

THE Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Extending God's Love

October 2015

Volume 55, Number 10

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Worship Services:
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

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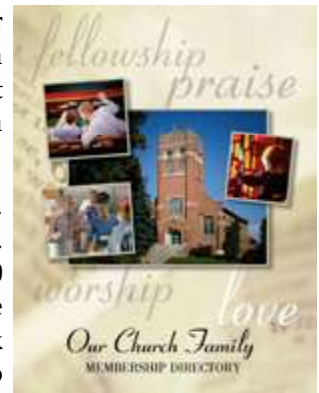
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. to noon and
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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

A New Picture Directory for St. John's is in the Works!

Do you ever see people and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with a name? Are you a new member and wish you had something to help you put names with faces? Help is on the way! We are producing a new pictorial directory!

We are partnering with Lifetouch for this important project. Lifetouch is providing the directory at no cost to our church. Each participating family will receive a **complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory** and have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family & friends. Look for Wednesday and Sunday sign-ups or visit our website to schedule your photography appointment. Please participate! Our directory won't be complete without YOU!



Photography Dates: Tuesday, October 27 - Saturday, October 31

Tuesday, November 3 - Saturday, November 7

Hours of Photography: 2:00 - 9:00 p.m. weekdays and 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Saturday

Tenth Graders to Affirm their Baptism on October 11

St. John's gives thanks to God that the following young people in our congregation have indicated their desire to publicly affirm their baptism by participating in the Rite of Confirmation on Sunday, October 11, at the 10:45 a.m. service: **Emily Canedy, Anne France, Dylan Gehring, Jacob Gonnerman, Viveka Hall-Holt, Caroline Hummel, Jada Johnson, Matthew Knutson, Cole Little, Ryan Malecha, Samuel Motzko, Courtney Nelson, Kenyon Nystrom, Jaime Rice, Griffin Rod.**

When they affirm their baptism, these young people will renounce all evil, profess their faith in the Triune God, and commit themselves more fully to participate in the life of the congregation, and to live out their faith in the world. This rite follows a six-year education and reflection program at St. John's beginning with Catechism (CAT) classes in grades three, four, and five; weekday and Sunday classes in grades six, seven, and eight; and classes, retreats, and a mentor relationship in grade nine. The program concluded with a retreat at Gustavus on Saturday, September 19.

Those being confirmed and their parents will meet in the Fireside Room on Saturday, October 10, at 8:30 a.m. After rehearsal, breakfast with students, families and mentors will be at 10:00 a.m.

Please pray for these young people and their faith and life as they make this commitment and affirmation.

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*

Discussion on Grief Open to All

St. John's Stephen Ministers extend an invitation to St. John's members to attend "A Discussion on Grief" on Tuesday, October 20, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. The discussion will be led by Naomi Mandsager Bartley, Psychotherapist specializing in grief issues, and will cover the following topics:

How do we help people grieve?

What can we do and say to help those who are grieving?

What should we not do and say?

Issues of grief and loss touch all of our lives. Working through grief is a process that requires the support of others. If you know someone who would benefit from a Stephen Minister as they work through the grief process, contact Joan Halvorson at 645-8445 or one of the pastors at 645-4429.



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."

Neal Canon
October 13, 2014

Ivan Fagre
October 26, 2014

Zachary Cramer
October 27, 2014

Mary Falkenberg
October 27, 2014

*Blessed are they who
mourn, for they shall
be comforted.*
Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Northfield Grief Support Coalition:

A grief support group for anyone grieving the death of a loved one continues on Thursdays through November 12 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Northfield Hospital in Meeting Room A. Further information is available by contacting Katie Jacobi, MSW, at 507-646-1037.

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.

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.

From our pastors ...

A couple of years ago, a former congregation member and his Confirmation mentor came running up to me after worship with a green Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) hymnal in their hands. "Pastor Jon! Pastor Jon! There's a mistake in our hymnal!" they said. "Look! Psalm 13 and 14 are missing! They forgot to include them!"

At first, I was simply stunned that they were looking through the Psalms together, and, secondly, that they noticed some were missing.

Sadly though, it was no mistake. Many Psalms were missing, in fact. But what stood out to me was that Psalm 13 and 14 are both known as lament psalms.

