

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

August 2015

Volume 55, Number 8

*on the  
inside . . .*

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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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to:

[office@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnorthfield.org)

For information, contact the Church Office:

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**website:**

[www.stjohnsnorthfield.org](http://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.

## Night to Unite Neighborhood Party August 4 in St. John's Parking Lot 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. All Are Invited!

St. John's will be hosting our fifth Night to Unite celebration. This is part of a national program in its 31st year that encourages neighbors to come together on the first Tuesday in August to strengthen community and increase the safety of neighborhoods.

**Menu:** Sloppy Joes, Hot Dogs, Chips, Freezies, Lemonade

**Attractions:** Bouncy Tent, Games, Exploring Safety and Other Interesting Vehicles — we have requested a Northfield City snow plow driven by our own Marty Gallagher and painted by our own Kelly Lynn Stanton-Nutt's art program students!

## Stubbs Family to Visit St. John's

ELCA Missionaries Randy and Carol Stubbs and their family will visit St. John's and help to lead the congregation in worship on Sunday, August 23. The Stubbs have served the church at Tumaini University, Makumira, in Tanzania for nine years. Their primary work is teaching in the music department doing leadership development, capacity training, and evangelism. Prior to serving in Tanzania, Randy and Carol led the music ministry at First Lutheran in DeKalb, Illinois for nineteen years. The Stubbs Family became one of St. John's mission partners in June 2012.

## New Worship Time for Fall

The Church Council has voted, starting September 13, to have our second worship service begin at **10:45 a.m.**

Our schedule, then for this fall will be:

8:30 a.m. – Worship

9:45 a.m. – Education Time

(Sunday school, adult forums, small groups)

10:45 a.m. – Worship



summer

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Summer Worship Hours  
will continue thru  
Sunday, September 6

8:30 a.m. / 10:00 a.m.  
Worship

9:30 a.m.  
Coffee and Fellowship

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

# Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

## Prayer Ministry

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

*Galatians 6:2*



*Providing one-  
to-one care and  
encouragement*

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

*Matthew 5:4*

## Grief Support Ministry

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

## Stephen Ministry Q&A

### **How do I know whether I should request a Stephen Minister?**

If you are looking for a caring, confidential friend with whom you can talk about the stresses of life, a Stephen Minister might be helpful to you. Common issues Stephen Ministers deal with include: the loss of a friend or loved one, illness, loneliness, moving, and a new baby.

### **How do I request a Stephen Minister?**

To request a Stephen Minister, please contact one of the pastors at 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at 645-8445.

### **How are Stephen Ministers assigned?**

Assignments are based on who among Stephen Ministers without care receivers would be the best match for the individual.

### **Are women assigned to women Stephen Ministers and men assigned to men?**

Yes. Care receivers are always assigned to a Stephen Minister of the same gender.

### **Do Stephen Ministers meet with couples?**

No. Stephen Ministers are assigned to be a listening friend to one person. If both people in a relationship could benefit from a listening friend, both can request individual Stephen Ministers.

### **Can I request a Stephen Minister for my teenager?**

Stephen Ministers are not assigned to teenagers. To explore resources for teenagers, contact one of the pastors.

### **Will I receive a Stephen Minister with expertise in my problem?**

Possibly although not necessarily. What you will receive is a caring friend who will walk with you as you work through issues that are troubling you.

**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.

**Grief Booklets:** "Journeying through Grief" is a resource for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.



*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."*

August 8, 2014  
**Louise Edwardson**

August 17, 2014  
**Stan Frear**

# *From our pastors ...*

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As many of you know, a new committee has been gathering regularly here at St. John's. You may know them as the Welcoming Task Force, or the Reconciling in Christ committee, or the Building an Inclusive Church group. Despite having a variety of names, the group has one purpose - to help us discern if St. John's is in a place to publicly welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Another way to put it: do we want to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation. For those of you who don't know, an RIC congregation is one that creates an intentional welcome statement, reaching out to those who often feel alienated from the church. Creating a welcome statement is the first step in becoming Reconciling in Christ, and it specifically includes people from the LGBT community.

Although we as your pastors are both pretty new, we know that this conversation is not new at St. John's. Many times over the past decades St. John's has engaged conversations around welcome and sexuality, often at the same time as the larger church has studied and made decisions. The current RIC group has gathered as a response to conversations that began in 2013 around same-sex marriage. At that time the Church Council did listening sessions, and they heard that while we are not all in agreement on these issues, there was a willingness to keep talking. With the Church Council's blessing this spring, the RIC committee has been talking about how to continue these conversations in a life-giving way for our church.

