

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.

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

The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN. Articles for the *Voice* must be submitted by the 15th of each month to:
office@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

For information, contact the Church Office:
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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 5

May 2016

Congrats Class of 2016!

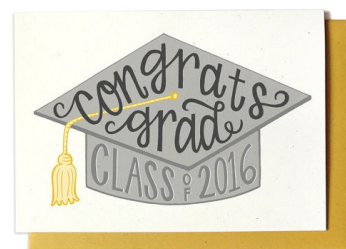
On Sunday, May 22nd, during the 10:45 a.m. service, St. John's will recognize our graduating High School Seniors.

After worship, the seniors and their families, along with the students' confirmation mentors will share lunch in St. John's Hall.

God's blessings on your future plans!

Congratulations to the following seniors from St. John's:

Dimitri Beeby, Jonah Berthelsen, Ryan Buck, Bailey Dell,
Evan Heather, Brandon Kimber, Wylie Kneser,
Cecilia Kryzda, Maddi Miller, Amanda Nelson,
Olivia Riggins, Lydia Storlie, Emily Westerback



Children's Choir Musical



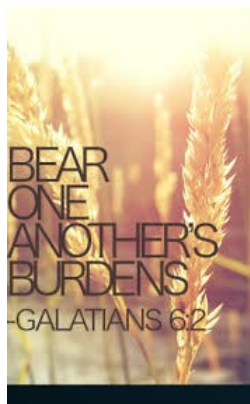
This year's Children's Choir Musical, "All Nature Sings", will be held on Wednesday, May 11th. Starting at 5:15 p.m., come for our Wednesday Night Meal and stay for the musical, starting at 6:00 p.m.

Join us for this special "Dinner Theater" event! Everyone is welcome!

Summer is almost here! **Worship Hours Change on Sunday, May 29**

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Worship

Are you away on a Sunday this spring?
Remember St. John's in your prayers and in your offerings.
You can give at any time by mail or online at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org.
We depend on your generosity all year long!



Stephen Ministry Needs You

Stephen Ministers rely upon prayer in our work more than upon any of the skills we learn in training, valuable as these are. One of the first things we learn, and must learn again and again, is that we ourselves have no ability to cure emotional or spiritual maladies. Our task is rather to walk faithfully beside our care receivers, to listen to their pain and sorrow and joy, and to entrust their healing to the power of Christ, in his own time and way.

This sounds simple, even obvious, but to learn this lesson most of us have to make radical changes in our thinking. It is natural

to want to relieve the pain of others, right now; it is natural to want to change things for the better, right now; it is natural to see things amiss and offer advice for setting them right. And these natural, merely human, responses in ourselves are what we strive to give up, for they would impede our ministry.

When we give up the idea that we know what is best for our care receivers and how to bring this about, when we accept that we are helpless on our own to solve their problems, then we are freed to turn to prayer, to throw ourselves upon Christ and to trust in his mercy and wisdom. We

pray for guidance in our ministry, we pray for healing in our care receivers according to Christ's will, and we pray with them if they desire. To do the work we are given, we rely upon our own prayers and upon the prayers of fellow Stephen Ministers. We ask members of the congregation for their prayers on behalf of this ministry, that our work may be fruitful. It is a quiet and underground work, like that of prayer itself.

If you or someone you know would benefit from a Stephen Minister please contact Joan Halvorson at 645-8445 or one of the pastors at 645-4429.

***"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 Tuesdays 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.

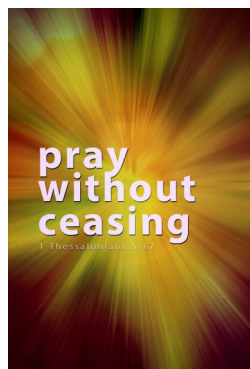
Grief Care Resource:

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.

*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."*

*May 6, 2015
Miriam Wellumson*

*May 15, 2015
Burnell Lockrem*



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.

From our Pastors...

At the end of January, Jo Franklin and I traveled to Anaheim, California to attend a week-long Stephen Ministry Leaders Training Conference. As the title of the conference implies, we were there to be trained to be leaders in Stephen Ministry.

Have you heard of Stephen Ministry? Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one layperson caring ministry that takes place in congregations. Members of the congregations are recruited as Stephen Ministers, which involves 50 hours of training to equip and empower them to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

Stephen Ministers are laypeople - Christian men and women - trained to provide individual care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment. In this ministry, we believe that Christ is caring for people through people.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Since 1975, more than 600,000 people from more than 12,000 congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers.

