

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

October 2014

Volume 54, Number 9

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Worship Services:

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

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

office@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

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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.

WiFi Now Available Throughout St. Johns!

This past spring St. John's Foundation approved use of funds to improve St. John's wireless connectivity throughout the building. The project has been worked on over the last several months and is now completed, offering better security for our church systems and at the same time better connectivity for guests throughout the building.

In this time when many of our students need internet capability to complete their homework and many teaching tools are now accessible online, the new WiFi will improve our hospitality to students on Wednesday nights and throughout the week.

WiFi passwords for guests will change on a regular basis, so if you need access while in the building, please ask a staff member for the current password.



St. John's Annual Harvest Festival!

When: Sunday, October 26, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Where: E vensons' Farm
5061 320th St. W., Northfield

Come and enjoy fall activities:
pumpkin carving, pumpkin bean bag toss,
bingo, hayrides, and more!

Everyone is welcome!

Feel free to come in costumes!

Bring your friends!

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

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

Galatians 6:2



Providing one-
to-one care and
encouragement

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

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.

Barriers to Seeking Help

Have you ever experienced difficult times and felt the need to talk with someone? Many of us who have gone through these times know the benefit of having a caring and sympathetic person with whom we can share our troubles and burdens. Caring communication with others is a basic human need. However, most of us are much more open to giving care than to receiving it. As a result, many of us who could benefit from a Christian friend are toughing it out on our own. Sometimes our own fears get in the way. We may fear that we will be judged harshly. We may fear that by talking about our problems they will become more real. We may fear that everyone will know our business.

The relationship between the Stephen Minister and the care receiver is different from other relationships in your life. The Stephen Minister's purpose is to be there for you, listening carefully to your concerns and problems. Even though you may fear being judged, the Stephen Minister is not judgmental but rather compassionate and caring. Even though you may fear change or that naming your troubles will make them worse, the act of

sharing can lighten your load since you have someone who will listen to your deepest concerns and shoulder your burdens. And, even though you may fear everyone will know your business, confidentiality is an important part of the relationship Stephen Ministers have with their care receivers.

God did not intend for us to struggle alone. Having someone to care, to listen, and to share God's love can help us deal with the confusion, stress, or loneliness we may be experiencing. At St. John's, Stephen Ministers are present to be by your side and to offer a listening ear and a caring heart. If you or someone you know can benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, please call a pastor, 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson, 645-8445.



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."

October 5, 2013
Leonard DeWolfe

October 11, 2013
Alice Hanson

October 15, 2013
Mary Anderson

October 20, 2013
David Armstrong

October 30, 2013
Karen Hamilton

Northfield Grief Support Coalition:

A grief support group for anyone grieving the death of a loved continues on Wednesdays through October 29 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.

A second support group will be offered at St. John's on Tuesdays beginning October 7 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. For further information contact Naomi Mandsager Bartley at 507-403-3394.

Pastors' Page

The Problem With Faith

All
who
hunger
gather
gladly
Holy
manna
is our
bread.

It's October, which means that Lutherans will be doing very Lutheran things: affirming the baptisms of young people on October 12 and celebrating Reformation Sunday on October 26. It's a month when talk of "faith" figures prominently in our conversations, as it did in Martin Luther's thinking.

For many people in our time, the word faith can be troublesome. Instead of hearing Martin Luther's intended associations of trust and assurance, many 21st century Americans associate "faith" with certainty – sometimes rigid, aggressive certainty. The nuances of living in the midst of doubts and fears seem to be absent from this version of faith, and too many people worry that if their level of assurance doesn't measure up, then they have no place in Christian community. And when the media broadcast the worst-case scenarios of bigoted, hateful "faith," we worry that claiming a particular kind of Christian practice is just another version of primitive tribalism.

