

Our Mission:
As followers of Jesus
Christ, the members of
St. John's Lutheran
Church welcome all peo-
ple to join us in celebrat-
ing God's grace, nurtur-
ing their faith, and reach-
ing out to the world in
love and service.

Inside this issue:

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for Grades 6th-8th



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

The *Voice* is a monthly pub-
lication of St. John's Luther-
an 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.

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Volume 56, Issue 4

April 2016

"Shower of Blessings!" St. John's Annual Youth Fundraiser Silent Auction and Breakfast on Sunday, April 10

Our fundraiser helps make our 2016 summer programming opportunities and other youth and children's programming financial possible for all families.

Fundraiser Schedule for the Day!

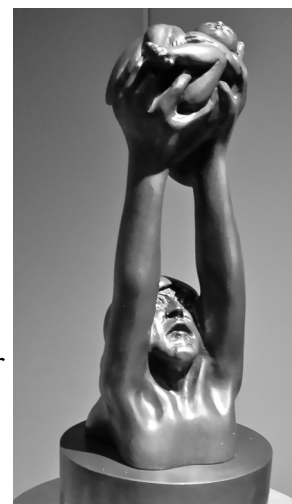
- 8:00 a.m. Silent Auction Begins with a **BUY IT NOW!** Option
Check out the donations given by our youth in the Commons area.
- 9:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
(\$6 per person/ \$24.00 per family)
Pancakes, Sausages, Fresh Fruit, Juice and Coffee
- 10:40 a.m. Breakfast and Silent Auction Ends

If you have an item or service to donate please complete the form on page 14 and bring to the Church Office by April 3rd.

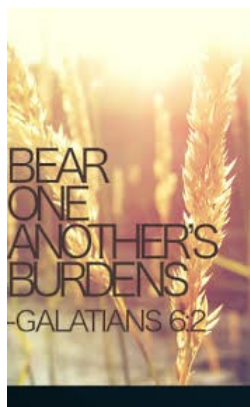


Poetry & Sculpture Forum and Potluck

You'd better mark *Sunday the 17th of April* as a red-letter date on your calendar. In case you've been curious about the sculptures that have appeared of late in different places around the church - in the Library, the Undercroft, the Commons, and St. John's Hall - the cat is finally out of the bag. They are here on loan from their artist, Mac Gimse, St. Olaf Emeritus Professor of Art. The poems inspired by the pieces of sculpture are likewise his work. Together they represent aesthetic, deeply poignant responses to several Nobel Peace Prize recipients and the cause of global harmony. A forum focusing on the poems and their accompanying sculptures will take place between services that day. Also, after the second service all are invited to assemble in St. John's Hall for a Potluck Lunch and program at which creative responses by a selection of members (young and not so young alike) will be featured. There will be some time for Q&A as well. This is a show of celebration, but unlike most art exhibits, this one encourages tactile as well as visual and auditory appreciation. Be there!



Stephen Ministry: The Importance of Listening



Listening is an important skill for all of us to develop. Has someone asked you to "Listen to me!" recently? How did you react? Have you wished that someone would just listen to you for once? When has being listened to helped you deal with a crisis or simply get through the day?

Stephen Ministers are trained to listen. They are active listeners who pay careful attention without interrupting. They allow their care receivers time to take a breath, reflect on what is happening, and then talk. All of us need help at times in our lives, especially when dealing with difficult situations. Family members, pastors,

friends, and healthcare specialists may provide that help. So may a Stephen Minister who knows how to listen.

Types of situations in which Stephen Ministers provide care include:

- Death of a loved one or facing one's own death
- Illness of a loved one or a personal illness
- Financial or job-related stresses
- Feelings of guilt, loneliness, or worthlessness
- Difficulties with family relationships, including separation from loved ones

continued on page 8

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

Grief Support Ministry

Northfield Grief Support Coalition:

A grief support group will continue meeting on Mondays through April 11th, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. For more information contact Nancy Topp at (507) 254-7878.

