of course, because Ruth served for some 25 years as organist. Our dinner conversations often included sharing the frustrations and joys of our work at St. Olaf and St. John's.

Because of these experiences I did not feel like a stranger when I became your principal interim musician, January 2013.

2. As I began, one of my goals was to nurture and maintain the amazing tradition of fine music that is so significant in the history of St. John's. One area that needed some attention was our inventory of pianos and I'm so pleased that we found an excellent used grand for the adult choir room and also completed the project of improvement and renovation to the Steinway in the front of the sanctuary. I hope the momentum of improvements can be maintained as we have a significant number of pianos that are reaching the end of their useful lives and should be replaced or refurbished.

3. As you well know, these past two years have been rather tumultuous, both for us at St. John's and for me personally. There is no doubt in my mind that the invitation to serve you was a gift from God and lifeline thrown to a floundering John Ferguson. Nothing feeds my soul as much as making church music, especially leading singing from the organ bench. You, the people of St. John's know how to sing and I've been blessed to help enable that song while serving as director of the Chorale and especially as organist.

Thank you all: staff, director colleagues, Chorale singers and congregation for the gifts of healing and support you have given me. I look forward to being “down there” in the pews, singing and worshiping with you all.

John Ferguson  
Interim Director of Music



## **Start Dates for Choirs this Fall . . .**

September 10 - St. John's Chorale (7:00)

September 17 - Alleluia (4:15), Jubilate (4:45), Jubilate Schola (5:15)

September 21 - Laudate (TBD)

September 18 - Rejoice Ringers (6:15)

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

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## Magical Mystery Tours

*When:* August 13<sup>th</sup>

*Who:* Any 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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. Peter's, St. Doms, Trinity, Rejoice!, The Methodist Church, and Cornerstone. The 'mystery part' is that 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. John's 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 in advance detailing specific times, cost, and if any specific clothing is necessary for the event. We hope you join us!

## HS Bonfires

*When:* August 27<sup>th</sup>

*Who:* 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade (recently completed)



Join us for our 3rd and final high school bonfire of the summer! Come eat s'mores, play silly games, worship and stay connect with your friends from St. John's. New friends welcome, too!

We'll meet in the St. John's parking lot from **8:00 - 10:00 p.m.**

See ya there!



## **Fall Is Coming! Watch the Mail for Registration Information!**

**Mark your calendars for Confirmation Orientation -  
Wednesday, September 10, at 6:15 p.m.**

***Important Dates to Remember***

**VBS and "On the Road"**

August 11-14

**Pool Party!**

Wednesday, August 13

**Sunday School Registrations**

Due August 10

**Open House for Preschool 1**

Wednesday, September 10, 6:00 p.m.

**Confirmation and Catechism Orientation**

Wednesday, September 10, 6:15 p.m.

**First Day of Sunday School**

Sunday, September 14 at 9:45 a.m.

**ROCK, Wednesday Afterschool  
Programming**

Begins Wednesday, September 17

**It's not too late to sign up for VBS,  
"Workshop of Wonders"!**

**When:** August 11-14 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at  
Emmaus Church in Northfield

**Hosted by:** St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's  
Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Church

**Open to children age 3 (by 9/1/2013)  
to children entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade.**

**Registration forms** are available at St. John's or go  
online to [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org) and click on  
Children's Ministries/Events.

**NEW!** VBS is welcoming our 2 year olds this year! A  
separate registration form is available, again, online or  
at St. John's Lutheran Church. Hope to see you at VBS!

**We can always use extra volunteers!** Most volunteer  
positions are 2 hours or less. Can't be there every day?  
That's OK – just tell us what days work for you! High  
school and Middle school kids can help out too. Call  
Julie to find out more info at 645-4429 or email at  
[children@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:children@stjohnsnorthfield.org).

