

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

July 2015

Volume 55, Number 7

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Worship Services:
8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

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

office@stjohnsnorthfield.org

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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.

Building an Inclusive Church Training August 28-29

St. John's holds high the value to extend God's love, beauty, and welcome to all. How do we get this message across to those who have been turned away from or felt hurt by churches in the past? How do we let them know that they will find a welcoming church home at St. John's?

To help us learn how to be more intentional and public in our welcome to all, and specifically to people of all gender identities and sexual orientations, St. John's will host a Building an Inclusive Church (BIC) training on August 28-29. How do we build community as we discuss matters of sexuality and orientation, knowing that we come to the table with different experiences and convictions? Participants will learn ways to create dialogue, and deepen relationships throughout the congregation, rather than sparking debate and division. The goal is to have conversations where everyone's voice can be heard and respected. Grounded in scripture and discipleship, this training allows participants to explore their Christian call to hospitality and evangelism.

Six St. John's members have already attended a BIC training, and found it to be educational and inspiring. The training is interdenominational and is open to members of all churches. Feel free to invite your friends from other communities, as well as other churches in Northfield.

Please register by going to the welcomingresources.org/communityorg website. The \$45 registration fee for the first 15 St. John's members who register will be reimbursed to them. The training takes place from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on Friday, August 28th, and 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 29th. Registration includes the training, all materials, lunch on Saturday and snacks on Friday and Saturday. The registration deadline is August 14. Contact Jane Rinehart (janesrinehart@gmail.com) or Keith Homstad (keithhomstad@charter.net) if you have questions.



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

See you at Church!

OUR STAFF are coming and going this month in the midst of vacations, mission trips and continuing education. If you need to reach someone at the office, please be patient, and if you're not sure if they are around, ask the Office Manager.

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*

A Time to Listen

The summer months bring a change of pace in many of our lives. Children are out of school, college students may be home, and vacations may be planned to visit grandparents and other relatives. Whatever is going on, you are likely to witness some different family dynamics. Take advantage of these situations by using good listening skills to encourage positive and thoughtful conversations across the generations.

Here are some pointers to help you listen and also model good listening for others:

- Give your full attention to the speaker, whatever her or his age. Maintain eye contact, crouching or sitting to be at the person's level.
- Show that you are engaged in what is being said by nodding and asking follow-up questions that further the conversation. Try "reflecting" or repeating what you heard to verify that you understood it.
- Watch for both verbal and non-verbal communication, and affirm what the speaker expresses without making judgments.

Stephen Ministers are trained in listening. If you would like to learn more about listening or you need someone who will listen to you, please call one of the pastors at 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at 645-8445.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

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."

July 1, 2014

Yvonne Jorgenson

July 6, 2014

Ed Wingate

July 18, 2014

Elaine Appeldoorn

July 23, 2014

Alice Lary

July 27, 2014

Frieda Hodgkinson

July 27, 2014

Lela Olson

Pastors' Page

As I write this, the news is coming out that Archbishop Nienstedt has resigned. As the ongoing tragedy of clergy sexual abuse has become an almost daily news item, a friend of ours with small children summed it up well: "It's a sad thing when, as you're driving your children around, you have to turn off the radio as soon as you hear the words 'the archdiocese of St. Paul'..." Indeed, I wish my children would never hear that the church has been a place of abuse for many people over the years. How can they come to trust pastors as their shepherds when they hear of so many who have been false shepherds? I have met too many people over the course of my ministry whose faith was forever damaged by a breach of trust.

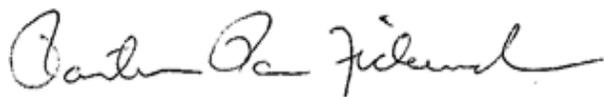
In the ELCA we have long had policies designed to make sure that persons in positions of spiritual authority are screened for mental health, and continually vetted as they move from call to call. I also know from stories at synod offices that these preventive measures do not screen out every abuse of authority. Vetting clergy is only part of the work of preventing abuse within the church, because abuse can occur in many ways in an intergenerational community where doors are open to all and where we highly value interpersonal trust.

At St. John's we are continuing to evaluate and improve our policies for prevention of abuse and harassment, including expanding our procedures for doing regular background checks on those who volunteer with minors and vulnerable adults. These preventive measures, as well as clear procedures for what to do when an incident happens, are essential to protecting our ministry. Nothing can damage a church's ministry more than a serious breach of trust.