You might be thinking, "All people are welcome at St. John's. Why do we need to single out those in the LGBT community?" The reality is that too often fear and misunderstanding dominate the public discussion about sexuality. As a result, many LGBT people will assume that they are not welcome in a church unless they hear otherwise.

There are plenty of questions for us to be asking...Who is welcome at St. John's and do they know and feel that they are welcomed? In light of recent changes to the marriage laws, will St. John's be a place where same-gendered weddings are welcomed and celebrated? Who gets to decide - the pastors or the council or the congregation? If I don't agree with the recent decisions around sexuality - am I still welcome at St. John's? Faithful Christians reading the same Bible land on different sides of this topic - how does that work?

These are hard but good conversations for us to have. And we won't always be in agreement. But that's okay. In honest and respectful conversation about our differences, we will be challenged to return to the center of what makes us the body of Christ -- the grace we all are offered in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God's grace will be sufficient to lead us through this unknown journey.

A couple of points of clarification:

**We are at the beginning of a conversation, not the end.** No decisions have been made, no votes have been taken. One primary recommendation of the Reconciling in Christ process is to move deliberately without forcing a particular timeline.

**This is a congregational process.** While some members are taking the lead in setting the table for conversations, the congregation will be included in the decision process along the way on whether we wish to make a public statement of welcome. The Church Council will guide the timing of decision points.

**We want to hear from you.** We want to know what you think. Are you joyful and proud that St. John's is having this conversation? Are you concerned and confused? Who do you feel should be welcome at St. John's? How would you feel if a pastor from St. John's presided over a same-gender wedding in our sanctuary? Please, come and speak with us. Your thoughts will be welcomed and respected.

Lastly, we invite you to attend the Sept. 27th adult forum, where members of the Reconciling In Christ committee will be introducing what it means to be RIC, and invite you to share your questions and thoughts in small groups.

*...continued on page 14*

***Important Dates to Remember***

**VBS and "On the Road"**  
August 3-6

**Pool Party!**  
Wednesday, August 5

**Sunday School Registrations**  
Due August 16

**Open House for Preschool 1**  
Wednesday, September 16, 6:00 p.m.

**Confirmation and Catechism Orientation**  
Wednesday, September 16, 6:15 p.m.

**First Day of Sunday School**  
Sunday, September 20 at 9:45 a.m.

**ROCK, Wednesday Afterschool  
Programming**  
Begins Wednesday, September 23



**It's not too late to sign up for VBS,  
"G-Force"!**

**When:** August 3-6 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. at  
Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield  
**Hosted by:** St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's  
Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Church

**Open to children age 2 (by 1/1/2015)  
to children entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade.**

**Registration forms** are available at St. John's or go  
online to [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org) and click on  
Children's Ministries/Events.

**We can always use extra volunteers!** Most volunteer  
positions are 2 hours or less. Can't be there every day?  
That's OK – just tell us what days work for you! High  
school and Middle school kids can help out too. Call  
Julie to find out more info at 645-4429 or email at  
[children@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:children@stjohnsnorthfield.org).

**"On the Road" Summer Camp – FUN, FUN, FUN!**

**When:** Same week as VBS, August 3-6, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
(drop off anytime between 8:00-9:00 a.m. and pick up anytime between 4:00-5:00 p.m. at St. Peter's)

**Hosted by:** St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches and Emmaus Church

**Kids who have completed K-5th grades are welcome to register for the camp.**

"On the Road", a program provided by Good Earth Village Bible Camp, will kick off with registration, games, and worship on Sunday, August 2 from 6:00–7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's. It's open to campers, families – everyone who would like to come! For more information and to register, go online to [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) and click on "On the Road", Northfield.

**Pool Party!**

Northfield area churches invite families with children who have completed 5th grade and younger to our Annual Pool Party at the Northfield Outdoor Pool on Wednesday, August 5 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. The cost for admission is \$3.00 per person or you may use your pool pass. Churches will be providing free food at the event from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. so come and eat, swim and enjoy! (We will cancel the event if the pool closes due to the weather.)



