

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

February 2015

Volume 55, Number 2

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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

For information, contact the Church Office:

phone: 507-645-4429

fax: 507-645-9633

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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

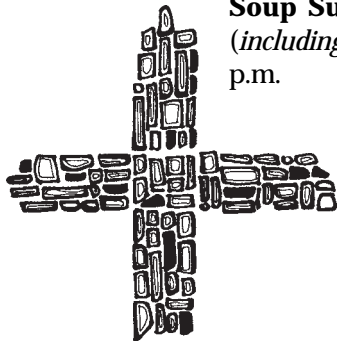
9:00 a.m. to noon and
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Lent Begins February 18 with Ash Wednesday

Lent, our springtime period of renewal and focus on repentance and life in Christ, begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, with worship and the imposition of ashes at noon and 6:30 p.m.

Mid-week worship begins the following week, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. using the Holden setting of Evening Prayer written by Marty Haugen.

Soup Suppers precede each midweek service (including Ash Wednesday), serving from 5:15-6:15 p.m.



This year our theme will center around the sacrament of Holy Communion, and the multiple layer of meaning this gathering around Jesus' body and blood holds for us.



Youth Recital

Please join us between services on **February 8th** in the Sanctuary as our youth put their musical talents on display.

At 9:50 a.m., students will share their gifts that include playing the organ, harp, flute, piano, cello, and more.



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.

Food for the Spirit, from the Spirit

Lent is traditionally a season of the church year in which Christians have sought to deepen their life of faith through various spiritual disciplines. Two of the simplest and most profound of these are prayer and Scripture reading. If these are not a part of your daily life, this is a good time to begin them. Below are suggestions for doing so. Please modify them to fit your needs.

1. Set aside a time and place for daily devotions. First thing in the morning works best for most people, and any quiet and comfortable spot will do. Allow fifteen minutes. You can work around a busy and noisy household routine by getting up early, or by declaring you and your space off limits for a brief time and gently enforcing the ban. Consider this daily appointment inviolable, more essential as a preparation for whatever else the day may bring than brushing your teeth or putting on underwear.

2. The night before you begin this routine, prepare your place: set a Bible or New Testament next to your chair. You may also want to include a small notebook and pen or pencil.

Northfield Grief Support Coalition:

A grief support group continues meeting on Mondays through February 9 from 3:00-4:00 p.m. at the Three Links Care Center. For more information contact Pr. Kristine Bratten-Lee, 507-664-3478.

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.

3. Keep your appointment. Begin with a short prayer, perhaps the same one every day. Here are two: "Speak Lord, your servant is willing." "Dear Christ, open my heart to your love." Then read a short passage from Scripture. Begin with one of the gospels, and plan to read it through from beginning to end, day by day. Try Mark, our gospel for the present church year. Read a paragraph or two, a unit that makes sense to you. Pause to think about it, and then read it again. This time you may want to listen for a verse (or just a phrase or word) that seems to speak to you. Write that verse in your notebook and date it. Then close your eyes and pray. This may be a response to the Scripture passage you have read, to the verse you have written

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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."

February 2, 2014

Lois Bjorlie

February 13, 2014

Elna Hansen

February 14, 2014

Marian Johnson

February 23, 2014

Marilyn Haugen

From our pastor ...

Lent 2015: Fed and Forgiven

*We come
to the
hungry
feast;
hungry
for a world
of peace.
To hungry
hearts
unsatisfied,
the love of
God is not
denied.
We come,
to the
hungry
feast.*

Ray Makeever

On February 18 we enter into the season of Lent, that time of baptismal preparation and renewal that prepares us for the great feast of Easter.

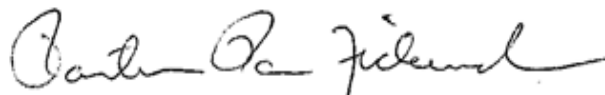
It is no accident that the season of Lent has come to be thought of as a “hungry” time. The fasting associated with Lent coincided in the northern hemisphere with the “hungry months” of late winter, when food stores ran low and everyone awaited eagerly the new growth of spring. Although Protestants have often downplayed the practice of fasting from food as part of Lent, it remains a very good time to pay attention to our hungers – for community, for justice, for God’s presence.