**Pool Party!**

Northfield area churches invite families with children in 5th grade and younger to our Annual Pool Party at the Northfield Outdoor Pool on Wednesday, August 13 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The cost for admission is \$3.00 per person or you may use your pool pass. Churches will be providing free food at the event from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. so come and eat, swim and enjoy! (We will cancel the event if the pool closes due to the weather.)



**"On the Road" Summer Camp – FUN, FUN, FUN!**

**When:** Same week as VBS, August 11–14, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(drop off anytime between 8:00-9:00 a.m. and pick up anytime between 4:00-5:00 p.m. at St. John's

**Hosted by:** St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Church

**Kids who have completed K-5th grades are welcome to register for the camp.**

"On the Road", a program provided by Good Earth Village Bible Camp, will kick off with registration, games, and worship on Sunday, August 10 from 6:00–7:15 p.m. at St. John's. It's open to campers, families – everyone who would like to come! For more information and to register, go online to [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) and click on "On the Road", Northfield.

## Fall Is Coming! Mark your calendars...

- Sunday school begins Sunday, September 14 for children age 3 (by 9/1/14) – grade 5
- ROCK, our Wednesday after school program for children in K – Grade 5, begins Wednesday, September 17. Bus transportation will be offered from the Northfield Elementary schools to St. John's so kids can jump right into Wednesday fun!
- Catechism (CAT) for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders begins in October. Orientation will be held on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.



## Check out the Youth and Children's Registration Packet for specific details.

If you did not receive a registration packet in the mail, please call the office, stop by St. John's or visit the website at [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org) to download a copy. We appreciate having registrations in by August 10 for returning kids – visitors and new members are invited to register at any time during the year.

## Volunteers do make a difference!

An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members—parents, grandparents, anyone! Many volunteer opportunities can be on a rotating schedule. Even teaching Sunday school can be as little as a 2-3 Sunday commitment!

Check out the volunteer page in the registration packet or contact Julie Brehmer if you are interested! P.S.: High School students – talk with me how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays too!

## Is your 3 year old starting Sunday School?

Children who are three years of age by 9/1/14 are welcome to begin Sunday School this fall!

Parents are invited to bring their preschooler to an Open House on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m. to meet the teachers and get acquainted with their classroom before Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 14.

If you have question, please call St. John's at 645-4429 and speak with Julie Brehmer.



## Children, Come to the Table!

When is my child ready to take Holy Communion? When is anyone really *ready*? As Lutherans we believe that the sacraments are gifts of God not dependent on our understanding or preparation to be effective as gifts of grace. At St. John's we urge parents to bring their children to the table every week, whether they receive a blessing or the bread and wine. Parents may use discretion based on their own piety and family situation as to when a child receives the bread and wine, but *there is no minimum age*.

Age appropriate materials are available for discussing communion with your child from age 4 and up. Contact Pastor Fickenscher if you are interested in having your child commune for the first time.



# Shared Ministry

## 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. We need many volunteers (we have served around 200 in the past) to make the meal work. If you can help with set-up or tear-down, preparing the meal, serving or bringing a dessert, please sign up on the "Serve with St. John's" bulletin board outside the Church Office or contact Joanne Sommers at 645-4429 or [sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org).



## Mission Outreach

### Meals on Wheels

St. John's is responsible for distributing Meals on Wheels from Sunday, September 21, through Saturday, October 18. Many volunteers are needed. You can sign up for this important ministry of care for elderly and disabled members of our community on Sundays in the Commons beginning August 24. For further information call Joanne Sommers (645-4429) or Dick Werdahl (663-0295).

### School Kit Donations

Each year St. John's members send about 60 school kits to Lutheran World Relief for distribution in third world countries. Why is this important? To the children who receive School Kits, **these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not.** Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet **the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.** Last year LWR sent 261,580 school kits to 16 counties.

School supplies are on sale now. You can help by purchasing items from the school supply list, or contributing cash. Make checks to St. John's WELCA, write school kits on the memo line, and put in the offering plate, or leave in the Church Office. You can find school supply lists and turn in purchased supplies at the school kit display in the Commons. You do not need to sort the items into packages. We will have a kit assembly forum on Sunday, October 19th where all are invited to help assemble the kits. **Suggestion to parents:** bring the list along when you take your kids shopping for school supplies, and let them be part of the project.

