

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

March 2015

Volume 55, Number 3

*on the
inside . . .*

Youth Fundraiser

✧ p. 7

Intergenerational
Event

✧ p. 11

Walking the
Labyrinth this Lent

✧ p. 15

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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

e-mail:

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.

Worship for Wednesday Nights

February 25

Haugen Vespers

6:30 p.m.

*Homily - Jim Blaha,
Executive Director of the
Community Action Center*

March 4

Haugen Vespers

6:30 p.m.

*Homily - Nathan Proctor,
St. John's Organist and Director
of Worship, Music & Arts*

March 11

Haugen Vespers

6:30 p.m.

*Homily - Hayden Kvamme,
Minnesota FoodShare*

March 18

Haugen Vespers

6:30 p.m.

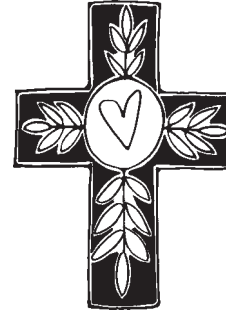
*Homily - Charlotte Carlson,
St. John's Christmas
Dinner Committee*

March 25

Haugen Vespers

6:30 p.m.

*Homily - Viveka Hall-Holt,
High School Student and
Kristi Harms,
St. John's Wednesday
Night Meal Leader*



Worship for Holy Week and Easter

Sunday of the Passion, March 29

Procession with Palms and

Holy Communion

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

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Holy Communion

12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3

Liturgy of Good Friday

12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 4

The Great Vigil of Easter 7:00 p.m.

Beginning in the St. John's Courtyard

Service with candlelight

and Holy Communion

Celebration of the Resurrection

Sunday, April 5

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

Holy Communion at all services

Easter Breakfast from

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

9:30 service broadcast

on KYMN 1080 AM

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

Prayer and Care Ministry

Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17

Prayer Ministry

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

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

Galatians 6:2



Providing one-
to-one care and
encouragement

Stephen Ministry FAQs:

What exactly is Stephen Ministry?

A: Stephen Ministry is a part of St. John's ministry in which trained and supervised lay persons, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life's challenges or difficulties.

What do Stephen Ministers do?

Stephen Ministers are caring Christian friends who listen, understand, accept, and pray for and with care receivers.

Who are Care Receivers?

Care receivers are the recipients of Stephen Ministers' care. They are people from St. John's or in the community who are facing difficulties such as grief, divorce, loss of job, loneliness, illness. Stephen Ministers usually meet with their care receivers or speak to them on the phone once a week, for as long as the care receiver will benefit from the relationship.

Contact one of the pastors (645-4429) or Pam Schwandt (645-6120) if you would like to speak to a Stephen Minister or learn more about this ministry.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Northfield Grief Support Coalition:

A grief support group will be meeting on Monday evenings from March 2 until April 6 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. For more information contact Nancy Topp, 507-254-7878.

Grief Care Resource: Care Notes are one of the grief support resources at St. John's. Stop by the Commons to pick one up for yourself or for a loved one.



The following St. John's members died in this month last year. We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."

March 8, 2014
Bryce Korba

March 17, 2014
Leo Bjorlie

March 23, 2014
Ruth Ferguson

From our pastor ...

What's new?

As we go through this season of Lenten renewal and the arrival of spring, you have many opportunities to engage in something *new*:

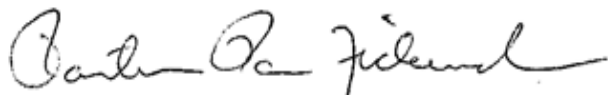
- Small groups are meeting to renew their thinking about Holy Communion with our Lenten book read.
- Adults and kids are praying together through the season as Prayer Buddies
- We will hear five “new” voices at our Wednesday night Vespers services, as we ponder what it means to be fed and forgiven.
- St. John's will for the first time in recent memory host an Easter Vigil on Saturday April 4. We will light a new Easter fire by the columbarium and proclaim the resurrection in story and song in our own space.

At the same time, there are things happening “under the hood” at St. John's that you might need to take extra efforts to experience, but I challenge you to explore some of these new efforts if you haven't already.

- Soon our Shared Ministry efforts will organize some of our key hospitality tasks around a monthly group system. You'll have opportunity to forge new relationships as you serve alongside one another.
- Check out the St. John's Facebook page, which is being renewed more frequently with photos from our life together.
- Go downstairs and see the screen in our foyer area, where pictures and announcements are up in a new format.
- Note that our announcements and worship folders will be separated out in a new experiment to see how to best save paper and communicate more clearly.
- Our new information management system is being rolled out in the coming months, and you'll have opportunity to check your own information, add a picture, and eventually login to an online member directory.

