

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

May 2015

Volume 55, Number 5

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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.

Children's Choir Musical!

This year's Children's Choir Musical, "100% Chance of Rain", will be held on Wednesday, May 6. Starting at 5:15 p.m., come for our Wednesday night meal and stay for the Musical, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for this special "Dinner Theater" event! Everyone is welcome!



Congratulations, Class of 2015!

On Sunday, May 17,
during the 11:00 a.m. service,
St. John's will recognize
our graduating High School Seniors.

After worship,
the seniors and their families,
along with the students' confirmation
mentors will share lunch in St. John's Hall.

Congratulations to the following
seniors from St. John's:

McKenna Boyum
Kelsey Bull
Katelyn Canedy
Nicholas Gonnerman
Emma Knoch
Dylan Matson
Nicholas Pelletier

God's Blessings on your future plans!

SUMMER WORSHIP

Summer is almost here!
Worship hours will change on
Sunday, May 24.

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Worship

See you at Church!

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

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

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

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

Galatians 6:2



*Providing one-
to-one care and
encouragement*

Stephen Ministers Lend a Listening Ear

Many of us need help at various times in our lives. When dealing with difficult situations, we may seek help from Pastors, friends, or health care specialists. Some may find it helpful to have a Stephen Minister, a caring Christian friend who listens to their problems. Types of situations in which Stephen Ministers provide care include:

- death of a loved one
- facing our own death
- illness of a loved one
- personal illness
- financial problems
- feeling guilty
- feeling lonely
- feeling worthless
- problems with family relationships
- separation from loved ones
- problems adjusting to a move/new environment
- birth of a child

These are just a few of the reasons people have sought assistance from Stephen Ministers. If you or someone you know needs care and support at this time, please call one of the pastors or Joan Halvorson at 645-8445.

*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 parents grieving the loss of a child will continue meeting on Tuesday evenings through May 26, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Northfield United Methodist Church. For more information contact Sherri Bunch Quaas at 507-645-4300.

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."

May 4, 2014
Edward Sovik

From our pastor ...

Little drops, big drops, heavy drops, light drops. . .

May 6 our 3-8th graders will be presenting a musical about Noah: "100% Chance of Rain." Here's the funny thing: I remember performing that same musical when I was in 5th grade! The words to some of the songs are still seared in my memory. And the tune is still catchy enough to be an earworm with my kids. That's what you call a classic.


Memory is a strange thing. Studies show that we can remember vivid detail about events 70 years later, if those events had a particular emotional connection at the time. But the content of our memories is also subject to change, and the more we re-tell stories, the easier it is to be "sure" that something happened in a particular way, even if it didn't.

I wonder about memory a lot as I think of how we are formed in faith, and what resources we rely on to remember the body of Christ and to learn the essential tools of faith – our prayers, our songs, our sacramental actions. This year we have asked our confirmation students to prove to their *parents* – not to their church leaders – that they know their memory work. That way, together we are reminded of the tools of faith.

I'm incredibly grateful for a faith that is full of song. I know that on my deathbed, I'm much more likely to rely on songs of faith than any theology I've read. I'm grateful that my mother taught me the same lullaby that was sung to her:

"Lord Jesus since you love me,
O spread your wings above me,
and shield me from alarm
Though evil would assail me
Your mercy will not fail me.
I rest in your protecting arm."

In music, in gestures and actions, we seal into our memories this fact: Christ loves us and will never leave us. May we enact these essential truths for each other in various and memorable ways.



Important Dates to Remember

Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, May 3 Rotation Sunday School, *House on the Rock*
Sunday, May 10 Habitat for Humanity Sunday School (Parents are invited!)
Sunday, May 17 Celebration for the last day of Sunday School with the theme, *House on the Rock and Habitat for Humanity*, St. John' Hall

Wednesday Afterschool Programming

Wednesday, May 6, 13, 20

Summer Activities

June 21-26 Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp for grades 2-5 (Registrations are still being accepted)
August 2-6 VBS and "On the Road" Summer Camp for ages 2 (by 1-15-15) - 5th Grades

Parents! Help Build Bird Houses at Sunday School on May 10

All of St. John's Sunday school classes will be building bird houses during the Sunday school hour, 9:45 – 10:45 a.m., on May 10. We could use as many hands as possible helping the kids build their houses. Bring a Philip's head screw driver and pitch in to help! We'll meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. for Opening. Thanks in advance!

