

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Extending God's Love

November 2015

Volume 55, Number 11

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inside . . .*

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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 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to:  
[office@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnorthfield.org)  
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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.

## Rest, Relax, Retreat!

All women at St John's are invited to a retreat on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at Mt. Olivet Retreat Center, 10 miles north of town. The retreat will start at 9:30 a.m.



If you are interested in carpooling, meet at St. John's at 9:00 a.m. Pastor Pam will lead the opening Bible study followed by a break-out session led by women from St. John's. Choices include, yoga, Zentangles art, blackout poetry, or making a keychain. Mt. Olivet Retreat Center will serve snacks and lunch. The afternoon gathering focuses on finding and embracing our gifts. Pastor Pam will end the retreat about 3:00 p.m. with reflection and celebrating Communion.

Registration for the retreat is on Wednesday during the evening meal or Sundays between services. The fee is only \$15 until October 25<sup>th</sup>. After October 25<sup>th</sup> the fee will be \$25.

Besides resting and relaxing, come to meet friends (old and new), have fun, and learn something new!

## Free Thanksgiving Dinner!

Laura Baker Services Association is hosting their 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 26, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in Millis Dining Hall, at 211 Oak Street in Northfield.

Everyone is invited for this delicious buffet-style meal - bring your family! If you need a ride or know of someone who needs a meal delivered to their home call Paula with Laura Baker Services at 645-8866, ext. 155.



## Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Wednesday, November 25

5:45 - Everyone's Choir Rehearsal  
in Room 209

(All singers age 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up are invited to sing in the Everyone's Choir)

6:30 - Worship

7:15 - Potluck Pie Social

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

# Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.  
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

## Prayer Ministry

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

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

*Galatians 6:2*



*Providing one-  
to-one care and  
encouragement*

## Stephen Ministry Training Class Begins in January

We all find ourselves in the role of caregiver at some point in our lives - when a friend is going through a divorce, after a co-worker loses his job, when a spouse gets sick, or when someone you know is struggling after the death of a loved one. Stephen Ministers are trained Christian caregivers who provide care, in addition to what St. John's pastors provide, to those experiencing life's challenges.

St. John's Stephen Ministers will offer care giving training beginning in January. The training is open to those interested in being commissioned as Stephen Ministers and those who do not wish to be commissioned as a Stephen Minister but who would like to receive training in care giving skills. The training session includes fifty hours of class time for learning and practicing skills in areas such as listening, assertiveness training, confidentiality, crisis theory and the use of scripture and prayer. On November 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room, Stephen Ministers will offer a short class on assertiveness; all members of the congregation are invited to attend.

Do you have a gift for care giving or are searching for a new way to grow in faith? Please consider being part of this training group. If you have questions about the training contact one of the pastors or Pam Schwandt (schwandt@stolaf.edu), Jennifer Edwins (jedwins@gmail.com), Eulalie Smestad (eulaliesmestad@gmail.com), or Barbara Wilson (barbarawilson118@yahoo.com).

If you or someone you know would benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, contact one of the pastors 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."*

Donna Mae Plaggemeyer  
**November 9, 2014**

Jon Nicholson  
**November 21, 2014**

Ginny Shaw  
**November 22, 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 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 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.

# From our pastors ...

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*"Come you  
thankful  
people,  
come, raise  
the song of  
harvest  
home.  
All are  
safely  
gathered  
in, 'ere the  
winter  
storms  
begin.*

In the church year, November is a time of remembrance. We begin with the long view, the celebration of all the saints gone before us and our own entry into that company through our baptisms. In our Scripture lessons, we edge into Advent as we hear parables and prophecies of God's final harvest of righteousness.

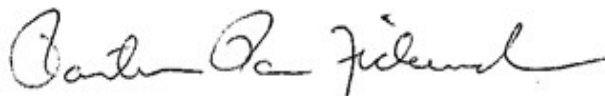
This is also a month of "harvest" both literal and figurative as we give thanks for the fruits of the earth, as we gather in financial pledges for the next year of our life together, and as we welcome new members into our fellowship. Many months of preparation go into all of these harvests, including a lot of unseen growth that is God's work alone.