This year our theme will center around the sacrament of Holy Communion, and the multiple layers of meaning this gathering around Jesus’ body and blood holds for us.

At St. John’s we celebrate this meal every week on Sundays, but there is hardly a time in the life of the church when our identity is not shaped in some way by this gathering around word and table.

- *Every time* we gather with others for a meal, we are invited to remember Jesus’ way of sharing meals with others.
- *Every time* we find ourselves in scarcity or abundance, we are reminded how Jesus fed 5000, and there was plenty left over.
- *Every time* we forego a luxury for ourselves so that someone else might have a necessity, we are enacting Jesus’ sharing of his life with others.
- *Every time* we forgive one another, we are passing on the gift of Jesus’ presence given to us in the Eucharist.

In these pages you will read about many opportunities to feed and be fed, to hear the story of Jesus and to share that story, to forgive and be forgiven. We invite you to renew your faith this Lent with these opportunities. Come and eat.



P.S. THANK YOU for the thoughtful gifts, prayer, and mark of my one-year anniversary here at St John’s. I’ve never felt so appreciated right in the middle of a call to serve! I feel truly blessed to be serving God with in this place.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

Feb. 1 Sunday School
 Feb. 8 Sunday School
 Feb. 15 Sunday School
 Feb. 22 Sunday School

“ROCK” – Wednesday Afterschool Programming
 February 4, 11, 18, 25

Appreciation Brunch – February 1
 Fireside Room; 9:45 – 10:40 a.m.

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat on Holy Baptism
 February 4, 4:45 – 6:00 p.m.

Breakfast/Movie Morning – Monday, February 16,
 9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Grades K-5th
NO SCHOOL DAY

**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, February 16
NO SCHOOL DAY!

Time: 9:00 – 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. Parent help is appreciated!



Third Grade Catechism Retreat

Third graders, along with their parent(s), will meet Wednesday, February 4 from 4:45 – 6:00 p.m. for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism (room to be determined). If you are unable to attend, please call Pastor Pam or Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.

Appreciation Brunch!

Sunday School teachers, assistants, and Wednesday afterschool volunteers are invited to brunch on Sunday, February 1, at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The brunch is an annual event to thank all the volunteers who help keep Children's Ministries thriving!

Teachers and Assistants:

Preschool 1 & 2: Jenny Nystrom, Cheryl Buck, Emma Kmoch, Dodie Mikelsen
 Kindergarten: Amy McBroom, Angie McCarthy
 First Grade: Emily Westerback, Bailey Dell, Elizabeth Evenson
 Second Grade: Rachel Saxton, Kully Vance, Jane Horton
 Third Grade: Connie Menssen, Julie Becker
 Fourth Grade: Amelia Kimmes Kneser, Hannah Gelle
 Fifth Grade: Olaf Hall-Holt, Sue Brockman
 Music: Jenny Pelletier, Carol Benson
 Library: Susan Canon, Angie Gehring
 Wednesdays: Andrea Hoff, Christy Hall-Holt, Connie Menssen, Amy McBroom, Jo Franklin, Leah Garlie, Betsy McLaughlin, Katherine Norrie, Bill Rizzo, Sara Redetzke, Julie Becker, Kari Heistad, Jenn Welbaum, Michele Knutson, Terry Rydberg, Steve Williams, Leah Sand, Shelby Goudey, Jordan Dull, Stephen Davick

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Join us this summer!

**Check out St. John's Summer Camps/Activities,
for kids of all ages, in this issue of the Voice**

Registrations forms for children and youth summer camps are online or available on the children and youth bulletin board in the Commons.

WE'VE SWITCHED OUR DATE FOR THE FUNDRAISER!

March 15 is our new date for the Annual Youth Fundraiser.
Proceeds will help with the cost of summer activities for all our kids!