Sunday School Celebration, Sunday, May 17!

Come and celebrate the last day of Sunday school for the school year! The celebration will take place in St. John's Hall from 9:45 – 10:45 a.m. with the theme, "*House on the Rock and Habitat for Humanity*". Enjoy music, storytelling, refreshments, games, and crafts with your family and friends.

If you are interested in lending a hand to help at the event, contact Julie Brehmer, 645-4429, or email at children@stjohnsnorthfield.org.



Are you attending Summer Camp this year?

Shores of St. Andrews, New London, MN (grades 2-5) June 21-26

At this week long Bible camp, kids have lots of fun with friends laughing, learning and growing in their faith. Enjoy swimming, kayaking, games, campfires, fellowship, singing and more! This camp is offered through Green Lake Lutheran Ministries.

No one will be turned away from attending summer programs because of financial reasons. Please contact Julie Brehmer if you need financial assistance or if you have questions.

Summer Nursery Schedule

Starting on Sunday, May 24 the Nursery will be providing childcare during worship for only the 10:00 a.m. service during the summer months. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in the Nursery, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer.

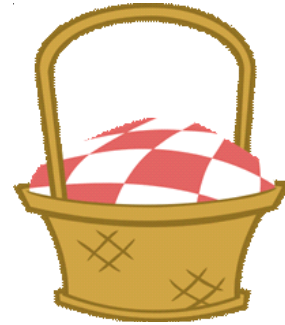
YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Welcome for Pastor Jonathan Davis

When: Wednesday, May 13th, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

Where: St. John's

What: Parents and youth are invited to celebrate the end of the year and families will have a chance to meet our recently called pastor, Jonathan Davis. We'll have some treats, games, and time for introductions.



MAGICAL MYSTERY TOURS



What is a "Magical Mystery Tour"?

Magical Mystery Tours are events organized by the youth directors of churches in Northfield for middle school youth who've completed 5th-8th grades. The 'mystery' part of it is that we try to keep our destination a secret from our youth. We meet in the parking lot of Bethel on the 2nd Wednesdays during the summer, load up a bus and take off. Past destinations have been Twin's games, waterparks, Feed My Starving Children, Sky Zone and many more. Watch your mail for details on this summer's trips!

High School Senior Recognition

On May 17th, we'll be celebrating our graduating high school seniors by having them provide integral roles at our 11:00 a.m. worship, blessing their next steps, and honoring them with a luncheon catered by the Quarterback Club afterwards.

Families of Seniors, please **RSVP** for the luncheon by Sunday, May 10th.





Shared Ministry

Dear St. John's Community,

Thank you for sharing in the celebration of Sunday morning hospitality past, present, and future at our services this past week. It was lovely to see the appreciation you have for Rachel Peterson and Brynne Rowberg, two of the founders of the Service Groups that began in the mid-1980s and lasted for almost 25 years. At both services we had the pleasure of thanking people who have spent great amounts of time and energy organizing greeters, the welcome desk, communion preparers and servers, and coffee service, and welcoming the new organizers of these tasks in the new Monthly Hospitality Group 1 -- Alyssa Ness, Amy McBroom, and Barbara Knaak. In the final moments of this event, the "HMS Goodship St. John's" set sail down the center aisle of the sanctuary with the help of Amy McBroom and her three children, Maren, Dyson, & Cora, and in the second service, Annelise Hall-Holt and Katie Schroeer.

Here are some questions you may have and some answers. Please ask me if you have other questions.