#### School Supply list for one school kit:

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10 1/2"; no loose-leaf paper

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with cm on one side and inches on the other

One pencil sharpener

One blunt Fiskar scissors (must be the Fiskar brand as the other ones break easily)

Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers

Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

One box of 16 or 24 crayons

One 2 1/2 " eraser (no erasers needed this year; we have 100 left from last year!)



# *Serving on Sundays in August*

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## *Acolytes*

- August 3** (8:30) Andrew Becker; (10:00) Ariana Beeby  
**August 10** (8:30) Logan Matson; (10:00) Halvor Bratland  
**August 17** (8:30) Elsa Hoff; (10:00) James Bull  
**August 24** (8:30) Dylan Gehring; (10:00) Trey Coudret  
**August 31** (8:30) Jacob Gonnerman; (10:00) Creegan Croone

## *Communion Preparers*

- August 3** Dale and Karen Schuette, Judy Smith  
**August 10** Dale and Karen Schuette, Judy Smith  
**August 17** Elvin and Corrine Heiberg, Kathy Vang  
**August 24** Deb Seitz, Judy Smith  
**August 31** Marilyn McRae Raadt, Judy Smith

## *Nursery*

- August 3** Christy Hall-Holt, Viveka Hall-Holt  
**August 10** Zach and Maren Bahler  
**August 17** Saul and Amy McBroom  
**August 24** Bailey Dell, Betsy McLaughlin  
**August 31** Tricia Goodrich, Alyssa Ness

## *Welcome Desk*

- August 3** Marie Benson  
**August 10** Joanne Sommers  
**August 17** Betsy Busa  
**August 24** Corrine Heiberg  
**August 31** Michael Sylvester

## *Ushers*

- August 3** (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  
**August 10** (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  
**August 17** (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  
**August 24** (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  
**August 31** (8:30) Dan Franklin, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Rob McCarthy, Brent Mueller, Ruthie Neuger, Don Sahling, Patrick Bougie, Dick Werdahl; (10:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Basil Mroz, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary

# *June and July Actions*

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## **Baptisms**

June 8, 2014: Andrew Francis Tussing

June 8, 2014: Sloane Bailee Tussing, daughter of Abbey Snedrud and Andrew Tussing

June 8, 2014: Emmett Turner Peterson, son of Keri and John Peterson

June 8, 2014: Joran Tait Peterson, son of Keri and John Peterson

June 22, 2014: Geovanny David Perez, son of Irene Dorantes and Marvin Perez

## **Deaths**

Helene Arisa Anglin, June 4, 2014

Sigrid K. Quello, June 5, 2014

Yvonne Bottem Jorgenson, July 1, 2014

Edwin H. Wingate, July 6, 2014

Elaine Appeldoorn, July 18, 2014

Alice Lary, July 23, 2014

## **Weddings**

June 28, 2014

Martha Crippen and Ian O'Neill

## **Radio Broadcasts**

June 1, 2014, given by friends of St. John's.

June 8, 2014, given by Duane and Marie Benson in memory of Dorothy Wolff. Dorothy would have been 97 today.

June 15, 2014, given by friends of St. John's.

June 22, 2014, given by friends of St. John's.

June 29, 2014, given by friends of St. John's.

July 6, 2014, given in memory of Edgar Larson by Helen Larson.

July 13, 2014, give in memory of John Gunderson by Lester & Della Gunderson and family & friends.

July 20, 2014, given by Dean and Dorothy Ostlie in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

July 27, 2014, given by Bruce and Audrey Moe in honor of their parents.

