

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

September 2014

Volume 54, Number 8

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

The *Voice* is a monthly
publication of St. John's
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office@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

For information, contact
the Church Office:

phone: 507-645-4429

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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.

Fall Worship Begins on Sunday, September 14!

8:30 a.m. - Worship

9:45 - Education Hour
(for children, youth and adults!)

11:00 a.m. - Worship

**Come and Worship at
St. John's!**

LABOR DAY

The Church building
will be closed on
Monday,
September 1
in observance of
Labor Day.

WelcomeFest Week 2014 - Invite your neighbors and friends!

Wednesday, September 10th

WelcomeFest Week Kick-Off Meal
from 5:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

And . . .

5:00 p.m. Welcome Back Party for Alleluia, Jubilate & Jubilate Schola

6:00 p.m. Preschooler I Open House

6:15 p.m. Orientation for Catechism and Confirmation

7:00 p.m. St. John's Chorale Resumes Practice

Invite your neighbors and friends to join us!

Sunday, September 14th

Ministry Fair: between services in St. John's Hall

An opportunity to learn about different ways to
connect and learn and serve at St. John's.

(9:45) Sunday School Begins

(10:45) Picnic Lunch along with a bouncy tent - All are welcome!

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

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing,
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

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

*Bear one another's
burdens, and in
this way you will
fulfill the law of
Christ.*

Galatians 6:2



*Providing one-
to-one care and
encouragement*

Stephen Ministers Help Cope with Transitions

September is a month of transition. The season is progressing from summer to fall. Fall brings a new school year – which can be a time of adjustments for many. Some may be adjusting to living in a new town, starting a new job, having children back in school, sending children off to college, or facing an empty nest. Transitions happen in all of our lives at one time or another.

While transitions can be exciting and exhilarating, they can also bring feelings of loneliness, sadness, and depression. There are times that transitions challenge our ability to cope with daily living.

When transitions or difficult times occur, it is helpful to have someone who cares for you.

Our congregation has Stephen Ministers who offer Christian caring and friendship for those dealing with transitions. If you or someone you know would benefit from a Stephen Minister as you work through transitions in your life, 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 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."

September 17, 2013
Inez Munckton

September 20, 2013
Jennifer Koenig

From our pastors ...

*Hear, O Israel:
The LORD is our
God, the LORD
alone. You shall
love the LORD
your God with
all your heart,
and with all
your soul, and
with all your
might. Keep
these words
that I am
commanding
you today in
your heart.
Recite them to
your children
and talk about
them when you
are at home and
when you are
away, when you
lie down and
when you rise.*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Kids Belong in Worship

As I write this, 80 grade school kids are spending the week at St. John's participating in "On the Road" day camp. There is singing, shouting — and, yes running — as they get to know one another, stories of the Bible and their God. It's a refreshing midsummer reminder of the kind of life we see in this place every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening during the school year.

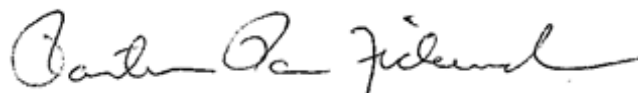
If you've been in a classroom in recent years, you have seen first hand that educators of all ilks are more and more attentive to the variety of learning styles each child brings to the classroom. Unfortunately, we in the church have not always been as attentive, and many adults tell me that they too appreciate it when their visual, kinesthetic or tactile senses are as engaged in worship as their ears. "I wanted some bubble wrap!" one grown-up told me recently.

Lutherans may not be known for stellar slide shows or waving arms in worship, but we do engage our senses as we stand and sit, sing and bow heads, watch lighting and colors change through the seasons, and taste God's goodness at the table. In recent months, you've also witnessed some experiments in sound, movement and storytelling that seek to engage our youngest worshippers but also people of all ages.

St. John's has been fortunate to have skipped the trend of segregating persons by age during the worship hour. Here, everyone from 1 to 100 is brought together around the word and the table. We grow *into* worship our whole lives long, rather than waiting until we are "big enough" to somehow "understand" worship properly.

If you are a parent: the marketing industry gives us plenty of evidence that children absorb patterns, icons and "brands" at a very young age. If your two year old can recognize McDonald's, then they can also come to recognize the signs of God's grace in baptism and communion. Don't let the marketers of breakfast cereal or movies have first dibs on your child's imagination. Bring them to worship.