- ***When will I find out what monthly hospitality group I am in and what month to which my group is assigned?***
By the time this May Voice newsletter is published, you will have been contacted either by email or by regular mail to inform you of which group you are in. The lists will also be available on the Shared Ministry Bulletin Board just to the left of the Church Office (in the Commons). As we continue to verify the information we have for members, please let us know if you see people on your group's list who are not actively participating at St. John's. Thank you!
- ***How many people will be in my monthly hospitality group?***
There are approximately 80 people in each group.
- ***How do I sign-up once I know what monthly hospitality group I'm in and what month I will be serving?***
There are 3 ways to sign-up:
 1. Use the sign-up sheets on the Shared Ministry bulletin board to the left of the Church Office.
 2. Use the electronic sign-up sheets on the church's new web-based directory called "Church Community Builder" or "CCB".
 3. Call or email one of your group's co-leaders.
- ***What if I don't use email or computers?***
Your group's co leader would like to find out the best way to communicate with you to help you be as informed as possible about how to serve with your group. Please call your group's Co-Leader to let him or her know how you like to sign up.
- ***Who are my group's Co-Leaders?***
 - Group 1's Co-Leaders are Alyssa Ness, Amy McBroom, and Barb Knaak.
 - Other Group Co-Leaders will be announced as they decide this is where they are being called to serve.

SERVING TO LOVE  *LOVING TO SERVE*

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.

Notes of Thanks!

Thank you...

To everyone who made the Youth Fundraiser so successful! We raised over \$8,000!

To choirs, brass players, Chancel Guild, ushers, communion assistants and servers and all whose extra duties in Holy Week made this a wonderful worship season.

To Mark Ulmer and Jeff McLaughlin for countless volunteer hours in the transition to our new church information system.

To Doug Bratland for design work for our beautiful Easter Vigil posters.

To all who donated to the CAC Food Shelf through the special giving in March and during Lent. A total of \$12,046 was raised. This will help many families during the year.

To all who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt this year by donating candy, filling and hiding eggs. We welcomed many families from the Northfield community to St. John's for this fun family event. Special thanks to Goodbye Blue Monday for providing delicious coffee and the Boehning family for bringing their Silkie chickens to share with the kids.

To Wednesday Volunteers! May 20 is the last Wednesday for afterschool bus service and children's programming! A great big thank you to our Wednesday afterschool volunteers this year:

Bus Angels: Andrea Hoff, Julie Becker, Amy McBroom, Michele Knutson, Sara Redetzke, Connie Menssen, Betsy McLaughlin, Bill Rizzo, Leah Sand

Snack Servers: Amy McBroom, Betsy McLaughlin, Katherine Norrie, Sara Redetzke

Kid's Club: Our St. Olaf Students; Kari, Jordan, Steven, Laura, Shelby

Hall Monitors: Julie Becker, Andrea Hoff, Sara Redetzke, Amy McBroom, Mike Skunes, Christy Hall-Holt

Homework Café: Terry Rydberg, Jo Franklin, Bill Rizzo, Leah Garlie, Anne Sovik, Christy Hall-Holt

DOG: Christy Hall-Holt

Middle/High School: James Bull, Andrew Becker, Aidan Nutt, Cate Carson, Jacob Gonnerman, Jada Johnson, Anne France, Kaylee Malecha, Gunnar Benson, Clay Garlie, Carter Loring, Katie Schroeer

To Nursery Volunteers!

Many thanks to our Nursery Volunteers who help with our littlest ones during Sunday worship services at St. John's. Also, a BIG thank you to Amy McBroom for coordinating our Nursery volunteers throughout the year.

Nursery Staff: Maddie Baloga, Kari Heistad, Emma Kmoch

Volunteers: Amy McBroom, Alysia Ness, Brenda Boone, Katherine Norrie, Ariana Beeby, Synneva Bratland, Halvor Bratland, Brenda Boone, Christy & Viveka Hall-Holt, Kristy Harms, Elizabeth & Brian Evenson

To our Confirmation Group Guides who have invested in building faith in our young people. This year's guides included: Elsa Tostrud, Holly Jansen, Betsy McLaughlin, Susan Shirk, Scott Boehning, Michael Berger, and Karl Hella.

To Terry Rydberg who had the idea of transforming a complicated 19th century "HMS Pinafore" type ship into an elegant streamlined vessel reminiscent of the longships sailed by the ancestors of many a St. John's community member! Many thanks also to Josiah Olson and his friend, Shannon, who designed the ship, and to Elizabeth Everson, Viveka Hall-Holt, Emma Kmoch, Cate Carson, Kaylee Malecha, James Bull, Terry Rydberg, and Mike Skunes for cutting out, painting, and putting together all the pieces.

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in May

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.

May 3:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and 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 - Organs, Sanctuary.