Sometimes we hear people assess the church's "harvest" by the balance of our rites. How's attendance? People look at the number of funerals St. John's conducts and say, "Isn't that a bad sign? Are we a dying church?"

The world sees "death" as a sign of failure, and so we are tempted to speak in whispered tones about funerals and ministry to the dying. But in Christian theology, dying is the gateway to eternal life. We die to sin at our baptisms, and die continually to all that might pull us away from God's grace. And at our deaths we enter "the company of all the saints in light." This attitude toward death was a particularly strong witness in the early years of the church; Christian communities were unique in the care they offered to anyone – rich or poor – as they were accompanied to their final resting place.

This All Saints Day we will give special thanks for the quiet and faithful work of our funeral team, many people who month after month provide hospitality at a moment's notice. We should be proud of this work, for it is one of the most public places of witness we have as a church, an opportunity to "be church" for many people who do not enter our doors on a regular basis. This is true ministry, neither an afterthought nor a necessary evil.

I am thankful for all of you, for the fruitful fields of Northfield and the opportunity to work in God's mission in this place. May all we do give witness to the promise of the resurrection, when God will bring a fruitful harvest from all our joys and sorrows.



**Important Dates to Remember!**

**Sunday School Schedule**

November 1 Sunday School  
(Daylight Savings Time)  
November 8 Sunday School  
November 15 Sunday School  
November 22 Sunday School  
November 29 NO Sunday School  
(Thanksgiving Break)

**Breakfast, PJs and Movie Morning**  
Monday, Nov. 9, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**No Wednesday Programming on  
November 25 - Thanksgiving Break**

**Advent Fair!**  
Wednesday, December 2, St. John's Hall

**Christmas Worship Service with our  
Sunday School Kids**  
Sunday, Dec. 13, 10:45 a.m. Worship Service  
St. John's Sanctuary

**Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!**

Kids 5th grade and younger are invited to come in their pajamas to movie morning at St. John's! Come for breakfast and stay to watch a movie! Feel free to bring friends!

**Where:** The Commons for Breakfast,  
Movie in St. John's Theater

**When:** Monday, November 9  
**NO SCHOOL DAY!**

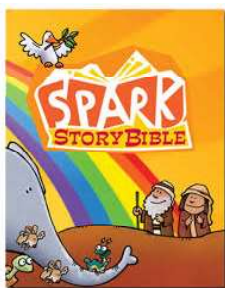
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.



Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or call Julie at 645-4429. Parent help is appreciated!

**Blessings and congratulations to  
our 3rd Graders who received their  
Spark Bibles in October**

Jacob Faust, Merri Kmoch, Seth Knutson,  
Edy McLaughlin, Gavin Moore, Emmett Norrie,  
Osiris Perez, Emmett Peterson, Joran Peterson,  
Devon Root, Marissa Vatter, Jackson Volkert,  
Louise Welbaum



**Blessings and congratulations to our Preschoolers  
who received their Spark Story Bibles in October**

Noelle Berger, Elliot Davis, Andrew King, Bennet Korba, Marin McBroom,  
Isabelle Rudser, Wyatt Strese, Edie Taggart, Otto Bash, Jamison Boone,  
Violet Froehle, Luke Nelson, Beau Paulson, Lucas VanSickle, Gabriel Zempel

The Bibles are purchased using money from the Johnson Bible fund.

**St. John's Sunday School Classes Participate in Worship  
Sunday, December 13**

Mark your calendars! This year, St. John's Sunday School classes will be participating in our 10:45 a.m. worship service, Sunday, December 13 in St. John's Sanctuary.

Children who would like to perform either a solo or be part of an ensemble for the pre-service music, can contact Julie Brehmer, [children@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:children@stjohnsnorthfield.org). In the past, children have played instruments and sung solos, usually with a Christmas theme.

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

## 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 [children@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:children@stjohnsnorthfield.org). Chaperones are needed! *Register early; space may be limited!*



## Confirmation Fall Retreat

It's a great time to get away to Good Earth Village for twenty-four hours. This will be a great opportunity to bond with small groups, other confirmands and mentors. We'll worship, play night games, hike, and have some special devoations together. Contact Mike Skunes to sign-up.

