

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

November 2014

Volume 54, Number 10

*on the
inside...*

Shared Ministry
Update

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Set Your Clocks
Back on Nov. 1

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Call Committee
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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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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.

Exciting News for Our Keyboard Instruments

There is no doubt that music is important here at St. John's. I heard it over and over again during the time when I interviewed with you, and the best part now three months into my time with you: I believe you. I hear it in the hard work and dedication of all of our musical ensembles from adults to children each week. I hear it in your heartfelt congregational singing each Sunday. It's an amazing thing to sit at the organ facing the *opposite* direction of your voices and still this beautiful, rich sound finds its way up to my ears in the balcony. But what excites me the most is that despite the long musical tradition here, or history of excellent leadership, or great musical talent, music hasn't become something we do to celebrate ourselves, but instead we sing or ring or bow or breathe as a way that shapes our faith and gives praise to our Creator.

Worship in the first part of November is always an interesting time for me when we celebrate and remember All Saints, stewardship season, and Thanksgiving. I sometimes wonder how all of these events are connected, and this fall I have witnessed one of the best examples. During his interim time directing the music program, John Ferguson made it a project to look at the state of all of our keyboard instruments here at church. (Do you know we have eight pianos around our church building?) While the instruments have had regular yearly tunings, with the exception of the piano in the front of the sanctuary, it had been a long time since any significant maintenance was done. As a result of his work, exciting things are finally happening.

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Free Thanksgiving Dinner!

Laura Baker Services Association is hosting their 14th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 27, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in Millis Dining Hall, at 211 Oak Street in Northfield.

Everyone is invited for this delicious buffet-style meal - bring your family! If you need a ride or know of someone who needs a meal delivered to their home call Paula with Laura Baker Services at 645-8866, ext. 155.



Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 26

5:45 - Everyone's Choir Rehearsal
in Room 209

(All singers age 4th grade and up are
invited to sing in the Everyone's Choir)

6:30 Worship

7:15 - Potluck Pie Social

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*

Comforting Those Who Are Grieving

During November, several Forum topics are devoted to the subject of grief. How many times have we all found ourselves without the right words to express our feelings? Ministering to those experiencing grief is part of the Stephen Ministry curriculum. In class sessions we learn how to respond in meaningful ways to those who are grieving. We also explore what not to say. Perhaps some of these suggestions will be helpful to you.

1. Go to those who are bereaved as soon as possible. Those in grief need to see and feel the concern and the love you have for them. Simple words like "I'm with you" or "I'm here and I care" let the grieving person know you are fully present with them.
2. Often times we feel at a loss for words when expressing sentiments to a grieving person. Simply stating, "I really don't know what to say. All I can say is that I'm here with you" sends a powerful message. You can also express yourself through a loving hug, a handshake, or even a simple touch. Even though we don't know what to say, we can listen.
3. Avoid saying clichés such as "I know just how you feel" or "Time heals all wounds." While these statements are not meant to be insensitive, they can be perceived that way and they can actually make the grieving person feel worse.
4. Remember important dates to the person who is grieving such as birthdays, holidays, and anniversaries. Contact the grieving person on these important dates. In this way you convey you are thinking about them and their loss.

Working through grief is a process that requires the support of others. If you know someone who would benefit from a Stephen Minister as they work through the grief process, 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 continues on Tuesdays through November 11 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at St. John's. For further information contact Naomi Mandsager Bartley at 507-403-3394.

A Special Event, "Grief and the Holidays," will be led by Erin Barnett, M.A., LPC on Thursday, November 6, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Center at the Northfield Hospital.



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."

November 4, 2013

Mark Feroe

November 29, 2013

Arlene Rudser

From our pastors ...

Is there any more beautiful time in Minnesota than fall? (Don't answer that; I'm a winter fan too.)

One can't help but be amazed by the abundance of beauty and harvest in this time of year. Trucks overflow with corn; apple cider presses run full-time; children return to school and they all seem to have grown three inches.