Communal trust is a very precious commodity in these times. It is the responsibility of all of us to guard that trust by looking out for one another, paying special attention to the most vulnerable among us, and saying something when we notice something amiss.

And if you are yourself someone for whom the constant headlines about sexual abuse are a reminder of personal trauma, please tend your soul by talking to someone about it. My door is open, and there are many good counselors who can help you heal.

Peace,



One Great Week, Two Great Programs!

August 3-6

Programs hosted by the following churches:

Bethel, Emmaus, St. Peter's and St. John's

“On the Road”, Summer Camp, for kids completing Kindergarten – 5th grade

“On the Road” will be held at St. Peter's Church the week of August 3-6, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Campers may be dropped off anytime between 8:00 -9:00 a.m. and picked up between 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. You may register online at www.goodearthvillage.com, click on summer programs, “GEV, On the Road” and choose the Northfield site. The deadline is August 1 or until the camp is full.



Vacation Bible School for Age 2 (by 1/1/15) – Kindergarten (completed)

Vacation Bible School “G-Force” will be held the same week as “On the Road”. Kindergarteners have the option of choosing between VBS or “On the Road”. The VBS program starts on Monday, August 3 thru Thursday, August 6 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Bethel Church. The cost is \$10.00 per child with a \$20.00 family limit. VBS registration is appreciated by July 15 for planning purposes. VBS registration form can be found at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org under “Children Ministries”.

Scholarships are available for all summer camp opportunities.

We need many volunteers for VBS and “On the Road”!

Volunteers needed for VBS:

- Crew leaders – lead a small group of children to various stations
- Station Leaders and assistants – lead music, crafts, games Bible storytelling, snacks
- Decorating and prep – prior to VBS
- Help with Registration on Monday, August 3
- Nursery Care

Volunteers needed for “On the Road”:

- Provide housing for Good Earth Village camp counselors

Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at children@stjohnsnorthfield or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet!

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

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

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Fall Programming is Coming!

- **Sunday School** begins on Sunday, September 20, for children age 3 (by September 1, 2015) - grade 5. The time of Sunday School is changing and will be from 9:45-10:30 a.m.
- **ROCK, our Wednesday Afterschool Program** for children in kindergarten - grade 5, begins on Wednesday, September 23. Bus transportation will be offered from the Northfield Elementary schools to St. John's so kids can jump right into Wednesday's fun!
- **Catechism, (CAT) for 4th and 5th graders** begins in October! Orientation for Catechism will be held on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:15 p.m.



Check out the Youth and Children's Registration Packet for specific details! If you did not receive a registration packet in the mail, please give the office a call or pick one up in the Commons. You may also download the information on St. John's website by clicking on the "Children" or "Youth" tabs. We appreciate having registrations turned in by August 16 for returning members. Visitors and new members are invited to register at any-time during the year.

Volunteers Do Make a Difference!

An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members—parents, grandparents, anyone! Many volunteer opportunities can be on a rotating schedule. Even teaching Sunday school can be as little as a 2-3 Sunday commitment!

Check out the volunteer page in the registration packet or contact Julie Brehmer if you are interested! P.S.: High School students – talk with me how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays too!

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 6th-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!

**Next Magical Mystery Tour: Wednesday, July 8
Watch for details!**

Call for Co-Leaders for Monthly Hospitality Groups

Please let Christy know if you would consider being a part of a small team to lead during your month. Co-leaders enjoy opportunities to connect with about 20 households to give a voice to our community at St. John's and to seek volunteers to provide hospitality on Sunday Mornings. These are the "Church Chores" we see to during our month:

- Greeting and Welcome Desk
- Coffee Service
- Communion Preparing and Serving

"Red, White, and Blue" Baker's Choice Fruit Sunday in July

A fruit Sunday with a twist -- this is something new at St. John's responding to requests for desserts with blueberries and raspberries. It's time to think of recipes that will celebrate the colors of our national independence day celebration.