### WHEN:

#### *Grades 6-8*

Friday, Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. - Saturday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

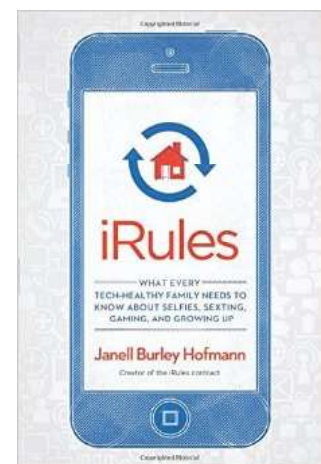
#### *Grade 9*

Saturday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. - Sunday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.

**COST:** \$30 (Please let us know if this would be a barrier to your child's participation - we want everyone to make it!)

## Join us for a Parent Discussion!

In an era of selfies, sexting, gaming, and social media, it can be difficult to navigate healthy relationships with emerging technologies in our families. This is why we'd like to invite you to join us for a discussion facilitated by Pr. Pam from 6:15-7:15 p.m. Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>. The discussion will feature insights from the book "iRules" by Janell Hoffman and will focus on how parents and youth can covenant with each other to create healthy usage and boundaries with new technology.



## Thanksgiving Pie Social

Once again this year, we will be having our Thanksgiving Pie Social following our Thanksgiving Eve service. We need some folks to volunteer to be in charge of the evening. If you can help with one of the following jobs please contact Christy Hall-Holt at 645-4429. Thank you for considering volunteering!

### Thanksgiving Pie Social Volunteers

Coordinator for the Pie Social

Help plate pies for the social

Help clean up after the social



## Sign Up to Help with Wednesday Meals

All of St. John's community, friends, and neighbors are invited to gather together on Wednesday evenings in St. John's Hall for a delicious meal and warm fellowship. This meal is sustained through people sharing their Time and Talent, and a free will offering. Would you consider making a goal of giving 15 - 30 minutes of your time per month to help put on Wednesday Meals? Here are examples of ways you can contribute: leading the prayer, food prep, facilitating a mixer or table discussion, serving, helping with clean up. The next five Wednesday Meal menus and helper sign up sheets are ready online. Please click on the following link to sign up [https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/group\\_detail.php?group\\_id=109](https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/group_detail.php?group_id=109). Or you may also call or email Christy at 645-4429 or [sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org).

## Hospitality Group #8 is on Deck for November!

Hospitality Groups share the responsibility of our Sunday morning hospitality functions. Plus this is a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other while working together to provide a warm welcome to all. Each adult needs to sign up for at least two tasks during their month for the group system to work well. Younger family members are encouraged to participate too. Each household at St. John's is part of one of nine monthly hospitality groups that serve on a rotating basis. The next time Group 8 serves will be on the Sundays in August of 2016.

### What Hospitality Functions Do Monthly Groups Perform on Sundays?

- Welcome Desk – 1 person per Sunday from 8:10 a.m. until the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> Service
- Greeter – 4 people minimum (2 arriving 20 minutes before each service - Commons & Southwest Doors)
- Communion Preparers & Servers – 2 people to prepare & clean up communion, 1 or 2 communion servers per service
- Coffee Service – Treats (4 people provide 4 dozen each), set up and serve (4 people from 8:00-10:00 a.m.), dishwashers and clean up (4 people from 9:30 a.m. – complete)

If you are physically unable to perform the services listed above, please communicate with Christy. Each season of our lives provides different ways to contribute to our community.

If you enjoy helping coordinate hospitality, please consider being a co-leader for your group. Let Christy know as soon as possible if you would like to serve as a co-leader.

### SIGNING UP

The best way to sign up is through Church Community Builder, St. John's online directory and information system. Go to the St. John's website homepage: <http://stjohnsnorthfield.org/> and click on the link in the upper right corner.

You may also sign-up in person on sheets for Group 8 in the Commons or by calling Christy at 645-4429.

Thank you!



# Reflections

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## St. John's Funeral Hospitality Group from Jane Gelle's Perspective...

St. John's has many long-time members and several families who have been in the congregation for three or more generations. According to our church archivist, Barbara Walters, so far in the year that has passed since All Saints Day, St. John's has hosted 34 funerals.