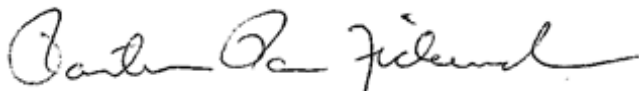
In the church year, November is a time where themes of harvest and ending are everywhere. We begin the month with All Saints Sunday, and remembering specifically those who have died in the past year, and we end the month with a cornucopia of harvest and parables of the "end times." Biblical stories and hymnody often equate harvest with "end time" because we understand that "all the world is God's own field," and the image of harvest becomes a way to think of how God will gather up all that is done for God's praise.

In the round of our year, however, harvest is not an end, but really just the beginning of what becomes of all that fruit of the earth. Next it will be stored or moved or sold; it will be transformed into food for beasts or humans; and that food will fuel the energies of more plantings, more harvests, more praise to God.

As we gather up our pledges to God's work for 2015, we do so with "joy and thanksgiving" for what has gone before; but we also offer them up as signs of hope for the future. Our gratitude leads to giving; and that giving leads to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others, who in turn can be invited to live fruitful lives that are signs of God's gracious love.

This month we will also likely be welcoming a new staff member to help us live out our faith in shared ministry. This language is intentional because the work of welcoming others, showing hospitality, and taking our Christian service beyond our four walls are all tasks we share as Christians. Coordinating it all might take a professional – but the ministry of each member in this work is equally important. When we serve others as we have been served, we continue the cycle of planting, harvest and gratitude that keeps "God's field" beautiful and growing.

Join us for worship this month in the many opportunities to celebrate memory and hope – memory for all God's goodness of the past, and hope built on the assurance of God's promise to be with us, even to the end of the age.



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, November 5
Tater Tot Casserole

Wednesday, November 12
Toscana & Tortellini Soup with Bread

Wednesday, November 19
Enchilada Hotdish

Wednesday, November 26
No Meal

Free will offering appreciated!



Shared Ministry Update

In the last issue of the Voice, Joanne Sommers shared her health news and her desire to concentrate fully on healing and recovery in the days ahead. In anticipation of her stepping back from her role at the end of this month, a task force has begun meeting to discuss the current state of shared ministry and challenges for a future staff person in this position. They have been discussing their own experiences in volunteer coordination, speaking with other key groups around St. John's, and soliciting ideas from other congregations about how they share the work of service and welcome in their settings. The group is composed of members from a variety of ages and areas of engagement at St. John's. They are: Kristi Harms, Guy Reid, Chris Weber, Sandy Kimmes, Jane Gelle, and Keri Peterson.

By the end of this month, the group's work will shape the job description for the Shared Ministry Coordinator and the 20-hour position will be posted. We ask your continued prayers for Joanne, and for whomever God is calling to this position next!

Thanksgiving Pie Social

Once again this year, we will be having our Thanksgiving Pie Social following our Thanksgiving Eve service. We need some folks to step up and be in charge of the evening. If you can help with one of the following jobs please contact the Church Office. Thank you for considering volunteering!

Thanksgiving Pie Social Volunteers

Coordinator for the Pie Social
Help plate pies for the social
Help clean up after the social

Thank you to everyone who has been stepping up and helping with Wednesday Night Meals. We certainly appreciate the help from the folks who have been willing to serve.

Welcome to St. John's!

We will be welcoming the following new members on November 16th!