# Notes of Thanks!

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June 11, 2014

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for the lovely retirement reception you honored me with on June 1, and for the wonderful music box. Thanks also to Pastor Pam, John Ferguson, Amelia Kimmes Kneser and Cora Scholz for their kind words at the reception, and to the many words of appreciation from others, either by talking with me or sending a card. I appreciate it all! The gift of the music box from the congregation is so appropriate as it plays "Children of the Heavenly Father" and there is a heart on the box cover! For 28 years I have had the privilege of directing the Laudate Choir at St. John's – whose members are almost-grown children of our congregation and of our heavenly Father - and they have all captured my heart and become like my own children! I will certainly miss the weekly contact with them, directing them on Sundays, and doing the very special Christmas Eve service with them and the Alumni who return to sing!

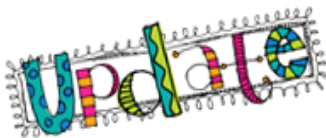
For most of the 28 years that I was the director of the Laudate Choir the size of the choir was usually between 20 to 30 singers, and just a few years ago there were almost 40 singers in the choir! However, this past year there were six faithful singers. It is my hope that the size will grow again, and that the longstanding tradition at St. John's of having a high school choir will continue and thrive. (My sister and I both sang in this choir when we were growing up, and it had been in existence for many years before we were members.) It is important that children stay in the habit of singing in a church choir, using their God-given voices in praise, singing their faith. St. John's is one of a very few congregations that has choir opportunities for all ages and we are all blessed by their ministries!

Again, thank you for allowing me the privilege of directing the Laudate Choir, for honoring me with the reception, and for the music box. But, even though I appreciate the gifts of the music box and the reception, the best gift was the opportunity to make music with our High School students for 28 years! I was blessed, over and over by them!

-Ruth Legvold

## FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE . . .

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The Call Committee for the Associate Pastor position has been meeting weekly since early March. The committee is currently finishing first interviews and beginning to observe candidates as they preach and lead worship services. This will be followed by second interviews as they move to narrow the choice to a finalist.

The Committee has developed a general rather than a specific job description, one that does not list specific duties, but rather looks for talents and gifts that best compliment and support the ministry of Pr. Fickenscher. If you have questions or concerns for the Committee please contact any of the members.

# News and Events

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## Tuckpointing Work Complete! Celebration August 17!



When you come to St. John's for worship this Sunday or for any of the many events which take place throughout the church during the week within these red brick walls, you will notice that the scaffolding which we have been hosting since before Easter has now been removed.

Damaged bricks have been removed and replaced. Deteriorated mortar joints have been cut out and repointed. Precast elements, including decorative rosettes and the entire archway over the front doors, have been recast and reassembled. Whole exterior stair footings and brick balustrades have been replaced. Rotting wood tracery and louvers in the bell tower have been replaced. New steel supports for the bell hanger have been installed. The need for this significant effort likely went unnoticed by most of us for many years!

As a congregation, we are responsible for being good stewards of the gifts we have been given and St. John's has been blessed with many resources to steward. This critical repair work was paid entirely through the generous gift of Alice Hanson and, because of this, the congregation did not need to take on additional debt to its current mortgage. Instead, we took advantage of lower interest rates and refinanced our existing mortgage, thereby reducing the impact of our debt service on our annual budget and avoiding the long-term liability

associated with this increased loan amount for an additional ten year period freeing us from impacts to our mission and programs.

Consistent with this understanding, Alice's gift was also used to support local and national needs (such as an educational fund for internships at St. John's, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, Ruth's House, The HOPE Center, and Lutheran Disaster Response) and our partners in Tanzania and Sierra Leone (music scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students, IAMBI secondary school project, IAMBI hospice program, MWANGAZA, evangelist training, and peace and awareness training in Sierra Leone).

So, take a look around at all that is happening at St. John's, within and outside of our walls! We will celebrate Alice's gift and the completion of the tuckpointing on Sunday, August 17 at both services.