Jane Gelle became a leader of the St. John's funeral hospitality group shortly after retiring from her teaching career. As Jane is making a transition out of leading funeral hospitality, we wanted to learn about her experience. Here is an interview so you can hear from Jane in her own words.

How long have you been involved in providing hospitality for funerals?

*About 20 years. I retired in 1993 from teaching and the first written records I have of the funeral hospitality group are from 1995. I started a little before then.*

Who are some of the people you worked with at the beginning of your time with the funeral hospitality group?

*First of all, Judy Smith. She was there in the beginning. And Elsie Nelsen and Ruth Hansen. Sue Rudser and I were co-chairs together for both service groups and funerals, and then Sue continued with service groups, and I started working solely on funerals.*

How have the menu options changed over the years?

*There were only afternoon funerals when I started, so we didn't have funeral lunches. At that time the refreshments were egg salad and ham salad sandwiches, cake, and coffee. The funerals were usually at 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. and so we would have "a little lunch." We started adding an option to simply serve nuts and mints fairly recently.*

When did you start making the hot lunches?

*Maybe around 2003. This was because people started having funerals in the mornings. It was a gradual change.*

What is your favorite part of working on funeral receptions?

*My favorite part is working with so many different people and learning about their gifts. There are just so many who are so willing. I've had calls from people saying "Don't forget me. I'm perfectly happy to help."*

Some churches provide sandwiches and bars and coffee exclusively and do not have a hot main course. What do you foresee as the future of St. John's funeral ministry?

*That's a good question, a very good question. I really can't answer that. It would be what the wishes of the people following us would want. It is more and more of a complex situation than when we started. The family wishes are greater. We honor that. We've had some unusual meals and situations and we've always honored that because it has been so important to the families.*

What kinds of people can expect to find fulfillment in providing funeral hospitality?

*Sometimes when we have extreme circumstances, like 3 funerals in 8 days, we do reach out to more people in the congregation. I asked someone I had never asked before if she would bring a cake. Her face just lit up. I think it helps people feel like we are saying, "Yes, you are one of us." I know they are working outside the home, but in an emergency, people are so willing to help. We have a nice group of people who provide cakes regularly.*

What else would you like to say about your experience with the funeral hospitality group?

*"There are a staggering number of people who have been involved." Bob Gelle, who has also been involved for many years said, "Don't forget the men." Jane continues, "This is new-- when I started I don't think there were any men who were involved in the kitchen. But now there are a lot of them--serving, bussing, and working the dishwasher."*

# *Learning and Fellowship*

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## **Sunday Learning and Fellowship in November**

*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.*

### **November 1:**

*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 Beauty - Biblical Views on Beauty, Sanctuary.*

*Accompany, Room 205.*

### **November 8:**

*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 Welcome - Reconciling in Christ Conversation Continued, Sanctuary.*

*Accompany, Room 205.*

*Toddler Time, Room 20.*

### **November 15:**

*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 the Saints - A Presentation on Iconography, Sanctuary.*

*Accompany, Room 205.*

*Bold Cafe, Fireside Room.*

### **November 22:**

*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 Music - Sunday Morning Concert Series, Sanctuary.*

*Accompany, Room 205.*

### **November 29:**

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

*St. John's Forum: For the Beauty of Scripture - An Introduction to Year C and the Gospel of Luke, Sanctuary.*



# Mission Outreach

## You can help our Sunday School Kids by donating "Birthday Bag" Supplies

The Northfield Community Action Center, supplies "Birthday Bags" for families in our community to pull off a special birthday celebration for their children. From October 11 until November 8, Sunday school kids, along with congregation members, may donate one or more of the supplies to our donation box in either the lower and upper Commons. In November, the kids will pack the bags and bring them to the CAC to be distributed.

Here's a list of supplies needed to fill a Birthday Bag:

- Cake mix (prefer "add water only" kind)
- Can of Frosting
- Box of Birthday Candles
- Package of Balloons
- Hats, Streamers, Banners, or anything that would help make a birthday party special.



This is a simple and fun way to share with our neighbors the many blessings we have been given. Thank you!

## The Christmas Sharing Tree, November 15 – December 4

Our annual "Giving Tree", a program sponsored by the Northfield Community Action Center, will be displayed in St. John's Commons from **November 15 - December 4**.