SAVE THE DATE: EASTER VIGIL AT St. John's, Saturday April 4, 7:00 p.m.

St. John's will be hosting the Great Vigil of Easter at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday April 4. This ancient liturgy includes candlelight, readings, song, affirmation of baptism and Holy Communion. The service will be designed to be family-friendly, with many sensory elements and lasting no more than two hours. Community members are welcome.



Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

March 1 Sunday School
March 8 Sunday School – *Daylight Savings*
March 15 Sunday School – *Youth Fundraiser*
March 22 No Sunday School – *Spring Break*
March 29 Intergenerational Sunday School

Wednesday Afterschool Programs

March 4, 11, 18
March 25: No programming – *Spring Break*

Catechism for Grades 4 and 5

Will not be meeting in March and will resume April 8, 15, 22

Annual Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, March 15

St. John's Sunday School is Making a Quilt!

St. John's Sunday School kids are donating a portion of their Sunday School offering this year to Rice County's Habitat for Humanity.

Our goal is to raise \$400!
We're keeping track of our progress by making a quilt for one of the Habitat families who will receive a home this year. Kids brought their gently used jeans to church to use the material for our quilt blocks.

For every \$5 donated, we add another block to our quilt.

Check out our quilt! It's displayed in the upper or lower Commons on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Many thanks to Jeanie Owens and Sue Brockman for their quilt making skills!

New this year! Prayer Buddies during Lent

During the Lenten season, 4th and 5th grade Catechism kids are paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their "Prayer Buddy". Prayer Buddies are asked to pray for their child from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. We're hoping this new program builds faith-based, cross-generational relationships between children and adult members in the congregation. Each child will know someone is praying and caring for them in their church community.

On Wednesday, April 8, we will have an informal get-together during our regular Wednesday night meal at 5:30 p.m. for Prayer Buddies and their child/family to eat together and share their experiences.

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.

Wednesday DOG Kids!

On Wednesdays, our 3rd – 5th graders attend a program called, “DOG, *Discovering our Gifts*, when CAT (*Catechism*) is not in session. This year we are exploring our “Volunteer Spirit” and how we can give back to our church, community and world.

- In December we traveled to Three Links bringing homemade Christmas cookies and singing Christmas Carols to the residents. Our kids also learned about the Christmas Sharing program and helped create the stars for our Sharing Tree.
- The kids enjoyed David Legvold's, aka “Sewer Man”, talk about how we can help take care of our earth.
- We learned about the “Pajama Project” through the CAC. Volunteers create over 800 pairs of pajamas throughout the year to be given to folks in need during the holiday season. Our kids help sort 800 bags by pajama sizes!
- We also had fun playing Romans and Christians with Mike Skunes and our Wednesday Middle school helpers.
- In February, we'll learn more about the LWR Quilting Project with St. John's Quilters.

Please give Julie a call if you would like to present a project/topic to our group in March



Summer Camp Is Fun!

Hope you'll join us for Summer Camp this year!

Kids in PreK – 5th Grades: Vacation Bible School, “On the Road”, August 2-6
(Registration begins in April)

Kids in Grades 2-5: Andy's Gang, Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp, June 21-26

Registrations forms and camp information is available in the lower Commons area.
Feel free to call Julie if you have questions, 645-4429!

All St. John's Kids going to Shores of St. Andrews receive approx. \$125 towards their camp registration fees from the Annual Youth Fundraiser. Scholarships for full or partial payments are also available.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

We Need Your Help at the Youth Fundraiser!

Sunday, March 15th 8:00-11:00am

Here are some ways you can make this event successful so we can help send our kids to camp:

Donate

Items for our Silent Auction:

Youth! Consider donating either goods (homemade cookies, crafts, ect.) or services (dog-walking, snow shoveling, baby-sitting, ect.) to our silent auction. Members of the congregation appreciate supporting you and your gifts and talents. And even if you can't make it to camp this year, know that your donations will go to helping your friends make it to camp this year.

