

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

September 2015

Volume 55, Number 9

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inside . . .*

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Christ Adult Forum
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Worship Services:
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN. Articles for the *Voice* must be submitted by the 15th of each month to:
office@stjohnsnorthfield.org
For information, contact the Church Office:
phone: 507-645-4429
fax: 507-645-9633
e-mail:
office@stjohnsnorthfield.org
website:
www.stjohnsnorthfield.org

Church Office hours:

Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. to noon and
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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

Fall Worship Begins on Sunday, September 13 with a New Worship Time!

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
Come and Worship at
St. John's!



The Church building
will be closed on
Monday,
September 7
in observance of
Labor Day.

WelcomeFest Week 2015 - Invite your neighbors and friends to join us!

Wednesday, September 16th

WelcomeFest Week Kick-Off Meal
from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

And . . .

- 5:30 p.m. Orientation for Catechism (Grades 3-5)
- 6:00 p.m. Preschooler I Open House
- 6:30 p.m. Orientation for Confirmation (Grades 6-9)
- 7:00 p.m. St. John's Chorale Resumes Practice

Sunday, September 20th

Ministry Fair: between services in St. John's Hall

An opportunity to learn about different ways to
connect and learn and serve at St. John's.

(9:45) Sunday School Begins

**(10:45) Picnic Lunch along with a bouncy tent, face painting,
sidewalk chalk and sno cones - All are welcome!**

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 Fact Sheet

History

Stephen Ministry began in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth C. Haugk, Ph.D., a pastor and clinical psychologist, trained nine members of his congregation in St. Louis to be Stephen Ministers. They assisted him in providing Christian care and support to people in the congregation and community who were experiencing life difficulties. These trained caregivers encouraged Dr. Haugk to offer Stephen ministry to more congregations.

Over the next few years, Dr. Haugk traveled to congregations and trained Stephen Ministers. This quickly proved to be inefficient, since he could visit only a limited number of congregations, and these congregations were then dependent on him to train additional caregivers. So in 1978 Stephen Ministries held the first Leader's Training Course and trained the first Stephen Leaders—representatives of various congregations who then returned home to train and supervise their own Stephen Ministers. Since then Stephen Ministries St. Louis has specialized in "training the trainers" through the Stephen Series ministry system.

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 Name

The name Stephen comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need (Acts 6).

Stephen Ministry Statistics

- Over 12,000 congregations are enrolled in the Stephen Series. They represent 172 different Christian denominations and come from all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 27 countries.
- More than 70,000 pastors, church staff, and laypeople have trained as Stephen Leaders. These Stephen Leaders have trained more than 600,000 congregation members to be Stephen Ministers.

If you would like to learn more about being trained as a Stephen Minister or if you would like to meet with a Stephen Minister, please call one of the pastors at 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at 645-8445



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."

September 12, 2014
Eugene Schrader

From our pastors ...

"Lord, let our eyes be opened." (Matthew 20:33)

A lot has been happening at St. John's this summer around both the outside and inside of our building. Some that has been easy to see and some that has been hard to see.

You have probably noticed *some* construction around St. John's this summer! It hasn't been hard to miss the "Road Closed Ahead" signs. The most obvious project was the reconstruction of 2nd street, due to be finished by the time this newsletter is published! Notable for St. John's in this work is a brand-new sidewalk on the northside, adorned with two poems from Northfield's Sidewalk Poetry project. One of the two poems is the work of St. John's member Anne Sovik.

What you *haven't* likely noticed is a tremendous amount of maintenance work that was accomplished this summer. That has been much harder to see. Over 70 rotting windows were replaced in June, funded by memorial gifts as well as a release of some reserve funds. Many of these windows look the same as before now – except that they are operational and are no longer rotting!