## Bishops 5K Walk/Run

**Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

This 3.1 mile run or 1 mile walk on Saturday, September 20, 2014, is open to people of all ages and abilities. Funds raised will benefit Enough Food for All, our Bishop's Food Insecurity Initiative. Online registration is now open and ends on September 18. Onsite registration begins at 8:30 a.m. on September 20 at Zumbro Lutheran Church, Rochester. The run/walk begins at 9:00 a.m. This is a rain or shine event. Event registration limited to the first 250 participants.

St. John's member Nick Neeb will be coordinating the St. John's team to the race. Contact him at 507-645-4434 or [nickneeb@yahoo.com](mailto:nickneeb@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating, carpooling, or pledging funds to support a runner.

# News and Events

## Dedication of Banners

On Sunday August 3, we dedicate two new banners for the St. John's sanctuary. The first bas-relief you've already seen for several Sundays, and the second is now completed. Both are intended to enhance our worship in the ordinary season following Pentecost, the season of growth in faith and gratitude for the Holy Spirit's work among us.



These banners, conceived by Lynette Swanson, designed by Judy Swanson and artfully constructed out of styrofoam by Noel Swanson, were commissioned by the St. John's Chancel Guild with a memorial gift from the family of Kathy Mroz, who passed away in May of 2013. Kathy was an avid gardener as well as a faithful member of the Chancel Guild, so the combined gifts to our worship space and our gratitude for the gifts of creation are particularly appropriate.



The "ordinary" season of the church is long, so watch over the weeks ahead, as the light in our sanctuary changes with the seasons, how the shadows on these banners bring out new detail each week.

## **FAMILY WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 26-28 GET TO KNOW HOLDEN VILLAGE AND SHORES OF ST. ANDREW AT THE SAME TIME!**

Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the wilderness of the North Cascades, is undergoing a major remediation project which currently makes it difficult to receive summer guests. So Holden is taking it on the road to Lutheran outdoor ministries around the country, including Shores of St. Andrew, one of the camps our young people attend every summer.

Pastor Fickenscher invites people of all ages to come get a taste of Holden Village's rhythms, hear an update on what is happening at the village, *and* enjoy a weekend of renewal for all ages September 26-28. This is an easy introduction to Holden for those who have never been there, as well as a way to re-connect for those who can't make the journey now.

Spend a weekend at the lake enjoying the wonders of Gods' creation. Play in the refreshing lake waters or hike on the wooded trails. Community is built around shared meal times. Worship in the historic Marble Church. Weekend includes Bible study, teaching sessions, activities for children ages 3 and up. Go to <https://holdenvillage.thankyou4caring.org/holden-on-the-road—shores-of-st.-andrew> to register. Costs and cancellation policies are on the website. Be sure to let Pastor Pam know if you sign up!

# News and Events

## ACCOMPANY: A NEW APPROACH TO WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

The catechumenate is a very old process by which the church welcomes and teaches those who are new to the community and leads them toward baptism/ affirmation of baptism.

### WHY NOW?

- 1) A more secular culture.** As our culture grows increasingly secular and as denominational loyalty wanes, we can no longer assume that most newcomers will be transfers from other congregations.
- 2) The importance of relationship over institutional loyalty.** Studies show that most newcomers will not stay with a new church unless they connect with at least 5 other people in significant ways. Relationship with the pastor is not enough for their place in the church to “stick.”

### WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

**Inquiry:** Newcomers are paired with intentional sponsors who participate equally throughout the process in small groups. The curriculum is primarily “lectionary and life” – reflecting on the Sunday worship of the day and the Scriptures of the day, paired with open sharing and reflection. It is more *formation* than “information.” During the initial stages the groups are open.

**Catechesis:** After a period of a few weeks some newcomers commit to the process and sponsor relationships are formalized. Mutual reflection on Scripture continues weekly, leading up to opportunities to affirm baptism or be baptized.

**Rites:** Inquirers are brought before the congregation at least twice, and as many as 5 times, for a Rite of Welcome, for giving of gifts (Scripture, Creed, hymnal, blessing), and for baptism/ affirmation.