## 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.***
- **Toddler Time!** Children who are 2 by 9/1/15, along with their parents, are invited to "Toddler Time". Once a month during Sunday School, Rachel Skunes leads our little ones in songs, Bible stories, games, and crafts.
- **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" tab. We appreciate having registrations turned in by August 16 for returning members. Visitors and new members are invited to register at anytime 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!

## Is your 3 year old starting Sunday School?

Children who are three years of age by 9/1/15 are welcome to begin Sunday School this fall!

Parents are invited to bring their preschooler to an Open House on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m. to meet the teachers and get acquainted with their classroom before Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 20.

If you have question, please call St. John's at 645-4429 and speak with Julie Brehmer.



## 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 or Pastor Davis if you are interested in having your child commune for the first time.

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

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## 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 the next trip!

*Next Magical Mystery Tour: Wednesday, August 12  
Watch for details!*



**Fall Is Coming!  
Watch the Mail for Registration Information!**

Mark your calendars for Confirmation Orientation  
Wednesday, September 16, at 6:15 p.m.

# *Music and Worship Life at St. John's*

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It's hard to believe that as August begins I will be completing my first year here at St. John's. I played for worship for the first time on August 10, 2014, and what a joyful, exhausting whirlwind of a year has followed! It is still such a remarkable thing to accompany your voices as we sing together our praise to God. Week after week, year after year, joyful, heartfelt music to our Creator has come from this place, and I thank you for allowing me to enter into this song with you. It is such a privilege to share life as we worship together. I am always amazed at the times we laughed and cried together and all the numerous days in the middle where we simply lived everyday life together, just in the course of one year.

As I reflect on this year, I am filled with gratitude. Vibrant church music programs like we have at St. John's are only possible if people are willing to share their voices, share their instruments, share their time. It is because of the people who have said yes to be a cantor, or made space in their week for choir rehearsal, or rescheduled a trip so they could sing for worship on Sunday, or brought their child to weekly choir rehearsal— you make music at St. John's a joy! The music we share in worship is so much richer and varied because of your involvement. I have witnessed how you give generously of your time and musical talents and I thank you. I am also deeply indebted to the wonderful choir directors (Carol, Cathy, Zach) who have patiently listened to all my questions this year and shared in musical leadership.

I want to also say thank you to the people who have invited me into their homes for meals or coffee. It has been so fun to know you and know your stories. Thank you for trusting me as we share life events together like weddings and funerals. Thank you also to the many people who have told the stories about this particular place. I really love knowing the history of our church, especially the great music leaders that have deeply touched this community.

Also I would be remiss not to take this opportunity to invite you into the music life at St. John's. If you have never sung in a choir before, take a leap and join us in September. Consider being a cantor for one of our services. If your child seems curious about music, encourage them to be a part of our children's choir and other fun programming on Wednesday nights. If your child participated last year, invite them to be involved again this year. As we worship together for years to come, let us sing boldly!

In thanksgiving,

*Nathan*



**Watch for fall start dates  
for choirs  
in the September issue of the Voice.**



# Shared Ministry

## A Mid-Journey Check-In: How Is It Going with Monthly Hospitality Groups?

We set sail together with monthly hospitality groups on the “Goodship St. John’s” in April this year. We have 9 groups altogether, so we’re almost halfway through our maiden voyage! Since we’re sailing into uncharted waters, we need your input to make sure we are staying on course. Please give Christy or the groups’ co-leaders your feedback.

### Hospitality Group Co-Leaders So Far

Group 1: Barb Knaak, Amy McBroom, Alyssa Ness

Group 2: Dick & Jo Kleber, Eric Lund

Group 3: Jim & Judy Cederberg

Group 4: Barb & Phil Eaves, Norma & Terry Gilbertson, Suzanne Pfau

Group 5: Lois & Gene Bakko, Dave & Sue Hagen, Dodie & Gordie Mickelsen

Groups 6, 7, 8, 9: ***Co-leaders are needed for the next four Hospitality Groups*** (September through December).

Please contact Christy if you are interested in finding out more.

Here are some snapshots of the journey from April through July:

- Hospitality Groups 1, 2, 3, and 4 have served over 250 hospitality roles on 17 Sunday mornings (an average of 35 people per group served out of an average of 65 total members per group);
- Fruit Sundays (Rhubarb in May, Strawberry in June, and “Red, White, & Blue” Sunday in July) were supported by monthly hospitality group members;
- Each group has had an average of 3 Co-leaders who have helped to place members in hospitality roles for each Sunday.