Here at St. John's, we have been a Stephen Ministry congregation since the early 1980s. Over the years, we have trained 140 members as Stephen Ministers. Currently, we have 18 active Stephen Ministers and 9 additional people are being trained in Stephen Ministry this year.

Throughout this year, we hope to build awareness around this long-standing ministry here at St. John's. Our current leadership team includes Jennifer Edwins, Jo Franklin, Pam Schwandt, Eulalie Smestad, Barbara Wilson, and myself. If you see these folks around, thank them for their hard work in leading Stephen Ministry.

With all this said, if you or someone you know is hurting and having a difficult time in life right now, consider whether a caring relationship with a Stephen Minister might be helpful, and please let me know.



P.S. If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please let me know and we will let you know about future trainings!

What Pam is Reading...

Pastors Pam and Jon are taking turns writing the monthly missive for the Voice. So on alternate months they are adding a new feature: "what we're reading." Since so many of you share your reading lists with us, we will offer you a peek each month into something on our nightstands.

Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World, by Serene Jones

Serene Jones, President of Union Seminary, spent 10 years trying to put together an understanding of the cross that made sense for victims of trauma. In this book she describes various people she has met over the years who have brought their own experience of trauma to church. Instead of finding one understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection that puts it all together, she suggests that Christ meets us precisely in the ways that life is *not* simply "put back together" after experiencing violence or traumatic loss. This book is rich in imagination and deep in its connection to theological tradition. My favorite part was a courageous look at the experience of miscarriage and perinatal loss; Jones suggests that the "death within the Trinity" of the cross might be an image for God's presence with those who experience such loss.



Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

May 1	Rotation Sunday School, Pentecost
May 8	Rotation Sunday School, Pentecost Toddler Time
May 15	Celebration for the last day of Sunday School with the theme, Pentecost

Wednesday Afterschool Programming

Wednesday, May 4, 11, 18

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday, May 4, 5:30 – 6:45 p.m., Undercroft
The Sacrament of Communion

Summer Activities

June 19-24	Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp for grades 2-5 (Registrations are still being accepted.)
June 13-16	VBS for age 2 (by 1-1-16) thru 4 th Grades (completed)

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat

Third graders, along with their parent(s), will meet Wednesday, May 4th, 5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion. Feel free to bring dinner from our Wednesday night meal to the retreat which will be held in the Undercroft.

At the retreat, our third graders, along with their parents, will be making Communion bread to share with the congregation at the May 8th worship services.

If you are unable to attend, please call Pastor Pam Fickenscher or Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.

Summer Nursery Schedule

Starting on Sunday, May 29th, the Nursery will be providing childcare only at the 10:00 a.m. service during the summer months. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in the Nursery, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer.

“Surf Shack” - June 13-16

Programs hosted by the following churches:

Bethel, Emmaus, St. Peters and St. John's



Surf Shack

Age 2 (by 1/1/16) – Kindergarten (completed)

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

Surf Shack

Grades 1-4 (completed)

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

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

Registration forms can be found on the St. John's website at www.stjohnsnorthfield.org under Children's Ministry 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 group of children to stations
Station Leaders and Assistants: lead music, crafts, games, Bible storytelling, snacks

Decorating and Prep: prior to VBS

Help with Registration: Monday, June 13

Nursery Care

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

Are You Attending Summer Camp this Year?

**Shores of St. Andrews, New London, MN
June 19-24 for Grades 2-5**

At this week long Bible camp, kids have lots of fun with friends laughing, learning and growing in their faith. Enjoy swimming, kayaking, games, campfires, fellowship, singing and more! This camp is offered through Green Lake Lutheran Ministries.

Check it out at www.gllm.org!

Parents of 6-10th Graders...

On Wednesday, May 18th (our last Wednesday meal of the year), we invite you to a conversation about faith formation with your kids, and the evolving confirmation program at St. John's. Pastors Pam and Jon will be facilitating the conversation and we look forward to hearing from you about your hopes and dreams for how our kids grow into an adult faith. Get your food at 5:15 p.m. and we will converse from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.