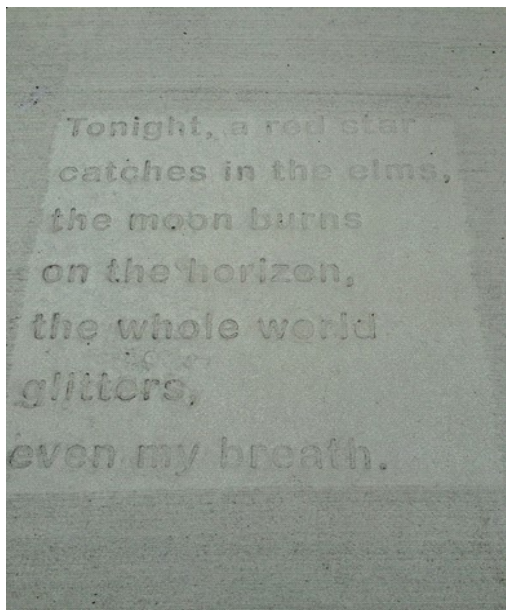
Next up is work on the flooring of the office and classroom southwest wing. Peeling tiles in this part of the building will be covered by carpet in most areas, and by acoustically-friendly wood flooring in the children's choir room. Finally many of these halls and offices will get a fresh coat of paint. There may be some disruption of normal office work during the week that floors need to be cleared, so please be patient during the first weeks of September.

We invite you to let your eyes be opened to this hard and necessary but often invisible work that has happened for the good upkeep of our building. Keep an eye out for the new sidewalk and Anne's poetry. Check out the new windows. Peek in the office spaces and the upstairs to appreciate the new look. This hard work is ministry that benefits us all and the future of St. John's.

We offer many thanks to our tremendously organized Tim Byers, Troy Sorensen and the Properties & Grounds Committee for shepherding the plans for this deferred maintenance of our building. And thanks to all of YOU for your generosity in continuing to provide for the care of our facility.

Pastor Pam

Pastor Jon



Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday, September 13

- Intergenerational School Kit Event
9:45-10:30 a.m.
- Blessing of the Backpacks
8:30 or 10:45 a.m. service

Wednesday, September 16

- CAT & Confirmation Orientation for grades 3-9,
Fellowship Hall - *see article on page 5*
- Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School,
6:00 p.m., Room 15

Sunday, September 20

- Sunday School Begins,
NEW TIME:
9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
- Installation of Sunday School Teachers
10:45 a.m. Service

Wednesday, September 23

- "ROCK", Reaching Out to Christ's Kids,
Wed. Programming for K – 5th grades begins!

Sunday, September 27

- 4th Grade Receives Catechisms,
10:45 a.m. Service

Youth Blast 2015!

"Awake, Arise & Shine"

Who: Kids in grades 3 – 6

When: Friday – Saturday, November 6-7

Where: Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN

Cost: \$55.00 (*scholarships available*)
(*No charge for chaperones*)

Youth Blast invites kids in grades 3 – 6 for an overnight adventure at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. The 24 hour camp experience is filled with games, hikes, great food and worship. This is a wonderful introduction to what a week long summer camp is like. We will carpool from St. John's on Friday leaving at 5:15 p.m. and arrive back on Saturday around 6:00 p.m. Feel free to bring a friend and join us for Youth Blast!

Register by calling Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at jbrehmer@stjohnsnorthfield.org. Chaperones are needed! **Register early; space may be limited!**

Blessing of the Backpacks!

Students of all ages are welcome to bring their backpacks to either the 8:30 or 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, September 13 for the "Blessing of the Backpacks". We want to join with your family in praying for your students as they begin the new school year.



Can you help with Children's Programming?

An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members – parents, grandparents, anyone! Are you able to help out on Wednesdays or Sundays? Whether you enjoy working with large or small groups of children or behind the scenes, there is a place for you. Many opportunities can fit into your schedule.



Wednesday Afternoons: Snack Servers, Recreation, Bus Angels, Kid's Club leaders for grades K-3, DOG leaders for grades 4-5.

Sunday Mornings: Sunday School teachers and team teachers, Rotation Sunday School station leaders (1 - 3 Sunday commitment), Nursery volunteers, Library volunteers, Music volunteers.

Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, if you have questions or would like to volunteer. Our thanks to you in advance!

CATechism and Confirmation Orientation, Wednesday, September 16

Catechism and Confirmation Orientation for students in grades 3 – 9 will be held on, Wednesday, September 16 in Fellowship Hall. We invite parents, along with their 3rd – 5th graders, to come from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Parents, along with their 6th – 9th graders, are invited to attend from 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. If you are unable to attend, please call the church office at 645-4429. Catechism classes begin on October 7 for our 4th and 5th graders and Confirmation on September 23 for our 6th – 9th graders.

You are also invited to St. John's Wednesday Meal starting on September 16 from 5:15 – 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

Reaching Out to Christ's Kids, Begins on Wednesday, September 23



ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K – 5. Wednesday afterschool programs, for all grade levels, consists of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, "DOG", Kid's Club, music opportunities (Alleluia and Jubilate Choir), art, and service projects!

St. John's will be providing bussing for children from Greenvale, Bridgewater and Sibley schools and from the Middle school for Prairie Creek students who are interested in participating in our Wednesday afterschool programs.

For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes an Registration Packet to register your child. Registration packets are available in the church Commons or online at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org under the Children's tab.

Registration for Sunday School, Preschool – Grade 5

Sunday School begins on September 20 from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. for children who are age 3 (by 9-1-15) – grade 5. If you have not yet registered your child for 2015 –2016 Sunday School year, it's not too late. Please fill out a Registration and Health form as soon as possible. A timely response is one of the best ways to support Children's Ministry at St. John's. Forms are available in the Commons and online at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org under the Children's Tab. If you have questions, contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or children@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

We had a fantastic week in August at VBS and "On the Road" summer camps!

Many thanks to St. Peter's, Bethel and Emmaus Churches and their volunteers for joining with us in providing a week of fun and fellowship for children in the Northfield community. Thank you to the families who donated to the mission projects, CAC Birthday Boxes.

Thanks to the following volunteers from St. John's who helped with VBS: Mike Skunes, Elizabeth Evenson, Anne France, Erin Gunn, Jada Johnson. And, thank you to our "On the Road" St. John's host homes; Paul & Maribeth Beck and Judy & Jim Cederberg.



YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Confirmation Orientation

What: Orientation for families with youth in grades 6th-9th. Important information regarding confirmation, expectations, calendars, and important changes from the prior year will be explained.

When: Wednesday, September 16th
6:30 – 7:15 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall



Thank you to everyone who has turned in their registrations so far! If you need a new one, there are hard copies in the Commons or request one by email at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org, and we will send you a PDF.

Life Groups

Life Groups are weekly small groups for youth in grades 6-9 during the learning hour between services. Each week youth will meet in St. John's Hall at 9:45 a.m. for donuts, an opening activity, and to be placed in groups. Then groups of four to seven (divided by age and gender) will get together with an adult leader to debrief about their week, go over the gospel text, and pray together till 10:30 a.m.

Leaders Needed! As we approach the fall, I hope that you carefully consider and pray about being an adult leader of our Life Group ministry for youth. No theological training is required, just a heart for talking with youth. A leader sheet will be provided by the Thursday beforehand to help you familiarize yourself with the text and following discussion. If you would like to learn more about how you can support youth at St. Johns on their faith journey, please contact Mike, at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

Tenth Grade Confirmation



Tenth Graders, blessings to you as you prepare for your confirmation this fall. Here are a few quick reminders about the month ahead:

- 1) Schedule and complete your Confirmation interview with your assigned Pastor by September 16th. Have your faith statement and questions prepared prior to your meeting. If you have questions, contact Mike at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org.
- 2) Be sure to mark your calendars for the Confirmation Retreat at Gustavus from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, September 19th. All tenth graders are expected to attend. We look forward to seeing you then.
- 3) Also, mark your calendars for the Confirmation Rehearsal and Breakfast on Saturday, October 10th. We will take pictures, run through the service, and share a meal with your families and mentors.