(If you would like contact information please contact the Church Office at 645-4429 or office@stjohnsnorthfield.org)

Cindy Barta

Kari Berit

Anastasia Bouillez and Ryan Luckman
(Aden Luckman)

Jim and Evie Bronson

Marilyn Calcutt

Dan and Karen Christ

David Kelvie

(Jack, Noell, Kayla)

Hayden Kvamme

Ed and Patty Lindell

Luther and Bonnie Peterson

Mark and Terry Rydberg

Dan and Rhoda Van Tassel

Sunday School Schedule

November 2 Sunday School –
(Daylight Savings Time Ends)
November 9 Sunday School
November 16 Sunday School
November 23 Sunday School
November 30 No Sunday School
(Thanksgiving Break)

ROCK - Wednesdays Programming

November 5
November 12
November 19
November 26 No Programming
(Thanksgiving Break)

Breakfast, PJs and Movie Morning

Monday, Nov. 3, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

No Wednesday Programming on November 26 - Thanksgiving Break

Advent Fair!

Wednesday, December 3, St. John's Hall

"Pay It Forward", Service Project

Saturday, December 6, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 14, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
St. John's Hall

Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!

Kids 5th grade and younger are invited to come in their pajamas to movie morning at St. John's! Come for breakfast and stay to watch a movie! Feel free to bring friends!

Where: The Commons for Breakfast,
Movie in St. John's Theater

When: Monday, November 3 – **NO SCHOOL DAY!**

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or call Julie at 645-4429.

Blessings and congratulations to our 3rd Graders who received their Bibles in October

Will Becker, Erik Boehning, Maren Coudret, Natalie DeGrego, Emerson Garlie, Madison Hansen, Jack Kelvie, Sam Larson, Braden Lemke, Ava Little, Cora McBroom, Emily McCarthy, Clara Menssen, Katherine Organ, Mason Vatter

The Bibles given to our 3rd graders are purchased using money from the Johnson Bible fund.

Youth Blast 2013!

We had a fantastic weekend in October at "Youth Blast", a retreat for 3rd – 5th graders at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. Thank you to Todd Menssen for helping me chaperone the event. Kids attending this year were: Will Becker, Maren Coudret, Lexi Foster, Lucy Menssen, Clara Menssen, Annelise Hall-Holt, Ainsley Nutt.



Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Parents who wish to have their baby or child baptized at St. John's are asked to speak with Pastor Pam Fickenscher to discuss the meaning of baptism and to talk about the details of the day. Please contact Pastor Pam by phone at 645-4429 or by email at pfickenscher@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Romans and Christians

When: Friday, November 14th
7:00-10:00 p.m.

Where: St. John's Hall

What: Northfield Area Youth Workers and St. Olaf Christian Outreach are joining to put on a community-wide night of Romans and Christians. We'll gather with youth from other churches to play multiple games of Romans and Christians, eat pizza, and SCO will lead us in worship. Middle Schoolers are invited to be Christians and High School Youth are welcome to join as game facilitators, Romans, and servers.



Mission Outreach

"Paying It Forward" . . . by grocery bagging?



Calling all youth in grades 4-9!!! On Saturday, December 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., we're heading down to Econo Foods to help bag groceries. **This is not meant to be a fundraiser**, but rather it's meant to encourage service by "Paying it Forward".

What does that mean? Come and see! If we have enough youth sign up, we can divide the time into shifts. We also need adults and high school kids to help supervise. Sign up in the Commons or by talking with Mike Skunes or Julie Brehmer. This counts as a service project for those in confirmation!

The Giving Tree, November 16 – December 5

Our annual "Giving Tree", a program sponsored by the Northfield Community Action Center, will be displayed in St. John's Commons from **November 16 - December 5**.

The Giving Tree is decorated with paper stars. Each star has a gift idea, along with the name, age and gender of a child whose family needs help purchasing Christmas gifts this year.



Purchased gifts should be placed, unwrapped, with the paper star attached, and put under the tree by Friday, December 5. In addition, we will also offer gifts to our Companion Synod, the Central Diocese of Tanzania. The tree will be decorated with 50 envelopes for making donations to the Tanzania Scholarship Fund. Thank you in advance for your donations!

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.

November 2:

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, Rooms 203 and 205.

Sunday Morning Concert Series - Piano Recital, St. John's Hall.