High School Senior Recognition and Lunch

When: Sunday, May 22, at 10:45 service and noon lunch

What: Families of High School Seniors, mark your calendars for May 22nd as we'll be celebrating your youth's journey with us here at St. John's and offer a blessing for their next steps. Watch for a letter in the mail asking for pictures and thoughts on future plans.



Families of Seniors, please RSVP for the luncheon by Sunday, May 15th.

Magical Mystery Tours

Magical Mystery Tours are events organized by the youth directors of churches in Northfield for middle school youth who've completed 5th-8th grades. The 'mystery' part of it is that we try to keep our destination a secret from our youth. We meet in the parking lot of Bethel Lutheran Church on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month during the summer, load up a bus and take off.

Past destinations have been Twin's games, waterparks, Feed My Starving Children, Sky Zone and many more.

Watch your mail for details on this summer's trips.

For additional information, contact Mike Skunes at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org or 645-4429.

"The 'mystery' part of it is that we try to keep our destination a secret from our youth."

Canoe the Cannon

Who: Everyone!

When: Saturday, May 21, 2:00 p.m.

Where: Meet at St. John's

What: Join us for a ton of fun as we paddle down the Cannon and end with a picnic at Riverside Park behind Ace Hardware. Sign up outside the Youth Room or email Mike at youth@stjohnsnorthfield.org



Sunday Learning and Fellowship in May

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.

May 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.

Adult Forum: Reconciling in Christ - Crafting a Welcome Statement Part 1, St. John's Hall.

May 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.

Adult Forum: Nonviolent Peaceforce - The Effectiveness of Nonviolent Action in Dangerous Situations, Sanctuary.

Toddler Time, Room 20.

May 15:

Coffee and Fellowship, Lower Level.

Sunday School Celebration, Lower Level.

Bold Cafe, Fireside Room.

May 22:

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

Adult Forum: Reconciling in Christ - Crafting a Welcome Statement Part 2, St. John's Hall.

May 29:

Rhubarb Sunday with Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall.

Sunday School Celebration - Sunday, May 15

SUNDAY SCHOOL
YEAR-END
CELEBRATION!

The congregation is invited to celebrate the last day of Sunday school for the school year! The celebration will take place in the lower level of St. John's from 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. with the theme, "Pentecost". Enjoy music, storytelling, refreshments, games, and crafts with your family and friends.

If you are interested in lending a hand to help at the event, contact Julie Brehmer by phone at 645-4429, or email at children@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

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, May 4
Sloppy Joes

Wednesday, May 11
Mac & Cheese and Hot Dogs

Wednesday, May 18
Fried Chicken Dinner

Wednesday, May 25
Cook's Choice



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

April, 3, 2016
Given by Wil & Gert Brosz in celebration of their 60th
wedding anniversary.

April 10, 2016
Given by Judy Christensen in memory of Fritjof (Fritz)
Christensen whose birthday was April 14th.

April 17, 2016
Given by Allen Hanson in memory of Lorraine Hanson
whose birthday was April 15th.

April 24, 2016
Given in memory of Roger and Lee Mahachek by Bev and
John Mahachek.

***" 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

Births

March 30, 2016: Ozzie Taggart, son of Suzanne and Steven Taggart

Deaths

Allen Swedin, April 6, 2016



Familiar and New

In the weeks and months to come, you will notice a distinctive, new graphic identity in St. John's communications and throughout our church home. It will include many recognizable elements, grounded in our almost 150 year history together.

Central to the design is the Greek cross. This ancient symbol is most likely

attributed to the Greek letter Chi – the initial of Christ – turned 45 degrees. Familiar to the congregation, the Greek cross is silhouetted in front of an abstract interpretation of St. John's unique stained-glass chancel window.

Gathered together, the individual elements of this abstraction form a circle – symbolic of the earth and

the coming together of community. These same elements move out beyond the edges of the circle, representing our call to embrace and extend God's beauty in the world.

A serif font was specifically chosen for "St. John's", as it acknowledges our historical roots, but does so in a distinctive manner.