May 10:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and 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.

Forum: Social Media-How Digital Media is Changing How We Gather Information & Build Relationships, Sanctuary.

May 17:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall.

Last Day of Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Celebration in St. John's Hall.

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

Intergenerational Event, St. John's Hall.

Bold Cafe, Fireside Room.

May 24:

Start of Summer Worship Schedule - 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall.

May 31:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall.



This Month in Worship

Sunday, May 3: First Communion for many of our 3rd graders!

Sunday, May 10: Jonathan Davis' first Sunday at St. John's.

Sunday, May 17: Recognition of St. John's High School seniors, and special nykkelharpa music for Syttende Mai!

Sunday, May 24: The Feast of Pentecost. Wear Red!

Sunday, May 31: A special "narrative liturgy" for Trinity Sunday, and Rhubarb Sunday!

Save the Date

Sunday, June 14: Installation of Pastor Jonathan Davis at both worship services.

Sunday, August 23: Randy and Carol Stubbs, our missionaries in Tanzania, will be at St. John's for worship and celebration!

Date TBD: Extending the Welcome Workshop offered at St. John's. Watch for more information.



Welcome to Church Community Builder (CCB)!

Looking for the church's phone number? It's a few keystrokes away.

What about an email address for that family who offered to trade acolyting Sunday with your son/daughter? Just login to CCB (Church Community Builder) -- St. John's NEW, IMPROVED, and Potentially (Depending on YOU!) always UP-TO-DATE contact information for everyone!

This January, St. John's transferred all of its electronic records (addresses, phone numbers, membership information, financial statements, baptism dates -- everything!) to this web-based church management software. It has taken a few months for the information to get sorted out, but the exciting part is we are ready to share it with everyone.

Not excited about having to remember another password? We can relate to that -- it's a hassle. So let us help you look at the bright side:

- Your USERNAME is your email address (the one the church uses to send you newsblasts)
- Your PASSWORD is whatever you want it to be -- and you can get a new password sent to your email address everytime you login if you need it.

Please watch the news blasts, bulletins, and future editions of the Voice for updates and tips on CCB!

Mission Outreach

Special Offering in May for Lutheran World Relief

This month you will find a special offering envelope for donations to Lutheran World Relief. LWR is a nonprofit organization that works with partners around the world to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice and human suffering. In 2014 Lutheran World Relief reached more than 4,763,599 people working with 141 local partners on 153 projects in 35 countries. Their focus is on helping communities become more resistant to disasters and other emergencies, supporting women farmers who represent a majority of those in extreme poverty, and working with farmers to cope with changing climate conditions. They have been a top rated nonprofit by Charity Watch, 4-star Charity Navigator and others.

This year St. John's has initiated Intergenerational Sunday programs to highlight the hands on Lutheran World Relief projects that have been sponsored by the Women of the ELCA for many years. Our hope is to inspire all generations to continue this mission work by contributing time, talent and/or donations by quilting, as well as the school, health and baby kit projects. When you purchase Fair Trade coffee and chocolates, sponsored by the Bold Cafe group, you are contributing to yet another LWR project.

Please prayerfully consider a special donation this month to the important work of Lutheran World Relief. For donations by check, please write your check to St. John's Lutheran and indicate LWR on the memo line. You can learn more about their work and other ways to contribute by looking online at LWR.org.



Submitted by the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board

From the Faith and Health Board

Pastors, Privacy, and You.

Your Health Information Is Protected By Federal Law

The Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, known as HIPAA, was passed to establish a national framework for security standards and protection with regard to health care data and information.

What this means for your pastoral care is that pastors are *not* informed of hospitalizations unless a patient specifically requests that their church be notified. In some cases, such as with minors at Children's Hospital, staff may not even confirm a patient's presence at the hospital over the phone. At Northfield Hospital, patients must state St. John's on their admittance papers in order for information to be released at the front desk.

If you would like a visit, or would like your name added to the prayer chain or the Sunday prayers, please notify the Church Office (or have a family member do so for you). If there is an urgent need outside of office hours, listen for the number of the 'on call' pastor on the church voice mail.

From the Stewardship Board

The Stewardship Board invites you to live generously, give joyfully.

This week, this month, throughout your lifetime.