Lament. Also known as a passionate expression of grief or sorrow cried out and directed to God.

Psalm 13, vs. 1 – *"How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?"*

Psalm 14, vs. 3 – *"There is no one who does good, no, not one."*

There is so much in life that is painful and incoherent. Grief and sorrow are a reality of life. Whether it is as you live through another death in the family, or a lost job, or waiting for the doctor to call with results of the biopsy. In a variety of ways, we have all been there, or are there now, or will be there some day. Expressions of grief and sorrow are also all over the Bible. But too often, lament is absent from worship. Many of Biblical text of lament are never read in worship. Of the 68 lament psalms, less than 25% are ever sung in worship, and, therefore, many were left out of the LBW.

Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann calls this a cover-up. It is our frightened and numb denial of the painful realities of life. It is an avoidance technique. But the Bible doesn't avoid it, so why do we? "It is clear," Brueggemann says, "that a church that goes on singing 'happy songs' in the face of raw reality is doing something very different from what the Bible itself does." Worship requires all of our being – the grief-filled, angry parts as well.

During the month of October, in worship we hope to make space for lament. Our Old Testament reading each week will be from the Book of Job – a story of lament. Job is a good and pious man who suffers unbearable tragedies, and he and his friends try to figure out why such disasters should happen to him. We will also sing some lament Psalms and parts of our liturgy will reflect the truth that there is much grief and sorrow in this life, which needs to be acknowledged.

But it will not all be lament. For there is the promise of the Gospel – that the God revealed to us in Jesus Christ has known grief and sorrow too. God is with us there. On the cross, we see that God meets us in our place of suffering and hurt and then God works to bring life out of that place of darkness. Even many of the psalms move from lament to hope through trust and singing.

We invite you to join us in worship this month as we lament together, but also as we listen for a word of hope from God who loves us so very much.



Pastor Jonathan Davis

P.S. Thankfully, our (Cranberry) ELW hymnal has all of the Psalms in it.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

October 4 Sunday School
October 11 Sunday School
October 18 No Sunday School (MEA)
October 25 Sunday School
 (3rd graders receive Bibles)

ROCK – Wednesdays programming

October 7
October 14 NO Wednesday programs (MEA)
October 21
October 28

Youth Blast – Good Earth Village

November 6-7 (3rd – 5th Grade)

CATechism

Grades 4 & 5 – Youth Room 4:15 – 4:45 p.m.

October 7
October 21
October 28
November 4

3rd Grade CAT Bible Retreat with parents

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall
Saturday, October 24

4th and 5th Grade CAT Begins in October

4th and 5th grade students at St. John's will begin Catechism starting on Wednesday, October 7. CAT class will meet downstairs, 4th grade in the Undercroft and 5th grade in Sunday School classroom 19 (lower level) from 4:15–4:45 p.m.

CAT meets Oct. 7, 21, 28, Nov. 4; Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; April 8, 13, 20, 27.

4th graders who received Catechisms this year:

Will Becker, Erik Boehning, Maren Coudret,
Natalie DeGrego, Emerson Garlie, Madison Hansen,
Mari Hanson, Thea Hanson, Jack Kelvie,
Braden Lemke, Ava Little, Cora McBroom,
Clara Menssen, Katherine Organ, Mason Vatter

Please contact Julie Brehmer if your child would like to ride the St. John's afterschool bus on Wednesdays to CAT. The bus picks up at Sibley, Bridgewater, Greenvale and at the Middle School for PCCS kids.

Toddler Time Starts October 11

Children who are 2 year olds (by 9/1/15) and Preschool 1, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler Time.

Rachel Skunes leads the children in song, games, crafts and story time. Toddler Time meets monthly at 9:45 a.m. in Room 20 (lower level). Here is our schedule for the year: Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13, Jan. 10, Feb. 14, March 13, April 10 and May 8.

Please feel free to give Julie Brehmer a call if you have questions, 645-4429.



Children's Communion Instruction Available

Holy Communion is the meal of all the baptized children of God. If your baptized child has expressed an interest in receiving Holy Communion please contact a pastor.

Youth Blast 2015! **"Awake, Arise & Shine"**

Who: Kids in grades 3 – 5
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 – 5 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 camp. We will carpool from St. John's on Friday leaving at 5:15 p.m. and arrive back on Saturday around 5:45 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!*

ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids - Space Available!