*6th-12th graders have the opportunity for additional \$\$\$
when they help with the Easter Breakfast.
Information will be mailed to you on how you can participate.*



Shared Ministry

Christy Hall-Holt
Shared Ministry Coordinator
sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org

Christy's Hours: Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m., Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Lenten Soup Suppers begin Wednesday, February 25, and will serve as our regular Wednesday Night Meals for the duration of Lent. The Boards are leading the volunteer effort to serve and clean up the meals but would welcome any additional help. If you'd like to pitch in, let me know. Please join us for dinner at 5:15 p.m. and worship at 6:30 p.m. throughout the Lenten season.

Volunteers needed for Wednesdays After School! Julie is looking for volunteers to help on Wednesdays with after school programming. There are a variety of opportunities: bus angel, snack, hall monitor, Homework Cafe. Can't do it every Wednesday? That's OK - we can work with your schedule. Let Julie or myself know if you are willing to help. Thank you!

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 me at sharedministries@stjohnsnorthfield.org and offer assistance. Any help would be greatly appreciated. There truly is a place for everyone at St. Johns.

SERVING TO LOVE  **LOVING TO SERVE**



St. John's Summer 2015 Opportunities!

Activity or Camp	Grade <small>Refer to grade completed</small>	Dates	Description	Cost	Deposit	Registration deadline
Vacation Bible School	Pre-1 - K	August 2-6	Volunteers come together to provide this fun-filled week. Children enjoy music, crafts, games, Bible stories and friendships building.	\$10 \$20/family to St. John's	No Deposit	Registration coming in May
"On the Road"	K - 5 th	August 2-6	Good Earth Village brings this popular camp to Northfield for 4 full days of games, songs, skits, devotions and fun! The location this year TBD.	Registration Cost Varies Check Website	Register at www.goodearthvillage.org Payable to GEV	
Shores of St. Andrew "Andy's Gang"	2 nd - 5 th	June 21-26	Spend the week on the beautiful shores of St. Andrews near New London, MN. Create crafts, sing songs, share in Bible devos, play lots of games, kayak and swim! Ask about sibling discounts!	\$410 Early Bird Disc. if registration is received by 3/13 - \$10 off!	\$125 payable to Green Lake Non-refundable	Balance Due by 5/29 After 5/29 - \$10 late fee
Chrysalis Crew	6 th - 8 th	June 21-26	Chrysalis Crew is located at Green Lake in Spicer, MN. This week long camp is awesome, the best of summer camp! Come for a week faith-filled experience. Ask about sibling discounts!	\$410 Early Bird Disc. if registration is received by 3/13 - \$10 off!	\$125 payable to Green Lake Non-refundable	Balance Due by 5/29 After 5/29 - \$10 late fee
ELCA Youth Gathering, Detroit, MI	8 th - 12 th	July 14-20	Join us on our way to Detroit as we meet up with over 9,000 other Lutheran youth for a couple days of worship, service, growth, and holy play. We'll hear from nationally renowned speakers and bands while also getting a chance to serve our brothers and sisters in Detroit.	Approx. \$875	\$150 Due ASAP	Balance due May 15th

REGISTER EARLY! For Andy's Gang and Chrysalis - Registration begins January 15, 2015

We have reserved some spaces. Please register early to reserve a spot.



Other stuff for middle schoolers... MAGICAL MYSTERY TOURS! For youth completing 6th - 8th grades. Join us and other Northfield area churches for mystery events in June, July and August. More info this summer!

Questions? Contact Mike Skunes or Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, or email youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org or children@stjohnsnorthfield.org

Every camper receives money from our Youth Fundraiser for camp!
Please feel free to ask about full/partial scholarships too!

News and Events



St. John's Annual Youth Fundraiser Sunday, March 15

***Join us Sunday, March 15 for our
Annual Youth Fundraiser in St. John's Hall!***

8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Silent Auction with a ***Buy It Now!*** Option

9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast (\$6/person, \$24/family)

This annual event raises funds to help make our 2015 summer programming opportunities financially possible for all families

**Our youth will be taking "Road Trips" to:
*Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN
Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp in New London, MN
and***

ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI



The Silent Auction needs your help!