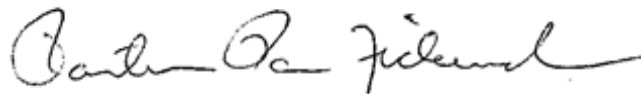
As staff we hear these worried questions often from parents, particularly as they struggle with how to pass on something to their children. "How do I talk about my child's questions when I don't know the answers myself?" "If I answer my child honestly about my own doubts, will I confuse them?" "I pray *for* my children, but I'm not comfortable praying *with* them – and certainly not in front of anyone else!"

Perhaps our question should not be "Do you have faith?" as if faith is a static commodity. Maybe instead we should talk about our longing for faith, our desire for greater trust in God and relationship with Jesus, who exemplified total assurance in God's reign. *Do you want faith? Are you attracted to the faith of Jesus, and the way he lived out God's love?*

ELW 461

The church cannot produce faith for you. Faith is, ultimately, a mysterious gift. But in hearing the Word and sharing at Jesus' table, we again and again feed that hunger for God's presence.

In our gatherings this month, look for ways to feed that hunger for God's presence. Consider joining a small group, or coming to a Wednesday night session with your child. Offer up your time in delivering Meals on Wheels or writing a letter on behalf of the hungry in our country. Wait for God's providing, and taste and see that God is good.





A Note from Joanne

The time has come for me to resign the position of Shared Ministry Coordinator. Although I am sad to be leaving this position, the medical issues I am dealing with make it a bit difficult to have the energy needed to do this job. I would rather the church has someone that can step in and do this with all it requires. My resignation is effective November 1, 2014.

A huge thank you to all who have supported my never-ending requests to volunteer where you have been needed and your consistent willingness to do the work. I also want to send a thank you to all who have supported and encouraged me along the way. St. John's clearly has the Spirit working here and you are all a testimony to that belief.

*Blessings,
Joanne Sommers*

Coffee as Ministry at St John's

The coffee hour has long been important as a gathering place to renew friendships, meet new faces and to get a little refreshment either after, or just before services, or on our way to forum or small groups. Some of us even stay in the hall in engaged conversation the whole time. We have probably not usually thought of this simple coffee break as an integral aspect of our ministry to each other.

However, just as the Eucharist is a simple meal, before it is a sacrament, our coffee together is more than a small snack, when it is brought into our community as an expression of shared bread and hospitality. We want to encourage everyone to share in the fellowship, and to affirm this time together, as part of the St. John's Sunday morning ministry to our guests as well as our members.

We also wish to encourage congregational sharing in support of the coffee hour. We believe this may be accomplished by a division of labor. We believe that spreading the responsibilities can reduce the burden on volunteers. **Volunteers can help by making and/or serving coffee, set up and/or clean up, or bringing treats. Starting within the next couple of Sundays, there will be a sign-up board in the Commons to help with this important tradition at St. John's.**

If you have any questions please contact Joanne Sommers at 645-4429 or sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

Flower Ministry

Corrine and Elvin Heiberg are retiring from their "flower ministry" at St. John's. Since they retired from working in Elvin's dental office seventeen years ago, they have distributed flowers from worship services and funerals to hospitalized and shut-ins. They hope that this service will continue to bring joy to many people. If you are interested in helping with flower distribution, please contact the church office or Joanne Sommers, Shared Ministry Coordinator.

***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

ELCA Youth Gathering

Informational Meeting

When: Wednesday, October 8th, 7:15-7:45 p.m.

Where: Youth Room

What: Come learn about the **2015 ELCA Youth Gathering** trip in **Detroit**. We'll go over what the ELCA Youth Gathering is and why it is such a impactful faith-forming event, talk some logistics (expected costs, transportation, etc.), and set some fundraising goals so that every person that wants to go, can go. **All youth who will have completed 8th grade by July of 2015 are encouraged to participate.**



Adopt – A – Highway

When: Saturday, October 6th,
2:00-3:30 p.m.

Where: Meet in the HS Parking Lot

What: It's time to clean up our stretch of HWY 246 before the snow comes! Join us to keep Northfield looking beautiful. Afterwards, if it is hot we'll go out for ice cream and if it's chilly we'll find hot chocolate or cider – St. John's treat!