If you don't have children, you can support those who do in many ways: greet families with young children with a smile; smile again when that child is wiggly or noisy; invite families you know to worship *with* their children; sing loudly and help kids who can read navigate the hymnal; go out of your way to encourage a parent whose kids are 'not having a good day.' Volunteer in the nursery or in Sunday School and get to know kids by name. Later this year you'll have an opportunity to be a prayer buddy with a grade school child. Together, we make this place a house for all God's children.



From our pastors (cont.) ...

Intro from John Schwehn

Having just completed a year-long internship at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park, MN, I am very excited to jump into the life and ministry of St. John's! First, a little bit more about me...

I was born and raised in Valparaiso, Indiana. I have a twin sister, Martha, who is also in seminary, and an older sister, Kaethe, who teaches English at St. Olaf. Both of my parents work at Valparaiso University. I graduated from St. Olaf in 2008, moving to Minneapolis that Fall in order to serve as an AmeriCorps volunteer. In 2009, I moved along with my girlfriend, Anna – a Concordia College grad – to Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat and renewal center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state. We worked there as cooks and program assistants for the year. Cooking and sharing meals with others remain great joys of ours.

Anna and I were married in 2010, and I began my master's degree at Yale Divinity School that same month. While in New Haven, Anna earned her M.S. in Education, and she currently teaches middle school English at Harvest Prep Academy in Minneapolis. When we're not hard at work, Anna and I love to hike, read fiction, and listen to music (and occasionally play it!).

I am happy to be returning to Northfield, and eager to see what God is up to in this place. May God bless our time together this Fall!

With joy,
John Schwehn
Interim Pastoral Intern, SJLC

**THIS FALL, a new session of Accompany,
for those wishing to join St. John's and/or renew their faith,
will be offered beginning September 21 during education hour.
If you are interested in attending or
in serving as a sponsor for a new family,
please contact Pastor Fickenscher.**

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

On September 10, 2002 I sat down for my very first daily chapel service at St. Olaf College. It was the first day of class my freshman year and I remember being in awe as I watched everything from the post office to the registrar's office close for this brief 20 minutes and people happily filing into the chapel. The speaker that morning was the president of the student congregation and while I can't remember exactly what she spoke about (I'm sure it was something inspiring about the beginning of a new school year), I do remember that we sang a hymn titled "Arise and Welcome Now the Year." The text written by Pastor Benson sings with joy and gratitude as we face the beginning of a new year. I remember in my anxiety about the start of college being caught up by the end of each stanza: "another year of God's good grace." It was a relief to me knowing that in all my uncertainties and fears, I was being ushered into a year *full* of God's grace. The kingdom of God was unfolding all around me! I quickly hung the chapel bulletin beside my computer in my dorm room and it has stayed by my desk since that day. I smiled as I was unpacking my desk in Northfield last week and again found the bulletin. As we get ready to start a new choir season, the text seems just as fitting as it did twelve years ago. At this very moment we too are being ushered into a new year, month, day, even minute of God's good grace. Thanks be to God for this gift! I am grateful for this first month at St. John's together and I look with excitement to the start of a new choir year.

*Arise and welcome now the year
with joy and gratitude sincere.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
another year of God's good grace.*

Peace,
Nathan

**Welcome Back Party for
Alleluia, Jubilate and Jubilate Schola Choirs
Wednesday, September 10
from 5:00-5:30 p.m.**



Start Dates for Choirs this Fall . . .

- September 10 - St. John's Chorale (7:00)
- September 11 - Rejoice Ringers (6:15)
- September 14 - Laudate (TBD)
- September 17 - Alleluia (4:15), Jubilate (4:45), Jubilate Schola (5:15)



Shared Ministry

Wednesday Night Meals

Yes, they are almost here again! Wednesday Night Meals are an important intergenerational event each Wednesday from 5:15- 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall. Once again, Linda Anderson, Peggy Dell and Kristy Harms have graciously agreed to take charge of this event AND do the cooking. But as we know there are a few things we need others to volunteer to do. Bringing desserts, cleaning up the kitchen, cleaning up St. John's Hall and running the dishwasher are the major jobs that need to be done each night. If you are able to help please contact either Joanne at sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org or the Church Office at office@stjohnsnorthfield.org. Thank you!

Join us for the Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 14!

The Ministry Fair provides an excellent opportunity to learn about the different ways to connect and learn and serve at St. John's.

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).



St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Let's get together for Dinner -
Come, share a meal!
All are welcome,
it's a fantastic time for
fellowship for ALL ages!

Supper is served
from 5:15- 6:15 p.m.
in St. John's Hall.

Wednesday, September 10
Taco Boats

Wednesday, September 17
Sloppy Joes

Wednesday, September 24
Baked Potato Bar

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

The place to check for ways you can serve your church are all posted on the bulletin board outside of the Church Office, or drop an email to sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

Any help would be greatly appreciated! There truly is a place for everyone at St. John's!