The Giving Tree is decorated with paper stars. Each star has a gift idea, along with the name, age and gender of a child whose family needs help purchasing Christmas gifts this year.

Purchased gifts should be placed, unwrapped, with the paper star attached, and put under the tree by Friday, December 4. In addition, we will also offer gifts to our Companion Synod, the Central Diocese of Tanzania. The tree will be decorated with 50 envelopes for making donations to the Tanzania Scholarship Fund. Thank you in advance for your donations!

## Community Christmas Dinner

Holiday alert! Christmas is coming but not soon, even though Menards and other stores have erected tree forests and filled their aisles with decorations! When it does, however, St. John's will again host the community Christmas dinner as in past years. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, this dinner is St. John's gift to the community and is open to anyone who comes at no cost. Immediately after Thanksgiving, we will be recruiting donations of food and labor from members of the Congregation. Many workers are needed for various 1.5-2 hour shifts on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> and donations of food including salads, desserts, and potato bakes are also needed. We will welcome your contribution.

Char and Bill Carlson [507-645-9642](tel:507-645-9642)

Ted Peterson [507-645-8342](tel:507-645-8342)

Jeanette and Jon Rondesvedt [507-645-2733](tel:507-645-2733)

Julie and Howard Thorsheim [507-645-9210](tel:507-645-9210)



# News and Events

## Thanksgiving Eve Worship - Wednesday, November 26

5:45 p.m.

Everyone's Choir Rehearsal in Room 209

(Any and all singers 4th grade through adult are welcome to sing.)

6:30 p.m.

Worship

7:15 p.m.

Pie Social in St. John's Hall

## Advent Fair, Wednesday, December 2

Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> in St. John's Hall. Come enjoy our Wednesday Night Meal, the Fair Trade Fair, (through SERRV that improve the lives of artisans and farmers worldwide), and Advent activities for all ages. We encourage you to bring friends. The more the merrier!

Time: 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.: Wednesday Meal

5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.: Advent Fair Activities and the Fair Trade Fair

### Can you help with Advent Fair?

- Dinner – set-up, serve or clean-up
- Set up and/or sell handcrafts from around the world
- Help with crafts/shops
- Food demonstration – show how to make your favorite Christmas treat!



Contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions at [children@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:children@stjohnsnorthfield.org).

An event centered around a play  
**When Grown Men Cry**

Please join us for a short drama and two speakers marking the plight of Palestinian farmers experiencing the destruction of their olive groves and livelihoods. The story *When Grown Men Cry* was written by Muhammed Daraghmeh and scripted by Br. Thomas Houde. It will be directed by Marie Gery. As Coordinator of the International Friends of Sabeel Society in Jerusalem, Janet Lahr Lewis commissioned the play in 1998. Br. Thomas Houde wrote the script for the play while Director of Theater at Bethlehem University.  
— The play is as timely today as it was in 1998. —

**Saturday, November 7th - 7:30pm**  
Northfield Arts Guild Theater

Guest Speakers: Janet Lahr Lewis and Br. Thomas Houde  
Music: Yaron Klein (Palestinian Oud)

Tickets: \$10  
- Purchase online at [whengrownmencry.brownpapertickets.com](http://whengrownmencry.brownpapertickets.com)  
or at SWAG, 423 Division St, Northfield MN

"If the olive trees  
knew the hands  
that planted them,  
their oil would have  
become tears ..."  
— Palestinian poet,  
Muhammad Daraghmeh

Presented by Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel • [info@NJPMN.org](mailto:info@NJPMN.org)

## When Grown Men Cry

A drama based on a true story from Palestine will take place Saturday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Northfield Arts Guild Theater.

Northfielder Marie Gery will direct this play written by the former Director of Theater in Bethlehem. This play will tell the story of the uprooting of olive trees which will help one to understand the story behind the daily headlines from Israel/Palestine.

The \$10.00 tickets are available at Swag (423 Division) or online at [whengrownmencry.brownpapertickets.com](http://whengrownmencry.brownpapertickets.com) or contact Ruth Hansen at [tulla\\_ruth@msn.com](mailto:tulla_ruth@msn.com).