Food:

We need **everyone's** support to make this event a success! Please help by donating the following food items for the breakfast. We ask each family to contribute the following from the list below:

Volunteer

9:00am-11:00am, Saturday, March 14th

Needs: Set-up Silent Auction, decorate St. John's Hall, food prep

8:30am-10:00am, Sunday, March 15th

Needs: Cook and serve food, help with silent auction, run games and activities

10:00am-11:00am, Sunday, March 15th

Needs: Cook and serve food, bus and clear tables, collect silent auction money, run games and activities

11:00am-12:00pm, Sunday, March 15th

Needs: Bus and clear tables, clean the kitchen, take down decorations and activity stations, count proceeds

2nd graders

Bring one bag of wrapped candy like Starbursts, Jolly Ranchers, Tootsie Rolls or Smarties

3rd-6th grades

2 packages of sausage links (prefer Johnsonville Breakfast Sausage, 14 links /package)

7th graders

One gallon of milk (skim or 1%) **and** a container of strawberries

8th graders

One half-gallon of orange juice **and**
one package of sausage links (prefer Johnsonville Breakfast Sausage, 14 links / package)

9th-12th grades

Container of strawberries plus a melon

**If you have more than one child, do not feel obligated to purchase for more than one category.
But know that our greatest needs are sausages and strawberries.*

**Please bring these items to the church kitchen
by Thursday, March 12th or Friday, March 13th by 5:00 p.m. Thanks!**

News and Events



St. John's Annual Youth Fundraiser Silent Auction and Breakfast Sunday, March 15

Our fundraiser helps make our 2015 summer programming opportunities financially possible for all families. We thank you in advance for your participation and support!

Fundraiser Schedule for the Day!

- 8:00 a.m. Silent Auction Begins with a **BUY IT NOW!** Option
Check out the donations given by our youth in the Commons area
- 9:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
(\$6 per person/ \$24.00 per family)
- Pancakes
 - Sausages
 - Fresh Fruit, Juice and Coffee
- Specialty coffee/cocoa drinks will be served at an additional charge**
- 9:30 a.m. Games/Activities – *Karaoke, Stop Light Bean Bag Game, Fuzzy Dice Ladder Game, "Build a Car" Races*
- 11:00 a.m. Breakfast and Silent Auction Ends

Tickets are on Sale now! Advance tickets available on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings in the Commons or you may purchase them at the door.

If you have an item or service to donate to the auction, fill out the form below and bring the donation to St. John's Main Office by March 13. Please contact Julie Brehmer at St. John's, 645-4429 or email; children@stjohnsnorthfield.org, if you have questions.

-----*Tear off here*-----

Name _____

Phone Number/Email Address _____

Please describe the donation: _____

Estimated value of your donation _____

Please bring your donation to the Main Office by Friday, March 13. Thank you!

Notes of Thanks!

News and thanks from Randy and Carol Stubbs

The Stubbs are now in their ninth year serving as missionaries for the ELCA, doing leadership development, teaching, and evangelism through the music department at a Lutheran college, Tumanini University Makumira in Tanzania. The donations our members make with the Missions Offering envelopes goes to the ELCA Missionary Sponsorship program for their support. In 2014 St. John's members donated \$2,463. The all-inclusive cost (e.g., training, salary, benefits, housing, in-country support) for the ELCA to support one missionary for one year is about \$70,000. In addition, \$10,000 from the Alice Hanson bequest to St. John's was given to the music scholarship program for students at Tumanini.

Dear Mission Team at St. John's Lutheran (Northfield),

Thank you for the e-mail. We are delighted to receive the news about scholarship funds for music students at Makumira. We remember hearing about the sudden death of Alice Hanson and were also saddened by that unexpected news. We are thankful that you have selected the music program here as recipient of those funds. It usually takes a bit of time for funds to go through ELCA then transfer to LMC (Lutheran Mission Corp in Tanzania) and then transfer to Makumira, but it will get here.

We will be sending out more official update next month, but to give you a preview, many exciting things are happening here at Makumira. We have submitted proposals to add pre-degree music programs (certificate & diploma), an option for music minor within the education degree, the music pilot program at a nearby government secondary school is thriving and students are scoring very well in the national exams, many performance opportunities for major events in the life of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania continue to come (Bishop installations, upcoming LWF East Africa Conference, new Dioceses being formed).

We are also working on publishing the printed notation of the ELCT Liturgy (we made a CD a few years ago with all of the music) and a handbook for Tanzanian Church Musicians covering a variety of relevant topics (in Swahili and English) gleaned from our numerous church music workshops that we have been doing throughout the country.

The big Cultural Arts Centre project is picking up steam and we hope to break ground by June for the new music department permanent facilities. We are finishing work on the universities large multi-purpose hall for our large performances (capacity about 1,000 persons).