NAYW Photo Scavenger Hunt

When: Saturday, October 25th, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Where: Meet in Bridge Square

What: Join us as we race around downtown Northfield in a photo-scavenger competition. You and a team of friends will compete against your peers from other area churches to take the most creative photos, score the most points, have a ton of fun and hopefully win a pizza party courtesy of Northfield Area Youth Workers.



All youth (guests included!) 6th-12th grades are invited. Even if you can't put together a team beforehand, come and we'll find you a group. At least one group member should have a camera or phone with the ability to upload pictures to the web.

"The Gathering"

We are excited to continue "The Gathering" during the Education Hour when children are in Sunday school. The Gatherings are facilitated discussions on issues related to youth, children and parenting/grandparenting.

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 (seniors are welcome) 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 – 10:40 a.m.

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) Mark your calendars for the Confirmation Rehearsal and Breakfast on Saturday, October 11th at 8:00 a.m. We will take pictures, run through the service, and share a meal with your families and mentors.
- 2) Sunday, October 12th, the 11:00 a.m. service will be the Confirmation service. Please arrive and meet in the Fireside Room no later than 10:30 a.m. so that we can get your robes on, your boutonnieres pinned, get organized for the processional, and pray before together before the service.

We are so proud of you and excited to hear you affirm your faith at this milestone of your faith journey. May God's peace be with you this day and for the many days to follow.

Sunday School Schedule

October 5 Sunday School
 October 12 Sunday School
 October 19 No Sunday School (MEA)
 October 26 Sunday School (3rd graders receive Bibles)

ROCK – Wednesdays programming

October 1
 October 8
 October 15 NO Wednesday programs (MEA)
 October 22
 October 29

Youth Blast – Good Earth Village

October 10-11 (3rd – 6th Grade)

CATechism

Grades 4 & 5 – Youth Room 4:15–4:45 p.m.

October 1
 October 8
 October 22
 October 29

3rd Grade CAT Bible Retreat with parents

9:00-11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall
 Saturday, October 25

Fall Festival

October 26, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
 Event at Brian Evenson and Sue Brockman's Home
 (See page 1 for details)

4th and 5th Grade CAT Begins in October

4th and 5th grade students at St. John's will begin Catechism starting on Wednesday, October 1. CAT class will meet downstairs, 4th grade in Sunday school classroom 19 and 5th grade in Room 9 (lower level) from 4:15 – 4:45 p.m. CAT meets Oct. 1, 8, 22, 29; Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28; April 8, 15, 22.

4th graders who received Catechisms this year:

Vivian Beeby, Lexi Foster, Rhett Garlie, Tyler Lemke, Ella Loring, Lucy Menssen, Luke Redetzke, James Root, Johann Schroeer, Thomas Weber, Gus Welbaum, Marion Williams, Max Williams, Sigrid Zillmer

Please contact Julie Brehmer if your child would like to ride the St. John's afterschool bus on Wednesdays to CAT. The bus picks up at Sibley, Bridgewater, Greenvale and at the Middle School for PCCS kids.

Where Does Your Sunday School Offering Go?

St. John's Sunday School offering will be distributed to 2 different missions this year:

We continue to sponsor Romairo Vasquez Polo from Columbia through Compassion International. Our sponsorship of \$38.00 / month provides Romairo with Bible teaching, medical care, nutritious meals, recreational activities, academic support, educational classes and literacy training.

Offering beyond meeting Romario's sponsorship will benefit Rice County Habitat for Humanity. The first Sunday school rotation in November will help students learn more about this project.

3rd Graders and their Parents to Study the Word

3rd graders and parents meet in St. John's Hall on **Saturday, October 25, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** for a Retreat on the Word – an Introduction to the Bible. This class will be a primer on the Bible for students who will receive their Bibles at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, Oct. 26. Please call Pastor Pam or Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either day.