Dates for Your Calendar

- Sept 16th – CAT/Conf Orientation (Fellowship Hall)
- Sept 19th – 10th Grade Retreat (Gustavus)
- Sept 20th – 1st Day of Life Groups/ Sunday School
- Oct 10th – Conf Rehearsal and Breakfast
- Oct 11th – Confirmation Service for 10th Graders
- Oct 30th – Romans and Christians featuring AGAPE

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in September

Fellowship Time for children, youth, and adults begins at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School (Lower Level) and Education Hour for adults begins at 9:45 a.m.

September 6:

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

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

September 13:

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

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

Intergenerational Event: School Kit Assembly, St. John's Hall.

September 20:

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

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level Sunday School Rooms.

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

Ministry Fair, St. John's Hall.

September 27:

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

Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level Sunday School Rooms.

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

Adult Forum: Reconciling in Christ, St. John's Hall.

Bold Cafe, Fireside Room.

Reconciling In Christ Adult Forum – September 27th, 9:45 a.m.

On Sunday, September 27th, the Reconciling In Christ (RIC) committee will be hosting the adult forum. As many of you know, St. John's is currently in a discernment process around whether we are in a place to become an RIC congregation. Briefly stated, an RIC congregation is one that creates an intentional welcome statement, reaching out to those who often feel alienated from the church, which specifically includes welcoming people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community. This forum will address the questions "What is RIC?" and "Why Now?" There will also be an opportunity for some small group discussion around the topic of welcome and what questions you might have.



As a reminder to us all, this is the beginning of a conversation. Talking about becoming an RIC congregation can be difficult but we all have much to learn and benefit from one another as the Body of Christ, embracing even those who hold different opinions. Wherever you are at along the continuum, please join us at this forum so that we can begin journeying through this together.



Greetings to You, Beloved People of St. John's – That's ALL of Us!

We are all a part of this group of people who are growing together in our understanding of God, and what it means to share life together. You are welcome here – just as you are. In that context, let me tell you some of the ways you can connect with others, use your gifts, and make a difference in our community.

Ministry Fair, September 16 and 20

Come and find out more about what is available to you at St. John's at the Ministry Fair on Wednesday evening, September 16, and Sunday, September 20, between and after services.

- Participating in Sunday Morning Services & Hospitality: Assisting Ministers, Choirs, Ushering, Serving Communion– the possibilities are numerous!
- Wednesday Night Meals
- Women of St. John's monthly gatherings and small groups, including Bold Café, a small group for women in our 20s, 30s, 40s and thereabouts
- Men's Night Out at the Contented Cow
- And much more!

What are Monthly Hospitality Groups All About?

Everyone at St. John's gets to be part of a Group that performs the following Sunday morning hospitality services:

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

Why did we reintroduce monthly groups for Sunday hospitality at St. John's?

- To make it possible for all of us to share in providing the hospitality services we enjoy every Sunday; and
- To give everyone at St. John's the opportunity to get to know each other while working together to provide this warm welcome.

How many Monthly Groups are there?

- There are NINE groups altogether; each group serves on the Sundays during their month.
- For example, during this month, September, Group 6 is providing Sunday morning hospitality.
- Group 6 will serve again in June of 2016 after the Nine-month rotation is complete.

Why are there Nine Groups?

- We were advised to have Seven or Nine Groups by experienced former Hospitality Group Leaders.
- We are hoping that Nine Groups will have enough people in each group for each person to serve only about two times during their month and still provide for all the hospitality needs in the month.

How do I find out what Group I am in and when I will serve?

- If you have an email address on file with St. John's, then I have sent you a message with your monthly group number and a list of all your group's members. Let me know if you didn't receive one!
- If you haven't yet heard from me, then you will be receiving a letter in the mail the month before your group is scheduled to serve.

Thank you for your participation in monthly groups! May you be as blessed as the recipients of your service!