A grief support group will meet on Tuesdays beginning April 19th through May 24th, from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., at United Methodist Church. For more information contact Sherry Bunch Quas at (507) 645-4300. *Please call to pre-register.

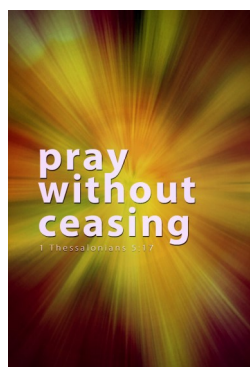
*The following
St. John's members
died in this month last year.
We list them so that we can
remember these loved ones
and their families in prayer
"with reverence and affection."*

*April 8, 2015
Christine Lee*

*April 20, 2015
Art Schuette*

*April 23, 2015
Joyce Schrader*

*April 29, 2015
Marion Gilsdorf*



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 (507) 663-1097.

From our Pastors...

Who do YOU say that I am?

It's one of the hardest questions Jesus asks. And, no matter how well you know the creeds, it's a question that can animate a lifetime of faith and conversations.

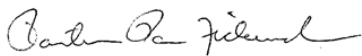
Right now our culture is wrought with conversations about identity. Although millions of people claim to be "American," or "Christian," individuals and institutions seems to arrive at very different definitions of what that should look like in the living. Who we say Jesus is, and who we say we are as a result, are not one-size-fits-all answers.

This month we have many opportunities to ponder both our unity and our diversity. In our Poetry Sunday on April 17th, different members of St. John's will offer poetic reflections on Mac Gimse's sculpture. What you see and how you interpret these works will be a meeting place for rich conversation. (see front page)

Our ongoing conversations about what it means to be Lutheran will also continue this month with a "Part 3" Lutheranism 101 on the theology of the cross on April 3rd. These conversations about our theological identity will shape how we move into 2017 and the commemoration of the Protestant Reformation.

Also this month we offer a small group conversation about the tenets of Islam and our Christian response to another faith. The study "My Neighbor is Muslim," sponsored by Lutheran Social Services and written by Luther Seminary professors, gives us a chance to know more about our Minnesota neighbors, but also to ponder how we respond from the core of our own faith to those who differ from us. (see page 10)

In this Easter season, the church proclaims that Jesus is the one God raised from the dead, the "first fruits" of a resurrection which is our true hope in the midst of this dying world. It is our hope that in our worship and in our conversations throughout this month, you will be equipped to know Christ and live into that promise of hope. Blessed Easter!



Pastor Pam



Pastor Jonathan



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Important Dates to Remember!

Prayer Buddy Get-Together

Wednesday, April 6, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Sunday School Schedule

April 3, 10, 17, 24 Sunday School

Wednesday Afterschool Programming

April 6, 13, 20, 27

Catechism for Grades 4 and 5

April 6, 13, 20, 27

3rd Grade CAT Retreats

Wednesday, April 6, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, May 4, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

Annual Youth Fundraiser

Sunday, April 10

3rd Grade CAT Retreats

3rd graders, and their parents, are invited to attend the 3rd Grade Catechism retreats on Wednesday, April 6th, and Wednesday, May 4th, from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Undercroft.

- April 6th is January's rescheduled retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism.
- May 4th is a retreat on the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

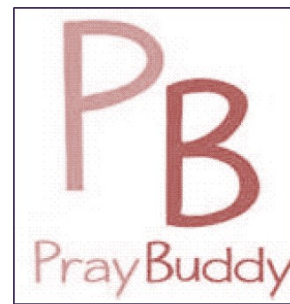
Please RSVP to Julie Brehmer at (507) 645-4429 or children@stjohnsnorthfield.org if you are unable to attend.



Prayer Buddy Get-Together

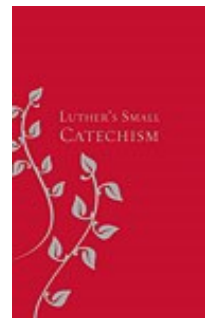
During the Lenten season, 4th and 5th grade Catechism kids were paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their "Prayer Buddy". Prayer Buddies are asked to pray for their child from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

On Wednesday, April 6th, we will have an informal get-together in the Fireside Room during our Wednesday Night Meal starting at 5:30 p.m. for Prayer Buddies and their child/family to share their experience. Thank you for being a part of Prayer Buddies.