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Confirmation Orientation

What: Orientation for families with youth in grades 6th-9th. Important information regarding confirmation, expectations, calendars, and important changes from the prior year will be explained.

When: Wednesday, September 10th
6:15 – 7:15 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall



Thank you to everyone who has turned in their registrations so far! If you need a new one, there are hard copies in the Commons or request one by email, and I will send you a PDF.

Life Groups

Each week youth in 6th-9th grades will meet in St. John's Hall at 9:45 a.m. for donuts and an opening activity. At 10:00 a.m., pre-assigned groups of four to seven (divided by age and gender) will get together with an adult leader to debrief about their week, go over the gospel text, and pray together till 10:40 a.m. These times are guided by ELCA's 'Faith Lens', which focuses on viewing relevant issues through the lectionary gospel lesson.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! As we approach the fall, I hope that you carefully consider and pray about being an adult leader of our Life Group ministry for youth. No theological training is required, just a heart for talking with youth. A leader sheet will be provided by the Wednesday beforehand to help you familiarize yourself with the text. If you would like to learn more about how you can support youth at St. John's on their faith journey, please contact Mike, at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org.



Confirmation Kick-Off

Retreat @ Good Earth Village

It's time to kick the confirmation year off right by getting away to Good Earth Village for twenty-four hours. This will be a great opportunity to bond with small groups, other confirmands and mentors. We'll worship, play night games, hike, and have some special devotions together to get us on track for the year. Look for a letter in the mail and attend the Confirmation Orientation for more information.



6th-8th Grades: September 26th & 27th

9th Grade: September 27th & 28th

Tenth Grade Confirmation



Tenth Graders, blessings to you as you prepare for your confirmation this fall. Here are a few quick reminders about the month ahead:

- 1) Schedule and complete your Confirmation interview with your assigned Pastor by September 17th. Have your faith statement and questions prepared prior to your meeting. If you have questions, contact Mike at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org.
- 2) Be sure to mark your calendars for the Confirmation Retreat at Gustavus from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, September 20th. All tenth graders are expected to attend. We look forward to seeing you then.
- 3) Also, mark your calendars for the Confirmation Rehearsal and Breakfast on Saturday, October 11th. We will take pictures, run through the service, and share a meal with your families and mentors.

Important Dates to Remember!

Wednesday, September 10

- **CAT & Confirmation Orientation for grades 3-9,**
6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- **Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School,**
6:00 p.m., Room 15

Sunday, September 14

- **Sunday School Begins,**
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.
- **Installation of SS Teachers**
11:00 a.m. Service

Wednesday, September 17

- **“ROCK”, *Reaching Out to Christ's Kids,***
Wednesday Programming for K – 5th grades begins!

Sunday, September 21

- **4th Grade Receives Catechisms**
11:00 a.m. Service
- **Blessing of the Backpacks**
8:30 & 11:00 a.m. service

Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School!

All preschool children who are 3 by 9-1-14 are invited be part of the Preschool 1 Sunday school class this fall. An Open House will be held on Wednesday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 15 (lower level) to meet the teachers and help with this important transition. Registration forms are online at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org or are available in the church Commons.

CAtechism and Confirmation Orientation is Wednesday, September 10

Catechism and Confirmation Orientation for students in grades 3 – 9 will be held on, Wednesday, September 10 starting at 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend, please call the church office at 645-4429.



Who: Kids in grades 3 – 6
When: Friday – Saturday, October 10-11
Where: Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN
Cost: \$50.00 (*scholarships available*)
(*No charge for chaperones*)

Youth Blast invites kids in grades 3 – 6 for an overnight adventure at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. The 24 hour camp experience is filled with games, hikes, good food and Bible time. This is a great introduction to what a week long summer camp is like. We will carpool from St. John's on Friday leaving at 5:15 p.m. and arrive back on Saturday around 6:00 p.m. Feel free to bring a friend and join us for Youth Blast!

Register by calling Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at jbrehmer@stjohnsnorthfield.org. Chaperones are needed!
Register early; space may be limited!

Registration for Sunday School, Preschool – Grade 5

Sunday School begins on September 14 from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. for children who are age 3 (by 9-1-14) – grade 5. If you have not yet registered your child for 2014 –2015 Sunday School year, it's not too late! Please fill out a Registration and Health form as soon as possible. A timely response is one of the best ways to support Children's Ministry at St. John's. Forms are available in the Commons and online at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org. If you have questions, contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.