Christy Hall-Holt
Shared Ministry Coordinator

Music and Worship Life at St. John's

Friends,

September is almost upon us, and with it comes the start of another choir season. When I first sat down to write to you, I thought about a new school year and how we join our voices in a new song. I thought that discovering your "new song" might be experiencing something new in worship, or deciding to participate in the adult choir, or encouraging your children to sing in one of our children's choirs. And while all these things are most definitely true, learning of the loss of Kenneth Jennings and Steve Swanson in our community suddenly guided my thoughts in a different direction.

As I reflect on the amazing lives of these two individuals, I am struck by the idea that both of these great men were creators. At first glance, they were creators of art, music, sculpture, and poetry, but they were also creators of community. Wherever they went, from pastoring 45 churches to guiding countless St. Olaf students to conducting the St. Olaf Choir for 25 years, creativity, and the love of creating something beautiful, followed them.



Irish poet and author John O'Donohue, in his book *Beauty: The Invisible Embrace* writes:


At the deepest level, creativity is holiness. To create is to further the dream and desire of the creator. Made in the image and likeness of the Divine Imagination, human creativity helps to add to creation. The unfinished is an invitation to our imagination.

This notion that "creativity is holiness" strikes at my very core. It is what I hope happens each time we sing together in worship. Each Sunday, and at each service, a unique collection of people open their mouths, offer praise to God, and create something holy that can never be experienced in the exact same way again.

This Sunday (August 30) as we begin worship, we start by singing "The Earth Adorned (Psalm of Summer)" by Swedish composer Waldemar Ahlen, with an English text translated by Carolyn and Kenneth Jennings. The music is gorgeous, but the text is truly a work of art in itself. The song begins by describing the beauty of creation as it gently emerges from winter. The sunshine, the fragrant flowers, the birds, and the woods all join their voices with the entire universe in giving thanks to God. In the final stanza, we take our place in this creation, acknowledging that while this beauty may be fleeting, the God that we praise remains forever. In the bulletin you will find the full text and music so that you may continue to study the richness found in this hymn. My hope is that whether you sang this in the St. Olaf Choir, grew up listening to this on the *Reflections of Norway* CD, or are experiencing it for the very first time, you can join your voice as we mourn and celebrate the lives of Steve and Kenneth, two profound creators.

Nathan

Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts

	September 16 - Open Rehearsal for K-12 (5:00-5:30) St. John's Chorale Rehearsal (7:00-8:30)
	September 17 - Rejoice Ringers (6:00-7:15)

Mission Outreach

Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels Association of America is a non-profit organization and the oldest and largest program in the United States to provide meal services to seniors or those in need. St. John's participates in Meals on Wheels in Northfield by volunteering to deliver meals from September 20 - October 16. Meals on Wheels provides a warm, healthy noon meal for residents in Northfield who are in need, while giving an opportunity for contact with others. The individuals who receive the meals are very appreciative of both the meal and the time you spend delivering it. Sometimes, just a quick conversation with you can make their day and yours!



You may sign up to volunteer for St. John's deliveries of Meals on Wheels online through the St. John's online directory (CCB) link at the top right of St. John's webpage. We will also have a table set up in the Commons beginning September 13. **Delivering meals only takes one hour of your day.** Please consider donating your time and visit us either online or at church. If you have any questions, please call or email Nancy Kluver at 507-581-0896 or rnkluver@gmail.com.

Intergenerational Event: Stuff the Bus! Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project September 13 at 9:45 a.m.

All ages are welcome to come to St. John's Hall to help pack school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Last year, we packed 120 school kits. Let's see if we can make that number grow!

The kits are sent around the world to kids in need of school supplies. A donation box is in the Commons to collect supplies before the event. Check out the shopping list below. 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!)

STUFF THE BUS



From the Stewardship Board

Live joyfully, give generously...

We will soon begin St. John's Fall Stewardship fund drive. During the next two months articles will appear in "The Voice" and several bulletin inserts on this topic. They will address our responsibility as Christians to give financial support to the mission of St. John's and to those in need in the world around us. In addition, several members will share their thoughts on why giving to St. John's is important to them.