4th and 5th Grade Catechism Resumes April 6, 13, 20, 17

4th and 5th graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, April 6th. Cat classes meet in the lower level of St. John's from 4:15 - 4:45 p.m.; 5th grade meets in the Undercroft studying the Apostles' Creed and 4th graders in their Sunday school classroom, studying the Ten Commandments. Don't forget your CAT books!



Hope You'll Join Us this Summer!



June 13-16

**Programs hosted by the following churches:
Bethel, Emmaus, St. Peter's and St. John's**

Surf Shack for Age 2 (by 1/1/16) – Kindergarten (completed)

Starts on Monday, June 13 thru Thursday, June 16 from 9:15 – 11:15 a.m. at St. John's!

Surf Shack for Grades 1-4 (completed)

Starts on Monday, June 13 thru Thursday, June 16 from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. at St. Emmaus Church!

The cost is \$10.00 per child with a \$20.00 family limit.
VBS registration is appreciated by June 1st for planning purposes.

Registration forms can be found at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org under "Children Ministries" or in the Commons at St. John's.

Scholarships are available for all summer camp opportunities.

We need many volunteers for Surf Shack!

Crew leaders – lead a small group of children to various stations
Station Leaders and Assistants – lead music, crafts, games Bible storytelling, snacks
Decorating and Prep – prior to VBS
Help with Registration on Monday, June 13
Nursery Care

Please call Julie Brehmer at (507) 645-4429 or email at children@stjohnsnorthfield.org or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet!

Sunday Learning and Fellowship in April

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.

April 3:

*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.***

*Adult Forum: Lutheranism 101 - Theology of the Cross, **Sanctuary.***

April 10:

*Youth Fundraiser: Silent Auction and Breakfast, **Commons and St. John's Hall.***

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

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

*Toddler Time, **Room 20.***

April 17:

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

*Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), **St. John's Hall.***

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

*Adult Forum: Poetry & Sculpture Forum with Mac Gimse, **St. John's Hall.***

*Bold Cafe, **Fireside Room.***

April 24:

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

*Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), **St. John's Hall.***

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

*Adult Forum: "A People for God's Name" - Believing and Belong in Luke-Acts with Dr. Eric Barreto, **Sanctuary***

*New Member Luncheon at 11:45 a.m., **St. John's Hall***



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.

Free will offering appreciated!

Wednesday, April 6
Beef Stew

Wednesday, April 13
Pulled Pork Sandwiches

Wednesday, April 20
Pizza Burgers

Wednesday, April 27
Chili Mac



Radio and Video Broadcasts

Worship services are
broadcast on KYMN 1080
AM from 8:30-9:30 a.m.
central time every Sunday.
Christmas Eve, Christmas
Day, and Good Friday ser-
vices are also broadcast.

If you would like to spon-
sor a broadcast (\$160),
please contact the church
office by phone.

Video broadcasts of St.
John's worship services
can be seen on Northfield
Community Television
(NTV) - cable channel 187,
Mondays at 7:30 p.m and
Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

Radio Broadcasts

March 6, 2016
Given in memory of Helene Anglin by her family.

March 13, 2016
Given in memory of Ken Struss and Elmer & Cora
Schultz by Marie Struss and family.

March 20, 2016
Given in memory of Gene Schrader by family and friends.

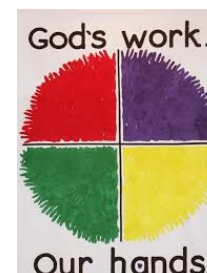
March 27, 2016
Given in loving memory of Don McRae from Marilyn
McRae Raadt and family.