Call for Cards and Notes for a Surprise Reception in Honor of Pernelle Hoenke DeVore's 40 Years in Ministry

Pernelle served at St. John's during the late 1970's as an Associate in Ministry and has continued this work with her husband, Pr. Ed DeVore at Friedens Evangelical Lutheran church in Pennsylvania. She often reflects on her two years at St. John's and gives thanks for her solid start in ministry before entering seminary. Please address cards and notes to the attention of Pr. Ed DeVore, 131 S. Main St. Friedens, PA 15541 and send in time to present them at the July 19th reception. Thank you.

SERVING TO LOVE  *LOVING TO SERVE*

Get involved with Children's Ministries!

For children to feel connected to their church, it's important for them to build relationships with at least 5 adults, other than their parents. With that in mind, please consider how you can help with Children's programming in September by volunteering with Sunday School or Wednesday afternoon programming. We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities. If you are interested, please talk with Julie Brehmer or check out the volunteer opportunities in the Sunday School registration packet. **P.S.: High School students** – talk with Julie about how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays!



News and Events

Cottage Meetings with Pastor Davis

The Children's Board and the Youth Board are organizing cottage meetings or, "getting to know the new pastor" meetings during the summer months. There are two open houses that have been scheduled thus far as follows:

Wednesday, July 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m., hosted by Mary Hoff

Wednesday, August 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m., hosted by Bill & Jill Malecha and Family

Additional dates, times, and hosts are still in the works. Please watch the News Blasts and bulletins for additional information.

Columbarium Update

The St. John's Columbarium was created by a vote of the congregation in 2004. It was dedicated in 2006. Since then, over 40 members of St. John's have purchased the right to use a niche in the Columbarium, located in our beautiful courtyard. Some are still asking 'what is a columbarium and why do we have one'.

The Columbarium has been created to provide a permanent place on the church premises for the inurnment of the cremated remains of our members and their families. The word 'columbarium' is derived from Latin and translates as a compartmented house for doves, the gentle birds mentioned in Scripture and recognized internationally as symbols of peace. Columbarium means a consecrated area reserved for the inurnment of a deceased's cremated remains. By placing the Columbarium in the courtyard, it allows surviving family members, friends and fellow worshippers to pay frequent respects during regular church visits.

Currently there are 80 niches divided between two bays. As we are now into the second bay, it is time to think about building the next two bays. After reviewing the cost estimates for the new construction, the committee recommended to the Church Council on June 16, 2015 that the cost of the right to use a niche be increased from \$700 to \$900 and the voluntary suggested contribution (tax deductible) be increased from \$300 to \$400 effective September 1, 2015. The Council approved this recommendation. If you are interested in or are considering the purchase of the right to use a niche, now is a good time to do this, before the price increase. Information is available at the church office or from any of the committee members.

Char Carlson (645-9642), John Ferguson (645-4942) and Basil Mroz (645-1661)

Need a Pastor at the Hospital?

Please remember that HIPPA laws prevent hospitals from sharing your information with us unless you specifically note that you are a member of St. John's in your admission. It's always helpful if you or a family member can notify the church if you have a pastoral need for a visit.

Pastors Pam, Jon and John Quam now have a shared on-call schedule for evenings and weekends. If you need to speak with a pastor outside of weekday hours, please check the voicemail at 507-645-4429 for the name and number of the on-call pastor.

Fair trade coffee/tea/chocolate will be offered for sale August 2.

If you need anything before August 2 or if you wish to order a specific item, please contact Dawn Tommerdahl. dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com. In the past six months you have purchased nearly \$1700 worth of fair trade goods through Equal Exchange/the Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project and Thistle Farms.

News and Events

Congratulations to St. John's College Graduates

Beret Amundson, St. Olaf College, B.A. in Biology and Chemistry. Beret was awarded a Fulbright for bio-medical research in Brazil beginning in the fall.

Thomas Dunning, St. Olaf College, B.A. in Studio Art. Thomas received a Fifth-Year Emerging Artist appointment at St. Olaf for next year.

Megan Errington, University of Minnesota Morris, B.A. in Elementary Education. Megan starts a full-time teaching job next fall in the Morris area. For the summer, she directs the Summer Sizzle youth program in Morris.

Hannah France, St. Catherine's University, B.A. in English. Hannah works for Wells Fargo Bank.

Alexander Gerdes, Valparaíso University, B.S. in Kinesiology, Physical Education, Sport Management Studies, with a business minor. This summer Alex has a basketball coaching internship. He is seeking a position in sports management with a long-term goal of coaching.