Indeed it is an exciting time here! Your scholarship assistance will help us as we continue to work on faculty development (Masters level abroad) and also assist needy music students in the undergraduate program here. There are some pictures on our website (www.StubbsMission.info) though I am several months behind because of all the activity here. The music department website (www.makumiramusic.org) has some information summarized without our family details. We should have a separate website up within a month for the Cultural Arts Centre as well (www.cac.makumira.ac.tz)

Thank you again for remembering our program here in Tanzania. The church is growing so fast here and we are delighted to be part of the cutting edge training church musicians and music educators and working to help preserve and promote the amazing local music culture here. We will be in the States this summer for home assignment in late July-September. We will send you information as soon as the dates are firm.

Many blessings,

Randy and family

Notes of Thanks!

THANK YOU'S (some more timely than others!)

To the hospitality team that so ably hosted the St. Olaf Choir for breakfast as they joined us in worship.

To Jeff McLaughlin and Mark Ulmer, for countless hours of technical assistance as we transition to a new information management system.

To all our outgoing board chairs and board members, especially Treasurer Beckie Judge and board chairs Eric Lund, Jennie Sorenson, Melissa Berthelsen, Judith Stoutland, and Saul McBroom.

To the quilters, for their beautiful handiwork displayed on February 8, and to St. John's generosity donating over \$700 toward Lutheran World Relief's shipping of these items.

To the many adults serving as Prayer Buddies this Lent to our 4th and 5th graders!

February Actions

Baptisms

February 15, 2015, Iris Anne Dahl,
daughter of Nicole Baker and John Dahl

Deaths

Darlene Pfahning, February 11, 2015

Radio Broadcasts

February 1, 2015, given in honor of St. John's staff and volunteers.

February 8, 2015, given in memory of Eugene Schrader by family and friends.

February, 15, 2015, given by Duane and Marie Benson.

February 22, 2015, given in memory of Margery Otterness by Rolf Otterness.

Mission Outreach

March Special Offering: CAC Food Shelf

Northfield Community Action Center (CAC) is in the midst of its annual March Minnesota Food Share Campaign. During the month of March, more than 300 food shelves across Minnesota seek donations to augment supplies and run the program. All local donations are dispersed by the CAC into the Northfield food programs such as the Food Shelf, Thursday's Table, Backpack Weekend Food, Summer Lunch Programs, Grocery Vouchers, and others. The CAC stretches donated dollars by purchasing food from a Feeding America Food Bank (formerly Second Harvest) at about \$.25 per pound, so monetary donations are preferred.

You may use the St. John's special offering envelope for the CAC Food Shelf. Please write your check to St. John's, and indicate CAC Food Shelf on the memo line. Our goal is to reach at least \$10,000.

Thank you for your support!

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in March

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.

March 1:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons.

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.

Forum: Prayer and Spiritual Disciplines Part 3, Sanctuary.

Accompany, Room 205.

Small Group: "Daily Bread, Holy Meal" Book Discussion, Room 201.

Small Group: "Take This Bread" Book Discussion, Room 212.

March 8:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons.

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, Sanctuary.

Accompany, Room 205.

Bold Cafe, Fireside Room.

Small Group: "Daily Bread, Holy Meal" Book Discussion, Room 201.

Small Group: "Take This Bread" Book Discussion, Room 212.

March 15:

Youth Fundraiser, St. John's Hall and Commons.

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 2), Lower Level.

Accompany, Room 205.

Small Group: "Daily Bread, Holy Meal" Book Discussion, Room 201.

Small Group: "Take This Bread" Book Discussion, Room 212.

March 22:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons.

Forum: Fine Art for Holy Week, Sanctuary.

Accompany, Room 205.

March 29:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons.

Sunday School and Life Groups, Parents along with their children and youth are invited to the intergenerational event in St. John's Hall (see page 11).

Intergenerational Event, St. John's Hall.

Accompany, Room 205.



Dear St. John's Community,

Thank you for your warm and supportive welcome to me as I have begun this work among you. It is amazing to see firsthand the myriad ways God touches lives through your service week in and week out! I especially want to thank you who have signed up, called and emailed offering to serve communion, set and clean up Sunday coffee, provide treats, greet, sing our prayer at Wednesday Night Meals, and be a personal presence at the Welcome Desk.

As we anticipate celebrating the New Life we are given at Easter, we have another new beginning to look forward to -- community-building monthly service groups. Have you heard of these before? Well, for at least a decade, each person at St. John's was part of one of 13 monthly service groups that shared opportunities for coming together in service for the church and for each other. Since there were 13 groups, every year brought new experiences for each group of people. Though our new service groups will look somewhat different from those in the past, there is a ground-swell of support for renewing the way we come together as God's hands in our world. Look for more information in the next edition of the Voice and other communications.