This is presented by Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel.  
[Info@NJPMN.org](mailto:Info@NJPMN.org)

# News and Events

## Kitchen Basics Orientations Continue!

Have you thought you might like to be part of the crew for a Wednesday Night Meal, or help prepare a lunch for a funeral? Or as part of a Hospitality Group, are you going to volunteer to serve Coffee or prepare Communion? Get training from experienced folks so that you can serve and become an expert too! Contact Christy Hall-Holt either by phone (645-4429) or email to let us know which of the following dates will work for you:

Wednesday 11/4, Sunday 11/8, Wednesday 11/18,  
Sunday 11/22, Wednesday 12/2, Sunday 12/13

## Northfield ACT on Alzheimer's Community Summit, November 10, Registration Begins at 8:30 a.m. Bethel Lutheran Church

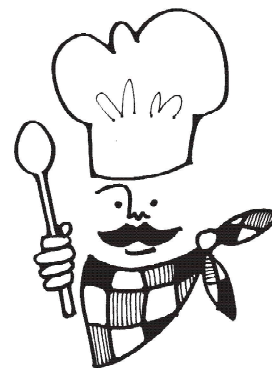
Learn more about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias at a Community Summit to be held on Tuesday, November 10 at Bethel Lutheran Church. The Summit is sponsored by Northfield ACT on Alzheimer's.

Learn about the 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's. Learn how to care for yourself as you give care. Learn how to engage your family in caregiving and decision-making. And learn what resources are available for you and your loved ones in Northfield.

89,000 people in Minnesota have Alzheimer's disease. One in nine people over age 65 has Alzheimer's disease. 245,000 caregivers are providing care for family members in Minnesota. Projections are showing that the number of new cases of Alzheimer's disease will double by 2050. Alzheimer's affects us all. Learn more about this devastating disease.

Cost for the Summit is \$15, with coffee, pastries and lunch included. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the Keynote Speaker beginning at 9:15. Adult Day Care will be available for those who need care for family members, with previous arrangements. Online registrations will be accepted at: [www.northfieldseniorcenter.org/events/events/](http://www.northfieldseniorcenter.org/events/events/) or in-person at Three Links Care Center, Northfield Retirement Community and the Northfield Senior Center.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, November 10 to learn more about Alzheimer's disease, recognizing its signs and available resources in Northfield. Register today.



## 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, November 4**  
Pizza Burgers

**Wednesday, November 11**  
Chicken and Noodles

**Wednesday, November 18**  
Potato Bar

**Wednesday, November 25**  
Thanksgiving Eve - No Meal

Free will offering appreciated!

Come, Share a Meal!

# News and Events

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## **Don't Miss Out on the New Picture Directory for St. John's!**

Thank you to all the families that have scheduled photography for our upcoming picture directory. There are still plenty of appointments times available for those that need to sign up. Sign up in three convenient ways:

1. Schedule your appointment online.
2. Look for sign-up tables on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings in the Commons area.
3. Or for assistance, call Leah in the main office at 507-645-4429.

Dates:

Tuesday, October 27 – Saturday, October 31

Tuesday, November 3 – Saturday, November 7

Monday, November 23

Tuesday, November 24

Hours:

Weekdays from 2:00-9:00 p.m.

Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

## **From the Stewardship Board**

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Did you know that St. John's has an online giving program? Through online giving, you may choose to have your offering contributions to St. John's automatically paid from your checking account, savings account or credit/debit card. You can specify the amount of your contribution as well as the frequency (one time, weekly or monthly).

### **What are the advantages of online giving?**

Advantages of online giving for you include:

- You no longer need to write checks and prepare envelopes every week.
- You'll never miss a Sunday offering because you forgot your checkbook.
- Your offering in support of the important ministries and programs at St. John's will continue to be received on a regular basis, even when you are unable to attend Sunday worship due to travel, work or other circumstances.

Advantages of online giving for St. John's include:

- Reduces the amount of work and cost to process your contribution.
- St. John's, like most churches, experiences a decline in contributions during the summer months (the "summer slump"), which can make bill paying challenging during this time. Online giving can help to maintain a more level cash flow.
- Saves the cost of envelopes for those who contribute exclusively via online giving.

