



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 9

OCTOBER 2016



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## Tenth Graders to Affirm their Baptism

St. John's gives thanks to God that the following young people in our congregation have indicated their desire to publicly affirm their baptism by participating in the **Rite of Confirmation** on **Sunday, October 16**, at the **10:45 a.m. service**: **Andrew Becker, Halvor Bratland, Creegan Croone, Erin Gunn, Elsa Hoff, Grant Huston, Willa Kmoch, Siri Lindell, Kuchceang Mangok, Logan Matson, Samuel Mikula, Alison Nelson, Aidan Nutt, Anna Weber.**

This rite follows a six-year education and reflection program at St. John's beginning with Catechism (CAT) classes in grades three, four, and five; weekday and Sunday classes in grades six, seven, and eight; and classes, retreats, and a mentor relationship in grade nine. The program concluded with a retreat at Gustavus on Saturday, September 17.

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

**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays  
**LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP**  
9:45 a.m. Sundays

**LIVE BROADCASTS**  
8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays  
KYMN Radio 1080AM  
All Ages - September-May

**TV BROADCASTS**  
NTV Channel 187  
7:30 p.m. Mondays  
7:00 p.m. Fridays

# Join Us for Worship!

[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)

## **October 2:**

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall  
Meals on Wheels Sign Up, Commons  
Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level  
Life Groups (Grades 6-9), Youth Room  
Life Group Guides (Grades 10-12), Youth Room  
Adult Forum: Manna & Mercy w/ Rev. Alan Storey, Sanctuary  
Accompany, Undercroft

## **October 9:**

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall  
Meals on Wheels Sign Up, Commons  
Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level  
Life Groups (Grades 6-9), Youth Room  
Life Group Guides (Grades 10-12), Youth Room  
Adult Forum: Randy Ferguson -  
Musical Heritage of Martin Luther, Sanctuary  
Accompany, Undercroft

## **October 16:**

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall  
Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level  
Life Groups (Grades 6-9), Youth Room  
Life Group Guides (Grades 10-12), Youth Room  
Accompany, Undercroft

## **October 23:**

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall  
Intergenerational Event - School Kits, St. John's Hall  
Accompany, Undercroft

## **October 30:**

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall  
Sunday School (Pre-K thru Grade 5), Lower Level  
Life Groups (Grades 6-9), Youth Room  
Life Group Guides (Grades 10-12), Youth Room  
Adult Forum: Declarations on the Way - 32 Statements of  
Lutheran-Catholic Agreement, Sanctuary  
Accompany, Undercroft  
Bold Café, Fireside Room

## **Worship Services**

8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays

## **Nursery Hours**

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

## **Learning and Fellowship**

9:45 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September-May

## **Live Broadcasts**

8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080 AM

All Ages from September-May

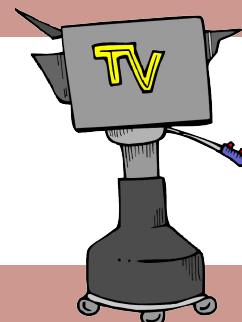


## **TV Broadcasts**

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



There is an old, cliché joke that gets thrown around the Church every once and awhile. I'm sure you've heard it before.

*Q: How does a church get rid of its mice problem?*

*A: Simple. Just Confirm the mice and they'll go away.*

This joke is rooted in another, more vulnerable question that the Church has been fearfully asking for quite sometime now: why do our youth get confirmed and then we don't see them again?

This is an important question, and we should be asking it. But I cannot help but wonder if part of the problem is our language around confirmation. So often, we will say things like,

*"We confirmed 11 youth this past Sunday!"*

*"Paul was confirmed at this church"*

*"What does my child need to do to get confirmed?"*

The problem with these statements is that they make the student passive recipients of something that the church decides to grant them, based on whether they have done enough sermon notes or service hours or sufficiently memorized parts of the catechism. And this greatly misses the point of Confirmation.

On Confirmation Sunday, the Church does not *confirm* youth. On Confirmation Sunday, youth *confirm* their faith. Or more accurately, the youth affirm their baptisms. It is the "Affirmation of Baptism" liturgy that is used that day, after all. This means that youth are not passive and powerless, but in fact, empowered to say yes to the promises of God proclaimed to them on their day of baptism. Promises like the unconditional love of God, grace, forgiveness, and belonging to the family of God.

If Confirmation, or Affirmation of Baptism, is people proclaiming their faith and saying yes to God's promises, then people can affirm their baptisms whenever and as often as they would like. The Church's role is to offer opportunities for growth, learning, and community that deepen this commitment. Really, the four years of Confirmation classes offered here at St. John's are simply the training ground, or the opportunities, youth use to prepare to affirm their baptisms.

This raises another problem with our language around Confirmation (think Affirmation of Baptism). We, the Church, have made Confirmation into an action that we do once in our life around the age of 15. In fact, however, saying yes to these promises that God has made to us is something we do and need to do over and over again throughout our lives. This is a lifelong part of faith, which is why we use the Affirmation of Baptism liturgy with those completing the Accompany program and to welcome new members to St. John's.

As we gather together this month to once again surround our Confirmands with promises of support and love in their faith, let us use this as an opportunity to reaffirm our own faith in a God who promises to be near to us in all seasons of life.

In peace and love,

Pastor Jonathan

## From Our Pastors



**Pastor Pam Fickenscher**



**Pastor Jonathan Davis**



## Prayer and Care 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](mailto:macisar@gmail.com) or 663-1097.

### Grief Care Resource:

Care Notes are one of the grief support resources at St. John's. Stop by the Commons to pick one up for yourself or for a loved one.