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program offered to children from kindergarten to grade 5, is off to a great start. Wednesday afterschool programs for all grade levels consist of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, music opportunities (Alleluia and Jubilate Choir) art, service projects and more! St. John's provides a bus to pick up children who are interested in participating in our afterschool programs. Our bus travels to Sibley, Bridgewater and Greenvale, plus Prairie Creek children from the Middle School.

For more information, check out the Children's Ministry Information Packet which includes an insert you may use to register your child.

3rd Graders to Receive Bibles

3rd graders and parents meet in St. John's Hall on **Saturday, October 24, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** for a Retreat on the Word – an Introduction to the Bible. This class will be a primer on the Bible for students who will receive their Bibles at the 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, Oct. 25. Please call Pastor Pam or Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either day.

Thank You, Sunday School Volunteers!

Sunday School is off to a great start thanks to the dedicated teachers and volunteers at St. John's. Our teachers: **Preschool 1**–Jenny Nystrom, Bailey Dell, Dodie Mikelsen, Rachel Skunes; **Pre 2/ Kindergarten** Trish Goodrich, Connie Menssen; **First Grade** – Amy McBroom, Cole Little **Second Grade** – Kris Vatter, **Third Grade** – Rachel Saxton, Kully Vance; **Fourth Grade** – Kris Vatter, Julie Becker; **Fifth Grade** – Amelia Kimmes Kneser; **Toddler Time** – Rachel Skunes

Also, thank you to Susan Canon for coordinating Library Time.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Christikon

Informational Meeting

When: Wednesday, October 21st, 7:30-8:00 p.m.

Where: Youth Room

What: Come learn about our **2016 Backpacking Trip** to Christikon in the mountains of Montana. We'll go over what Christikon is and why it is such an impactful faith forming event, talk some logistics (expected costs, transportation, ect.), and set some fundraising goals so that every person that wants to go, can go. **All youth who will have completed 9th grade by July of 2015 are encouraged to participate.**



NEW!

Starting Wednesday, October 7th, we will be piloting our new High School Youth Group: Catalyst. In a compact 45 minutes, we will create space for 10th-12th grade youth to connect with friends and share highs/lows, encounter scripture, pray, and play games or listen to music to help center them for the week to come.

We will meet Wednesdays from **7:30-8:15 p.m.** in the **Youth Room**.



Adopt – A – Highway

When: Saturday, October 3rd 10:00a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Where: Meet in the HS Parking Lot

What: It's time to clean up our stretch of HWY 246 before the snow comes! Join us to keep Northfield looking beautiful. Afterwards, if it is hot we'll go out to Culver's for ice cream and if it's chilly we'll find hot chocolate or cider – St. John's treat!

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) 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.
- 2) Sunday, October 11th, the 10:45am service will be the Confirmation service. Please arrive and meet in the Fireside Room no later than 10:15am so that we can get your robes on, your boutonnieres pinned, get organized for the processional, and pray before together before the service.

We are so proud of you and excited to hear you affirm your faith at this milestone of your faith journey. May God's peace be with you this day and for the many days to follow.

Learning and Fellowship

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in October

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.

October 4:

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

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

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.

St. John's Forum: For the Beauty of Relationships - A Presentation on St. John's Staff Trip to Yale, Sanctuary.

Accompany, Undercroft.

October 11:

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

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

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.

St. John's Forum: For the Beauty of Being Young Again - A Confirmation Session for Adults, St. John's Hall.

Accompany, Undercroft.

October 18:

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

St. John's Forum: For the Beauty of Peaceful Prayer - A Presentation on Labyrinths, Sanctuary.

Accompany, Undercroft.

October 25:

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.

St. John's Forum: For the Beauty of Creation - The Pope's Encyclical and the Care of the Earth, Sanctuary.

Accompany, Undercroft.

Bold Cafe, Fireside Room.

Fall Forums: For the Beauty of...

This fall, the St. John's Forum will have a variety of topics under the theme "For the beauty of..." There is much beauty in God's world to be seen and celebrated. Through these forums, we hope to shine a light on the beauty of learning and being in relationship with one another. Join us on Sundays between services from 9:45-10:30 a.m.