Here are some things we are working on:

- Letting each household who does not have an email address on file with St John’s know which group they are in by a paper letter in the mail.
- Finding ways to help each person at St. John’s know how important it is to volunteer for Sunday hospitality. Why? Getting to know each other by working together and sharing in the welcome of all through hospitality.

*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 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!



## from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod:



# THE BRIDGE

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



### **Devotional Practices** *By Bishop Steven Delzer*

What devotional or prayer practices do you use to nurture your spirit? If you'd be interested in sharing, email me at: [delzer@semnsynod.org](mailto:delzer@semnsynod.org). With a sense of humility let me share with you my devotional and prayer practices.

Morning works best for me. I usually get up around 5:00 a.m., a practice I began when my children were little. As I settle into my favorite chair in my favorite room (our sunroom) it almost feels like settling into the lap of God. For several years I have followed the practice of reading through the entire Bible over a two year period. I will admit that I tend to skim over the genealogies and detailed descriptions of the tabernacle (and temple) and all of its accoutrements. But I love the stories in both the Old and New Testaments. One of the delightful things about this practice is that every time I read through the Bible again I see something new, or I see something in a new light. I guess that's what makes it such a timeless book.

Prayer is the other part of my morning devotional time. I find it helpful to maintain a prayer list as a reminder to me of the people who have asked me to pray for them, and the people for whom I have said I will pray. The list also keeps before me the events, plans, concerns, etc. about which I want to pray. From time to time I like to add something new or different to my devotional time. For the past few months I have been using two little books that I have grown to appreciate and even love: *The Quiet Eye—A Way of Looking at Pictures*, by Sylvia Shaw Judson; and *99 Blessings—An Invitation to Life*, by Brother David Steindl-Rast. *The Quiet Eye* is a collection of 33 pictures that cover a wide spectrum of both ancient and modern subjects and styles, accompanied by quotations from a variety of writers, poets, playwrights, and philosophers. You are invited to simply reflect on what you see and read. *99 Blessings* is a "patchwork quilt of blessings (intended to) sharpen your taste for the gift of life in its innumerable facets."

One of the delightful things about using these two little books together is that sometimes the picture, the quotation, and the blessing coincide in a beautiful way. Here is one example: on this particular day the picture in *The Quiet Eye* was the "Meeting of St. Anthony and St. Paul," by the Italian painter Sassetta. St. Anthony and St. Paul are embracing. The quote is "May the Lord bless thee and keep thee," from the Bible (Numbers 6:24). When looking at the picture it is hard to tell whether they are embracing as they say "Hello," or as they say "Goodbye." On this same day the blessing (#13) in *99 Blessings* was this:

SOURCE OF ALL BLESSINGS,  
you bless us with departures—  
for they are a necessary part of our  
journey, necessary for arriving.  
May I be always ready to take  
leave, always aware that every  
arrival is a prelude to departure,  
every birth a step toward dying,  
and may I thus taste the blessing of  
being fully present where I am.

As I sat that morning reflecting on the picture, the quote, and the blessing, I began to think about all of the arrivals and departures in my life, and the ways in which both the "hellos" and the "goodbyes" were often times filled with blessing. I also reflected on all of the times during my ministry that I have had the privilege of saying to others, "May the Lord bless thee and keep thee." In whatever ways you practice your devotional and prayer life, "May the Lord bless thee and keep thee."

*Bishop Steven Delzer was elected to serve as Bishop of our Southeastern Minnesota Synod in June of 2013.*

# Mission Outreach

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## Meals on Wheels

St. John's is responsible for distributing Meals on Wheels from Sunday, September 20, through Saturday, October 17. Many volunteers are needed. You can sign up for this important ministry of care for elderly and disabled members of our community on Sundays in the Commons beginning August 23. For further information contact Christy Hall-Holt (645-4429; sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org) or Nancy Kluver (507-581-0896; mkluver@gmail.com).



## School Kit Donations

Each year St. John's members send about 60 school kits to Lutheran World Relief for distribution in third world countries. Why is this important? To the children who receive School Kits, **these supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not.** Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet **the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.** Last year LWR sent 261,580 school kits to 16 counties.



School supplies are on sale now. You can help by purchasing items from the school supply list, or contributing cash. Make checks to St. John's WELCA, write school kits on the memo line, and put in the offering plate, or leave in the church office. You can find school supply lists and turn in purchased supplies at the school kit display in the Commons. You do not need to sort the items into packages. We will have a kit assembly forum on Sunday, September 13th where all are invited to help assemble the kits. **Suggestion to parents:** bring the list along when you take your kids shopping for school supplies, and let them be part of the project.