***" Help us keep
this ministry
alive and
sponsor a
broadcast!"***

Acts of Ministry

Baptisms

April 3, 2016
Emery Ann Tussing
daughter of Abbey and Andrew Tussing



St. John's Refugee Resettlement Information



The idea of assisting in resettlement of refugees is a venerable idea at St. John's. This year, the idea percolated up among St. John's members, but it was the Women of St. John's group (Women of the ELCA) who brought it to the church council. The church council asked a small group to look into feasibility, that group reported back to the council, and the council voted to proceed. The plan currently is that St. John's will partner with Christ Church Lutheran in south Minneapolis to sponsor a refugee family through Lutheran Social Services. The family we assist in re-

settling will live in the Twin Cities, as that is where LSS currently places refugees. There are several reasons for this, among them: 1) Housing and employment are more readily available. 2) Refugees will be close to other recent immigrants from their home countries. And 3) Lutheran Social Services is better able to fulfill its commitment to provide professional social workers to all new refugee families for the first three months.

As a sponsoring church we will contribute both financial resources and carry out support tasks. St. John's commits to contrib-

ute toward the first six months of rent for a refugee family, and, in partnership with members of Christ Church Lutheran, take on several volunteer tasks. Lutheran Social Service professionals take care of finding housing, furniture, jobs and language classes.

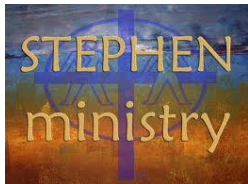
If you have questions or if you want to volunteer for one of the many volunteer teams, please contact one of the co-coordinators of this project, Sharon Flaten at (507) 301-4123 or cassakr@gmail.com or Solveig Zempel (663-0451 or zempel@stolaf.edu).

Stephen Ministry: The Importance of Listening

continued from page 2

- Challenges related to a move, a new environment, or a family change (birth of a child, divorce)

Paul Tillich said, "The first duty of love is to listen." If you or someone you know need a listener's loving care and support, please call one of the pastors at (507) 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at (507) 645-8445.



St. John's members being trained as Stephen Ministers. Back row (l-r) Mary Cisar, David Hagen, Lareyna Iqbal, Alan Marks, Neil Rowley, and Alyssa Ness. Front row (l-r) Deb Christensen, Lynette Marks, Christy Hall-Holt, and Linda Beckman.

The Minnesota Tradition with the National Lutheran Choir

Join the National Lutheran Choir (NLC) for a concert celebrating and honoring the rich tradition of choral music in Minnesota: past, present and future. Works by choral legends, F. Melius Christiansen, Olaf C. Christiansen, Paul J. Christiansen, Leland Sateren, Kenneth Jennings, René Clausen, Larry Fleming, and current NLC artistic director, David Cherwien, will be celebrated and represented during this concert. Plus, hear a new work by St. Olaf graduate and composer Ralph Johnson, commissioned for this concert in honor of the NLC's 30th anniversary!



Friday, April 29, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church

Tickets: Adult \$25 | Senior \$23 | Student \$10 | 17 and under FREE
Call Brown Paper Tickets **(800) 838-3006** or order online at www.NLCA.com. Tickets may be available at the door on the day of the concert. Please check the website, www.NLCA.com for the latest ticket information. Group discounts are available! Contact the NLC office directly at (612) 722-2301 for more information. Tickets will also be available in the Church Office or between services in April.

The National Lutheran Choir, under the direction of [Dr. David Cherwien](#), seeks to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music through the highest standards of performance and literature. To learn more about the choir, visit www.NLCA.com and search Facebook, Twitter and YouTube [@NLChoir](#).

“A People for God’s Name”: Believing and Belonging in Luke-Acts St. John’s Adult Forum with Dr. Eric Barreto April 24

Survey after survey demonstrates that ethnic diversity is only increasing in recent days and yet many of our churches remain culturally homogeneous. What might a church that invites diversity look like? We will turn to the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles to wonder together how God's gift of diversity might take root in our lives together. Too often, our tendency has been to imagine that our faith “solves” the “problems” of diversity by making us all one, the same. In contrast, the author of Luke-Acts views our differences as a gift to be treasured not a difficulty to be overcome. Join us on Sunday, April 24th, at 9:45 a.m. for this Adult forum, led by Dr. Eric Barreto, New Testament Scholar at Luther Seminary.