October 4th, 2015 - For the Beauty of Relationships: A Presentation on St. John's Staff Trip to Yale

October 11th, 2015 - For the Beauty of Being Young Again: A Confirmation Session for Adults

October 18th, 2015 - For the Beauty of Peaceful Prayer: A Presentation on Labyrinths

October 25th, 2015 - For the Beauty of Creation: The Pope's Encyclical and the Care of the Earth



At St. John's We Gather Together

This happens in so many ways, but the most obvious are our gatherings for worship on Sundays, and for a warm meal on Wednesday evenings before Confirmation for youth, and Chorale practice.

Is there a place for me on Sundays?

- You are invited to celebrate God's warm welcome to us every Sunday as we gather together to be fed by God's words and by God's Spirit at the Lord's table in communion.
- Between services you are invited to
 - join in conversation in the Commons during Fellowship Time
 - attend a Forum (adult education gathering)
 - be part of the Accompany process for people who want to join St. John's or affirm their faith with us
 - participate in serving hospitality when your monthly group's turn comes up
 - teach Sunday School or help lead a small group discussion for women in the Bold Café group

Is there a place for me on Wednesdays?

- You are invited to our weekly Wednesday Meal! Come between 5:15 and 6:15 to enjoy a warm meal, coffee and a treat.
- Sign up on Wednesdays and Sundays to help prepare and serve the meal, or to help clean up.
- Join your voice in song with others as you practice for the Chorale's participation in Sunday worship.

If you would like to find out more about opportunities for involvement at St. John's, please talk with me or with any of the people on St. John's Staff. We want you to feel at home here.

I'd like to highlight our Wednesday Meals. Peggy Dell and Kristy Harms, and during past Lenten Soup Suppers, Linda Anderson, plan menus, shop, prepare and lovingly serve each of us almost every Wednesday of the school year! I can't say enough about how grateful I am to them, and to the faithful team of people who support them. **THANK YOU, WEDNESDAY MEAL PROVIDERS.**

One of the ways we help to keep Wednesday Meals going is to pitch in to help prepare, serve, and clean up. These offers of assistance, no matter how small, are so important. If you can stay for a few minutes after you have finished your meal to bus some dishes or sweep up the serving area, don't hesitate to offer that at the kitchen window — there's always something that can be done! If you prefer to plan ahead and spend a half an hour or more, take a look at the Wednesday Meal Sign Up table on Wednesdays or look for the sheets during the week on the "Volunteers Serving" bulletin board near the office door in the Commons.

Watch for Kitchen Basics Orientations coming up in October for all interested in serving in the kitchen.

SERVING TO LOVE



LOVING TO SERVE

Christy Hall-Holt
Shared Ministry Coordinator
sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org

Christy's Hours: Tuesday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m., Thursday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

A Message from Our Congregation President

Fall has brought a burst of renewed enthusiasm and activities at St. John's along with Sunday School, a confirmation retreat, Wednesday night meals, choirs rehearsing, as well as staff and volunteers continuing to be hard at work. I am humbled by everyone's willingness to share their time and talents as members volunteer and are invited to participate in so many aspects of our congregational life. Church Council, Boards, and committees all contribute to our smooth functioning.

The Personnel Committee, Budget Committee, and Nominating Committees have already begun their yearly prescribed tasks and yearly processes. Other committees meet less often or on an as-needed basis. The Columbarium Committee has begun to prepare for future needs with careful planning. Our Funeral Committee has provided incredible service and support for so many funerals-especially those involving larger attendance. The Picture Directory Committee has been meeting to develop plans to create a new directory that will incorporate the CCB (Church Community Builder) system of communications. Our Environment and Arts Committee has been reestablished to assist in decisions involving aesthetics that are then brought to Council for approval. Also under Church Council's support have been the Distinctiveness Committee and the Committee for Reconciling in Christ.

Each and every commitment of people's efforts are valued and appreciated! Even though this list of committees barely scratches the surface of the breadth and depth of our members' involvement, it does represent the groundswell of vibrancy witnessed daily, weekly, and now seasonally. Be sure to express your gratitude to those who serve us whether they be a staff member or lay person. We are all in this together! Let this be a season of our ready participation and offer our gratitude for God's presence among us as we answer His call to service.

In gratitude,

Patsy Ophaug

President of the Congregation

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 17. 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!