Can you or your business provide an item or service for our Silent Auction?

If so, please contact Julie Brehmer at St. John's, 645-4429 or email;

children@stjohnsnorthfield.org. Thanks!

Mission Outreach

Mission of the Month: LWR Quilts

Twice a month, St. John's quilters gather in Fellowship Hall to make Mission quilts, a project of Lutheran World Relief, that sends quilts around the world to war-torn, disaster-ridden, and impoverished areas. On February 8 we will see our quilters' handiwork on our pews, bless them, and pray for their work before the quilts are shipped overseas.

Where do the quilts go? This month, the latest shipment from the U.S. warehouses (one of which is in nearby St. Paul) went to Burmese refugees in Thailand, war refugees in Afghanistan, victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, and impoverished communities in Armenia and Yemen. In 2013 nearly 485,000 quilts went to 20 different countries.

Lutheran World Relief is the development and relief effort of Lutheran churches in the United States, partnering with agencies around the world to provide sustainable solutions to global poverty. Founded in 1945 by U.S. Lutherans to respond to the humanitarian needs of post-war Europe, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) today reaches millions of people around the world through its programs in emergency response and sustainable development. Go to lwr.org for a wealth of information.



On February 8, envelopes will be available on the quilts for special donations, which will cover the costs of shipping our handiwork to those who need it. On Palm Sunday this year (March 29), we'll have a hands-on opportunity for youth and adults to come together on tying quilts and learning more about this ongoing work.

News and Events

Important Dates for New Board and Council Members

Sunday, February 8, new board and council members will be installed at both worship services.

Tuesday, February 10, is Board Orientation. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. Pizza, fruit, and dessert will be served starting at 5:30 p.m.

Please contact your board chair or the Church Office with any questions or if you are unable to attend.

Calling All Poets!

For our poetry Forum on April 12 we invite St. John's writers to read their own poems.

If you are interested in participating or have any questions please contact Dan Van Tassel at (507) 301-3747 or dvantassel@earthlink.net. Thank you!

News and Events

New to St. Johns? Next Session of Accompany (Our New Member Process) Will Begin Sunday, February 1

Getting to know a new community can take time, and at St. John's we are eager to learn more of your story and how we can walk with you on your faith journey.

We encourage all newcomers - and especially those who are new to the Lutheran tradition, or interested in baptism or reaffirming your faith - to consider our Accompany program as a way to get to know St. John's and deepen your spiritual life. Accompany will meet regularly on Sunday mornings beginning on Sunday, February 1, and will conclude at Easter. This is a process designed for open inquiry into what Christian faith is about and connecting with others. Contact Pastor Fickenscher at 507-645-4429 or at pfickenscher@stjohnsnorthfield.org for more information.

For those that would like to simply transfer membership from another ELCA congregation, please contact our Shared Ministry Coordinator, Christy Hall-Holt, about opportunities for orientation to St. John's. Our next public welcome of new members will take place on Sunday, April 19.

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. Grade school children of any age may ask to join the 3rd grade CAT retreat on Wednesday, February 4, from 4:45-6:00 p.m. (see page 4 for more information).

Stephen Ministry ...continued from page 2

down, or to something in your life. If words don't come to you, close with a simple memorized prayer: "Thy will be done." or "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner." or "Thank you for your many blessings." In Romans 8, Paul assures us that the Holy Spirit "helps us in our weakness" as we stumble through our prayers, that it "intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

If for a time daily devotions seems like a lifeless routine, do not lose heart. You are receiving spiritual nourishment, but you may not yet have eyes to see. You have opened yourself to the work of the Spirit. You will learn to hear God's voice speaking to you, and you will learn to respond, in God's own time. Have faith that you are being fed.

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in February

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.

February 1:

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.

Children's Ministry Appreciation Brunch, Fireside Room.

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate Mix/Chocolate Bars, Commons.