Dr. Eric Barreto



Parent Discussion Group: Talking to Youth about Dating Relationships

Parents of middle and high school kids are invited to join in a parent discussion April 13th and April 20th from 6:15 - 7:15p.m. (during Confirmation). Our topic will be around dating relationships and how parents have (or haven't!) engaged this tricky and awkward topic. An article for parents to read on this topic will be made available prior to the discussion.

My Neighbor is Muslim: A 7 Week Study Opportunity

*“...how many of
us really know
much about our
Muslim neighbors,
about the tenets
of their faith or
the varied ways it
is practiced
throughout the
world?”*

No matter where you turn these days, the Islamic faith seems to be at center stage. It's easy to fall into sloganizing or simple answers, but how many of us really know much about our Muslim neighbors, about the tenets of their faith or the varied ways it is practiced throughout the world? And are we as Christians prepared to articulate clearly where we have common concerns and where we differ from those of different faiths?

Lutheran Social Services has developed a 7 week study in cooperation with faculty from Luther Seminary that both presents the basics of Muslim faith and

practice as well as offers a Christian theological response to each topic.

This discussion group is already filled to capacity. If you'd like to read on your own, you may find the study material at: <http://www.lssmn.org/refugeeservices/study/>.

Let the pastors know if you are interested in a future opportunity for discussion.

News Bits...



John Schwehn, who served as an Interim Pastoral Intern at St. John's from August 2013 to April 2014, will be ordained into ministry on Saturday, April 9th,

at 2:00 p.m. at Christ King Lutheran, where he will be serving as Associate Pastor (1900 7th St. NW in New Brighton).

St. John's members are invited to the service, and clergy are invited to vest. The color of the day is red.

New Music Ensemble!

New Music Ensemble!

If you are a middle schooler or older, come join Jenny Pelletier for a new music group focused on percussion and global music! The group will incorporate drums, chimes and Orff instruments to provide accompaniment for congregational hymns or other special pieces. We start rehearsing Sunday, April 3rd, as part of the education hour. Please contact Jenny at pelletierfamily@outlook.com or Mike Skunes at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org for details.



Color Dash for Habitat for Humanity

Rice County Habitat for Humanity is hosting Northfield's first-ever Color Dash at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 9th, at the Northfield Middle School.

Check-in begins at 8:00 a.m.

The Color Dash is a 5K fun run/walk where color is splashed on you as you run with your family, friends and community!

Registration is \$40/person with significant discounts for families and students -

50% of the registration fees will go directly to Rice County Habitat!

For more information, to register, or volunteer go to:

www.habitatricecounty.org



From Bread for the World

U.S. policymakers and the public should understand the devastating toll of hunger and food insecurity on people's health, and they also need to know the economic costs.

Individual stories of how hunger ravages bodies and souls are sometimes reported in the media, with little apparent effect on the status quo. Policymakers and the public are less likely to hear about the economic costs.

Hunger and food insecurity cost the United States as a nation much more than we might realize. In 2014, the most recent year for which we have data, the estimated health-related costs of hunger and food insecurity in the United States were a staggering \$160.07 billion.

Hunger and food insecurity also cost us dearly in other ways: educational outcomes, labor productivity, crime rates, Gross

Domestic Product, and much more.

Bread for the World and its advocacy partners will use every opportunity to make these enormous costs a part of the public conversation about hunger, health care, and the federal budget.

For more information go to www.bread.org



Stewardship through Advocacy *by Sandi Gerdes*

We don't often think of advocacy as an act of stewardship. Working to alleviate challenging issues that threaten to oppress or destroy the people around is recognizing the beauty of all humankind. Together we can shine God's light upon the needs of the vulnerable.

I was astonished when I read the words "we champion the vulnerable" in St. John's distinctiveness platform. I was astonished because a friend and I were sharing time with Jennifer Koenig before she died, (and while I was congregation president). We were discussing the character of St. John's and Laura Baker Services. We were discussing this very idea — that St. John's mission as a church could be to "champion the vulnerable". We wrote those words on a small piece of paper that I have carried in my wallet ever since.