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

All are welcome to experience the process of lectio divina in the open portion of the process. Those who are seeking membership for the first time are particularly encouraged to join in, whether or not they have been baptized or been part of a Lutheran congregation before. Those who are coming to St. John’s from outside the ELCA are strongly encouraged to take part so that the whole congregation can be engaged in welcoming you.

If you are interested in serving as a sponsor, please contact one of the pastors. Pastors and staff try to match newcomers and sponsors carefully because the process is intensive. Past sponsors report that the process was enriching for them spiritually as well.

### WHEN DOES IT BEGIN?

Each Sunday in August at 11:30 a.m., a “sample session” of accompany will take place. Newcomers and “old” members are encouraged to try it out. Beginning in September, regular sessions will take place during Education Hour, and newcomers will be officially welcomed on All Saints Sunday, November 2.



## Apple Sunday is August 10!

Search for your favorite apple recipe, whip it up...  
and bring it to St. John’s for our 7th Annual Apple Sunday on August 10.

Whether you bring an apple dessert or not,  
everyone is welcome to enjoy all the delicious creations between services in St. John’s Hall.

If you can bring an apple dessert, please sign up in the Commons.

Questions? Call Guy Reid (645-7984) or the Church Office.

# From the Stewardship Board

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## Online Giving

Did you know that St. John's has an online giving program? Through online giving, you may choose to have your offering contributions to St. John's automatically paid from your checking account, savings account or credit/debit card. You can specify the amount of your contribution as well as the frequency (one time, weekly or monthly).

**What are the advantages of online giving?** Advantages of online giving for you include:

- You no longer need to write checks and prepare envelopes every week.
- You'll never miss a Sunday offering because you forgot your checkbook.
- Your offering in support of the important ministries and programs at St. John's will continue to be received on a regular basis, even when you are unable to attend Sunday worship due to travel, work or other circumstances.

**Advantages of online giving for St. John's include:**

- Reduces the amount of work and cost to process your contribution.
- St. John's, like most churches, experiences a decline in contributions during the summer months (the "summer slump"), which can make bill paying challenging during this time. Online giving can help to maintain a more level cash flow.
- Saves the cost of envelopes for those who contribute exclusively via online giving.

**Where can I get more information?** More information is available on the St. John's web site at <http://stjohnsnorthfield.org/visitors/giving/online/>. Or, you may call (507.645.4429) or e-mail ([office@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnorthfield.org)) the Church Office.

**How do I get started?** Signing up is easy! Go to the St. John's web site at <http://stjohnsnorthfield.org/visitors/giving/online/> and click the "online giving" link in the first paragraph of the web page. Or, if you prefer, ask for an authorization form in the Church Office.

# From the Faith and health board

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## Pastors, Privacy, and You.

### Your Health Information Is Protected By Federal Law

The Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, known as HIPAA, was passed to establish a national framework for security standards and protection with regard to health care data and information. This federal law gives you rights over your health information and sets rules and limits on who can look at and receive your health information.

What this means for your pastoral care is that pastors are *not* informed of hospitalizations unless a patient specifically requests that their church be notified. In some cases, such as with minors at Children's Hospital, staff may not even confirm a patient's presence at the hospital over the phone. At Northfield Hospital, if patients do not specify anything under "religion," it will be assumed that they don't want to be visited by clergy. Patients must state St. John's or Lutheran on their admittance papers in order for information to be released at the front desk.

If you would like a visit, or would like your name added to the prayer chain or the Sunday prayers, please notify the Church Office (or have a family member do so for you). If there is an urgent need outside of office hours, listen for the number of the 'on call' pastor on the church voice mail.

# 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

## Ordinary Time and the Blessings of Community

By Barbara Eaves

The days after Pentecost, referred to as *Ordinary Time*, are the most numerous in the church seasons, culminating in November with Christ the King Sunday. This season is not marked by festivals, rather it focuses on living out the faith every day. Since we experience most of our lives in day-to-day routines rather than mountaintop moments, it may be easy to overlook the blessings that come to us through the people we know and meet and the places we find ourselves.