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.

Youth Blast Retreat

Youth Blast invites kids in grades 3-5 for an overnight adventure at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN on October 10-11. If your child has not signed up and is interested in attending, it may not be too late! Call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 to see if space is available. Thanks to all who are going as chaperones! It promises to be great fun!



ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids!

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program offered to children from kindergarten to grade 5, is off to a great start. Wednesday afterschool programs for all grade levels consist of an afterschool snack, recreation/Opening, Catechism, music opportunities (Alleluia and Jubilate Choir), art, service projects and more! St. John's provides a bus to pick up children who are interested in participating in our afterschool programs. Our bus travels to Sibley, Bridgewater and Greenvale, plus Prairie Creek children from the Middle School.

For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes an insert you may use to register your child.

Thank You, Sunday School Volunteers!

Sunday School is off to a great start thanks to the dedicated teachers and volunteers at St. John's. Our teachers: **Preschool 1 & 2**– Cheryl Buck, Jenny Nystrom, Emma Kmoch, Dodie Mickelsen, Kristin Partlo, Rachel Skunes; **Kindergarten** –Angie McCarthy, Amy McBroom; **First Grade** – Emily Westerback, Bailey Dell, Elizabeth Evenson; **Second Grade** – Rachel Saxton, Kully Hane, Jane Horton; **Third Grade** – Connie Menssen, Julie Becker; **Fourth Grade** –Amelia Kneser, Hannah Gelle; **Fifth Grade** – Olaf Hall-Holt

Also, thank you to Susan Canon for coordinating Library Time, Jenny Pelletier, Carol Benson, Rachel Skunes and Andrea Hoff for helping with Music/Opening and Rob Nutt, Angie Gehring, Maren Bahler, and Kelly Hebzynski.



NEW THIS YEAR!

Children who are 2 by 9/1/14, along with their parents, are invited to Fellowship Hall for a special "Toddler Time" on Sunday, October 12! Feel free to come to Sunday School Opening at 9:45 a.m. Toddler Time will follow at 10:00 a.m. Our little ones will enjoy songs, Bible stories, games, puppets and will be lead by Rachel Skunes. Please give Julie Brehmer a call if you have questions.

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in October

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.

October 5:

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, Room 201 and Room 202.

Forum: Small Catechism - Creed Part 3, Sanctuary.

The Gathering: College Information Session for High School Sophomores, Juniors & Parents. Fireside Room.

October 12:

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, Room 201 and Room 202.

Forum: Soren Kierkegaard - Relevance for Today's Lutheran?, Sanctuary.

October 19:

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall.

Forum: Intergenerational Event - Assemble School Kits, St. John's Hall.

October 26:

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, Room 201 and Room 202.

Forum: End of Life Issues Part 1, Sanctuary.

Intergenerational Sunday!



We've collected the school supplies now let's pack them!

When: Sunday, October 19

Where: St. John's Hall

Time: 9:45 – 10:45 a.m.

Everyone is invited to help pack 100 school bags! Bring your kids!

September Actions

Deaths

Eugene Schrader, September 12, 2014

Radio Broadcasts

September 07, 2014, given in celebration of Marie Struss' 80th birthday from her children, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter.

September 14, 2014, given by friends of St. John's.

September 21, 2014, given by Bruce and Alice Rickert in honor of the marriage of their daughter Heidi Rickert and Bruce Owens on September 19.

September 28, 2014, given in memory of Leonard and Marie DeWolfe by the Leonard DeWolfe memorial fund.

News and Events

Girl Scouts Improve Recycling at St. Johns

Girl Scout Junior Troop #25258 has been working on a badge this year that focuses on energy, conservation, and waste reduction. It has involved working with the St. Olaf Science Alliance, a trip to the Prairie Island Nuclear Power Plant, serving as the Dundas Green Team, and many other projects. With money earned from the Dundas Green Team project, the group decided to utilize their earnings to improve recycling options at St. John's. Troop meetings and many events are held here, and they saw this as a real need. The girls purchased 21 blue recycling bins and labeled them with helpful information to make sure materials are recycled properly. Thank you to Tim Byers, St. John's facility manager, for his help and support with the project. St. John's scouts include Ainsely Nutt, Annelise Hall-Holt, Elena Mikula, and Jeanette Pelletier.