November 9:

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, Rooms 203 and 205.

Small Group: Live Issues in Scripture, Room 212.

Forum: Grief / Depression, presented by Naomi Mandsager Bartley, Sanctuary.

November 16:

New Member Reception, 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, Rooms 203 and 205.

Small Group: Live Issues in Scripture, Room 212.

Forum: CPR First Responder & AED Usage for Community (Non-Medial) People, Sanctuary.

November 23:

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.

Small Group: Live Issues in Scripture, Room 212.

Budget Review: Questions and Answers, St. John's Hall.

November 30:

Coffee and Fellowship, St. John's Hall.

Forum: Palliative Care - Quality of Life for the End of Life, Sanctuary.

Forum Series in November Sponsored by the Faith and Health Board

This month, the Faith and Health board is presenting an adult forum series that explores some of the difficult - yet important - challenges we each face as we accompany one another through the end of life. On November 9th, Naomi Mandsager Bartley will give a presentation on grief and depression, those painful periods we undergo after a loved one dies. Then, on November 16th will introduce us to some of the latest medical recommendations regarding CPR and AED usage, taught by a Northfield EMS provider! How are we to most helpfully respond in emergency medical situations? Finally, on November 30th we discuss palliative care, when our care turns away from full recovery and focuses instead on tenderly accompanying our loved ones through pain. Please join members of your St. John's community in discussing these incredibly important topics!

News and Events

Thanksgiving Eve Worship - Wednesday, November 26

5:45 p.m. – Everyone’s Choir Rehearsal in Room 209

(Any and all singers 4th grade through adult are welcome to sing.)

6:30 p.m. – Worship

7:15 p.m. – Pie Social in St. John’s Hall

Advent Fair! Wednesday, December 3

You are invited to St. John’s Advent Fair on Wednesday, December 3, in St. John’s Hall. Enjoy dinner, the Fair Trade Fair, Advent shops, and activities for all ages. And, we encourage you to bring friends! The more the merrier!

Time: 5:15 p.m. – Wednesday Meal begins

5:45 p.m. – Advent Fair shops open!

Can you help with Advent Fair?

- Dinner – set-up, serve or clean-up
- Set up and/or sell handcrafts from around the world (proceeds benefit Lutheran World Relief)
- Help with crafts/shops



Contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions at children@stjohnsnorthfield.org.



St. John’s Children’s Christmas Program – December 14

Mark your calendars! St. John’s Children’s Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14 in St. John’s Hall. The program, *The Light Before Christmas*, written by Joseph Martin, begins at 11:00 a.m. and is performed by children in preschool – grade 5.

If your child is interested in performing either a solo or being part of an ensemble for the pre-service music, please contact Julie Brehmer or Frances Boehning. More information will be coming your way in the December Voice.

Community Christmas Dinner

This dinner is presented annually to the Community by St. John’s Church. St. John’s will again be recruiting our members for both food and work contributions. The volunteer signup process will begin between services on December 1 (Thanksgiving Weekend). So as you plan your Christmas activities please remember this opportunity for Service. Many of you have been regulars and also we welcome new volunteers. For questions or comments contact the organizing Committee. Thank you.

Char and Bill Carlson [507-645-9642](tel:507-645-9642)

Jeanette and Jon Rondesvedt [507-645-2733](tel:507-645-2733)

Julie and Howard Thorsheim [507-645-9210](tel:507-645-9210)

FROM THE CALL COMMITTEE . . .

Dear St. John's Members,

October 16, 2014

As you know, choosing new leadership for our congregation requires a thoughtful and patient process. We are seeking someone who will serve with us for many years. It is important that we find not just someone, but someone uniquely suited to work with our other pastors, our staff, and our congregation.