No doubt some will feel that the church is "always asking for money"! Yes, the church does "ask for money," but the money received is used to help to further the mission of the church both locally and abroad. God calls us to share our time, talents, and financial resources in the work of His Kingdom. And "giving money" is a part of it.

Others may feel that little is available in their monthly budget for the church after they have paid their bills. Perhaps my experience with Jennings Feroe, a former Visitation Pastor at St. John's may give a different perspective.

Jennings was a Senior Pastor at a large ELCA church in Mankato. Upon his retirement he joined the development staff at St. Olaf, which is where I first met him. He was one of the kindest and most thoughtful people I have ever met. At a development staff meeting someone made a statement that it was hard to give to various causes and to pay one's bills as well.

Jennings addressed the person and told the following story: When he and his wife were first married and organizing their finances, they paid their bills first and then made their charitable donations. They then made the observation that it seemed they had little disposable income for themselves. Then they made a change in how they did this. They made their charitable donations first and then paid their bills. They said they were amazed at how much disposable income they then had for themselves! I hope this example will help you as you reach your decision regarding your financial support of St. John's.

Don Sahling

from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod:

Bishop's 2nd Annual 5K Walk/Run **Saturday, September 26, 2015, 9:00 a.m.**

Dear Congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod,

We are excited to spread the word about the Second Annual Bishop's 5K to benefit the Southeastern Minnesota Synod's Enough Food For All Initiative. The event will be held on Saturday, September 26th, at 9:00 a.m. at Soldier's Field in Rochester.

We are counting on another wonderful event this year, and we are counting on you to invite your communities to participate! For additional information and to register online go to <http://www.semnsynod.org/bishops5k>.

Funds raised will be shared with the EFFA initiative, Channel One and the ECHO Food Shelf. Please join us as we help to alleviate food insecurity in our communities. Thanks in advance for your participation!

With gratitude,

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod Bishop's 5K Planning Team



News and Events

Wednesday Night Meals Starting September 16

Yes, they are almost here again! Wednesday Night Meals are an important intergenerational event each Wednesday from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall. Once again, Peggy Dell and Kristy Harms have graciously agreed to take charge of this event AND do the cooking. But as we know there are a few things we need others to volunteer to do. Bringing desserts, cleaning up the kitchen, cleaning up St. John's Hall and running the dishwasher are the major jobs that need to be done each night. If you are able to help please contact Christy Hall-Holt at sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org. Thank you!

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee, Chocolate & More 1st and 2nd Sundays of the Month

Starting in September, sales of fair trade coffee/tea/chocolate and items from Thistle Farms will resume the 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)

Bone Builders: An Osteoporosis Prevention Program

What is Bone Builders? A free osteoporosis preventative exercise program for men and women to help prevent / reverse osteoporosis, improves balance, enhances energy, and well-being. Trained volunteers lead participants through strength and balance exercises, which include a warm-up and cool-down. Each session includes a brief discussion about topics pertaining to health, nutrition or exercise.

Classes begin at St. John's on Friday, September 11, in Fellowship Hall. The classes will continue on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:00-10:00 a.m.



St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Let's get together for Dinner -
Come, share a meal!
All are welcome,
it's a fantastic time for
fellowship for ALL ages!

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

Wednesday, September 16
Taco Boats

Wednesday, September 23
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Wednesday, September 30
Tator Tot Hotdish

Free will offering appreciated!

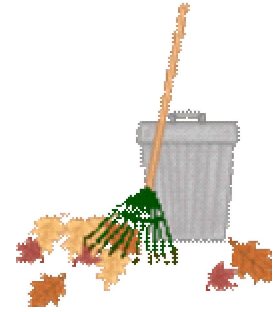
Come, Share a Meal!

News and Events

Need Help with Yard-Work this Fall?

If you find yourself in need of assistance with raking or mulching this fall, we will have teams of youth ready to help in October. Compensation isn't required, but any donations will go towards helping send our youth to bible camp in 2016. High schoolers will be traveling to Christikon in Montana and middle schoolers will be attending Green Lake in Spicer, MN.