Can you help with Children's Programming?

An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members – parents, grandparents, anyone! Are you able to help out on Wednesdays or Sundays? Whether you enjoy working with large or small groups of children or behind the scenes, there is a place for you. Many opportunities can fit into your schedule.

Wednesday afternoons: Snack Servers, Recreation, Bus Angels, Kid's Club leaders for grades K-3rd, DOG leaders for grades 4-5.

Sunday Mornings: Sunday School teachers and team teachers, Rotation Sunday School station leaders (3 Sunday commitment), Nursery volunteers, Library volunteers, Music volunteers.

Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Our thanks to you in advance!



**Reaching Out to Christ's Kids,
begins on Wednesday, September 17**

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K – 5.

Wednesday afterschool programs, for all grade levels, consists of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, "DOG", Kid's Club, music opportunities (Alleluia and Jubilate Choir) art, and service projects!

St. John's will be providing bussing for children from Greenvale, Bridgewater and Sibley school and from the Middle school for Prairie Creek students who are interested in participating in our Wednesday afterschool programs.

For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes the Registration Packet to register your child. Registration packets are available in the church Commons or online at www.stjohnnorthfield.org under the Children's tab.

We had a fantastic week in August at VBS and "On the Road" summer camps!

75 K-5th graders registered for "On the Road" summer camp lead by Good Earth Village. Many thanks to GEV!

Over 70 preschool – kindergarten children attended VBS – "Workshop of Wonders"! Many thanks to St. Peter's, Bethel and Emmaus Churches and their volunteers for joining with us in providing a week of fun and fellowship for children in the Northfield community. Thank you to the families who donated to the mission projects, CAC Birthday Boxes, Hygiene Products program, and Food Shelf.

Thanks to the following volunteers from St. John's who helped with VBS: Amy McBroom, Katherine Norrie, Angie, Zach and Emily McCarthy, Mike Skunes, Elizabeth Evenson, Willa Kmoch, Emma Kmoch, Katie Schroeer, Anne France, Leah Garlie. And, thank you to our "On the Road" St. John's host homes; Amy and Saul McBroom, Mark and Kathy Mellstrom, David and Genevieve Quarberg



Blessing of the Backpacks!

Students of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to either the 8:30 or 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, September 21 for the "Blessing of the Backpacks". We want to join with your family in praying for your students as they begin their new school year.

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.

Mark your calendars high school sophomores and juniors!

On Sunday, October 5, Dan Franklin, Director of Admissions Campus Programs and Services at St. Olaf, will lead a session for upcoming high school sophomores, juniors and parents on what they can do NOW to be prepared to apply to colleges their senior year. The session will take place in the Fireside Room from 10:00 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in September

Fellowship Time for children, youth, and adults begins at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School (Lower Level) begins at 9:45 a.m. and Education Hour for adults begins at 9:50 a.m.

Small Groups are part of St. John's small group ministry and meet in various rooms as noted.

September 7:

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall.

September 14:

Fall Sunday Morning Schedule Begins

Ministry Fair ~ Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall.

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level.

Life Groups (Grades 6-9) and Life Group Guides (Grades 10-12), St. John's Hall.

September 21:

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall.

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level.

Life Groups (Grades 6-9) and Life Group Guides (Grades 10-12), St. John's Hall.

Accompany: Welcoming New Members, Fireside Room.

Forum: Small Catechism - Creed Part I, Sanctuary.

September 28:

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall.

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level.

Life Groups (Grades 6-9) and Life Group Guides (Grades 10-12), St. John's Hall

Accompany: Welcoming New Members, Fireside Room.

Forum: Small Catechism - Creed Part 2, Sanctuary.

Adult Education Begins this Fall with Luther's Small Catechism

The Adult Education program will resume this Fall with Sunday morning sessions on Luther's *Small Catechism*, Sundays, September 21, 28, and October 5, between worship services. This time we will go into detail on Luther's explanation of the Creed, led in turn by DeAne Lagerquist, Darrell Jodock, and Mark Granquist. These will be great sessions for new and experienced learners, so plan to come and be ready to participate. As our confirmation students move toward their Confirmation Sunday, and as the new member/adult catechumen programs begin this Fall, so the Adult Education program will parallel their experience. The rest of the year Adult Education has an exciting and varied program of sessions, so plan to come and participate often.