Food Recovery - Focus of Peace and Justice Program, Oct. 6, 7:00 p.m.

Ever wonder what happens to all of the leftover food in the college cafeterias? More often than not, it's thrown away. However, there is a new network working to change this situation.



Shira Kaufman is a student leader of Carleton's Food Recovery Network, which has been actively working since January 2014 to put the "waste" to better use. She is supported in her work by Kelly Scheurman, the program director of Carleton's Center for Community and Civic Engagement.

Both Shira and Kelly will present a program about food recovery at the St. John's Peace and Justice meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 6th in St. John's Hall. Learn what is being done locally to prevent good food from going to waste, how the food is collected, and where the food is donated.

Come early for dinner with Growing Up Healthy's Community Cooking Club at 5:30 p.m.! Register at Just Food Coop's website: <http://justfood.coop/events/> - scroll down to "Growing Up Healthy Community Cooking." Meet your neighbors and take home a new recipe!

News and Events

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

For the past 18 years Mwangaza has developed leaders in education in the Tanzanian Lutheran Church, and linked them with the synods of the ELCA. Program directors John Kavishe and Salome Lally, accompanied by Shoonie Hartwig, and 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 how a small mini-book can change a student's life; learn how women and girls are being empowered; discover how healthy communities nurture mind, body, and spirit. 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 want to know more will join us!

Letter from St. John's Partners in Columbia: El Salvador Church and El Cocuy School

"May the peace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with each one of you.

Please receive a cordial greeting from El Salvador Church and the Colegio Celco de El Cocuy School, thankful for the brotherhood and the kindness that you have had with us. We also give thanks to God for you.

We were very pleased to receive news about you, and have not been able to answer you because the council of the church did not meet. May God bless the new pastor who accompanies you and we hope that God gives them the opportunity to visit us.

The Church of El Salvador continues firm in the faith and like you we also have another pastor. Pastor Martin left due to difficulties with family and now we have Pastor Benjamin Ojeda with us. Pastor Ojeda is a retired pastor with the Lutheran Church and has been with us from the month of August.

We want to send a report about the economic resources received from our sister Val Hallen. First we want to thank her family for permitting these resources to be sent to us – a private educational institution without the funding to maintain the physical plant, acquire technological equipment and the rest. Be assured that this gift was and will be a great blessing for our boys and girls at Colegio Celco.

We received from the central office funds with a value of 78.127.566 Colombian pesos and with this we have done the following:

- In the utility room we have installed a metal support grid in the ceiling of 3.50 x 7.00 meters with the purpose of providing security, we also installed 7 metal sheets of good quality in the classrooms, the Library, and the office of the Director.
- 17 laptop computers were purchased, 15 are Dell Intel core i3, 4gb memory ram, 750 gb hard disc, and Windows 8 software; and 2 Toshiba Intel core i5, 6 Gb of ram, and a 750 Gb hard disc. The Dell computers are being used by the students, 1 Toshiba computer is in the Director's Office and the other is being used by the docents.

Respecting the repair of the bathrooms, we have encountered difficulties because we have not been able to do this while the students are in classes due to the possibility of an accident. We had thought that we could do this during the July vacation of 2 weeks but the winter and the short amount of time prevented completion of the project. We have plans to complete it during the months of December and January.

We have also reinforced the doors of the class rooms and the entrances to the main patio putting down new metal sheets and metal bolts, and also in the school office. There were also installed metal reinforcements, one in the library and one in the rectory.

With great appreciation y brotherhood, very grateful for your generosity. Fraternally in Christ.