We have spots still available. 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 also have a table set up on Sundays in the Commons. **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.

From the Stewardship Board

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says to his disciples... “Truly, I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me.” So, some of the ways we serve our neighbors are by working at the Food Shelf or Thursday’s Table, delivering Meals on Wheels, helping with relief efforts following floods and tornados, assembling food packs for Feed My Starving Children, sending winter coats so that others can keep warm. Within our congregation we serve by teaching Sunday School, being a helpful member of our hospitality group, ushering, cooking, serving and cleaning up at Wednesday suppers, singing in the choir, and participating in the work of boards and committees.

We also serve through our generous financial gifts. Beyond our doors we support efforts such as the local Food Shelf, Hope Center in Faribault, Lutheran World Relief, World Hunger, ELCA Global Missions, our sister congregations in Tanzania and Columbia. Within St. John’s our giving provides the vital funding of our staff, maintaining our lovely facility and supporting our lively and varied ministry needs.

All we have and are is a gift from God and we are invited to respond to God’s generosity by giving our time, our skills, talents and energies, as well as sharing of our finances. As we grow in our giving, we begin to understand what it means to be a joyful giver, just as we sing:

*We give thee but thine own,
what e’er the gift my be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord from thee.*

ELW 686, v. 1

The Stewardship Board

From the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board:

ELCA Malaria Campaign

By Kathy Shea, Benevolence and Social Concerns Board
September 2015

A child dies from malaria every 60 seconds and the ELCA is joining with Lutherans in Africa to greatly reduce deaths from a disease that is preventable and treatable. The \$15 Million ELCA Malaria Campaign was launched in 2009 at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Over \$13 million had been raised by spring of 2015 and the campaign hopes to reach its goal of \$15 million by January 31, 2016 (the end of the ELCA 2015 fiscal year). The United Nations Millennium Development Goal #6 names malaria as one of the important world diseases that we must confront together. Because 90% of the malaria deaths occur in Africa, we are working with Lutheran partners and other faith-based organizations in Africa, non-profits, governments and others to reduce the spread of malaria.

Malaria is transmitted from person to person by female *Anopheles* mosquitoes infected by the *Plasmodium* parasite. The most vulnerable populations are children under five, pregnant women, the elderly, people living in poverty and people with other illnesses and compromised immune systems. Mild cases result in flu like symptoms, severe cases in death. Malaria is one of the most prevalent infectious diseases, leading to more than 600,000 deaths and \$12 billion in lost productivity in developing countries each year. Malaria has been virtually eliminated from the United States and Europe, but remains common in the tropical and subtropical areas of Africa, Latin America and Asia.

...continued on page 13

News and Events

Good News from the Klines in Colombia: Least Violent Month in the Past 40 Years

Human Rights Buy-In

Posted: 01 Sep 2015 08:22 AM PDT by Curtis Kline

Throughout many conversations with many people in the Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO), all from various backgrounds and differing ideas and attitudes, I have learned a few things about how to best accompany the church from the point of view of the human rights program. I have learned that without massive buy-in and without the committed support of church members and pastors, the program will struggle to provide IELCO all that it is capable of.

Because Colombia has a history of holding human rights language in suspicion (due to ideological posturing and the armed conflict), the acceptance of human rights within the population, including the church, is not guaranteed. This means the first step for me in the human rights program is to gain the confidence of the members, leaders and pastors of the church. Not only gaining their confidence but also ensuring that the program is theirs, and encourages their involvement, their leadership and their guidance.

After my first year working in this capacity in Colombia, I had a chance to put the confidence in the human rights program to the test. DIPaz (Dialogo Intereclesial por la paz; Inter-church Dialogue for Peace), which the IELCO is a member, finished its verification of the FARC's (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) month of a unilateral ceasefire. This verification was asked for by the FARC with the government's full knowledge. After seeing that with this unilateral ceasefire, Colombia experienced it's least violent month in the last forty years, DIPaz wrote a letter to the government and to the FARC leaders urging them to continue the ceasefire and the de-escalation of hostilities.

This letter was opened for signatures from all those members of DIPaz, as well as international supporters of the work of DIPaz. I sent the letter to every pastor of IELCO to see who would sign their name to this important call to strengthen the peace process. An overwhelming response came in with a little over half of all pastors of IELCO signing this letter. This came in as quite an affirmation of the human rights program, and the trust I have been gaining.