In Luke 13, Jesus says, "The first becomes last, the last becomes first." It's easy to interpret this as a

hierarchical order. As a church, we can take another approach to championing the vulnerable: we can see it as our responsibility to ensure that everyone has a space at the table. One body, many parts, all needed to make the body work. Jesus doesn't say that those who are poor, those who have disabilities, those who have been oppressed in their homeland, are exempt from the body. We can see it as all of your responsibility to speak up when we see someone, or some group, being treated inhumanely.

It can be a simple act, and it is an act of courage. It makes us vulnerable. Living in community means being vulnerable with one another. We won't always agree with each other and we don't all see the world in the same way. That's ok.

Christian community is a gift of the spirit to those who worship and serve together. That gift is best realized when we start by

making room for those people who we don't readily invite to the table.

Let's be an invitation, one to the other. And when needed, let's be an exhortation.

Invite someone new to join you at your table for Wednesday meal or coffee next week. Stretch outside your comfort zone. Offer to sit with the person who is sitting alone. Ask your neighbor their story. Take a risk and be vulnerable to being incorrect. Be a friend. When you hear that someone is not being treated the way we agree that people need to be treated, speak up.

As a community gathered together in God's name, let us work together to extend God's welcome to all, and in doing so, to champion the vulnerable, to hold each other accountable to be authentic in our welcome and our conversation, and to enjoy together the gift of community.



New Member Luncheon

We invite newcomers to St. John's to a lunch after worship on Sunday, April 24th. If you have not already received an invitation but wish to join St. John's, please contact Leah Garlie in the church office at (507) 645-4429 or office@stjohnsnorthfield.org.



WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S

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

April Meetings

- April 11:** Women of St. John's Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m. in Fireside Room
 Bible Study Leaders meet at 12 noon in the Fireside Room
- April 12 & 26:** Knitters meet at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang, 645-4849
- April 13:** **Lydia** - 9:00 a.m. in St. John's Hall for coffee, with Bible study to follow at 10:00 a.m.
 (bible study lead by Genevieve & David Quarberg in the Library)
Sarah - 9:30 a.m. at Char Nelson's, 306 Archibald Ln. Dundas, 663-0564
- April 14:** **Martha/Claudia** - 9:30 a.m. at Parkview West, contact Marilyn Jacobson, 663-9060
Elizabeth - 1:30 p.m. at Donna Paulsen's, 1000 Cannon Valley Dr. #115, 645-4647
Abigail/Rebecca - 2:00 p.m. at Parkview East
- April 15:** **Mary** - 1:00 p.m. at Marcia Yernberg, 780 Indigo Ln., 301-3720
- April 16:** **Breakfast Group** - 8:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room, contact Kathy Mellstrom, 663-1451
- April 18 & 21:** Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Monthly Meeting: "Food and Religion" **Thursday, April 7, 1:00 p.m.**

In keeping with the Women of St. John's theme for this year, "Sharing Our Abundance", the program for April will be "Food and Religion" and our speaker will be Trish Beckman, Assistant Professor of Religion at St. Olaf College.

This meeting will also be a business meeting for the Women of St. John's at which time there will be an election of the new officers for the 2016-2017 year.

We hope to see you in St. John's Hall on April 7th at 1:00 p.m.

Save the Date: Martin Luther - Art and Reformation

The Women of St. John's have purchased a quantity of tickets for a guided tour of the exhibit Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation at the Minnesota Institute of Art on November 5th. This exhibit features well over 100 objects that have never before traveled to America. Arrangements are being made for bus transportation. Watch for more information in future issues of the Voice and Sunday bulletins on how to purchase tickets.