We are seeking someone strong in preaching and worship, outreach and mission, pastoral care and visitation, and who can build a sense of community. We have had many names brought to us. We have interviewed seven candidates, watched several preach in eight different locations, conducted second interviews with two, and even brought one to visit with staff. We have interviewed men and women, persons right out of seminary as well as candidates seeking a second call. Yet none of them have been the right fit for St. John's.

The call process is different than a regular hiring process. In a call process, you trust the Holy Spirit to work in guiding both the candidate and the congregation to a sense of mutual ministry together. As a committee, we have not yet experienced that mutual call.

Part of the struggle is that in the greater Lutheran church there are more openings for pastors than there are available candidates. To attempt to address this, we have actively reached beyond our synod and even out of state. Availability of candidates changes continuously, so we are hopeful that the Spirit is still at work to guide the right person to us.

With the holiday season approaching, we will look to schedule new interviews in January. While we are eager for another full-time, long-term pastor to join our congregation's work, we are also grateful for the various ways our congregation has shown flexibility and patience for getting the most important tasks done while we wait for the team to be complete.

While this process is taking longer than anticipated, we are prepared to continue to push it forward in a thoughtful manner. We ask for your continued prayers and welcome any new nominations. We act with every confidence that God has a plan for St. John's, and we will discern it in the months ahead.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:2-3.

In Christ's love,

Associate Pastor Call Committee

Mary Cisar, David Gonnerman, Christy Hall-Holt, Andrea Hoff, Barb Knaak, Amy McBroom, Betsy McLaughlin, Scott Swanson, and Gary Wicks. Youth Representative: Bailey Dell. Ex Officio: Pam Fickenscher and Nathan Knutson.

Email: st-johns-call-committee@googlegroups.com



**Daylight Savings Time Ends
Set Clocks Back One Hour
Sunday, November 2, 2014
at 2:00 a.m.**

From the Properties & Grounds Board

Did You Know?

Ever wonder how our amazing facility is being used during the week? In the month of October, St. John's facility was host to:

- 2 weddings and 2 wedding rehearsals
- 2 funerals
- 8 catechism classes and one catechism retreat
- 4 confirmation classes and 20 small group confirmation gatherings
- 24 choir rehearsals
- 5 Wednesday night suppers
- 15 board or council meetings
- 2 special dinners
- 12 Scout meetings
- 2 private events
- 4 breakfasts
- 4 grief group meetings
- 8 small group/ circle/ prayer meetings
- 19 board, council or committee meetings

This list does not include Sunday morning worship, Sunday School classes and the many circles, service projects and other events that take place outside St. John's facility, or the activities of Open Door Nursery School.

Exciting News for Our Keyboard Instruments *...continued from page 1*

First, the organ will undergo a check-up as it prepares to turn 25 years old. Dobson Pipe Organ Builders will be here the first week of the month to check out and after 25 years recalibrate all the mechanical parts to make sure everything is running smoothly. You might also notice a new adjustable organ bench and some subtle changes to the organ console. Our hope is that this maintenance allows the organ to continue to be a servant in worship for many years to come. Portions of this work are funded using the memorials gifts honoring Ruth Ferguson.

Second, we begin a dance of pianos as we prepare to welcome a newly rebuilt piano to the sanctuary balcony. This new piano is possible from a generous and special gift from the family of Ruth Ferguson. My hope is that between the organ work and the new piano, it might be a loving way to give thanks for the ministry of Ruth in this place. You will be able to meet the new piano during the Sunday Morning Concert Series on November 2 at 9:50 a.m. in St. John's Hall. The program will feature "dueling" pianos as we will have both sanctuary pianos together in the hall. The current balcony piano will be rebuilt and will reappear in St. John's Hall later this year and the upright piano currently in the hall will move upstairs to replace an ancient no longer tunable piano in choir room 205. Whew. As the pianos dance around the building, we give thanks for these instruments and how they lead our music in whatever room they are in.