Church Council of El Salvador”

From the Properties & Grounds Board

St. John's is Installing LED Lighting

During the month of October, you will notice a lighting change at church! We are replacing all of our incandescent and halogen light bulbs with LED lighting. We have contracted with CEE (Center for Energy and Environment) to replace all of our screw in light bulbs throughout St. John's which will include the sanctuary, St. John's Hall, classrooms, offices, and hallways. The contractor will be at church for 2-3 days in October to do the work. The exact dates of this have not been set, but it will be in mid to late October. You may notice a change after the LED bulbs have been installed – we will have a little “whiter light” with these bulbs. Typical incandescent bulbs have a light temperature of 2700K, the new LED bulbs will have a temperature of 3000K. You may notice that you can read your bulletin or the hymnals a little easier with these new lights!

CEE and Xcel energy have collaborated to estimate that these updates will save St. John's an average of over \$500 a month in our electrical costs by this alone. The expected return on our investment will be realized after 2 ½ years. In addition to this savings, the change will benefit us in many ways as we move forward. We will not have to replace any of these bulbs for the first 5 years – they are guaranteed for 5 years. Many of the bulbs are expected to last for 30 years because we use them less than 10 hours a week. This minimizes the maintenance required to replace bulbs high above us in the sanctuary and St. John's Hall!

In addition to the new LED lighting project, we are starting to replace the existing florescent light bulbs with a much more efficient ballast and bulb. Our Facilities Manager will be working on these as the bulbs or ballasts fail.

We are very excited about this change! Please contact the Properties & Grounds Board if you have any questions about the project.

From the Faith and Health Board

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.

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, patients must state St. John's 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.

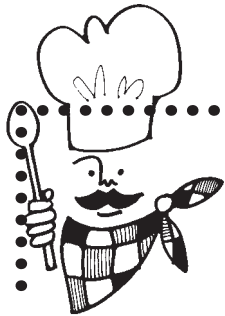
From the Stewardship Board

Last year an article in [Christ in Our Home](#) caught my attention, and I would like to share some of the author's comments with you. The writer stated that our need to give far exceeds God's need to receive, for the Lord owns it already. We need to give because it opens the gate to satisfaction and joy. It also helps cure self-centeredness. The familiar hymn reminds us, "All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee."

The Stewardship Board has conveyed this message to the congregation through articles in the September and October issues of "The Voice," several Sunday bulletin inserts, and through members speaking about how the ministry of St. John's has impacted their lives and is important to them. We trust this message has resonated with you as well and that you will eagerly assist in supporting the mission and ministry of St. John's. Sharing our time, talent, and now our financial resources is an important part of responding the Gospel.

In mid-October you will be receiving a pledge card from the Stewardship Board. We ask you to complete the card and either bring it to the Church Office or place it in the Sunday offering plate by November 9. Your participation and support of this effort is greatly appreciated.

Don Sahling
Member of Stewardship Board



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.

Come, Share a Meal!

Wednesday, October 1
Chicken and Noodles

Wednesday, October 8
Beef Stew and Bakery Bread

Wednesday, October 15 (MEA)
Meatloaf and Mashed Potatoes

Wednesday, October 22
Chili

Wednesday, October 29
Mac/Cheese and Hot Dog Bar

Free will offering appreciated!

From Bread For the World

Bread for the World Offering of Letters: Reforming U.S. Food Aid

A letter from Bread for the World President David Beckmann (excerpt)

In Isaiah 65, the Old Testament prophet speaks of life as God intends it. Life is more than simply receiving good things. It is also participating in creating a good life and a society that reflects God's desire for an abundant life for everyone.

I invite you to join thousands of Christians all over the United States in acting on God's purpose for our lives. Please use the power of influence that God has entrusted to you to help our neighbors overseas by writing hunger into history through Bread for the World's 2014 Offering of Letters: Reforming U.S. Food Aid.