Thank you!

Christy

News and Events



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!

Join us Sunday, March 29, for our next Intergenerational Event!

Everyone is invited to St. John's Hall during the Education Hour to learn about Lutheran World Relief's Quilting program at St. John's.

Quilts are the most requested item needed by LWR! Our great group of St. John's quilters will be demonstrating how to cut quilt blocks and sew them together to make a quilt top. There will be opportunities for all ages, (kids too!) to get involved; help design a quilt top, help pin and tie the blocks to make a finished quilt.

A relatively new project for LWR is polar fleece blankets. All ages can help tie blankets!

And, design a paper quilt block to be used to create a "Paper Quilt" which will be revealed on Easter morning at St. John's.

We ask parents to accompany children younger than 4th grade to the event.

To learn more about LWR Quilting program go to lwr.org.

News and Events

Pave the Path is Back!

This upcoming summer our high school youth will be traveling to **Detroit, MI** for the **2015 ELCA National Youth Gathering.**

The Gathering is an event where over 9,000 Lutheran high school youth from across the nation come together for five days of worship, bonding, and service.

Because we don't want to deny any youth or chaperones this experience because of cost, we hope to raise \$2,500 through our "**Pave the Path**" initiative.

This is how it works:

During Wednesday Night meals and on Sundays during the Education Hour, we will have youth stationed outside of St. John's Hall collecting donations.

For each donation, there is a corresponding car:

\$5 donation = smart car

\$10 donation = hatchback

\$20 donation = a sedan

\$50 donation = a van

\$100 donation = a bus

You are welcome to put your signature on your donated car(s), or remain anonymous.

We will post these cars on this road that snakes from the Commons into St. John's Hall so the congregation can keep track of our progress.

This is a great "vehicle" for supporting our youth's summer faith experiences (pun intended)!



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!

News and Events

Cannon River Conference Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Lands Lutheran Church

16640 Minnesota 60

Zumbrota, MN 55992

The Dilemma of Cultural Differences:

Challenges and Opportunities

featuring Joseph Mbele, St. Olaf College professor and author

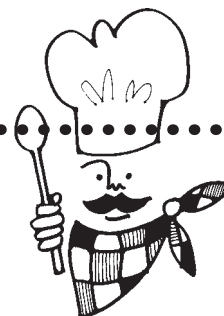
Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.,
program begins at 9:00 a.m., lunch served at 11:30 a.m.

Registration: \$12.00

(check payable to SE MN WELCA) and offerings sent to:
Cora Lee Monroe, 304 Skogen Lane, Kenyon, MN 55946

Offering objectives: Doctors Without Borders,
Project Neighbor, and Zumbrota Food Shelf.

Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food shelf items,
toiletries, or paper products for the area Food Shelf



St. John's Wednesday Night Lenten Soup Suppers

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

Wednesday, February 25

Potato Soup with Ham
Lentil with Vegetables
w/Bread

Wednesday, March 4

Chili and Vegetarian Chili
w/Bread

Wednesday, March 11

Chicken Wild Rice
Tomato Basil Bisque
w/Bread

Wednesday, March 18

Zuppa Toscana and Vegetable Barley
w/Bread

Wednesday, March 25

Chicken Noodle and Broccoli Cheese
w/Bread

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

From Bread For the World

Childhood Nutrition Workshop

Statistics show that for every dollar spent on making sure a child receives good nutrition from gestation on means multiple dollars saved in the years ahead.

How can we improve the way meet the needs of all in Minnesota. How can we advocate for eliminating hunger in our national programs.

Bread for the World Workshops offer the opportunity to learn more on March 4 (evening at Bethel University, Arden Hills) or March 14 (morning at St., John Neumann Catholic Church in Eagan) offers opportunities to learn more about this. Check the Peace & Justice Bulletin Board for more details.

from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod:



THE BRIDGE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR CONGREGATIONS OF THE SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



ACCOMPANIMENT: A THEOLOGY OF MISSION

By Kathy Bolin

Director for Global Mission/Companion Synods of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod

The attitude with which we approach other people and cultures matters greatly. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we uphold an approach called accompaniment.

Accompaniment is a scriptural and practical way of understanding mission that has been articulated in the past few decades in dialogue between churches in the “global North” (those who historically **sent** missionaries) and churches in the “global South” (those who historically **received** missionaries). Today, there are more Christians in the “global South” than in the “global North.” It is a different world than that of the earliest missionaries, and our understanding of and living out of mission must respond.