Serving on Sundays in September

Acolytes

- September 7** (8:30) Matthew Knutson; (10:00) Erin Gunn
September 14 (8:30) Alex Dell, Aidan Nutt; (11:00) Sam Mikula, Grant Huston
September 21 (8:30) Amelia Becker, Kai Legvold; (11:00) Willa Kmoch, Rikka Zillmer
September 28 (8:30) Logan Matson, Nicholas Boehning; (11:00) Kucheang Mangok, Siri Lindell

Communion Preparers

- September 7** Betsy Busa, Judy Smith
September 14 Jon and Jeanette Ronesvedt
September 21 Sharon Bishop, Char Nelson
September 28 John and Barbara Walters

Welcome Desk

- September 7** Jane Koskovich
September 14 Suzanne Sylvester
September 21 JoAnn Kleber
September 28 Shirley Falck

Ushers

- September 7** (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
September 14 (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
September 21 (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
September 28 (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

Notes of Thanks!

THANKS TO ALL PROVIDERS OF SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

Again this summer our worship has been enriched by many talented folks in our St. John's family. Thanks to all for sharing their talents. Also a special thanks to Jo Ann Polley who arranged for all who contributed to our worship this summer.

THANK YOU FOR DONATIONS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

Thank you to everyone who has so generously donated school supplies and cash for Lutheran World Relief school kits. We have gone over our goal of supplies for 100 school kits! We will stop collecting for this year. On Sunday, October 19th, we invite you to join us in packing the school kits during the Forum between services.

August Actions

Baptisms

August 17, 2014: Marius Oliver Vezauskas, son of Lena and Tomas Vezauskas

August 24, 2014: Walter Jeffrey Strese, son of Barbie and Jeff Strese

Births

August 7, 2014: Grant Kenneth Korba, son of Loretta and Daniel Korba

August 24, 2014: Benjamin Luckman, son of Bridgette Luckman

Deaths

Frieda Hodgkinson, July 27, 2014

Lela Olson, July 27, 2014

Louise Edwardson, August 8, 2014

Graham "Stan" Frear, August 17, 2014

Radio Broadcasts

August 3, 2014, given in memory of John Gunderson by Lester & Della Gunderson and family & friends.

August 10, 2014, given by the Leonard DeWolfe Memorial in memory of Leonard & Marie DeWolfe.

August 17, 2014, given in memory of Ted & Arlene Rudser by family & friends.

August 24, 2014, given by Mary White in memory of Adolph and Mary White's anniversary.

August 31, 2014, given in memory of John Gunderson by Lester & Della Gunderson and family & friends.

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

New Shoes...New Possibilities

By Barbara Eaves

I remember well the fall that I got a new pair of Buster Brown shoes; they were a shiny and brown and had a strap across them, and I knew they fit well because I had put my feet in the Buster Brown sizing machine at the store. A standard bonus of this product from yesteryear was linked to Buster's dog, Tige, along with a commercial jingle, "That's my dog, Tige, he lives in a shoe; I'm Buster Brown, look for me in there too".

Shortly after I got my new shoes, a neighbor friend who was a year younger came to show me her new school shoes; they were Buster Brown's and were just like mine. I really didn't mind that we had the same shoes, but when it was pointed out that hers were a larger size, I cried because at that age it seemed only reasonable that if you were older your shoes should be bigger than someone younger than you.

The beginning of the school year brings with it many new things. There are new teachers, new classmates, new students, a new school and new classes. It is definitely a time of transition and adjustment for students, teachers and parents alike, all of which tend to bring along anticipated excitement, a measure of apprehension and a fair amount of anxiety.

At St. John's fall is also marked by newness, including new Sunday School classes and teachers, new catechism and youth groups, new forum topics, small groups and a variety of invitations for growth and service. This year we welcome Nathan Proctor, Organist and Director of Worship, Music and Arts, and John Schwehn, Interim Pastoral Intern, who will assist in worship and other ministries.

So what's new for you with the coming of fall? With all the activities and opportunities that tend to fill a calendar in no time, it is important to remember that our congregation needs us too! A lively and fruitful congregational community relies on the participation and involvement of all. September beckons us to gratefully include St. John's in our commitment priorities for the coming year.

Most likely we will discover such endeavors to be much more fulfilling than a new pair of shoes.

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.

*In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show,
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

ELW 798, vs. 1 & 5

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 from "Gather" for 2014-2015 is "Transformation and Conversion: Transforming Life and Faith" by Carol Schersten LaHurd.

Monthly Events

September 4: Thursday: WELCA sponsored meeting 7:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall.
September 8: WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.
September 8: Monday: Bible Study leaders meet at 12 noon in the Fireside Room.
September 10, 11, 12, 13: Circles meet. Check with leaders for locations and times.
September 2, & 16: Knitters meet at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang (507-645-4849).
Sept. 15 & 18: Quilters meet from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon in Fellowship Hall.