This year's Offering of Letters campaign is particularly important because of the devastation wrought by major international emergencies in recent years such as 2013's typhoon in the Philippines, 2010's massive earthquake in Haiti, and the ongoing crisis in Syria. These disasters underscore how valuable food aid is. It is vital both in our responses to emergencies and in tackling hunger and malnutrition in the longer term.

For more than 50 years, U.S. food aid has benefited more than 3 billion people in 200 countries. The United States is the world's largest food-aid donor, and we are proud of our record. However, when more than 870 million people go hungry every day, making each dollar count is both a responsible use of taxpayer funds and a moral imperative.

With smart changes to food-aid programs, our government can both respond more quickly when disaster hits and reach more people. We can provide food that is more nutritious, especially for mothers and children. We can better support small-scale farmers and build local economies by obtaining food aid closer to where it is needed.

With these reforms, and with the same level of funding, U.S. food aid can benefit up to 17 million more people each year.

Thank you for being part of God's work by participating in Bread for the World's 2014 Offering of Letters: Reforming U.S. Food Aid.

Take time to write a brief letter to our Senators and Representative between services at the Bread for the World table in St. John's Hall on a Sunday in October. Pens, paper, envelopes, addresses, and a sample letter will be provided. Friendly fellow members of St. John's will be there to facilitate this important work.

We hope to have at least 100 letters to present with our weekly offering on Sunday, October 26, and we will celebrate with fresh bread during the coffee hour.

From the Peace and Justice group...

Continuing Support for the Rice County Community Corrections System

In the forthcoming year members of the Peace and Justice Group will continue to look for ways to be of assistance to those caught up in the criminal justice system.

- We hope to provide employment interview assistance to former inmates
- We hope to build and develop a clothes closet for former inmates
- We will continue to explore ways to assist Rice County Community Corrections, victims of crime, and professionals within the criminal justice system.

If you are interested in being a part of this, please be in touch with Greg Colby.

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.

Accompany

Contact: *Pastor Pam* 645-4429

Bold Cafe-Women of the ELCA

Contact: *Christy Hall-Holt* 664-0213
Anita Hellie 301-3609

Circle Bible Studies-Women of the ELCA

Contact: *Jane Gelle* 645-8507
Genevieve Quarberg 645-0089

Connections

Contact: *Carol Schoen* 645-6840

Grief Support

Contact: *Naomi Mandsager Bartley* 403-3394

Knitters-Women of the ELCA

Contact: *Kathy Vang* 645-4397
Delores Mickelsen 645-8101

Life Issues in Scripture

Contact: *Dick Beckmen* 645-3882

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

Quilters-Women of the ELCA Quilters

Contact: *Kathy Vang* 645-4849

Women's Breakfast Group-Women of the ELCA

Contact: *Kathy Mellstrom* 663-1451

God's Transforming Spirit

By Barbara Eaves

When I was about 10 years old, my dad bought our first television set. It was a console...a big piece of furniture. Accessing television where we lived also meant erecting an antenna on the roof which had to be turned toward the direction of the station nearly 80 miles from our home. We were the first household on our city block to have TV, so on January 1 we invited all the neighbors to come and watch the Rose Bowl parade. Not only was the picture in black and white, but much of the time we were trying to see the parade through an electronic snow storm on the screen. Who would have thought in 1950 the introduction of television would begin the transformation of how life is lived in today's world.

Transformation is also a part of our personal stories, changing us physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually. Some people may experience sudden and radical changes, but more often transformation evolves gradually over the years and as our life-experiences accumulate. Sometimes we may not even realize the stirring that has been going on within us; it is only as we look back that we are able to see clearly how we have been transformed.

Faith transformation is working in us when we open our hearts and minds to the nudging of the Holy Spirit. It is nurtured by being present and engaged in worship, in listening to the stories of others, through volunteer service, and as we are receptive to counsel, support and encouragement which lead us to new insights and understandings. In all these instances and more, God's Spirit is continually working within us transforming us anew each day. In that respect, we can say with confidence that we are always on a journey of "becoming."