Forum: Worship - Trends, Music, Communion, Etc. Part 1, Sanctuary.

Accompany, Undercroft.

February 8:

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.

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate Mix/Chocolate Bars, Commons.

Sunday Morning Concert Series #2 - Youth Recital, Sanctuary.

Accompany, Undercroft.

February 15:

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.

Forum: Prayer and Spiritual Disciplines Part 1, Sanctuary.

Bold Cafe, Fireside Room.

Accompany, Undercroft.

February 22:

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 Groups, Rooms 201 and 212.

Forum: Prayer and Spiritual Discipline Part 2, Sanctuary.

Accompany, Undercroft.



January Actions

Deaths

Della Mae Sommers Gunderson, January 5, 2015

Dorothy Bolton, January 12, 2015

Radio Broadcasts

January 4, 2015, given in memory of Elmer & Cora Schultz and Ken Struss by Marie Struss and Family.

January 11, 2015, given in memory of Donna Lee from Walter Lee and Family.

January 18, 2015, given in loving memory of Don McRae and Sybil Raadt by Marilyn and Paul Raadt.

January 25, 2015, given in memory of Ted and Arlene Rudser by David and Susan Rudser.



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, February 4
TBD

Wednesday, February 11
Tuna Noodle Casserole

Wednesday, February 18
Ash Wednesday
Lenten Soup Supper

Wednesday, February 25
Lenten Soup Supper

Free will offering appreciated!

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* 581-1508
Sara Redetzke 301-3599

Circle Bible Studies-Women of the ELCA

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

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

Bread...Gift of Grace, Leaven for Life

By Barbara Eaves

My paternal grandmother and her family came to this country on a cattle boat from Denmark in 1885 when she was 10 years old. She told us it was a rough two-week trip and the whole family was seasick the entire time. When they arrived in New York, her mom dug down into the bottom of their clothing trunk and found the loaf of bread she had brought from Denmark. Although the mold was an inch thick on the bread, they ate it down as though it were candy. That is how hungry they were.

The theme of our Lenten worship in 2015 will center on food, the food of Holy Communion and how its multiple facets include gratitude and understanding the importance of sharing the food needed to sustain our physical bodies.

The Lenten Book Read this year offers a choice between two books, both of which have been suggested by Pastor Pam as good companion reads to the Wednesday Lenten series which she has written about in this newsletter. The titles of the books are *Take This Bread* by Sara Miles and *Daily Bread, Holy Food*, by Samuel Torvend. A brief description of each can be picked up at a table in the Commons where you can also sign up through Feb. 8 to participate in a discussion group and purchase a book (cost: \$10). These books are also available as ebooks for those who prefer that format.

Given sufficient numbers, groups will be offered on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m., 5:15 p.m., after worship and on Sunday mornings at 9:50 a.m. Groups will meet for one hour each week for four weeks. Sunday groups will begin Feb. 22 and Wednesday groups will begin Feb. 25.

Bread for Our Journey

Refrain

Here is bread, there is bread.

There is enough, there is always enough.

There will always be enough so feed my people.

Feed my people. – Feed my people now.

Verses three and four

In a room above the city,

a table set for something new:

a sip of wine, a piece of bread,

this is my body given up for you. Jesus said: (refrain)

In a village far away

children are starving every day.

These voices reach across the sea

“Give us a crumb of bread we pray.” God said: (refrain)

Kenneth Larkin

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.k12.mn.us

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" is
"Transforming Life and Faith" by Carol Schersten LaHurd.
February's Topic: Making Conversion Last

February

- Feb. 9: Bible Study Leaders** meet at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room.
- Feb. 3 and 17: Knitters** meet at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang, 507-645-4849.
- Feb. 11, 12, 13, 14: Circles/groups** meet. See time and location below.
- Feb. 16 and 19: Quilters** meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m.-12:00p.m.
- Feb. 9: WELCA Board** meeting 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

February 5: General Meeting, Thursday at 1:00 p.m. in St. Johns Hall

Speaker will be from the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Services.
Mission: Refugee Services is an ecumenical ministry welcoming persecuted people from around the world into new lives of freedom, hope, and opportunity in Minnesota.