On a personal note, I also received some of Ruth's organ music, and there is something so wonderful about seeing her handwritten notes and following her organ registrations. I take comfort in her memory and love knowing that the music she played still reverberates within the walls of the sanctuary. May we be held in grace this month as we remember and give thanks.

Peace,

Nathan



From the Stewardship Board

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

Peace be with you.

The time has come! The wait is over! With humility and gratitude we entrust the first fruits of our labor to serve, to share, to enrich the lives of others and to glorify God.

Please take time to complete your pledge card with your financial commitment to the ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church. You may drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. You may mail it to St. John's (500 3rd Street West, Northfield 55057). You may hand-deliver it to the church office during office hours. Our commitment to support the work of this congregation from our bounty is honored and received with sincere gratefulness.

Planning for the life of this congregation in the upcoming year is already well underway. Tentative budgets have been proposed. Maintenance needs have been identified and many projects have begun. Creative ideas to foster faith development and to strengthen ties among us and with our neighbors near and far are energized by the passion and commitment of our members and staff. A vibrant mission is leading us forward and binding us together.

We are grateful for your companionship in this good work of ministry at St. John's.

The Stewardship Board

Bob Gelle, Olaf Hall-Holt, Gloria Porter, Don Sahling, Mark Ulmer, Melissa Berthelsen, Chair

October Actions

Baptisms

October 12, 2014, Grant Kenneth Korba, son of Loretta and Daniel Korba

Births

Lily Mae Nelson, daughter of Kristin Beck and Nick Nelson

Deaths

Neal Canon, October 13, 2014

Weddings

October 18, 2014, Stephanie Anderson and Matthew Lauer

October 25, 2014, Ashley Tabery and Marty Gallager

Radio Broadcasts

October 5, 2014, given by Van Miller in memory of Teddy Miller.

October 12, 2014, given by Elsie Nelsen in memory of Arnie Nelsen.

October 19, 2014, given by friends of St. John's.

October 26, 2014, given by friends of St. John's.

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

Abounding in Blessings

By Barbara Eaves

Perhaps it is my age, but my list of blessings seems to grow with each passing day. While being numbed by the misery and brokenness that surrounds us, we may forget to express gratitude for that which is good in our lives.

Amit Sood, MD, a professor of medicine of May Clinic College, has authored a book to help people deal with the stresses in their lives. One of Dr. Sood's suggestions is that when you wake in the morning and before getting out of bed, think of five people for whom you are grateful and offer a thankful thought about each person.

Focusing on gratitude as we begin each day seems like a good idea whether or not one is dealing with stress-laden issues, and the richest of blessings are most likely centered in people rather than things. It is people who help to sustain us in difficult situations, who encourage us when we are dejected and celebrate with us in times of gladness.

As we name those who have blessed us, we also give thanks to God who has blessed us, blesses us today, and will continue to bless for always.

*Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

*Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

ELW #733, vs 2 & 3

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

Sandi Gerdes, 645-2290,
classysandi@yahoo.com

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
November's Topic: "Transformation Takes Time"

November

Nov. 10: Bible Study Leaders meet at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room.

Nov. 4 & 18: Knitters meet at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang, 507-645-4849.

Nov. 12, 13, 14, 15: Circles meet. See time and location below.

Nov. 10: WELCA Executive Board meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

Nov. 17 & 20: Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Thank you to Joe Shaw who gave us the church history of Valley Grove, Holden, and Vang on October 2. Not only did we get to hear some interesting history of these early churches and see the architecture of each of the buildings; but, thanks to Dagfinn Moe, organist, we were also privileged to hear each of the church's pipe organs. We ended up at Vang where we were served coffee and Scandinavian treats.

New Group Starting — Boldcafe

The Circles have been using the Bible Study from the *Gather* Magazine. A new group of young women is in the process of getting organized to discuss the articles from *Boldcafe* an e-zine for young women. Watch for information about this new *Boldcafe* Group. Interested in the magazine? Go to www.boldcafe.org. Contacts for this group are Christy Hall-Holt at 664-0213 and Sara Redetzke at 301-3599. Watch the Sunday bulletin and the WELCA Board for further information.