Contact Mike Skunes at 645-4429 or youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org if interested.



Interested in Mentoring Youth?

Consider being an adult mentor for a small group of our 6th-9th grade youth by either joining us as a **Confirmation Group Guide** on Wednesday nights or a **Life Group Guide** on Sunday mornings. No theological training is required, just a heart for talking with youth. If you would like to learn more about how you can support youth at St. Johns on their faith journey, please contact Mike, at 645-4429 or at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

Short-Term Bible Study “Keeping Time” Starts September 9

Perhaps this is just the right time for you to be part of a short-term Bible study - - - you've just retired, you've just joined St. John's, you've never been in a Bible study. Please join Genevieve and David Quarberg on three Wednesdays, September 9, October 14, and November 11 as they lead a new venture for the Women of St. John's in a Bible study which includes both women and men, using the Gather magazine's study for those three months. It's about time, its rhythms, its use, its swift passing. Slow down for a little time - - - from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings, September 9, October 14, and November 11.

Make a difference. Be part of CROP Hunger Walk on October 4

Do you have enough? Enough safe, clean water at the turn of a tap? Enough shelter to keep you and your family warm and safe from the elements? Do you have access to an education for your children and grandchildren? Do you think that everyone should have enough for these?

Join with other local families to walk Sunday, October 4, beginning at 2:00 p.m. for Northfield's CROP Hunger Walk. The family-friendly walk begins at All Saints Episcopal Church, 419 Washington St., and ends at Bridge Square. Walk to show support for programs to eradicate hunger, poverty, and childhood and waterborne diseases.

If you are unable to walk, you can sponsor a walker. You can even donate on the web. To sign up, visit www.crophungerwalk.org/northfieldmn and donate to your church's team. Support the world of people who are just like you, but because of poverty must walk for their most basic needs. They walk for food. They walk for water. They walk to escape violence. They walk to seek shelter. Twenty five percent of funds raised will go programs at the Northfield Community Action Center. Seventy five percent goes to support Church World Service projects around the world.

You can also send a donation to the Northfield CROP Hunger Walk treasurer: Betty Chapman, Community Resource Bank, 1605 Heritage Drive, Northfield, MN 55057. Make checks payable to CWS/CROP.

August Actions

Baptisms

August 16, 2015: Zachary Scott Paulson, son of Jennifer & Scott Paulson

Births

August 21, 2015: Cara Kathleen Korba, daughter of Loretta & Daniel Korba

Deaths

Sandra Molkenbur, August 15, 2015

Kenneth Jennings, August 20, 2015

Stephen Swanson, August 23, 2015

Radio Broadcasts

August 2, 2015, given by Betty Schuette in memory of Art Schuette and to mark the anniversary of Art & Betty's wedding on August 5, 1950.

August 9, 2015, given in memory of Della Gunderson from Lester Gunderson, family, and friends.

August 16, 2015, given in memory of Ted Rudser by family and friends.

August 23, 2015, given in memory of Joyce Schrader by family and friends.

August 30, 2015, given in memory of Loretta Siler by family and friends.

FROM BREAD FOR THE WORLD

Congress and the president are making major decisions that could harm individuals and families living in poverty and at risk of hunger. These are issues that are moving in Congress or the administration. They pose potential or serious threats. This is an important time to get involved and make your voice heard.

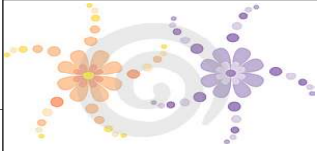
Anti-hunger programs must be protected from harmful cuts. The tight fiscal environment means members of Congress are looking to make cuts wherever they can. Foreign assistance, SNAP (formerly food stamps), and other programs that help people struggling with hunger are at serious risk. These people don't have high-powered lobbyists and well-funded campaigns looking out for their interests.