March 7: Girls' Gala Luncheon, Saturday at 12:00 Noon in St. Johns Hall

"Dance, Dance Wherever You May Be" is the theme for the luncheon. Tickets go on sale Sunday, February 1 and will be sold between services in the Commons each Sunday in February. Cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for girls twelve and under. This event is for moms, daughters, aunts, nieces, grandmas, and friends. Adopt a relative if you don't have one to bring.



The program will feature *Veselica* a St. Olaf student dance company that strives to spread a global awareness and perspective on dance. Their Artistic Director Anne von Bibra founded this international dance ensemble in 1989. The company performs dances from a variety of dance cultures, a sampling of which includes Armenia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mexico, Norway, Romania, and Sumatra, Indonesia. Come join this event *gala* event!

February Circle/Group Meetings:

Gather Groups

- Wednesday, Feb. 11:** **Lydia** 9:30 a.m. at Rand-vig Norvald's, 2215 Greenfield Dr. E, 645-2699
Sarah 9:30 a.m., at Dorothy Ostlie's, 888 Cannon Valley Dr. #315, 645-2597
- Thursday, Feb. 12:** **Elizabeth** 1:30 p.m. at St. John's, Contact: Marie Benson, 645-8958
Martha/Claudia 9:30 a.m. at Parkview W., Contact: Marilyn Jacobson, 663-9060
Abigail/Rebecca 2:00 p.m. at NRC Parkview E., Contact: Lois Wrede, 663-9002
- Friday, Feb. 13:** **Mary** 1:00 p.m. at Cora Scholz's, 704 St. Olaf Ave. 645-9266
- Saturday, Feb. 14:** **Women's Breakfast Group** 8:30 a.m. Fireside Room, Contact: Kathy Melstrom, 663-1451

Bold Café Group

Sunday, February 15, 9:45 a.m. Fireside Room

Contact: Christy Hall-Holt, sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org, 645-4429
Sara Redetzke, srednorth@charter.net, 301-3599

For topics and articles, go to Boldcafe e-zine at www.boldcafe.org.

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 Peace and Justice group...

2015 JUSTICE CALENDAR

February, 7:00 p.m.

Peace & Justice Group Meeting, Fireside Room

Topic: Gender Violence- "Miss Representation". A film reinforcing cultural stereotypes.

Keeping Up with What's Going On...

As reorganization of church work nationally and locally changes or develops, it is important to understand what is being done where and by whom.

Changes - large or small - happen everywhere, including in our national church and our local congregation.

Structures to help us keep up with all this are being supported from the top down. We would like to do our best here at St. John's to tap into the resources of the ELCA. This includes contributing to the support of programs that are the most effective with a large constituency and also shaping our local work to meet the needs and opportunities we have.

Look for the box that describes the Mission Interpreter role and consider what you might do about it.

The Peace and Justice Group focuses on advocacy for many social justice issues; the ELCA also has programs, strategies and materials for these causes. We want to bring you the 2014 report of Lutheran Advocacy in Minnesota as a prime example of such a link. Lutheran Advocacy continues the work of a group that had a longer title but a similar agenda. Tammy Walhof is the first director of the newly named group.

Key: LA = Lutheran Advocacy; LSS = Lutheran Social Services

Tammy Walhof, Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota 2014

tammy@lcppm.org

In December, LA-MN focused on the final touches to the legislative agenda, final decisions with LSS regarding a Bishop Breakfast and Advocacy Day for Pastors, as well as finalizing the FY2015 budget with the Policy Council. (The 2015 legislative session started on Jan. 6). LA-MN Director Tammy Walhof also spent time in November and December working on grants to bolster the budget. LA-MN will be the recipient of a \$5,000 grant and probably another for \$3,000-\$9,000.