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD, MN

Reconciling in Christ Forums Crafting a Welcome Statement, Part 1 & 2

***"Please join us
for these two
forums. Your
voice is
important and
welcomed in
this process."***

As many of you know, this year, we are intentionally exploring the topic of God's welcome, human sexuality, and the possibility of becoming a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Part of this process has included the possibility of St. John's crafting a welcome statement that specifically includes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Throughout these conversations, many people have been wondering - *what would such a welcome statement look like?*

On May 1st, at 9:45 a.m. in

St. John's Hall, we would like to begin that discussion of what such a welcome statement might look like and we want *your* input! At this forum, together, we will come up with words and phrases that help describe who St. John's is, who is welcome here, and why. For those not able to attend on May 1st, we hope to have a way for you to contribute to this process as well. Stay tuned.

In the three weeks that follow, a small group of people will take these words and phrases to draft

up three possible welcome statements for St. John's.

On May 22nd, at 9:45 a.m. in St. John's Hall, we will look at and discuss these drafts of welcome statements to get congregational reaction and response. No decisions will be made, no votes will be taken at this time. This is just the beginning step in considering what a new welcome statement might look like.

Please join us for these two forums. Your voice is important and welcomed in this process.

Special Offering in May for Lutheran World Relief *from the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board*

This month you will find a special offering envelope for donations to Lutheran World Relief.

LWR is a nonprofit organization that works with partners around the world to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice and human suffering.

In 2015 Lutheran World Relief reached more than 4,057,849 people working with 141 local partners on 126 projects in 36 countries. Their focus is on helping communities become more resistant to disasters and other emergencies, supporting women farmers who represent a majority of those in extreme poverty, and working with farmers to cope with changing climate con-

ditions. They have been a top rated nonprofit by Charity Watch, 4-star Charity Navigator and others.

St. John's has initiated intergenerational Sunday programs to highlight the hands on Lutheran World Relief projects that have been sponsored by the St. John's Women of the ELCA for many years. Our hope is to inspire all generations to continue this mission work by contributing time, talent and/or donations to the quilting, school kit, health kit and baby kit projects. When you purchase Fair Trade coffee and chocolates, sponsored by the Bold Cafe group, you are contributing to yet another LWR project.

Since 2011, when the current Syrian refugee crisis began, LWR has sent more than \$7 million of Quilts and Kits, reaching more than 337,000 refugees in Armenia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Serbia and Syria.

Please prayerfully consider a special donation this month to the important work of Lutheran World Relief. For donations by check, please write your check to St. John's Lutheran Church and indicate LWR on the memo line. You can learn more about their work and other ways to contribute by looking online at LWR.org.

Thank you to all who have contributed to these ongoing projects!



“LWR is a nonprofit organization that works with partners around the world to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice and human suffering.”

From Bread for the World

By a vote of 370 to 33, the House of Representatives has passed the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (H.R. 1567). This bipartisan bill will help alleviate hunger and malnutrition in developing countries. BFW now urges the Senate to pass its version of the legislation. The bill will affect many of the more than 795 million chronically malnourished people, including 159 million children, across the world. It

would also improve maternal and child nutrition, especially in the key 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday. The bill would put in place a strategy for the U.S. government to help hungry nations develop smart, long-term agricultural programs and ensure that these nations can independently meet the nutrition needs of their people. It builds on the success of the Feed the

Future Program that last year helped nearly 7 million smallholder farmers and reached more than 12 million women and children with vital nutritional programs.

BFW urges us to Call Senators Franken and Klobuchar to tell them we support the Global Food Security Act (S.1252) which will put us on course to end hunger by 2030.



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Update on Refugee Resettlement



St. John's Refugee Resettlement Co-coordinators and Pastor Pam had the pleasure of meeting Christ Church Lutheran's Refugee Resettlement team at St. John's recently, and we all look forward to receiving a refugee family and close collaboration in caring for them together.

Core Mentors from Christ Church Lutheran will meet with the family at least once a week to provide close companionship, and care for our family's needs. Currently, Core Mentors are two members of CCL (and their families). They would welcome being joined by an individual or family from St. John's, so if you have the time, transportation and wish to be part of the Core Mentor team, please let us know right away.

Lutheran Social Services provides training for the Core Mentors in basic acculturation and practical assistance to the refugee family. A St. John's Co-coordinator plans to attend the training session,

so that the St. John's team will have clear information on the mentoring process. Once training has taken place in the near future, we will be ready to receive a refugee family. When Lutheran Social Services is notified by the US State Department that a family has been cleared for resettlement in Minnesota, LSS will let us know. Sometimes Lutheran Social Service has a few months' notice, sometimes as little as a couple weeks!