One in five children in the U.S. lives at risk of hunger. Domestic child nutrition programs are up for renewal in 2015. Congress must reauthorize the national school lunch and breakfast programs, the summer meals program, the child care food program, and the WIC nutrition program for pregnant and new mothers along with their small children. **This issue is the focus of Bread's 2015 Offering of Letters campaign.**

St. John's will participate in that campaign this fall. Watch and listen for details this month and next. Remember that it is possible to advocate for people in hunger and poverty anytime by calling the Capitol Switchboard (800-826-3688) and asking to speak with the office of Congressman John Kline or Senators Klobuchar or Franken. Much more information is available at www.bread.org.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.



WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S
Mission Statement:
TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY
Women of the ELCA includes ALL women of St. Johns!

September Meetings

September 1 and 15: Knitters meet at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang (507-645-4849).

September 3: Women of St. John's Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

September 8: Women of St John's Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room.

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

September 9: 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

September 10: Martha/Claudia - 9:30 a.m. at Parkview West, contact Marilyn Jacobson, 663-9060

Elizabeth - 1:30 p.m. at Dodie Mickelson's, 1000 Cannon Valley Dr., #105, 645-8101

Abigail/Rebecca - 2:00 p.m. at Parkview East

September 11: Mary - 1 p.m. at Carol Benson's, 670 Green Meadow Court, 645-6174

September 12: Breakfast Group - 8:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room, contact Kathy Mellstrom, 663-1451

September 14 and 17: Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

September 27: Bold Cafe meets in the Fireside Room at 9:30 a.m.

Women of St. John's Sponsored Programs

This year the focus of our programming will be "Sharing Our Abundance." We will look forward to a variety of programs during the year which will include the arts and food sharing. September and October will focus on the artwork "Genesis":

September 3, 1:00 p.m.

We will view a video about the creation of Fred Somers artwork work "Genesis." The film follows the creation of the painting from laying the canvas to final installation. It also includes Fred's views on the spiritual life of the creative artist, and the role of time and space in his work.

October 1, 9 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

We will travel to Carondelet Village (a retirement complex in St. Paul) to view the artwork "Genesis" leaving from the St. John's parking lot at 9:00 a.m. After the tour at Carondelet Village and viewing "Genesis" we will gather for lunch and travel back to Northfield.

Synodical Convention

"Buildings Bridges to Peace" and "Transformations in Our Lives"

Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Convention

Saturday, September 19, 2015, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Christ Lutheran Church, Preston, MN

Keynote speakers will be Pastor Emily Carson and Kolloh Nimley. Pastor Carson is the director of communications for the Southeastern Minnesota Synod and weekly columnist for the Rochester Post-Bulletin. She will be sharing some of her personal growth and insights in how we see ourselves in relationship to other sisters and brothers of color. Kollah Nimely works for the State of Minnesota as a community program specialist in Rochester. She came to the United States from Liberia in 1992 on an academic scholarship through the ELCA Lutheran Leadership Scholarship. You are invited to set the day aside for fellowship, to worship, to listen and be inspired. Registrations forms can be found on the Women of St. John's Bulletin Board.

Retreat at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center

Saturday, November 21, 2015

Plans are being finalized and should be available soon for the Women's of St. John's Retreat. This will be a great day of bible study, music and fellowship. Mark this date on your calendar.

Submit items for the **Voice** to Merilyn 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 H. Garlie
Shared Ministry
Christy Hall-Holt
Parish Nurse
Lynette Marks
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Save the Date

Saturday, September 19, 3:00 p.m.: Gretchen Colby Rode invites St. John's to celebrate her ordination on Saturday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's.

Saturday, October 3, 9:00 a.m.: Blessing of the Animals! Bring your favorite critter to a celebration of "All God's Creatures" on the weekend of the Feast of St. Francis Assisi. We'll gather outside (weather permitting) to give thanks for our animal companions. More details to come!

Sunday, October 11: Confirmation Sunday! We celebrate with our 10th graders as they affirm their baptisms at the 10:45 a.m. service.