The accompaniment model was presented to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) by Latin American churches as a model for being companions with one another. The foundational scripture for this model is Luke 24:13–35, the Road to Emmaus passage. This story of Jesus reminds us that mission is a journey and that Christ is already present in encounters and visits wherever we go. Our companions may be individuals in our own community or our partners in Colombia, Tanzania, South Sudan or other countries around the world.

Luke’s Road to Emmaus passage illuminates to us how to accompany one other in our journeys. Accompaniment helps us to see mission differently. It brings your story and my story together to a place where we are both reconciled within God’s story.

One definition of accompaniment is: **Walking together in solidarity in a way that practices interdependence and mutuality.** Accompaniment promotes:

- **Mutuality:** We work to recognize that all of us have gifts to offer to God’s mission. Mutuality is built upon giving and receiving trust as we grow together.
- **Inclusivity:** Our cultures filter and influence how we see the world and each other. Inclusivity requires self-reflection and honesty about ourselves and our own communities and relationships.
- **Vulnerability:** Jesus shows us that vulnerability (openness to relationship, giving up power) is God’s way of redemption. It takes courage to be vulnerable.
- **Empowerment:** When we can name and acknowledge that relationships have differences of power, and we strive to bring balance to those partnerships, we are working to empower one another. Learning to let go of power – to become vulnerable – is an act of empowerment.
- **Sustainability:** The accompaniment value of sustainability requires that any given relationship will require an intentional commitment of attention and time to build up all those who are involved. The key to sustainability is listening, hearing and sharing.

As a synod, we are committed to encouraging this way of approaching interpersonal and intercultural relationships. Thank you for your partnership in expanding awareness about this important topic.

For more on accompaniment and our connections with Colombia, Tanzania, and other global ministry programs, please contact Kathy Bolin at bolin@semnsynod.org.

From the Faith and Health Board

Walking the Labyrinth this Lent

The labyrinth provides the sacred space where the inner and outer worlds can commune, where the thinking mind and the imaginative heart can flow together.” - Lauren Artress

The Faith and Health Board invite you to walk the labyrinth at St. John’s Lutheran Church on Sunday, March 8, between 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. in observance of Lent.

The Labyrinth is a...

- winding path that leads to a central space and then out again by the same path.
- wondrous pathway that may become a mirror for our own lives and metaphor for our spiritual journey.
- circle and a spiral, each a powerful and ancient symbol of unity, wholeness and transformation.
- tool of spiritual growth, healing and transformation of heart, body, mind and spirit.
- spiritual discipline of setting one foot in front of the other and following a path.
- calling forth of our intuitive symbolic mind and creative meandering spirit.
- deeply healing container where we can touch our joys and sorrows.

Walking the Path

Over the centuries, people have patterned their labyrinth walk in this way:

- **Going in—releasing:**
- Seek to quiet your mind, soul, heart and body. This is a time of letting go, of releasing, of emptying, of cleansing.
- **Arriving at the center—receiving:**
- Enter the center with an open heart and mind. Come to this place of rest, prayer and reflection. Sit, stand, lay down, stay a long while or a short while. Seek illumination and inspiration at the center of the labyrinth, the center of ourselves, where we commune with God.
- **Going out—returning:**
- When you are ready, walk out the same path you walked in. Carry your unique experience out into the world. It may be a refreshed spirit, renewed vision, calm, peace, gratitude, understanding forgiveness...

A Simple Way

As you enter the labyrinth you may find it helpful to pause at the threshold, offer a prayer of thanksgiving for this time, and set an intention for your walk. It could be as simple as:

*I come to...
experience the labyrinth
center in my deepest self
pray and seek God’s wisdom
enjoy the movement of my body
seek God’s guidance with a decision
clarify my thoughts/feelings
honor a transition in my life release a memory,
despair or grief express gratitude to God
ask a question.*

As you leave the labyrinth, ponder what touched you, inspired you, challenged you or surprised you. A prayer of thanksgiving may also seem an appropriate closure to this time. You may also wish to let the experience unfold as it will.

“The metaphors within the labyrinth are endless because they are shaped by our creative imagination - whatever our psyches need to deal with becomes the spiritual lesson of the labyrinth.” - Lauren Artress

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

Waiting

By Barbara Eaves

I never was good at waiting: couldn't wait for school to start and couldn't wait for summer vacation. Couldn't wait to get to go to the beach and couldn't wait for the water to freeze enough to go ice skating. So it is no wonder there is some impatience in wanting spring to hurry up and get here, to see once again green grass and trees and the first blooms of the new year.