In other news, on Wednesday, April 13th, several members of St. John's attended a very interesting and informative presentation on caring for immigrants and refugees in our neighboring town of Faribault. After the presentations, Dr. Jill Watson, who serves on the Faribault Diversity Commission, and who is a professional working with immigrant and refugee students with limited or interrupted formal education, agreed to consult with our group as needed. Dawn Tommerdahl, Judith Stoutland,

Alyssa Ness, and Judy Dirks, Solveig Zempel and Robert & Sharon Flaten were among those who attended.

Also on Wednesday, our co-coordinators attended a presentation by Fartun Well, Executive Director of ISUROON, a support organization for refugee women in Minneapolis. Gathering resource network information is an important part of our mission.

We look forward to sharing information with you soon about our refugee family's arrival. Until then, please continue in prayer for the millions of refugees suffering unimaginable losses.

Solveig Zempel
Zempel@stolaf.edu
Sharon Flaten
cassakr@gmail.com

FAQ is available at St. John's with the basics of what this sponsorship involves.

Interested in being an Assisting Minister?



Have you been an assisting minister in the past but haven't been asked recently? Have you always wanted to serve in worship as an assisting minister but

weren't sure who to ask? Pastor Jonathan is creating a list of people to call upon to serve as assisting minister. If you are interested please let him know by

sending an email (jdavis@stjohnsnorthfield.org) or by calling him at church (507-645-4429).

Notes of Thanks

A big thank you to Char Nelson who has served as Head Kitchen Monitor for the past 3 years! Char moved to Northfield from Rochester soon after retiring from the Post Office to be closer to children and grandchildren. She joined St. John's and volunteered to work with Alice Nasby who was the Kitchen Coordinator. When Alice stepped down, Char graciously assumed her responsibilities. She is eager to help train and work with a volunteer who feels called to serve as Kitchen Coordinator (see position description on page 14).

Thank you! Our Easter Breakfast was a great success thanks to all those that donated food (and money to buy food) and volunteered for the event. We served over 200 people and raised over a \$1,000 for our 6th-12th grade students to attend Green Lake or Christikon this summer.

Thank you to everyone who donated candy to our Easter Egg Hunt and to all who stuffed and hide the eggs. Also, thank you to Good-bye Blue Monday for providing delicious coffee.

Thank you for donating towels, nail clippers, toothbrushes, soap and combs to our Lenten mission, "Baskets of Promise". We were able to make 125 Personal Care Kits! The kits, provided through Lutheran World Relief, give people the encouragement to start anew by providing them with this simple comfort.

Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, and attended the Youth Fundraiser. What an awesome day! Proceeds will help families with the cost of attending summer camps and activities throughout the year! God's blessings as kids continue to learn, discover and grow in their faith!

A great big thank you to our Wednesday afterschool volunteers this year:

Bus Angels:

Julie Becker, Amy McBroom, Michele Knutson, Sara Redetzke, Connie Menssen, Betsy McLaughlin, Jennifer Paulson, Frances Boehning, Jennifer Welbaum

Snack Servers:

Amy McBroom, Betsy McLaughlin, Katherine Norrie, Sara Redetzke

Kid's Club:

Our St. Olaf Students; Kari, Jordan, Steven, Shelby

Homework Café:

Elizabeth Evenson, Leah Garlie

DOG:

Christy Hall-Holt, Elizabeth Evenson, Leah Garlie

Middle/High School:

Gunnar Benson, Thea Benson, Clay Garlie, Katie Schroeer, Kaylee Malecha, Jeanette Pelletier, Sylvi Hanson, Kai Legvold, Cole Little

Many thanks to our Nursery Volunteers who help with our littlest ones during Sunday worship services at St. John's. Also, a BIG thank you to Amy McBroom for coordinating our Nursery volunteers throughout the year.

Nursery Staff:

Erica Johnson

Volunteers:

Amy and Cora McBroom, Alyssa Ness, Brenda Boone, Katherine Norrie, Ariana Beeby, Synneva and Halvor Bratland, Brenda Boone, Christy and Viveka Hall-Holt, Kristy Harms, Elizabeth and Brian Evenson, Sheri, Max and Marion Williams, Siri Lindell, Erin Gunn, Kris Partlo, Bailey Dell, Ariana Beeby, Trish Goodrich, Cole Little



"Nothing teaches hope, kindness, courage, and compassion like helping others."