Daniel Gerdes, Hamline University, B.A. in Public Service, History, and Middle East Studies. Daniel has accepted a position with AmeriCorps/Vista for the summer where he will help create a structure for central Minnesota farmers' markets to accept SNAP benefits. A full-year AmeriCorps experience may follow.

Kevin Moore, Waldorf College, B.A. in Communication, Journalism, and Writing. Kevin currently interns at the Forest City, Iowa, Chamber of Commerce.

Nicholas Motzko, University of Minnesota, Duluth, B.A. in Biology. Nick has already started post-baccalaureate study in Nursing at St. Scholastica, a fifteen-month program. Nick and Kelsey Sorensen are engaged to be married in February 2016.

Hunter Pleschourt, Luther College, B.A. in Business Management and a minor in Spanish. He has accepted a supply chain position at Gander Mountain's Corporate office in St. Paul.

Elizabeth Sorensen, Lawrence University, B.A. in Spanish and Biomedical Ethics. Betsy plans to take a gap year and prepare for the GRE. Graduate school in Public Health may ensue.

Kelsey Sorensen, Luther College, B.A. in Mathematics and Secondary Education. Kelsey will student teach in Duluth at a HS and MS there this Fall and then look for a teaching job in Secondary Math. Kelsey and Nicholas Motzko are engaged to be married in February 2016.

Martha Sudermann, St. Olaf College, B.A. Biology and Religion. After taking physics this summer at Macalester, Martha will serve with Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Milwaukee at the Urban Ecology Center. Graduate study in biology is on the horizon.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HAYDEN KVAMME, who was awarded the ELCA Fund for Leaders churchwide scholarship. This full-tuition award for seminarians is the highest honor the ELCA awards in merit-based scholarships. Hayden will be attending the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia this fall.

GODSPEED to Donna Buell and Marty Raths, pastors at the United Methodist Church of Northfield. Donna and Marty were reassigned to Stillwater this June.

News and Events

Reconciling in Christ at St. John's

In early fall of 2013, three members of the Congregation Council attended a weekend workshop related to building an inclusive church where people of every sexual orientation and gender identity are welcome. Our attendance was prompted by a series of listening sessions related to same-sex marriage and at a time of transition at St. John's, with the work of the senior pastor call committee still incomplete.

As a participant in this workshop, I was moved by the personal stories of faith expressed by workshop leaders – a faith supported by God's constant presence in their lives when their own congregations or other human relationships failed to provide the same extravagant welcome. I was also encouraged by the workshop's focus on relationship building through open and respectful dialogue.

As congregation president this past year, I had the opportunity to discuss this experience with the Congregation Council and last fall, three more St. John's members attended the same workshop. Encouraged by this training and subsequent conversations, this small group have been joined by other members of the congregation and have formed a "Welcoming Task Force" to continue open dialogue in support of building an inclusive church here at St. John's. The group currently includes Jane Rinehart, Keith Homstad, Dawn Tommerdahl, Rob Quanbeck, Bruce Benson, Andrea Hoff, Greg Colby, and me. In their May meeting, the Congregation Council officially recognized, supported, and confirmed the ongoing work of this group.

In the months ahead, there will be much listening and further educational opportunities at St. John's in support of the Reconciling in Christ process. And, most importantly, we will continue to worship together as a congregation, full of grace.

Nathan Knutson
Member of the Welcoming Task Force

A Message from the St. Olaf College Friendship Family Coordinator...

Dear members of Northfield area church congregations,

Greetings from St. Olaf College! This fall St. Olaf will welcome approximately 65 first-year international students to campus from over 30 countries, and I invite you and your family to be a part of the welcoming committee.

The Friendship Family program at St. Olaf is a cross-cultural exchange program connecting St. Olaf international students with families in the Northfield and surrounding communities to share friendship and culture. Friendship families come in all shapes and sizes: young, old, or in between; single person or with spouse/partner; with or without children - all are great Friendship families. Students live on campus, and generally get together with their families several times during the school year to share a meal, attend a concert or sporting event, attend a family gathering, go hiking, etc.

Go to <http://wp.stolaf.edu/isa/programs/friendship-family/> for more information about the program, including photos, testimonials, and expectations. Also check the "For Families" link under Programs in the left bar.