### School Supply list for one school kit:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10 1/2"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with cm on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt Fiskar scissors (must be the Fiskar brand as the other ones break easily)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 1/2" eraser (no erasers needed this year; we have 100 left from last year!)

# Mission News

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## Curtis and Katie Kline, Our New Missionaries in Colombia

St. John's has begun a missionary sponsorship of Curtis and Katie Kline in Colombia. The mission bulletin board next to the church office has their photos and information about their work. Bishop Steve Delzer met them when he was in Colombia for the annual assembly of the Colombian Lutheran Church last spring. He spoke highly of the work that Curtis and Katie are doing.

If you would like to send financial support for Klimes, as well as the Stubbs in Tanzania, please write a check to St. John's and write Missions on the memo line. So far this year, our church has raised \$3,265 for missionary sponsorship of the Klimes and the Stubbs. It costs the ELCA about \$80,000 annually to support one missionary.

The Klimes recently sent this email to St. John's:

*Hello St. John's Lutheran Church,*

*Thank you! Curtis and I just received notification from the ELCA-GM that your congregation has started sponsoring us, thank you!*

*I would like to take a moment to introduce ourselves to you: Curtis and I are missionaries serving for the ELCA, with the companion Lutheran Church in Colombia (IELCO). We are relatively new missionaries, and will complete our first year of service in August. Curtis works with the Human Rights program and I work with the Christian Formation ministries and a little with the Integrated Health/Prevention Programs. If you are interested in hearing more about our day to day lives and highlights from our ministries, we keep a blog at: [8000feetandcounting.blogspot.com](http://8000feetandcounting.blogspot.com)*

*Curtis and I are here for you all too! If you have questions about the ministries happening in Colombia, our work, or anything else, please don't hesitate to ask. We think the Church here is doing incredible things and love to share our excitement :)*

*We look forward to getting to know your congregation better as we begin this partnership. Blessings to you on your ministries. And again, thank you for your support.*

*Blessings,  
Curtis & Katie*



# News and Events



## Apple Sunday is August 30!

Search for your favorite apple recipe, whip it up...  
and bring it to St. John's for our Annual Apple Sunday on August 30.

Whether you bring an apple dessert or not,  
everyone is welcome to enjoy all the delicious creations between services in St. John's Hall.

If you can bring an apple dessert, please sign up in the Commons.

Questions? Contact Christy Hall-Holt (645-4429 or [sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org)).

## The Friendship Family Program at St. Olaf

*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](mailto:middeldo@stolaf.edu) if you have any questions.*

*Kind regards,*

*Lori Middeldorp  
St. Olaf College Friendship Family Coordinator*

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

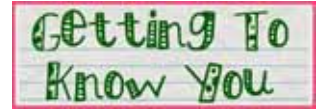
Fair trade coffee/tea/chocolate and items from Thistle Farms will be offered for sale between services on August 2. Starting in September, we will resume our regular schedule of having a table in the Commons on the first and second Sundays of each month. If you need anything between times or anytime you wish to order a specific item, please contact Dawn Tommerdahl ([dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com)).

# News and Events

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## Cottage Meetings with Pastor Davis

The Children's Board and the Youth Board have organized cottage meetings or, "getting to know the new pastor" meetings during the summer months. There are two remaining open houses as follows:



Wednesday, August 19, 6:30-8:30 p.m., hosted by Bill & Jill Malecha and Family (645-2982)  
Tuesday, September 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m., hosted by Bryan & Andrea Hoff and Family  
(645-8333 or [andrea.hoff37@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.hoff37@gmail.com); 1109 Lupine Dr.)

Please RSVP to the host of the gathering. Everyone is welcome!

## Columbarium Update

Have you visited the courtyard and Columbarium recently? It is a quiet, peaceful place with lovely plantings all around. For me, it is very special to know that my wife Ruth's ashes are in a niche in the Columbarium at St. John's, the church she loved and served for some 25 years.

Our Columbarium was created to provide a permanent place on the church grounds for the inurnment of the cremated remains of members and their families. The word *columbarium* comes from Latin and translates as a compartmented house for doves, gentle birds universally known as symbols of peace. Placing the Columbarium in the courtyard allows family members and friends to pay their respects during regular church visits. In a very real way, it replaces the cemeteries often found surrounding historic churches, especially in rural America.