Monday Morning Stewards *from the Stewardship Board*

"Stewardship" is an odd word. We don't use it much in every day speech. We talk about stewardship in church once in a while - especially around budget time. But I can't remember the last time I heard or used the word "stewardship" Monday morning at work.

Yet we practice stewardship every day. I go to the grocery store - do I buy the name brand or get a generic? Should I use weed killer on my lawn this year? How long would it take to help my neighbor rake her yard? These are all stewardship questions. How do we manage our time? How do my values translate into my decisions? How best to use my abilities? My budget? How to manage (and sometimes juggle) all these things that come to us on a daily basis?

We are a congregation that sees the entire world as God's house. God is in all types of life experiences that are not confined to church buildings or religious activity. We don't usually think of God as being overly concerned with whether we buy the name brand or a generic. Maybe God is a little more interested in how we take care of our lawn, and would probably be in favor of helping our neighbor rake leaves. But whether in big things or in small, we are stewards - every day, in every decision, in every action. What we do flows from who we are and the values we hold.

Stewardship is not a "campaign" or a "fall emphasis" or a "fundraiser." Stewardship is a way of life, born out of gratitude and awareness of all the

world around us. Stewardship is the environment in which we are immersed, the air we breathe, the daily bread we live in our relationships with one another and with our Lord.

So . . . Monday morning stewards of St. John's . . . "whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17). Maybe even fit that odd word "stewardship" into a Monday morning conversation. Or at least think "stewardship" sometime during the week. It might just give a whole new outlook on the day.



May 8 Forum: The Effectiveness of Nonviolent Action in Dangerous Situations

Have you wondered just how nonviolence can work? What it involves? Do you want to know where it has been effective? How it can be used locally as well as internationally? How you might become involved?

Come to hear active participants in the work of the International Nonviolent Peaceforce, an organi-

zation with Minnesota roots, at the St. John's Forum on May 8th. Since 1999 the group has strengthened its scope throughout the world, with headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, and St. Paul, MN. It has received commendations from the UN and other peace groups and has been nominated for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize.

In its work, trained and paid personnel protect civilians in violent conflicts and life threatening situations using unarmed strategies. They build peace side by side with local communities and advocate for the wider use of these approaches to safeguard human lives and dignity.



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

May Meetings

- May 9:** Women of St. John's Board Retreat at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Sharon Flaten
 Bible Study Leaders meet at 12 noon in the Fireside Room
- May 10 & 24:** Knitters meet at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Kathy Vang, 645-4849
- May 11:** **Lydia** - 9:30 a.m. at the home of Joanne Dahlin, 1114 Heywood Rd., 645-5978
Sarah - 9:30 a.m. at the home of Norma Gilbertson, 808 E 5th St., 664-9591
- May 12:** **Martha/Claudia** - 9:30 a.m. at Parkview West, contact Marilyn Jacobson, 663-9060
Elizabeth - 1:30 p.m. at the home of Marie Benson, 1509 Waters Edge Cir., 645-8958
Abigail/Rebecca - 2:00 p.m. at Parkview East
- May 13:** **Mary** - 1:00 p.m. at the home of Sue Rudser, 5787 Erwin Way, 645-5415
- May 14:** **Breakfast Group** - 8:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room, contact Kathy Mellstrom, 663-1451
- May 16 & 19:** Quilters meet in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.
-

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Of Many Generations: Sisterhood of the Traveling Faith

The women of Bold Café have been invited to lead the program for the gathering of the St. John's Women of the ELCA on the evening of May 5th. We invite all St. John's women to come and enjoy an evening of celebrating our Sisterhood of many generations. Connect with St. John's women of all ages and celebrate the gifts of this interactive reunion in St. John's Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Martin Luther: Art & the Reformation - Sat. Nov. 5

The Women of St. John's has 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. A bus has been reserved and will leave from St. John's at 12 noon and plans are to return by 4:00 p.m. Cost of the tickets and the bus transportation is \$25 and these will be sold between services at St. John's on Sunday, May 1st, May 8th and May 15th (or until all tickets are sold). We invite any St. John's men and women who are interested to purchase tickets and join us in viewing this wonderful exhibit.

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

News from Shared Ministry

by Christy Hall-Holt

Open Position -- Seeking a Volunteer to Serve as Kitchen Coordinator

Hours per week: 5 - 15 hours/week

(Will depend on responsibilities mutually decided upon.)