Four very powerful words. LIVE generously. Live GENEROUSLY. GIVE joyfully. Give JOYFULLY.

They are commands: to live lives of contribution in our community, and in the St. John's community. To give and to do so with joy.

We are blessed at St. John's to have many living examples of people who live generously. I invite you to start your personal list of people who you believe live these words. I invite you to tell those people that you see them living generous lives, lives of inspiration. In and of itself, this is living generously.

Christy Hall-Holt and all of the people who have helped her resurrect the service groups are first on MY list.

At the request of the council and the congregation, Christy has undertaken the enormous task of resurrecting service groups at St. John's. She is asking that we all commit ourselves to living generously, to saying yes to the many opportunities to live generously in our community.

The second group on my list are Barb Knaak, Amy McBroom, Alyssa Ness and Service Group #1. They said yes to organizing the first service group, launching our Fram St. John's effort. We thank them for their leadership in showing us how to live generously.

The rebirth of service groups will give us the opportunity to build community as we live generously, by sharing our time and talents with the greater community.

The Stewardship Board is excited to support this newly resurrected model of service through service groups. We encourage every member to give joyfully of your time and talents, by offering your gifts of hospitality as greeters or welcome reception, by preparing and serving communion, by serving coffee.

We encourage you to find opportunities to continue to say "yes" in other places as well: assisting with Wednesday night meals, teaching Sunday school, serving as a mentor, counting offering, lead a small group, serving on a committee or board. The opportunities are numerous, and there's something for everyone. We prosper as a congregation when all our members contribute their gifts to the community. We all have a part to play.

Live generously. Follow the examples of Linda Anderson, Kristy Harms, Peggy Dell, Judy Smith, who have given generously of their time and talents, so we can have soup suppers, Wednesday night meals, communion service. Feeding our bodies feeds our souls.

When we live generously and give joyfully, we DO receive joy. Joy makes us want to give more. Giving joyfully is Christ's legacy to us. What better season than Easter, for us to intentionally adopt this attitude of generosity and find the joy of giving our time and talents, with the body of Christ, with the St. John's community that we have joined intentionally?

Throughout this season, throughout the year, we encourage and invite every member to live generously, every moment of every day. When it's a struggle, make a commitment to finding a moment every day to live generously or to acknowledge someone who is living generously. Join the cycle of joyful giving.

I look forward to living generously with each of you.

Peace.

Sandi Gerdes

News and Events

Street Reconstruction Project

Starting in May, the City of Northfield will begin a two-phased Street Construction Project that will affect streets on three sides of St. John's Church (Poplar, Plum, and Second Streets) through the fall. Phase I will include grinding/resurfacing of Poplar and Plum Streets and will likely take until mid-August. Phase II will involve a more extensive repave and reclamation effort. There will always be safe access to the building as you will notice on the maps that the City will be providing. A temporary "driveway" will parallel Second Street. Additional parking will also be available to our congregation in Longfellow School's back parking lot, with a mid-block stairway allowing pedestrians to cross our church. City of Northfield project directors are meeting with our congregational leadership to converse about our needs and their process. As we get more information from the City, we'll pass that on to you. We thank you in advance for your patience and welcome you to Minnesota's "other season: road construction!"

From Bread for the World

Bread for the World believes that prayer is foundational to achieving its goal of helping to end hunger and extreme poverty by 2030. Through our prayers for people who are hungry, for ourselves, and for our leaders, we participate in God's work of ending hunger at home and abroad. We can make prayers to end hunger part of our regular prayer life. Whenever we pray give us this day our daily bread, we can include people who are hungry in our country and around the world in our petition.



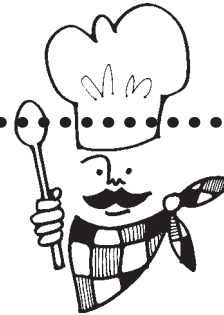
We are the generation that can end hunger. By faith, leaders and staff at Bread for the World believe that if the president and Congress can gather the political will in a bipartisan way to end hunger and extreme poverty, this goal can become a top priority in our national policies.

Learn much at www.bread.org and find prayers for the end of hunger in a different set of countries each week based on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle posted Friday mornings at blog.bread.org.

Did You Know?