Legislative issues:

- *Affordable housing (\$39 million): Secure additional funding to expand a broad continuum of housing and homelessness services to help thousands have access to housing or maintain current housing.*
- *Homeless Youth Act (\$4 million increase): Secure additional funding to assist youth experiencing homelessness transition to successful adulthood.*
- *Clean energy and jobs:*
 - *40 percent renewable energy by 2030 (to replace current renewable energy standard of 25 percent by 2025)*
 - *2 percent energy efficiency savings (compared to 1.5 percent currently)*
 - *solar rural tax credits*
- *Reform of payday lending*

Upcoming advocacy days: *LA-MN has a full schedule heading into 2015. Feb. 2 will be Clean Energy and Good Jobs Day at the Capitol, and on Feb. 19 LA-MN and LSS will co-host a bishop/legislator breakfast as well as an Advocacy Day for Pastors. March 10 will be a Day on the Hill with Interfaith Partners (Joint Religious Legislative Coalition).*

- *See more at: [http://elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCAAdvocay/113#sthash.By3SYIpG.dpuf](http://elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCAAdvocacy/113#sthash.By3SYIpG.dpuf)*

From the Peace and Justice group (cont.)

Mission Interpreters

Mission Interpreters is a program that Bishop Delzer encourages each congregation to develop.

Mission Interpreters are “lay, volunteer leaders with a special task. Their primary role is to share the love of Christ by sharing stories.” Their work to empower congregational members “to feel connected to God’s activity in and outside the walls of the sanctuary.” Their focus can be on local individuals and groups or on national/international programs.

They can help to make puzzling alphabets like LIIRS, LWF, LWA, LDR, and WLR come alive with stories about lives that move from disaster to joy. There is a monthly schedule for the year that can be a guide.

Would you like to know more? Can you see your role in any part of this? See Christie Hall-Holt or Judith Stoutland.

Day on the Hill - Tuesday, March 10

From continental breakfast tables for participants from each MN legislative district (about 800 all together), through briefings on important legislation, recognition of exceptional workers, inspirational speaker in the Rotunda of the Capitol, to conferences with your legislators the Day equips and energizes the work for the legislative session. We hope to have a number of carloads of members from St. John’s attend. Register early. Let Paul Peterson know if you want a ride.

Update on the Rice County Jail Library Project

After a month long effort, Peace and Justice made two deliveries to the Rice County Jail and made the following additions to their collection of books, games and puzzles: 27 spiritual texts, 45 books of fiction, 58 works of non-fiction, 53 puzzles and 4 games. A detailed list of the collection will be posted on the Peace and Justice bulletin board area.

Members of the Peace & Justice Group were able to talk with staff members and we came away with a new list of priorities for the next collection. Watch for further details.

A big “thank you” to the generous responders to our request.

From Bread For the World

We will not end hunger and poverty by 2030, the U.N. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), without ending the discrimination that women and girls face day in and day out. Civil society organizations, churches, and faith-based organizations in every country are well placed to make the connection between ending hunger and poverty and women’s empowerment. They can help change social and cultural norms and practices that are harmful to women and girls. They can speak out against gender-based violence. They can pave the way for the SDG to be embraced and supported by everyone. Now is a unique moment in history to stand up for women and girls. It is not only the just and right thing to do—it is essential to ending hunger and malnutrition. Read much more at www.bread.org.

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Visitation Pastor
John Quam
Pastoral Intern
John Schwehn
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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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March 7: Girls' Gala Luncheon, Saturday at 12:00 Noon in St. John's Hall

"Dance, Dance Wherever You May Be" is the theme for the luncheon. Tickets go on sale Sunday, February 1 and will be sold between services in the Commons each Sunday in February. Cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for girls twelve and under. This event is for moms, daughters, aunts, nieces, grandmas, and friends. Adopt a relative if you don't have one to bring.

The program will feature *Veselica* a St. Olaf student dance company that strives to spread a global awareness and perspective on dance. Their Artistic Director Anne von Bibra founded this international dance ensemble in 1989. The company performs dances from a variety of dance cultures, a sampling of which includes Armenia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mexico, Norway, Romania, and Sumatra, Indonesia. Come join this event *gala* event!