Days and Times Needed:

- Wednesday evenings to ensure proper kitchen use and clean up for Wednesday Meal
- Sunday mornings at least in the beginning to supervise Coffee and to connect with volunteers
- As needed for coordinating funeral hospitality and annual events like the St. Olaf Choir Breakfast

Essential Qualities

- Ability to lead and work well with people
- Ability to organize people, the kitchen work and storage spaces, and supplies
- Working knowledge of all appliances and equipment

Desired Qualities

- Knowledge of St. John's Kitchen
- Familiarity with key hospitality outreach and leaders
- Understanding of standard food service practices and procedures and MN Dept. of Health Regulations

Responsibilities

- Coordinate general maintenance of kitchen equipment, appliances and cleanliness of kitchen (partnering with Facility Manager, Kitchen Maintenance Volunteers, Kitchen Monitors, etc.)
- Regularly communicate with and maintain schedule for Kitchen Monitors, Laundry Volunteers.
- Supervise scheduling and training for the use of the kitchen for inside and outside groups; arrange for Kitchen Monitors to be trained and assigned to outside group events
- Coordinate with primary kitchen hospitality leaders the inventory of food and paper products, cleaning supplies, crockery and cutlery, cookware, appliances, and equipment. Request replacement and new equipment and parts through Building and Finance Managers.
- Get compliance training with the MN Dept. of Health in order to manage compliance of and train volunteers.

If you are interested please contact Christy at sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org.

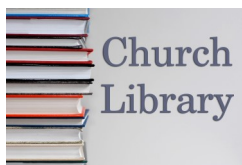
Calling All Library Lovers!

Interested in helping in St. John's library? We would love for you to join us!

Library duties may include:

- shelving and filing
- making book jackets
- calling to follow up with those that have checked out books

If you are interested contact Christy at sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org.



News from Shared Ministry

by Christy Hall-Holt

Wednesday Meals -- Let's Invite the Neighborhood!

As I was talking with a new member to St. John's, I learned that it is not always clear that our Wednesday Meals are intended to be for everyone at St. John's, and the surrounding area. So far, the vast majority of people who come to the meal are St. John's congregants -- but it's a wonderful opportunity for us to serve and get to know our neighbors. How do we go about extending this invitation? We want your ideas!



Wednesday Meals Online Sign Up & Email List

We have been sending out emails to request these services for Wednesday Meals:

- Help with clean up after the meal -- dishwashing, bussing tables, washing pots and pans etc.
- Desserts (cakes, cookies, bars, etc.)

Online Sign Up sheets for the rest of the Wednesday Meals this Spring are ready.

Please click on this link and make sure you're in the "Needs" menu to let us know when you will be available to help:

https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/group_detail.php?group_id=109

If you are not a Wednesday Meal attender and would like to be removed from the email list, please email Christy Hall-Holt at sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org

VOLUNTEERS
MAKE A DIFFERENCE
SIGN UP TODAY!

Funeral Hospitality Team Members Needed

Whether we like to think about it or not, our mortality is a sure thing! And funeral receptions at St. John's are grand. Our Funeral Hospitality Team has many well-qualified leaders -- Marie Benson, Char Nelson, Judy Smith, Jim Enestvedt, Ted Peterson, and MANY others! Please consider putting your name down to be a part of this well-run team.



Shared Ministry - Temporary Position Coming

As some of you have heard, Christy Hall-Holt, along with her whole family, will be leading St. Olaf College's "Global Semester" September of this year through January 2017. Christy hopes to return to her position in February next year, so St. John's is exploring ways to fill this position temporarily -- either through one person taking on the 20-hour position for 5 months, or through a combination of volunteer and paid positions dividing the duties.

We prefer to have a member familiar with St. John's taking on this task, so if you are interested in a temporary exploration of what it is like to work in a congregation, here's your chance! Contact [Pastor Pam Fickenscher](#) for more information.



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

Youth Ministry
Mike Skunes

Congregation President
Brent Nystrom

St. John's Lutheran Church

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507-645-4429

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Sunday, June 26

Our ELCA Missionaries in Colombia, Curtis and Katie Cline, will be at St. John's to share about their ministry.

Friday, September 30 and Saturday, October 1

Internationally know pastor and teacher Alan Storey will be here to teach a workshop on "Manna and Mercy".