*"...Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds..."*

Rom. 12-1-2

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

Deb Seitz, 301-3526,
deborah.seitz@nfl.d.k12.mn.us

Barb Eaves, 645-4172,
pbeaves@hotmail.com

Richard Beckmen, 664-3882
dickbeck32@q.com

Small Groups

Pick up a new catalog at the Small Group bulletin board display to see the groups that are being offered this fall. Contact names are listed in the catalog along with a brief description of each group and the details of when and where they gather.

If you would like to participate in a small group on a particular topic, please visit with a member of the Small Group Team listed in a box on the left side of this page.



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
October's Topic: "We are Called"

Oct. 2: Immigrant Church Trip led by Joe Shaw at 1:00 p.m. Men and Women invited.

Oct. 6: Bible Study Leaders meet at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room.

Oct. 7 & 21 Knitters meet at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang, 507-645-4849.

Oct. 8, 9, 10, 11: Circles meet. See time and location below.

Oct. 13: WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Oct. 13 & 16: Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Oct.19: Intergenerational Sunday from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in St. John's Hall. Help pack School Kits.

October: Men and women are invited — All are welcome! Bring a guest.

October 2: Thursday, 1:00 p.m. The Women of the ELCA- St. John's is sponsoring a tour of historic immigrant churches, led by Professor Joe Shaw. Professor Shaw is a member of St. John's and a retired religion professor at St. Olaf. Among his many works, he has written a biography of Bernt Julius Muus, founder of the churches we are visiting as well as founder of St. Olaf College. We will gather at St. John's at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 2, and join into car pools to take us first to Valley Grove Church, then on to Holden Church, and then to Vang Church. We will receive refreshments at Vang at the conclusion of Professor Shaw's presentation. Sign-up sheets will be available on the WELCA bulletin board, where you can also indicate a willingness to drive. **All are welcome—men and women!**

October 19: Intergenerational Sunday. During July and August we collected items for school bags. We need to pack the school bags and get them ready to send to Lutheran World Relief. Please join us on this Intergenerational Sunday between worship services and help pack the bags. Your help is greatly needed. We have about 120 bags to pack. Thanks to all who contributed to this LWR project. All ages welcome!

Coming in November

November 6: Thursday, 1:00 p.m. Lilia Escobar, St. Olaf student, will tell about her involvement with the Albany Park Theater Project's production *Home/Land* and with immigrant rights in Chicago.

Bible Study Circles Meet

Wednesday, Oct. 8: Lydia 9:30 a.m. at Marilyn Boschee's - 1714 Humphrey Court 645-9365

Sarah 9:30 a.m. at Dorothy Ostlie's - 888 Cannon Valley Dr. 645-2597

Thursday, Oct. 9: Elizabeth 1:30 p.m. at Dolores Mickelson's - 1000 Cannon Valley Dr. #105 645-8101

Abigail/Rebecca 2:00 p.m. at NRC Parkview E. Contact: Lois Wrede 663-9002

Martha/Claudia 9:30 a.m. at NRC Parkview W. Contact: Marilyn Jacobson 663-9060

Friday, Oct. 10: Mary 1:00 p.m. at Debby Becker's - 1211 Nevada St. 645-6896

Saturday, Oct. 11: Women's Breakfast Group 8:30 Fireside Room Contact: 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)

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
Ringers
Office Manager
Leah Garlie
Parish Nurse
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Shared Ministry
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Mike Skunes
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NORTHFIELD
CROP HUNGER WALK 2014
Sunday, October 5 · 2:00pm
Walk begins at United Church of Christ
300 Union Street, Northfield
- Ends at Bridge Square



Neighbors walking together to eradicate hunger and poverty, providing sustainable development, disaster relief and refugee assistance around the world.

25% of the funds raised locally goes to the Northfield Community Action Center.

WE WALK WE ALL WALK ...FOR US FOR ALL OF US



www.cropwalkonline.org