### **Where can I get more information?**

More information is available on the St. John's web site at <http://stjohnsnorthfield.org/visitors/giving/online/>. Or, you may call (507.645.4429) or e-mail ([office@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnorthfield.org)) the church office.

### **How do I get started?**

Signing up is easy! Go to the St. John's web site at [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/visitors/giving](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/visitors/giving) and click the "online giving" link in the first paragraph of the web page. Or, if you prefer, ask for an authorization form in the church office.

## From the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board:

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**Thank you** to all of you for your help with the Meals on Wheels program from September 27-October 17. We were responsible for 92 spots for meal delivery and filled all of them because of your willingness to be a part of this program. We truly appreciate all of you for all that you do! We also extend a big thank you to Nancy Kluver and Chuck Jacobson for managing the volunteer sign-up.

**We were able to donate funds to an important program in our community.** We wanted to introduce it to you so that you are aware of it, as one of the many local programs we have in Northfield that help our area. The program is "Northfield Area Learning Center Backpack Food Program" and is operated out of the Area Learning Center (ALC) located at Longfellow School. Because of the high percentage of students qualifying for free and reduced lunches, the ALC students recognized the need for food on the weekends for those families. In the "thank you" letter we received, they told us that each week bags are filled with food and delivered by the students to social workers in our local schools and Three Links Apartments. The food is then given to families in need. Last year almost 500 bags of food were delivered. Our donation was truly appreciated!

### **ELCA World Hunger Appeal**

Do you remember when?

When you could not sleep because of hunger pains in your stomach? When you could not concentrate or give adequate attention to your responsibility because of a headache from lack of food?

No? That's because we are a privileged people in the world. We have good access to food and clean water. But there are millions of people on this planet who live in poverty and do not have adequate food and water. Experts tell us that nearly 1 billion people - one in eight people in our world today - live in poverty. Futurists tell us that the rising world population and the shortage of food and pure water could become a critical destabilizing factor in world politics.

The ELCA World Hunger Appeal is a program of the church that attempts to deal with this need by fighting hunger and poverty in nearly 60 countries around the world. The program supports hunger relief projects in education, maintains health clinics, promotes a Malaria Campaign at work through 13 Lutheran partners in Africa, gives aid for family and communities to develop businesses in poor areas, works to improve farming practices to increase food production, provides farm animals to help people to improve their standard of living, gives assistance through Lutheran Disaster Response to victims of nature disasters around the world, builds new water wells, and helps develop innovative solutions that get at the root causes of hunger. The goal of the World Hunger Appeal in 2015 is to raise \$22.5 million to support anti-poverty programs in the United States and world.

Jesus calls us to do what we can to help those suffering in poverty. He identifies with them so closely that he said that whenever we give to those in need, it is as if we do it to Jesus himself. In the final judgment scene in Matthew 25 he says to the righteous, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. . . . I needed clothes and you clothed me . . . I tell you the truths, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." And to the unrighteous he says, "Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."

In the Letter of James we are admonished to take action on behalf of the poor. James 2 reads, "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well: keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

We at St. John's are having special offering in November for the World Hunger Appeal. There are special envelopes in your offering boxes for this offering. However you give, be sure to mark your offering for World Hunger. Please write checks to St. John's, and note World Hunger on the memo line.

Be as generous as you can. Jesus and James would like that!

# October Actions

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## **Baptisms**

October 25, 2015: Cara Kathleen Korba, daughter of Loretta and Daniel Korba

## **Deaths**

Dorothy Johnson, October 4, 2015

Deborah Jacobs, October 5, 2015

Arnold Ostebee, October 11, 2015

Margaret Vanderkolk, October 14, 2015

Lanna Baker, October 16, 2015

## **Weddings**

October 3, 2015, Heidi Groth and Jesse Stinski

October 24, 2015, Krysten Ekenberg and Jesse Walters

## **Radio Broadcasts**

October 4, 2015, given in memory of Teddy Miller by Van Miller.

October 11, 2015, given by Dean and Dorothy Ostlie in celebration of their family and in memory of their parents.

October 18, 2015, given in memory of Arne Nelsen by Elsie Nelsen.

October 25, 2015, given in loving memory of Norman Hope by his family.