Coming in November: Thursday, Nov. 6 at 1:00 p.m. in St. Johns Hall

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. Along with our regular offering we will also be taking our yearly **Thankoffering**. Some areas in which your Thankofferings are used are: *Gather* magazine and Bible study; leadership development; ministry resources about women's health, human trafficking, faith practices, racial justice training, advocacy for women and children, plus others. There will also be a short business meeting.

Circle Meetings for November:

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

Wednesday, Nov. 12: Lydia 9:30 a.m. at Mary White's - Parkview West 910 Cannon Valley Dr. 645-4783

Sarah 9:30 a.m. at Carole Nesheim's - 812 Greenvale Ave. 645-5907

Thursday, Nov. 13: Elizabeth 1:30 p.m. at Marie Benson's - 1509 Waters Edge Circle 645.8958

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, Nov. 14: Mary 1:00 p.m. at Sharon Flaten's - 5008 90th St. East 301-4123

Submit items for the **Voice** to Anita Hellie (ahellie@charter.net)

Submit information for the **Sunday Bulletin** to Mary Hoff (jpmhof@msn.com)

From the Faith and Health Board

Northfield Area Heart Safe Project Topic For Forum on November 16th

Immediate, fast, efficient CPR can double or even triple your chances of surviving a sudden cardiac arrest.

A Northfield Hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) initiative called Northfield Area Heart Safe Project wants to tilt the odds in your favor. The goal is to educate community members of all ages on the signs and symptoms of stroke, heart attack and sudden cardiac arrest and to train them in compressions only CPR, giving them the skills and the confidence to act quickly in an emergency.

The Northfield Area Heart Safe Project involves local implementation of a global CPR initiative developed and promoted by Take Heart America. Take Heart America (THA) has deployed state of the art resuscitation science strategies and outreach programs in four demonstration communities: St. Cloud, MN; Anoka Co., MN; Columbus, OH and Austin Texas. Combining the efforts of doctors, nurses, paramedics, health educators and community leaders, THA has successfully proved the validity of the general concept by increasing survival rates more than two-fold.

Take Heart America was founded by a network of visionaries who recognized that a coordinated, comprehensive approach to resuscitation therapies would substantially increase sudden cardiac arrest survival rates beyond the benefits achieved with individual therapies alone. The initial results from St. Cloud MN and Anoka MN have been remarkably successful.

“The purpose of compressions only CPR is to remove the fear many bystanders have and simplify the process of administering CPR,” said Kathy Hanek, a paramedic with Northfield Hospital’s EMS and coordinator of the project. “We hope it will reduce people’s anxiety when witnessing a sudden cardiac arrest and so they are prepared and willing to act in the case of sudden cardiac arrest.”

Nationally, sudden cardiac arrests claim 300,000 people annually. Barely 5 percent survive an event. Jennifer Fischer, MD, an Emergency Department physician at Northfield Hospital, is supervising the Heart Safe program. She says it will save lives.

“In the past, a sudden cardiac event almost always resulted in death,” Dr. Fischer said. “If we can get bystanders to overcome their fear and get hands-only CPR going before the ambulance arrives, we can increase survival rates greatly.”

On Sunday, November 16th, the Faith and Health Board is sponsoring a Forum about the Heart Safe Project. Come and learn more about this life saving project and its implementation at St. John’s Church.

To learn more, visit the websites for Northfield Heart Safe Project and Take Heart America.

From Bread For the World

Bread Rising is a Bread for the World campaign to end hunger by 2030. It shares confidence in achieving this goal with a high-level United Nations panel that has concluded: “By 2030, we can end extreme poverty and hunger around the world. For the first time in human history, we could ensure that no child goes to bed hungry. For the first time in human history we could end hunger.” This effort is encouraged by recognition of progress already made. By 2015 the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day will be half of what it was in 1990. David Beckman, BFW president comments, “Surely this great liberation is an example of our loving God moving in our own history.”