As we are looking into the year ahead, and planning the activities of the program, this affirmation has been very inspiring!

In terms of the FARC's ceasefire, after the first month, they announced that they will now extend their unilateral ceasefire indefinitely, with the hopes that the government will reciprocate.

**Attention all Women of St. John's!
Save The Date!
Saturday, November 21, 2015
We have exciting plans in the works!
More details on page 15.**

News and Events

Blessing of the Animals!

Saturday, October 3, at 9:00 a.m.

Bring your favorite critter to a celebration of "All God's Creatures" on the weekend of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. We'll gather outside (weather permitting) to give thanks for our animal companions.

Healing Ministry for the Widowed, Divorced, and Separated

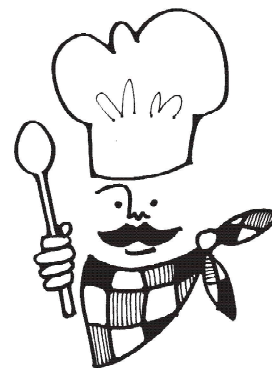
Beginning Experience offers a weekend retreat to help with the process of grieving the loss of a spouse. This grief resolution process for adults (who have suffered a loss through death, divorce or separation) is being offered at Assisi Heights in Rochester, Minnesota - October 23-25, 2015. Participants step into an opportunity to love themselves, others, and God in a renewed way. For more information about this weekend for yourself or someone you know that is suffering from a loss, contact Beginning Experience Rochester/Southeastern MN at beminnnesota@gmail.com or leave a message at 507-261-8248 (messages are checked daily) or register online at www.BEMinnesota.org.

League of Women Voters of Northfield-Cannon Falls Fall Kick-Off

The League of Women Voters Northfield-Cannon Falls invites you and your congregation to our Fall Kick-off on Saturday, October 3rd. The event theme is "Restoration of Dignity: Voting Rights for All," focusing on the restoration of voting rights for felons in Minnesota. Two of Minnesota's premier authorities on this topic will be speaking: Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon, and Sarah Walker, founder of the Minnesota Second Chance Coalition.

This event is consistent with the League of Women Voters' mission to increase understanding of major public policy issues. We encourage you to attend and to invite others as we address this important topic.

The event will be held at the United Church of Christ in Northfield (300 Union St.), with a social gathering at 9:00 a.m. and the program beginning at 9:30 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, October 7
Sloppy Joes

Wednesday, October 14
Meatloaf w/Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Wednesday, October 21
Beef Stew and Bread

Wednesday, October 28
Zuppa Toscana / Veg. Italian Soup

Free will offering appreciated!

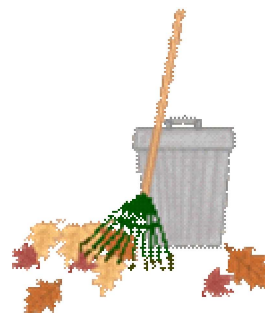
Come, Share a Meal!

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.

**THIS FALL, a new session of Accompany,
for those wishing to join St. John's and/or renew their faith,
will be offered beginning October 4 during education hour.**

**If you are interested in attending or
in serving as a sponsor for a new family,
please contact either Pastor Fickenscher, Pastor Davis, or Christy Hall-Holt.**

ELCA Malaria Campaign ...continued from page 10

Malaria prevention programs supported by the ELCA Malaria Campaign follow the recommendations of the World Health Organization. One of the most effective tools is a mosquito net treated with insecticide. The nets are hung over beds so that they completely cover individuals as they sleep. The nets both repel and kill mosquitoes and retain the pyrethroid insecticide through 20 washes or up to five years. Malaria programs promote proper household hygiene by removing sources of standing water where mosquitoes breed. Indoor spraying of insecticides and education programs about malaria prevention and treatment are also part of the campaign.

Treatment is most effective in the first 24 hours after symptoms appear. Artemisinin-based combination therapies, ACT's, are used for mild cases of malaria. The ELCA Malaria Campaign expands infrastructure for diagnosis and making reliable drugs available for treatment. Strains of malaria resistant to treatment have developed in Southeast Asia and the hope is to eliminate malaria in Africa before some of the treatment options are lost.