St. John's has an endowed scholarship at Luther Seminary. Established for our 125th anniversary, it has assisted 22 unique students since its inception. In addition, St. John's has contributed over \$30,000 toward seminarian support at Luther Seminary alone!

The St. John's Foundation is celebrating its 25th year this year, contributing \$25,000 toward St. John's outreach and ministries as designated by the church Council.



St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

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

Wednesday, May 6
Sloppy Joes and Chips

Wednesday, May 13
Fried Chicken

Wednesday, May 20
Build Your Own Sub

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

News and Events

New Items from Thistle Farms Join the Fair Trade table on May 3!

The Community of Magdalene, founded in 1997 by Rev. Becca Stevens, provides housing, food, medical and dental care, therapy, education and job training free of charge for up to two years to women who have survived lives of prostitution, trafficking and addiction. Thistle Farms, a social enterprise started in 2001, provides employment for the women of Magdalene. By hand, the women create natural bath and body products that are as good for the earth as they are for the body. Magdalene's core belief is that "in the end love is the most powerful force for change."



Thistle Farms was featured in the first episode of the PBS documentary series "A Path Appears" which aired earlier this year. <http://apathappears.org/>

Seventy percent of Magdalene residents are leading healthy sober lives 2 ½ years after entering the program.

Just in time for Mother's Day, graduation and summer vacation, Bold Café will add three new items from Thistle Farms to fair trade coffee and chocolate sales: hand soap (\$10), organic insect repellent (\$10), and a travel kit (sample available; order for \$25 plus shipping).

Third Grade Catechism Retreat

On Wednesday, April 29, St. John's 3rd graders attended a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Holy Communion. At the retreat, our third graders, along with their parents, made Communion bread to share with the congregation at the May 3 worship services.

April Actions

Births

A son, Zachary Scott Paulson, to Jennifer and Scott Paulson.

Deaths

Christine Lee, April 8, 2015

Art Schuette, April 20, 2015

Joyce Schrader, April 23, 2015

Radio Broadcasts

April 5, 2015, given by Duane and Marie Benson.

April 12, 2015, given by Judy Christensen in memory of Fritjof (Fritz) Christensen whose birthday was April 14.

April 19, 2015, given in memory of Margery Otterness by Rolf Otterness.

April 26, 2015, given in memory of Roger and Lee Mahacheck by Beverly Mahacheck.



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.
Mays Topic: The Church Transforming and Reforming

May Meetings

May 3 and 10: Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, and Thistle Farms products for sale.

May 11: Bible Study Leaders meet at 12:00 noon in the Fireside Room.

May 5 and 9: Knitters meet at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang, 507-645-4849.

May 8, 9, 13, and 14: Circles/groups meet. See time and location below.

May 18 and 21: Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 a.m.-12:00p.m.

May 11: WELCA Board meeting 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Event Dates

Thursday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.: *Immigrants in our Midst* will be a panel presentation from local residents of Northfield. Our programs this year have centered on immigrants from our ancestors to immigrants who are coming and living among us now. This final program for the Women of the ELCA year is open to anyone in our community, both men and women. Bring a guest.

Thistle Farm Products: The coffee, tea, and chocolate sales table will be adding new products from Thistle Farms. Thistle Farms is the social enterprise that is run by the women of Magdalene. Magdalene is a residential program for women who have survived lives of prostitution, trafficking, addiction and life on the streets. The women create natural bath and body products that are as good for the earth as they are for the body. Purchases of Thistle Farms products directly benefit the women by whom they were made.

The Magdalene program offers two years of housing, food, medical and dental needs, therapy, education and job training without charging the residents or receiving government funding. Seventy-two percent of the women who join Magdalene are clean and sober 2 ½ years after beginning the program.

April Circle/Group Meetings:

Gather Groups

Friday, May 8: **Mary** 1:00 p.m. at Susan Rudser's, 5787 Erwin Way, 645-5415

Saturday, May 9: **Breakfast Group** 8:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room, Contact: Kathy Melstrom, 663-1451

Wednesday, May 13: **Lydia** 9:30 a.m. at Judy Smith's, 12366 Ibson Ave., 645-8617

Sarah 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room, Contact: Char Nelson, 663-0564

Thursday, May 14: **Martha/Claudia** 9:30 a.m. at Parkview W., Contact: Marilyn Jacobson, 663-9060

Elizabeth 1:30 p.m. at Donna Paulsen's, 1000 Cannon Valley Dr. Apt. 115, 645-4647

Abigail/Rebecca 2:00 p.m. at NRC Parkview E.