Members of St. John’s have advocated for policies that will support **Bread Rising** with an October offering of more than 100 letters to our senators and representative urging passage of the Food for Peace Reform Act of 2014. More than 9 million people will benefit if the reforms in this Senate bill, S2421, are adopted. Learn more about BFW’s invitation to join in Bread Rising with prayer, action and giving at www.bread.org.

From the Peace and Justice group...

Next Meeting: November 3, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Remember to Vote and Advocate for Justice

Lutherans understand that governments are a means through which God can work to preserve creation and build a more peaceful and just society. As Christians, we have a responsibility to address issues that affect our neighbors in communities throughout the world.

Remember to vote! Participating in the electoral process is just one way to speak out for peacemaking, hospitality to strangers, care for creation, and concern for people living in poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

Be an advocate. Through advocacy efforts, ELCA members and other Christians can work through governmental channels on behalf of biblical values. Year-round, thousands of ELCA members advocate for public policy that will help their neighbors near and far. To join this growing network of Lutherans now, sign up for the ELCA e-Advocacy Network at www.ELCA.org/advocacy

Learning Nonviolence in Sierra Leone

St. Olaf student Leonard Francis Vibbi will report on his work for nonviolence this summer in his native Sierra Leone. In spite of the challenges of schedules at Fourah Bay College and the surging ebola epidemic this “Students Peace Leadership Initiative” went forward.

Leonard will present the strategies of his approach to overcome obstacles for settling differences among groups of students nonviolently and the prohibitions of the government against student meetings due to their history of extreme violence. His work is an example of the effectiveness of nonviolent approaches that can be used in many circumstances.

All are welcome!

Nobel Peace Laureates 2014

Nobel Peace Laureates for 2014 are Malala Yousafzai (Pakistan) and Kailash Satyarthi (India). While many in the West have heard of Malala and her support of education for all children—including girls, not very many are aware of the work of Kailash Satyarthi. We are learning that the ELCA has supported his work through his organization GoodWeave to combat child labor in the carpet industry. Over a half dozen ELCA hunger grants for education and advocacy efforts, including GoodWeave’s “One in a Million” campaign to end child labor have been part of our wider involvement in the cause (including US HR 4842 calling for Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery). The two laureates bring a broader understanding of the needs of children throughout the world and the importance of protecting their health and their rights. Their common commitment to the rights of children can benefit us all.

Jailhouse Library Project

Greg Colby (645 6840) is asking for a volunteer to help him catalog books now available in the Rice County jail. He anticipates a task of 90 minutes to two hours.

The second step will be to collect books to address the needs of the jailed. Watch for that announcement!

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
Lynette Marks
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Understanding the Complexities in the Holy Land

What is the West Bank? What was the war in Gaza about? Who are the Zionists? What is a Settlement? Why is it so hard to reach a peace agreement? Who is an Israeli? Who is an Israeli Arab? Do Palestinian Christians and Moslems get along?

So many questions! Discussions and answers on these questions will be provided on Saturday, November 8th, at the Northfield Methodist Church from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. A Lutheran Palestinian orchard farmer near Bethlehem and a Minnesota Israeli Jewish professor at Haifa University will be arriving from Israel to be the two keynote speakers. Daoud Nassar, the Palestinian, has sponsored a Tent of Nations for education and peacemaking on his property for many years and Jeff Halper, the Jew, is the founder and director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD). His work was cited in his nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

Besides these two there will be nine specialists from Israel, the West Bank, and the U.S. leading workshops all day and participants can choose which ones they would like to hear.

They cost for registration, which includes lunch, is \$40.00. Students are \$10.00 and scholarships are available. Go to njpmnteachin2014.wordpress.com.