Looking Ahead...10th Annual Triennial Gathering



"ALL ANEW"
 July 13-16, 2016
 Minneapolis Convention Center

Submit items for the **Voice** to Marilyn Calcutt (merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com)
 Submit information for the **Sunday Bulletin** to Mary Hoff (ipmhof@msn.com)

*"As a community of
 women created in
 the image of God,
 called to
 discipleship in Jesus
 Christ, and
 empowered by the
 Holy Spirit, we
 commit ourselves to
 grow in faith, affirm
 our gifts, support
 one another in our
 callings, engage in
 ministry and action,
 and promote
 healing and
 wholeness in the
 church, the society,
 and the world."*



St. John's Annual Youth Fundraiser Silent Auction and Breakfast Sunday, April 10

Our fundraiser helps make our 2016 summer programming opportunities and other youth and children's programming financially possible for all families. We thank you in advance for your participation and support!

Fundraiser Schedule for the Day!

- 8:00 a.m. Silent Auction Begins with a **BUY IT NOW!** Option
Check out the donations given by our youth in the Commons area.
- 9:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast
(\$6 per person/ \$24.00 per family)
Pancakes
Sausages
Fresh Fruit, Juice and Coffee
- 10:40 a.m. Breakfast and Silent Auction Ends

If you have an item or service to donate to the auction, fill out the form below and bring the donation to St. John's Main Office by Sunday, April 3rd. Please contact Julie Brehmer at St. John's, (507) 645-4429 or email; children@stjohnsnorthfield.org, if you have questions.

-----Tear off here-----

Name: _____

Phone Number/Email Address: _____

Please describe the donation: _____

Estimated value of your donation: _____

Please bring your donation to the Main Office by Sunday, April 3rd. Thank you!

Dear St. John's Community!

A big thank you to all of you, and especially for the co-leaders of our Hospitality Groups, for the dedication and hard work you have put into getting the new monthly group system off the ground! It hasn't been easy, and we are still working through glitches, but there is progress. Most importantly, more people are getting involved -- and that is helping our community grow in good ways.

We have some news to announce!

Monthly Groups that are no longer numbered, but named! We have realized after working through the first round of the new system, that it works best during the academic/school year. Last summer it was very difficult to figure out who was going to be in town when. So this summer, during the months of June, July, and August, we will have a "free for all" sign up to serve hospitality on Sunday mornings. We will still have Fruit Sundays, and we already have the Niemistos (Elinor and Paul) who are excited about coordinating July's Red, White, & Blue Sunday - maybe with some brass instrument accompaniment!

This is how the new groups will be named.

- Group 1 will now be called "January Hospitality Group, and so on as follows:
 - Group 2: February
 - Group 3: March
 - Group 4: April
 - Group 5: May
- (Summer Goes in Here)
- Group 6: September
 - Group 7: October
 - Group 8: November
 - Group 9: December

Note: The only way we can do it this way is to have sign ups for the extra duties that come with Holy Week and Christmas: these will be opened up for the entire congregation. For example, this month, Group 3's members did not serve extra roles during Holy Week. There was a separate sign up system for all the extra Holy Week needs (greeters, communion servers & preparers, etc.).

The benefits of this system are:

- The Group's members would know their month (it won't rotate).
- We can really hone the group membership. For example, the members who are snow-birds, or cabin-dwellers during the summer can be placed in a group that serves during a month they are in town.
- **And finally, maybe best of all, each group would only serve once per year.**

May God continue to equip us and establish the work of our hands for the building up of all.

With much gratitude,

Christy Hall-Holt
Shared Ministry Coordinator
(507) 645-4429
sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org



Senior Pastor
Pam Fickenschner

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

Youth Ministry
Mike Skunes

Congregation President
Brent Nystrom

St. John's Lutheran Church

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Synagogue Trip

Where: Temple of Aaron, St. Paul

When: Friday, April 15th

(Meet in St. John's Parking Lot at 5:45 p.m.)

What: As part of our studies of the Old Testament this year, youth 6th-8th grade are encouraged to attend our visit up to the Jewish synagogue, Temple of Aaron. We'll get a tour, a primer on Judaism, and get a chance to observe a Shabbat service.

Needs: We need drivers for this event! Contact Mike Skunes at (507) 645-4429 or youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org if you are interested in joining us that day.