Go to <http://wp.stolaf.edu/isa/programs/friendship-family/family-information-form/> to complete an information form to become a family. This provides me with information about your family and your preferences in a student so I can make the best possible match. The college requires that all families and students participating in the program sign an agreement form. There is a link to the agreement form on the information form.

I am actively looking for new families so please help spread the word to your friends and neighbors. Feel free to contact me at middeldo@stolaf.edu if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Lori Middeldorp

Notes of Thanks!

A Thank You from Mary Ellen North “to all the people who came and for the generous gifts. It was so nice to see everyone. Thank you for David playing the piano. There was so much love in the place. My cousins appreciated everything.”

Thank you to St. John’s for contributing over \$15000 toward Lutheran World Relief in May! Your offerings are already at work providing relief in Nepal and elsewhere.

June Actions

Deaths

Loretta Siler, June 16, 2015

Lynn Steen, June 21, 2015

Radio Broadcasts

June 7, 2015, given by Shirley Falck in honor of the 25th wedding anniversary of Rich and Gretchen Falck.

June 14, 2015, given by Char Nelson and Jane & Bob Gelle, great-grandparents honoring the birth of Camden Scott Nelson.

June 21, 2015, given in memory of Ginny Shaw and to mark the anniversary of Joe & Ginny’s wedding on June 8.

June 28, 2015, given in memory of Eugene and Joyce Schrader by Jeanne Minchew.

From Bread For the World

More than 30 leaders of faith-based organizations, including Bread for the World, are partners with the World Bank in a renewed commitment to ending extreme poverty. Since 1990 the number of people living in extreme poverty has been cut in half to less than one billion.

David Beckmann, Bread’s president writes: “This unprecedented progress in ending hunger and extreme poverty is an example of our loving God moving through time, transforming our world. Now that it has become clear that it is feasible to *end* extreme poverty, **faith communities are making a commitment to ramp up our advocacy.**

The timing for this effort is critical: 2015 will likely be a watershed year in which the world’s governments debate a new framework for sustainable development. Dr. Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank, reiterated the importance of the timing when he spoke at a Bread gathering in November. **“This will be the first generation in the history of the world that can say we ended extreme poverty.** It’s never been possible in any other generation. Ours is the generation to do it.”

Call or email Congressman John Kline (800/826-3688 or congressman.kline@mailhouse.gov). Urge him to support and cosponsor the Global Food Security Act (H.R. 1567), a bipartisan bill aimed at combating hunger and malnutrition. (Much more at www.bread.org.)





WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Mission Statement:

To mobilize women to act boldly
Women of the ELCA (WELCA) includes ALL women of St. Johns!

July Meetings

Knitters: will not meet during June, July, or August. See you in September.

July 13 and 16: Quilters meet from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

July is here! Start looking for School Kit Supplies

Sales for school supplies are beginning. Right now LWR is in urgent need of School Kits to fulfill requests from partners around the world. Your donations reach places like Syria, where LWR recently distributed 6,350 School Kits to families affected by the ongoing conflict. To learn more about School Kits, visit lwr.org/school_kits.

School Supply List

70-sheet notebooks: wide or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½ inches

30-centimeter rulers or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other

Pencil sharpeners

Blunt scissors, must be Fiskars

#2 unsharpened pencils with erasers

Ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

Crayons boxes of 16 or 24

Erasers

We will be packing school kits on **Sunday, September 13. Everyone invited to help.**

Looking Ahead

**Building Bridges to Peace
Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's
Organization Convention**

Saturday, September 19, 2015

Christ Lutheran Church

Preston, MN

(See the WELCA bulletin board for further details.)

**Retreat at the Mt Olivet Retreat Center
Saturday, November 21, 2015.**

Mark your calendar and watch the *Voice* and bulletin board for further information.

Statistics from the 2014 Lutheran World Relief Annual Report

In 2014, together we reached more than

4.7 million people in

35 countries through

153 projects with

129 partners

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

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

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
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Save the Date - Night to Unite

Tuesday, August 4, is National Night Out and St. John's is hosting a free community meal! We're inviting all of our neighbors and hope to see you there too. Weather permitting, we'll have a picnic-style meal outside. Expect visits from local police and even a firetruck or ambulance.