Bold Café Group

Sunday, May 17, 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...

During March and into April there were opportunities for Northfielders to come together to learn about issues of immigration that are important to all of us. In addition to the project of Northfield Reads — “Enrique’s Journey”, the stories of a number of people who had come to the US at different times expanded our understanding of the immigration experience. We have much to consider as individuals and as a community about problems and opportunity in the current situation.

From the work of the UN Human Rights Up Front Initiative we can learn how important it is to have an understanding of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in such vulnerable times, and how important it is to bring those rights into discussions as complex and important as immigration situations and other areas as well.

On May 4 we will look at some of the ways we can use the information and experience of the UN focus locally. You are invited to join us!

Early Literacy Project in Northfield

Consider donating gently used children’s books to families in our community! All types of books for children ages infant through young adult are needed. Books in Spanish are especially welcome!

Drop books off in the red bins located at:

- All Northfield elementary schools
- Northfield Community Resource Center (Human Services wing entrance)
- Longfellow School

If you want to take a book (or books) home, look for early literacy bookshelves that are located throughout the community – at the Northfield Community Resource Center, Longfellow School, in businesses, and apartment buildings.

The Northfield Rotary Club and the Northfield Early Childhood Initiative Coalition collaborate to make this project happen. Contact Sara Line (507-645-1232) or Dawn Tommerdahl (dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com) if you would like more information or if you would like to volunteer collecting books from bins, sorting donated books, or restocking bookshelves.

Students for Nonviolence FM Radio Station - Crowd Sourcing

Leonard Vibbi, an international student at St. Olaf from Sierra Leone, has been working for more than 2 years to establish an FM radio station in Freetown that will teach students at Fourah Bay College plus the general public how to deal with conflict in a non-violent way. The importance of this work is great because just 5 years after a truce was signed in Sierra Leone evidence of a resurgent violent pattern is emerging.

Involving students in Freetown and on US college campuses, he has laid the groundwork for this project and is now raising money via crowd sourcing, inviting all interested persons to join in this positive program. More information is available at the following address where you may also donate if you wish. Please note the abbreviated spelling of the last word in the address :<http://www.gofundme.com/students4nonviolence>

JUSTICE CALENDAR

May 4—Peace & Justice Group Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
At Home and Abroad: Current Issues in Human Rights
Updates on Current Projects
All are Welcome! Please join us!

Senior Pastor
Pam Fickenscher
Associate Pastor
Jonathan Davis
Visitation Pastor
John Quam
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
Shared Ministry
Christy Hall-Holt
Parish Nurse
Lynette Marks
Youth Ministry
Mike Skunes
Congregation
President
Patsy Ophaug



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Northfield Summer Camp Opportunities 2015 for Ages 2 – Grade 5

This summer St. John's, along with St. Peter's and Bethel Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Church, will be offering a joint Vacation Bible School/Summer Camp experience for children age 2 (by 1-15-15) – 5th grade.

For kids completing Kindergarten – 5th grade

"On the Road", August 2-6, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day; Held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Good Earth Village, "On the Road!" brings the fun of summer camp to Northfield. This 4-day program is filled with games, worship (and water worship!), crafts, Bible study and singing. Registration is through Good Earth Village. Campers can register on-line at www.goodearthvillage.org. Since this is a community-based event please send your registration in early. Good Earth Village can accommodate about 125 campers.

For Kids Age 2 (by 1-15-15) - Kindergarten

"G-Force", Vacation Bible School, August 2-6, 9:00 a.m.-11:30 p.m. each morning

Held at Bethel Lutheran Church

At "G-Force" Vacation Bible School, your children will use their hands, hearts and minds to imagine, build, grow, work, and walk with God. Kindergarteners have the option of going to either VBS or "On the Road". The VBS program will be half days whereas "On the Road" is a full day experience. You decide which camp works best for your child. Registration forms are available in the Main Office and in the Commons.