There are 80 niches divided between two bays and as we are into the second bay, it is time to prepare to add the next two bays. After reviewing cost estimates for new construction, the committee recommended to Church Council 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. Council approved this recommendation. If you are interested in or considering the purchase of the right to use a niche, now would be a good time to do so. Information is available at the church office or from any of the committee members: Char Carlson (645-9642), John Ferguson (645-4942) and Bazil Mroz (645-1661).

- *John Ferguson*

## Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals 2015



Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals are in their eighth season this summer and will conclude on August 13. All recitals will be held during the Wednesday noon hour from 12:15 to 12:45 p. m. with the remaining schedule:

**Wed. August 5** - Bob Henstein, Organist at Northfield United Methodist Church, at the Northfield United Methodist Church

**Wed. August 12** - Nathan Proctor, Organist/Director of Music, Worship & Arts, St. John's Lutheran Church, at St. John's Lutheran Church

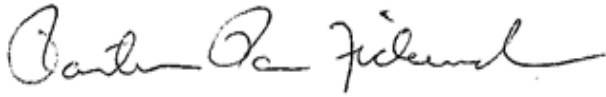
Some recitals will include a free-will offering to defray publicity expenses. For more information, contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357 or email him at [rkcollman@msn.com](mailto:rkcollman@msn.com)

# *From our pastors (cont.) ...*

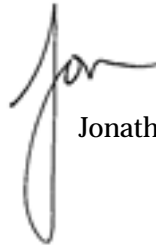
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*...continued from page 3*

We leave you with a prayer from the Lutheran Book of Worship: “Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen” (p. 153).



Pam Fickenscher



Jonathan Davis

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## *July Actions*

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### **Radio Broadcasts**

July 5, 2015, given in memory of Edgar Larson by Helen Larson.

July 12, 2015, given in memory of John Gunderson by Lester Gunderson, family and friends.

July 19, 2015, given in memory of Ginny Shaw and in honor of Joe Shaw’s 90th birthday by Nancy Gaffey.

July 26, 2015, given by Duane & Marie Benson in honor of Duane and Mark Benson’s birthdays.

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## From Bread For the World

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Cardinal Walter Kasper, author of the book *Mercy: the Essence of the Gospel and the Key to the Christian Life* explains in an interview that “...the Latin term *misericordia* means mercy. *Misericordia* means having a heart for the poor—poor in a large sense, not only material poverty, but also relational poverty, spiritual poverty, cultural poverty...”

Cardinal Kasper continues, “But mercy is also not opposed to justice. Justice is the minimum we are obliged to do to the other to respect him as a human being, to give him what he must have...Mercy is the fulfillment of justice because what people need is not only formal recognition but love.”

This intersection of mercy, justice, and love is at the heart of Bread for the World’s work. Only as we are grounded in God’s love in Jesus Christ can we persist in urging our nation’s leaders to fund specific measures to end hunger by 2030.



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



## **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

Mission Statement:

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

### **August Meetings**

**Knitters:** will not meet during August. See you in September.

**Quilters:** meet on August 17 and 20 from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

### **Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate Sales**

Fair trade coffee/tea/chocolate and items from Thistle Farms will be offered for sale between services on August 2. Starting in September, we will resume our regular schedule of having a table in the Commons on the first and second Sundays of each month. If you need anything between times or anytime you wish to order a specific item, please contact Dawn Tommerdahl (dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com)

### **School Kit Donations**

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/schoolkits](http://lwr.org/schoolkits).

#### **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**

### **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.

Submit items for the **Voice** to Merylyn Calcutt (merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com)

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**  
*Christy Hall-Holt*  
**Parish Nurse**  
*Lynette Marks*  
**Youth Ministry**  
*Mike Skunes*  
**Congregation**  
**President**  
*Patsy Ophaug*



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Northfield, MN 55057  
507-645-4429

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## August Highlights

***"On the Road", Summer Camp***  
August 3 - August 6

***Vacation Bible School (VBS)***  
August 3 - August 6

***Night to Unite***  
Tuesday, August 4

***Pool Party***  
Wednesday, August 5

***Magical Mystery Tour***  
***(Youth Who've Completed Grades 6-8)***  
Wednesday, August 12

***Stubbs Family Visit***  
Sunday, August 23

***Apple Sunday***  
Sunday, August 30