In looking back through a journal of lingering memories, I now realize that the most cherished memories recorded there are centered in community—be it home, neighborhood, school, work or church. The ordinary events, such as precious family times playing games, an aunt who taught me to crochet, the teacher who read a story to us every day and singing in the high school church choir, remind me of blessings which still resonate.

St. John's is a lively congregation through which we experience the gifts of relationship, support, encouragement, compassion, and purpose. In these months of *Ordinary Time*, we are invited to feed on worship, join in fellowship, help a neighbor in need, volunteer within the community and serve one another. Blessings are sure to come.

*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  
text & music by Marty Haugen*

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 Year Ahead, 2014-2015

When poor Norwegians immigrated to the United States after the Civil War, they, like millions of immigrants, came seeking a better life. They came willing to endure great hardship in travel, then in settling in an unfamiliar landscape. Surely, they 'acted boldly in faith' under trying circumstances.

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America continue to work under the theme of "Act Boldly in Faith" in each congregational group. One focus of our women's group is to plan programs for ourselves and for others in the congregation to become aware of aspects of our culture that the church addresses in some way.

This year, our group will look at **immigrants and refugees** within our history as a congregation, in our state, and now in Northfield. Our first program will be on Thursday, September 4 at 7:00 pm in St. John's Hall. **DeAne Lagerquist**, Professor of Religion at St. Olaf, a member of St. John's and a church historian, will speak to us about the history of work with immigrants and refugees in the Lutheran Church, including St. John's. On Thursday, October 2, **Joe Shaw**, retired St. Olaf Professor of Religion and historian, will lead a tour through historic immigrant churches, Holden, Valley Grove, and Vang. In November, a St. Olaf student will talk about her experience with an immigrant rights movement in Chicago. In February, we will hear from the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Service, both from a refugee and a staff person. In April, we will view a movie about the Postville, Iowa raid and in May we will hear from "Immigrants in our Midst" from Northfield.

In January and March we will meet together for enjoyment, with music and food. On January 8, we will have lunch and singing at St. Olaf. On Saturday, March 7, we will invite women and girls of all ages to have lunch with the program, "Dance, Dance Wherever You May Be."

A second focus for the women's group is based on our strong connection with Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries, where we send quilts and school kits and baby kits. Many women gather a couple of times a month to make quilts and knit baby sweaters. This year we will cooperate with Children's Ministries at St. John's to involve them and adults in putting together the school kits, and again, with the whole congregation, to tie quilts. These will be at specific times throughout the year. These efforts are visible efforts on our part to follow Jesus' words to care for the poor and vulnerable in the world.

A third focus, perhaps it should be called the foundational focus, is the emphasis on Bible study. We are reminded of the feisty, stubborn Jews who in their colorful Old Testament stories testify to their belief in one God. In reading the New Testament, we have the opportunity to get to know Jesus whose life shows us that God. This study is done in small groups of women, circles. We encourage groups of friends to start such a group. We use the Bible study found in the women's monthly magazine, GATHER. The study this year is based on the theme of transformations in life and in our faith journeys, so it will include passages from the whole Bible. It will address doubt, suffering, faith, service, forgiveness: times for personal reflection and discussion among Christian friends.

Submit items for **Voice** to Anita Hellie (ahellie@charter.net)  
Submit information for **Sunday Bulletin** to Mary Hoff (jpmhof@msn.com)

# From the Peace and Justice group

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## Update on the Peace & Justice Group Planning

Planning for meetings and action this autumn continues into this last month of summer.

Greg Colby is keeping up with the possibilities of meeting needs within the Rice County Community Justice system. As the needs and the programs to meet the needs evolve we will be ready to help. As some of these local programs develop, we are also aware of similar work in other parts of the US to help those transitioning serving from serving their sentences to moving into mainstream life.

We have been planning local responses to nutritional needs as well as to broader programs in the US and the World (especially Bread for the World).