You can help stop the spread of malaria by sending contributions to the ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Please indicate ELCA Malaria Campaign on the memo line of your check, and make the check out to ELCA Malaria Campaign. To give an online gift using your credit card, please visit www.ELCA.org/malaria and click on "Donate Now."

September Actions

Deaths

George Paulson, September 11, 2015

Weddings

September 25, 2015, Ingrid Solverson and Timothy Keneipp

Radio Broadcasts

September 6, 2015, given by Duane and Marie Benson.

September 13, 2015, given in memory of Cora & Elmer Schultz and Ken Struss from Marie Struss and family.

September 20, 2015, given in memory of Kenneth Jennings by his family.

September 27, 2015, given in memory of Jon Nicholson, husband, father, granddaddy, from his family.

FROM BREAD FOR THE WORLD

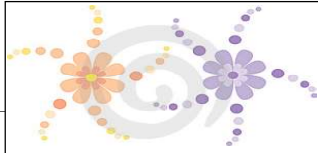
It's mid-morning on a school day, and Sophia is trying to pay attention to her teacher. But all she can think about is food. Her parents both work, but they don't earn enough to pay for housing, utilities and transportation—and enough food to feed their family.

In Sophia's own community and across the country, churches are doing a lot to help. They sponsor food pantries and host community meals. **But these and other private charities supply only one out of every 20 bags of groceries that feed people who are hungry. The federal government provides the rest.**

That's why individuals and churches are taking part in Bread for the World's 2015 Offering of Letters. We are urging Congress to renew our federal government's child nutrition programs, including school meals, summer feeding, and the WIC programs for pregnant and new mothers and their young children.

At St. John's we can join this effort by writing letters to our Senators and Representative. Materials including a sample letter will be at designated tables in St. John's Hall each Sunday in October to encourage and facilitate our writing. Take a few minutes to accomplish this easy task in the company of fellow members of St. John's. Letters will be gathered and included in our offering on October 25.





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

October 1: *Women of St. John's Field Trip to Carondelet Village*, St. Paul, meet at 9:00 a.m. at St. John's

October 5: *Women of St John's Board Meeting*, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room
Bible Study Leaders meet at 12 noon in the Fireside Room

October 6 and 20: *Knitters* meet at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang (507-645-4849)

October 7: *Sarah* - 9:30 a.m in the Fireside Room (Contact Char Nelson, 663-0564)

October 8: *Martha/Claudia* - 9:30 a.m. at Parkview West (Contact Marilyn Jacobson, 663-9060)

Elizabeth - 1:30 p.m. at Gretchen Hardgrove's, 117 Orchard St. So (507-645-6340)

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

October 9: *Mary* - 1:00 p.m. at Cora Scholz's, 704 St. Olaf Avenue (645-9266)

October 10: *Breakfast Group* - 8:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room (Contact Kathy Mellstrom, 663-1451)

October 12 and 15: *Quilters* meet in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

October 14: *Lydia* - 9:00 a.m. in St. John's Hall, then join Small Group Bible Study

Small Group Bible Study - 10:00 a.m. at St. John's

October 25: *Bold Cafe* - 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Women of St. John's Sponsored Programs

October 1, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We will travel (carpooling) to Carondelet Village (a retirement complex in St. Paul) to view the artwork "Genesis". Our plan is to leave 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.

Small Group Bible Study

Please join Genevieve and David Quarberg on Wednesday, 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, October 14 and November 11.

Retreat at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center

Saturday, November 21, 2015

The Women of St. John's are invited to relax, renew, and have some fun on November 21st. A retreat is planned before the holidays to encourage women (high school and up) to pause and have time to embrace God's gifts. The event will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mount Olivet Retreat Center which is only 10 miles north of Northfield. In addition to the opening and closing, women can choose sessions from a wide variety: art, crafts, yoga, journaling, poetry and more.

Tickets will be sold on Sundays for \$15. After October 18th, the price will be \$25. This price includes lunch and a snack.

Submit items for the **Voice** to Marilyn 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
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Mike Skunes
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Alls Saints Sunday
Sunday, November 1
Thanksgiving Eve Worship / Pie Social
Wednesday, November 25
Advent Fair
Wednesday, December 2