WELCA Sponsored Programs

This year the program focus of our women's group will be immigrants and refugees within our congregation, in our state, and now in Northfield. Some of these programs are open to both men and women in our congregation as well as others who you think might enjoy and benefit from the information that will be presented.

September

Thursday evening, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall we will look at immigrants and refugees within our history as a congregation, a state, and now in Northfield. Our presenter DeAne Lagerquist, Professor of Religion at St. Olaf, a member of St. John's, and church historian will speak to us about the history of work with immigrants and refugees in the Lutheran Church, including St. John's.

A Triennial Convention report will also be given. **Men and women are invited—All are welcome! Bring a guest.**

October

October 2: Thursday, 1:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to join Joe Shaw on an historical immigrant church tour of churches founded by immigrant Pastor B.J. Muus (Holden, Valley Grove, Vang). Watch the WELCA Bulletin board for sign-up sheets and willingness to drive list. We will meet at St. John's to pool rides.

October 19 is Intergenerational Sunday. School supplies will be packed for Lutheran World Relief. Plan to join us between worship services and help pack school bags. **All ages welcome!**

Circles

PLEASE JOIN US! Small groups of St. John's women meet for fellowship and Bible Study during the second week of each month—the week following the first Thursday, with a few exceptions as noted:

Abigail/Rebecca—Thursday, 2:00 p.m., NRC Parkview E. Lois Wrede 663-9002

Elizabeth—Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Gretchen Hardgrove 645-6340 & Marie Benson 645-8958

Lydia—Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Jo Dahlin 645-5978 & Anita Hellie 301-3609

Martha/Claudia—Thursday, 9:30 a.m. Parkview W. diningroom (except Dec.) Marilyn Jacobson 663-9060

Mary—2nd Friday, 1:00 p.m. Carol Benson 645-6174

Sarah—Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Char Nelson 663-0564 & Carol Nesheim 645-5907

Women's Breakfast Group—2nd Saturday, 8:30 a.m., Fireside Room Kathy Melstrom 663-1451

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

From the Stewardship Board

We will soon begin St. John's Fall Stewardship fund drive. During the next two months articles will appear in "The Voice" and several bulletin inserts on this topic. They will address our responsibility as Christians to give financial support to the mission of St. John's and to those in need in the world around us. In addition, several members will share their thoughts on why giving to St. John's is important to them.

No doubt some will feel that the church is "always asking for money"! Yes, the church does "ask for money," but the money received is used to help to further the mission of the church both locally and abroad. God calls us to share our time, talents, and financial resources in the work of His Kingdom. And "giving money" is a part of it.

Others may feel that little is available in their monthly budget for the church after they have paid their bills. Perhaps my experience with Jennings Feroe, a former Visitation Pastor at St. John's may give a different perspective.

Jennings was a Senior Pastor at a large ELCA church in Mankato. Upon his retirement he joined the development staff at St. Olaf, which is where I first met him. He was one of the kindest and most thoughtful people I have ever met. At a development staff meeting someone made a statement that it was hard to give to various causes and to pay one's bills as well.

Jennings addressed the person and told the following story: When he and his wife were first married and organizing their finances, they paid their bills first and then made their charitable donations. They then made the observation that it seemed they had little disposable income for themselves. Then they made a change in how they did this. They made their charitable donations first and then paid their bills. They said they were amazed at how much disposable income they then had for themselves! I hope this example will help you as you reach your decision regarding your financial support of St. John's.

Don Sahling

From Bread For the World

This year Bread for the World is celebrating the fortieth anniversary of its founding. Bread launched its first large-scale Offering of Letters in 1975 – on the right to food aid. Fewer than 10,000 members at that time invited their fellow church members to participate and were able to generate more than 100,000 letters to Congress in support of the landmark Right to Food Resolution. The measure passed overwhelmingly by Congress. It states: "...the United States reaffirms the right of every person in this country and throughout the world to food and a nutritionally adequate diet...."

Nearly four decades later, this simple, brilliant idea – the Offering of Letters remains one of Bread's core organizing strategies. In 40 campaigns members have written millions of letters to their members of Congress. All have created help and opportunity for hungry people. A 2007 World Bank report said, "In the contemporary United States, few can rival the voice and energy of Bread for the World, a citizens group inspired by its Christian faith to lead the cause to end hunger." Other independent groups continue to affirm this finding.

St. John's will join the 2014 Offering of Letters in October, urging Congress to reform U.S. food aid.

News and Events

Mwangaza is coming to St. John's on Monday, October 13th at 7 p.m.