In our house there is a poinsettia plant still blooming from Christmas and 20 feet away there is a vase of red tulips bringing a hint of spring to come. Perhaps there is a message in the image of those two flowers and the distance between them. While the poinsettia brings thoughts of nostalgia related to the season past, the tulips bring hope for new life to come. But then there is this space in between—what should one make of that?

For those of us who live in the northern climes, the season of Lent carries some dynamics much like waiting for the coming of spring. On the one hand we have basked in the warm glow of Christmas; on the other hand we wait eagerly for the radiance of Easter. But here, too, is a space...a time in between...when we journey through the season of Lent, recalling some of the shadowy periods of our faith story as we yearn for Easter light to break forth and shatter the darkness.

While it is not possible to force spring by wishing it so, we know it will come. Likewise, since we live on the Easter side of the cross, we know the gift of new life in Christ is already ours. Yet the season of Lent helps us to remember the precious mystery of the cross which graciously ushers us into the open arms of Easter.

*As the dark awaits the dawn,
so we await your light.
O Star of promise, scatter night,
loving bright, loving bright,
till shades of fear are gone.
ELW 261, vs 1*

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

Thank you to all who are participating in the Lenten Book Read and in particular to those who have stepped forward to lead a discussion group: Jo Franklin, Chuck Jacobson, Dawn Tommerdahl, Dick Beckmen, and Julie Thorsheim.



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.
March's Topic: Suffering and Endurance (Romans 5:1-5)

March

Mar. 9: Bible Study Leaders meet at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room.

Mar. 3 and 17: Knitters meet at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang, 507-645-4849.

Mar. 11, 12, 13, 14: Circles/groups meet. See time and location below.

Mar. 16 and 19: Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m.-12:00p.m.

Mar. 9: WELCA Board meeting 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

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

Cost is \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for girls twelve and under.

March 29: Intergenerational Sunday - Quilting and Fleece Blanket Tying

You are asked to help put together quilts and learn more about the Lutheran World Relief outreach through quilt distribution. There will be opportunities for designing quilt tops, tying, sewing, and tying fleece quilts, which is a relatively new quilt project for LWR. Because this is also new for us, we need fleece. If you would like to donate a piece or two of fleece, here are the LWR requirements:

- fleece pieces need to be 58"-59" wide by 80" long,
- fabric should not have religious or patriotic symbols,
- smaller pieces will be welcome for local use.

Quilts are the most requested item from Lutheran World Relief. For more information about quilts go to lwr.org.

Even if you don't know anything about sewing or quilting, you can learn. Join the adventure on March 29th in the St. John's Hall and get more information about this mission outreach of the Lutheran Church.

March Circle/Group Meetings:

Gather Groups

Wednesday, Feb. 11: **Lydia** 9:30 a.m. at Marilyn Calcutt's, 801 Headley Ct., 645-2814

Sarah 9:30 a.m., at Char Nelson's, 306 Archibald Ln. Dundas, 663-0564

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 Jo Olson's, 516 Southbridge Dr., 507-321-1091

Saturday, Feb. 14: **Women's Breakfast Group** 8:30 a.m. Fireside Room, Contact: Kathy Melstrom, 663-1451

Bold Café Group

Sunday, March 8, 9:45 a.m. Fireside Room (Rescheduled due to Youth Fundraiser)

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...

JUSTICE CALENDAR

March 2—Peace & Justice Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
“Meeting Local and Global Needs”
All are Welcome! Come and make your voice heard!

March 6 - 8—Nobel Peace Prize Forum
“Inclusive and Sustainable Peacemaking and Peace Building” at Radisson Blu Downtown
Honoring the 2013 Nobel Laureate: The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

March 6—Human Rights and Democracy
*Gro Harlem Brundtland, Deputy Chair of the Elders, former Prime Minister of Norway
*Jimmy Carter, Nobel Laureate & former US President

March 7—Disarmament and Sustainability
*OPCW Director-General Ahmet Uzumcu
*Adama Dieng, UN Special Advisor on Prevention of Genocide
*Imam Muhammad & Pastor James Wuye, Making Peace, N Nigeria

March 8—Issues Related to Inclusivity
*Panel: Women in Disarmament
*Sanam Anderli: Women and Extremism
*UN & the Women, Peace & Security Agenda
*Panel: Impact of ND Oil Boom on Native American Girls & Women
[Registration & more details at <http://nobelpeaceprizeforum.org/2015-program/>]

March 10—JRLC Day on the Hill, St. Paul: Dignity in Democracy, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
There is still time to register!
Schedule for the Day on P&J Bulletin Boards or www.jrlc.org/register-day-on-the-hill.