Learning and living nonviolence is another topic we are exploring — also on local, national and international levels.

Everyone is invited to be part of planning (on these or other issues of importance to you) and part of the meetings. For further information on this, see the bulletin boards for the names of those working on specific topics.

## From Bread for the World

*Development Works* is a series of essays and reports from The Bread for the World Institute that informs us and enables us to advocate for continuing development assistance from the U.S. and other wealthy nations to countries struggling to emerge from poverty and hunger. A copy of the illuminating and inspiring publication *Development Works: Myths and Realities* is available on the Peace and Justice shelf in the church library. An excerpt follows here.

**Myth:** The U.S. does not need to worry about immigration issues beyond just deporting the unauthorized immigrants.

**Reality:** If conditions in their home communities have not improved, people who have been deported don't stay deported. Recent surveys indicate that 43 percent of those deported to Central America say they plan to return to the U.S. within a year. The figure is even higher for those who left family members behind in this country.

When workers are deported, the money they are saving from their U.S. jobs and sending home stops—worsening the situation in migrant sending communities. This is not a minor concern. In 2011 the money sent home (called remittances) comprised 17 percent and 16 percent, respectively, of Honduras' and El Salvador's total economic output.

In reality, we can only ease our concerns about unauthorized immigration by helping to stop what is causing it: hunger and poverty in the communities of those willing to risk dangerous travel and illegal border crossings.

## International Hunger Strick Against Violence

An “International Hunger Strike Against Violence” was scheduled on the traditional Jewish fast day of 17 Tammuz, this year on July 15, which is also a day in the month-long fast of Ramadan. This day is in both Muslim and Jewish traditions a time of fasting from sunrise to sunset, arousing inner spiritual reflection and shared effort to turn from violence to compassion, from idolatry to celebration of the One.

# From the Peace and Justice group...

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## For your consideration:

During this time of increasing violence and destruction, Rabbi Lynn, founder of Shomer Shalom Network for Jewish Nonviolence, has offered a prayer that speaks our hearts:

*As faith rooted people, we give witness to our belief that peace among people of all faiths and communities is possible.*

*As faith rooted people, we believe that peace among Palestinians and Israelis is possible.*

*We affirm the process of truth and reconciliation to achieve this goal.*

*As faith rooted people, we lament the loss of innocent life, especially the children who are victim to political and religious violence. Every child is a member of the human family which we embrace.*

*We pray for the safety and freedom of all people who suffer the horrors of war, incarceration, loss of land and livelihood and physical violence.*

*No more rockets, guns or missiles shall be fired; no more tanks shall destroy land and homes.*

*No more loss of life shall occur. No more calls for revenge shall be uttered.*

*In this time of violence, we call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire.*

*We also call for an end to Israel's military occupation of Palestine, which we view as the root cause of the violence.*

*As people of faith, we place our trust, not in military might, but in The Creator's desire for acts of loving kindness and the pursuit of restorative justice as the true pathway to peace and security for all people. May Israelis and Palestinians create wahal al salaam, neve shalom, an oasis of peace in the Middle East. And may peace spread upon the land.*

Finally, we encourage all to continue to take action to press all parties to end the bombing as well as the structural violence that frames this period of renewed violence.

Lutheran Peace Fellowship offers many resources for understanding and responding to the intense conflict in Israel/Palestine:  
Lutheran Peace Fellowship, 206.349.2501, lpf@ecunet.org www.lutheranpeace.org

### The Avowal

As swimmers dare  
to lie face to the sky  
and water bears them,  
as hawks rest upon air  
and air sustains them,  
so would I learn to attain  
freefall, and float  
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,  
knowing no effort earns  
that all-surrounding grace.

--Denise Levertov

**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**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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## Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals 2014

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals are in their eighth season this summer and will conclude on August 13. All recitals will be held during the Wednesday noon hour from 12:15 to 12:45 p. m. with the remaining schedule:

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](mailto:rkcollman@msn.com)