Program directors John Kavishe and Salome Lally, accompanied by Shoonie Hartwig, Jim and LaRue Unglaube, look forward to saying thank you to so many at St. John's for years of faithful support. The hour long program will take you to Tanzania and Mwangaza, envision with you the Literacy for Living outreach as well as time for Q and A. For those who would like more time to visit with the Mwangaza staff, join us for a dinner in St. John's Hall at 5:30 p.m. Please RSVP for the dinner to David Norman at: Dnorman@k-state.edu. We hope those who know a bit about Mwangaza and those who don't will join us!

WELCA Triennial Gathering

"Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in." Isaiah 58:12

"Of Many Generations" was the theme of the 9th Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA in Charlotte, North Carolina July 24-27. St. John's sent two representatives, Christy Hall-Holt and Jane Rinehart. Isaiah 58:12 was the text calling us to action: to rebuild, raise up, repair the breach, and restore. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the first woman bishop of the ELCA, greeted the Gathering our first morning and spoke of Isaiah's passage as "a word of hope and light in the midst of broken walls." She reminded us our work as women is fundamental to human society, even though it is often not recorded in history books. She calls the ELCA to be an alternative face of Christianity in the USA, to be a compassionate and nonjudgmental voice, the voice of grace freely given. This theme was carried through by the keynote speakers. Rev. Susan Sparks, once a corporate lawyer, now the first female senior pastor at New York's Madison Avenue Baptist Church and a stand-up comedian, uses humor to extend God's healing grace: "If you can laugh at yourself, you can forgive yourself. If you can forgive yourself, you can forgive others." Her talk was hilarious and moving. You can sample a similar talk by Pastor Sparks on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7pvnaUUh8M>, or read her book, "Laugh Your Way to Grace." Rev. Becca Stevens, another keynote speaker, is the founder of Magdalene and Thistle Farms in Nashville. This is a community that stands with women recovering from violence, prostitution, and addiction, providing treatment homes with 80% recovery rates, and jobs creating health products to support the work (web site is thistlefarms.org). Pastor Stevens states, "A church without beggars is truly a museum and has lost its mission. This faith, and the power of love, can restore the world." These powerful keynotes were followed up with workshops and servant events to provide us with ways to live out the themes in Isaiah 58:12.

Our time at the convention began and ended in worship services with communion. The gatherings were enlivened by international music performed by the Glocal Musicians of the ELCA. The final offering totaled \$67,533, which included a \$300 donation from St. John's WELCA. Money will be given to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Charlotte-based "On Eagles' Wings," and to Churchwide WELCA. The next triennial will be in Minneapolis in 2017. We hope many of you will be able to attend, and bring your sisters, daughters and friends.

News and Events

St. John's Donation to the Ministry Fund

Kamen Makuer grew up in the midst of a decades-long civil war in the south of Sudan with the uncertainty and fear that war brings. He gathered with people of faith to worship under large trees near their village because church buildings had been destroyed in the fighting. He tells stories of having machine guns targeting his worshipping community as they prayed. Kamen fled that land of chaos, seeking a safe place to live and worship. After a journey through Khartoum and Egypt he found his way to America as a refugee.

After moving to the Rochester area to find employment he sought out people who could worship in his native tribal language. In December of 2005 Kamen and some other leaders gathered a group of his fellow Dinka to worship at Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester. For a number of years they simply used space in Zumbro's building. The Dinka community knew how to be a congregation in Sudan. They struggled to figure out how to be an effective congregation in America. Some leadership challenges arose which they had a hard time working through.

Over time, a relationship began to grow between the Dinka community, Zumbro Lutheran Church, and the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. The Dinka came to the relationship with a history of a resilient faith that stood up to the horrors of civil war. Zumbro brought some expertise on some best practices on how to be a congregation in America. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod was able to connect the Dinka with five other South Sudanese worshipping communities throughout the synod.

In 2013 the two separate communities became one. Zumbro Lutheran Church is now a congregation that leads worship in English on Sunday mornings and in Dinka on Sunday afternoons. Both communities are committed to the relationship, and Zumbro has included significant financial support for this emerging ministry with the expectation that they will eventually be able to fully fund God's mission among the Dinka in Rochester.

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the ELCA have partnered together to provide financial support for this ministry, giving Zumbro time to grow into the relationship. The monies for the synod's portion have come from a designated New Ministry Fund that exists outside the normal synodical budget. In 2014 the New Ministry Fund supports six South Sudanese ministries (in Austin, Faribault, Owatonna, and Rochester) among three different tribes (Dinka, Nuer, and Anyuak).