March 4—Bread for the World: Childhood Nutrition—Bethel University, evening
March 14—Bread for the World: Childhood Nutrition—St. John Neuman in Eagan, 9 a.m.—12:10 p.m.

From the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition

The concept of basic human dignity is at the core of our faith traditions. The recognition and protection of this dignity is also at the core of the social justice advocacy of JRLC. Policies that ensure a strong social safety net, that address economic justice, and that are based in our scriptural mandate to care for the least of these, are essentially policies that affirm the dignity and value of all members of our communities. The work of citizen lobbying is also work that affirms dignity by ensuring all people have a voice at the table when legislative decisions are made. On March 10th the interfaith community will again come together in St. Paul to ensure that dignity is central to our democracy. A morning session from 8:30 to 12:00 will include a keynote address and briefings on issues for 800 or more members of Minnesota religious congregations and other groups at the RiverCentre in St. Paul. Meeting with legislators on Capitol Hill will be scheduled from 12:00 to 3:30. For further information go to www.jrlc.org or contact Paul Peterson – 645-9245, petersop@charter.net

From the Peace and Justice group (cont.)

Inclusive and Sustainable Peacemaking and Peace Building

For more than 25 years the annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum, under the auspices of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, has inspired peacemaking by focusing on the work of Nobel Peace Prize winners and important international peacemakers and peacebuilders.

The 2015 Nobel Peace Prize Forum, March 6-8 at Radisson Blu in downtown Minneapolis, will concentrate on issues related to sustainable and inclusive peacemaking and peacebuilding.

It will feature the work of 2013 Nobel Laureate, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons(OPCW) and Former United States President and Nobel Laureate Jimmy Carter and his latest book: “A Call to Act: Women, Religion, Violence and Power”.

The Forum will also address critical issues of our time, featuring talks by courageous peacemakers, world leaders, and influential thinkers including Monica McWilliams, Steven Pinker, Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye.

Each day, delegates will have the opportunity to participate in smaller dialogue sessions led by international mediation and peacebuilding experts involved with the United Nations and others in situations such as Syria, Libya, Yemen, and the Central African Republic. There will also be sessions dedicated to issues such as Ebola, gun violence in the United States, disarmament, chemical weapons control, sustainable food, food security, climate change, social entrepreneurship, women, peace and security and more.

On Saturday evening March 7th, the Forum will be screening the award winning documentary Food Chains, followed by a conversation with the film’s producers.

A delegate’s dinner and conversation focused on sustainable food will also be offered as an option in advance of the documentary screening. The screening is included with Saturday’s delegate ticket.

Tickets to the Nobel Peace Prize Forum are limited and will be reserved on a first come, first serve basis. Registration and further information are available at <<http://nobelpeaceprizeforum.org/2015>>

From Bread For the World

“Our legislative wins aren’t always grabbing headlines, but they’re significant and affect millions of lives,” said Amelia Kegan, deputy director of government relations at BREAD. Our “list of legislative accomplishments reminds us that sustained, faithful advocacy works and really does bring change.”

Food-aid reform is one of BREAD’s 2014 victories. In the Offering of Letters in which St. John’s members participated with 158 letters to Congress BREAD members across the country told lawmakers to prioritize food for hungry people over profit for shipping conglomerates—and they listened. In the final days of the 113th Congress, lawmakers passed a bill that rolled back proposals to increase subsidies to the world’s largest shipping companies to ship U.S. food aid. In addition the 2014 budget included \$35 million to reduce the need to monetize food aid, benefiting 200,000 more people.

The 2014 Farm Bill also included BREAD victories. Despite the House passing a bill with nearly \$40 billion in cuts to SNAP (food stamps) that would have pushed 2 to 4 million people off the program, the final bill had less than \$8 billion in cuts and mitigating action by states meant that no one was cut from SNAP because of this bill.

On international food aid the Farm Bill authorized \$80 million to purchase food locally. As a result 600,000 more people are helped annually throughout the world.

Learn much more about the results of BREAD’s 2014 advocacy at www.bread.org.

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
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Parish Nurse
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Turn your
clocks ahead
on Sunday,
March 8,
at 2:00 a.m.