## **FROM BREAD FOR THE WORLD**

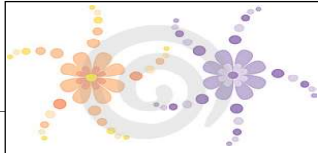
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An overwhelming number of people leaving prison or with felony convictions are at serious risk of hunger because employers don't want to hire them. Licensing prohibitions mean many can't work in certain fields. And even when they can get jobs, they earn much less than individuals without criminal records.

In addition, laws ban individuals with felony convictions from getting some types of federal assistance. Many can't receive SNAP (food stamps), TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or housing assistance. With no job, no shelter, and no help, many individuals with criminal records are denied a second chance.

But there is an opportunity to change this. Conversations are happening right now in Congress to develop and pass legislation that reforms our criminal justice system. Bread for the World asks us to contact our representative and senators urging them to be sure that lifting the SNAP and TANF ban is included in any criminal justice reform legislation. More information including an email form for contacting members of House and Senate at [bread.org](http://bread.org).





# **WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S**

Mission Statement:  
**TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY**  
Women of the ELCA includes ALL women of St. Johns!

## **November Meetings**

- November 5:** *Women of St. John's General Meeting*, at 7:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall  
**November 9:** *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  
**November 10 and 24:** *Knitters* meet at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang (507-645-4849)  
**November 11:** *Lydia* - 9:00 a.m. in St. John's Hall (Hostess Evie Bronson, 301-3059)  
*Sarah* - 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room (Contact Char Nelson, 663-0564)  
*Small Group Bible Study* - 10:00 a.m. in the Library at St. John's  
**November 12:** *Martha/Claudia* - 9:30 a.m. at Parkview West (Contact Marilyn Jacobson, 663-9060)  
*Elizabeth* - 1:30 p.m. at Barbara Walter's, 1204 Woodland Tr. (663-1055)  
*Abigail/Rebecca* - 2:00 p.m. at Parkview East  
**November 13:** *Mary* - 1:00 p.m. at Winnifred Alberg's, 11125 Kane Tr. (645-8630)  
**November 14:** *Breakfast Group* - 8:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room (Contact Kathy Mellstrom, 663-1451)  
**November 16 and 19:** *Quilters* meet at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall  
**October 25:** *Bold Cafe* - 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room

## **Women of St. John's Sponsored Programs**

**November 5, 7:00 p.m.**

The November General Meeting will be held on November 5 at 7:00 pm in St. John's Hall. Please invite your spouse and your friends to attend this meeting. Robert Flaten who has been an Ambassador will speak on the Refugee Crisis. With all that is going on in our world, we are fortunate to have someone in our congregation who knows the ins and outs of what immigrants and governments are going through at this particular time in our history.

*At this meeting we will have the Annual Thank Offering. Where does this money go?*

- **Program Resources:** More than 40 program resources bring Lutheran theological perspectives to timely and diverse topics.
- **GATHER Magazine and Bible Studies:** Your Women of the ELCA offerings provide for editors, writers, and all the creative work that goes into *Gather* and its award-winning Bible studies. Subscriptions cover only the cost of printing and shipping.
- **CAFÉ:** Winning "Best in Class" for seven consecutive years, Café is an online magazine designed for younger women. Café features articles, faith reflections, and a podcast, giving women more ways to engage in the mission and ministry of Women of the ELCA.
- **Daily Grace:** This smartphone app brings daily devotions, written almost entirely by women, to thousands of users every morning.
- **Other:** Materials for programs such as *Raising up Healthy Women and Girls and Discipleship and Spiritual Gifts*, a multi-session programs about grief, and study resources about the Christian year are among the most popular; Advocacy tools to advocate for justice; Social Media Outreach through Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, and our blog Ecumenical Collaboration and more.

## **Small Group Bible Study**

Please join Genevieve and David Quarberg on Wednesday, Nov.11 as they lead their third 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 morning, November 11.

Submit items for the **Voice** to Marilyn Calcutt ([merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com](mailto:merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com))

Submit information for the **Sunday Bulletin** to Mary Hoff ([jpmhof@msn.com](mailto: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*  
**Youth Ministry**  
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*Patsy Ophaug*



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Daylight Savings Time Ends  
Set Clocks Back One Hour  
Sunday, November 1, 2015  
at 2:00 a.m.