In addition to the South Sudanese ministries, the New Ministry Fund underwrites a portion of a brand new House Church ministry that is emerging from Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Rochester. Many people in this day and age don't feel comfortable walking through the front doors of a church building. This ministry will take 'the church' out of the walls of a building into people's homes.

This support would not be possible without the partnership of congregations like St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield. In the past six months you have generously provided \$6000, ensuring that God's work is done in new and exciting ways. Thank you! This is God's work, done with your hands.

**Rev. Pete Reuss
Director for Evangelical Mission
Southeastern Minnesota Synod**

From the Peace and Justice group

Excerpts from a Letter sent by Leonard Vibbi, a St. Olaf student who received a grant from St. Johns to help with the funding of this project:

“I just want to give you a follow up on the progress of the peace project. On my arrival the Fourah Bay College students were on finals so we had to wait for some time.

They however finished last week and we have started holding student friendly peace awareness discussions on campus. We have also met different stakeholders such as radio journalists, warden of Fourah Bay College and religious leaders. We have done series of radio discussion on it and also have been promoting the project on Facebook.

So far it is going well and we hope to complete soon by holding one more student conference where we will host 25 student leaders from Fourah Bay College. The aim of this is to encourage peace dialogue among students from different political entities in Fourah Bay College. We believe that this discussion will help unravel burning issues among student that contribute to precipitating violence on campus during student government elections.

Moreover, the peace dialogue will also help students leaders from different entities to begin understand and start compromising their political and ideological differences. We will compile the deliberations in a document that we will later present to the College’s administration in order to serve as a working document for students and the administration to curb violence during student government elections.

One challenge has been managing the limited funding we have to do the most in promoting peace at FBC. The issue of uncompromising political differences among students in Fourah Bay College is deep and extensive to other colleges in Sierra Leone. A well-funded program would have made it easier to tackle many areas at once.

Another challenge has been the outbreak of Ebola virus in the East of the country. This health crisis has inhibited public gathering all around the country including Freetown (West) where we are doing the peace project. We are however taking precautions whenever we gather with students or meet other stakeholders.... We are hopeful that it will not interfere too much in bringing the 25 student leaders from Fourah bay college together.

Nonetheless we are grateful to be starting the project on a small scale....

Warmest Regards, Leonard Vibbi”



From the Peace and Justice group...

Peace and Justice Group Meeting

At our September meeting, Monday, September 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room, the Peace & Justice Group will discuss the work we wish to do this autumn. All are welcome to attend and offer their ideas, even if you have not attended before.

Paul Peterson, Ruth Hansen, Jane Rinehart, and Judith Stoutland met August 4 to review the focus we have had the past year. Our consideration of needs in the Rice County criminal justice system will continue. At present we are waiting for developments in programs for helping those who have served their time re-enter regular society. We also will check on the progress of translating important information for those needing material in Spanish.

Concern for adequate Food For All is shared by a number of groups and individuals at St. John's. We will coordinate our work with that of other groups to strengthen the focus. We will look at Reforming Foreign Aid through Bread for the World emphasis and will learn of a new approach to preventing the wasting of food prepared which a Carleton student is working on this autumn to bring the usable food to the Food Shelf and other distribution points.

The theme of the International Day of Peace Celebration on Sunday, September 21 is "The Right of Peoples to Peace." It draws our attention to the new challenges in human rights. An important part of this is "Transitional Rights" relevant in those areas where government structure is missing, has been destroyed. The discussions of that Day can lead to a deeper understanding of the challenges to human rights in many places.

If you have special interest in any of the above or have other topics you would like to consider please let one of the above named members know.

International Day of Peace ~ Sunday, Sept. 21

The 14th Northfield Community Celebration of the International Day of Peace will be held Sunday, September 21 at Bridge Square at 2:00 p.m. Workers and supporters of peace will gather to share their commitment and experiences under the theme "The Right of Peoples to Peace". In addition a focus on human rights—individual and group rights as the theme indicates, the afternoon will have music, poetry, an open mike for spontaneous individual participation.

Open to all, the day offers opportunity for sharing work, goals, successes and needs with neighbors and friends. We hope to see you there!



Senior Pastor
Pam Fickenscher
Visitation Pastor
John Quam
Pastoral Intern
John Schwehn
Children's Ministry
Julie Brehmer
Facility Manager
Tim Byers
Financial Manager
Bernie Renander
Music Ministry
Nathan Proctor
Music Staff
Carol Benson - Alleluia
Cathy Rodland - Jubilate
& Jubilate Schola
Zack Pelletier - Rejoice
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