### Grief Booklets:

"Journeying through Grief" is a resource for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.



*The 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."*

*October 4, 2015  
Dorothy Johnson*

*October 11, 2015  
Arnold Ostebee*

*October 14, 2015  
Margaret Vanderkolk*

*October 16, 2015  
Lanna Baker*

*October 22, 2015  
Joan Olson*

*October 19, 2015  
Burt Paulsen*

## FAQ: Who Needs a Stephen Minister?

All of us suffer pain and loss and disappointment and sorrow. They are built into even the happiest life, the condition under which we live as fallible human beings.

Death. Family quarrels. Money problems. Job loss. Job promotion. Empty Nest. Divorce. Sickness. A terminal illness. Marital problems. Loneliness. Unexpected pregnancy. Long desired pregnancy. Dementia. An inheritance. Move to a new location within town or in another town. A wedding. Caregiver's fatigue. Loss of independence. Cooling of a friendship. Adoption.

All these things can happen in the course of normal life, and in addition there is our own sinfulness to face, our own daily wrong doing, no matter how hard we try to live according to Christ's law of love.

Nobody escapes difficulties, setbacks, sorrow, and we learn to deal with them. But sometimes they pile up, confuse us and threaten to overwhelm us. That's when it can be useful to talk to a Stephen Minister, who is trained to listen carefully without judging and without giving advice and to maintain strict confidentiality; who comes in the name of Christ, trusting in his ability to cure; who will pray with you or not, as you wish, and who will be a dependable companion, as long as you need and want a Stephen Minister. Some Stephen Minister relationships last for as little as two months - the care receiver might work out a solution to the problem in the course of talking and being listened to. Some relationships last for years, as new difficulties arise.

If you or someone you know might profit from talking to a Stephen Minister, call one of the pastors (507-645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (507-645-8445).





## Pub Theology Continues this Fall



We are all theologians. Believe it or not, all of us are constantly doing theology as we think and wonder and ask big questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, and a life of faith.

Continuing on Monday, October 3rd, join us at the Contented Cow from 6:00-7:30 p.m. for Pub Theology.

Pastors Pam and Jonathan and Mike Skunes will lead a monthly conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, and current events. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences to the table. Each week, the topic will be different and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, the Newsblast, and an email list.

Contact Pastor Jonathan ([jdavis@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@stjohnsnorthfield.org)) to add your name to the email list.

## New Perspectives

A revival of St. John's Connections Group, **New Perspectives**, plans its first monthly gathering for Friday, October 7th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room at church. We're looking forward to intellectually stimulating theological conversation among friends, old and new. At our inaugural meeting we'll share views on faith and politics in this fascinating, problematic campaign season. For other meetings during the year, we'll select timely topics, readings, or films. You do not need a Ph.D. to feel at home in this group! Feel free to contact David Sudermann at church, by e-mail ([dsudermann@charter.net](mailto:dsudermann@charter.net)), or by phone (507-663-1097) for more information. Otherwise, just come!

## Wednesday Conversation Circle

The WCC began last year as an offshoot of our small Lenten group. This year we're meeting again biweekly on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., right after the Wednesday meal. Last year our topics included the Emerging/Emergent church movement, process theology, and articles from *Christian Century* by Paul Knitter on Buddhism, Jonathan Brown on Islam, and Walter Brueggemann on post-traumatic texts. Nicholas Kristof's recent piece in the *NY Times*, "What Religion Would Jesus Belong to?" primed the pump at our first meeting this fall. We'll be meeting again on Wednesday, October 12 and 26, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We welcome new participants! Contact persons are Jo Franklin and David Sudermann.

## Life and Growth

### Births

None

### Baptisms

None

### Weddings

None

### Deaths

Annalee Larson, September 9, 2016



## Radio Broadcasts

### September 4, 2016

Given in memory of Loretta Siler by family and friends.

### September 11, 2016

Given in loving memory of Cora (on her birthday) & Elmer Schultz and Ken Struss by Marie Struss and family.

### September 18, 2016

Given by Chuck and Anita Hellie in memory of their parents Walter & Pearl Svard and Joe & Ruby Hellie.

### September 25, 2016

Given in memory of Roger Hand by his family.

If you would like to sponsor a broadcast (\$160), please contact the church office by phone at 507-645-4429 or email at [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Children's Ministry

### Important Dates to Remember!

#### Sunday School Schedule (9:45-10:30 a.m.)

October 2 Sunday School  
October 9 Sunday School  
October 16 Sunday School  
October 23 No Sunday School (MEA)  
October 30 Sunday School

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

October 5  
October 12  
October 19 No Programs (MEA)  
October 26

#### CATechism - Grades 4 & 5 (4:00-4:15 p.m.)

October 5  
October 12  
October 19 No CAT (MEA)  
October 26  
November 2

#### Youth Blast - Grades 3-5

November 4-5 Good Earth Village

#### 3rd Grade CAT Bible Retreat with Parents

Saturday, October 29  
9:00-11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall



### Children's Communion Instruction Available

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

## 4th graders who received Catechisms this year:

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

Please contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) if your child would like to ride the St. John's afterschool bus on Wednesdays to CAT. The bus picks up at Sibley, Bridgewater, Greenvale and at the Middle School for PCCS kids.



## 4th and 5th Grade CAT Begins in October

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

CAT meets Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 2; Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25; April 5, 12, 19, 26.

## Toddler Time Starts October 9

Children who are 2 year olds (by 9/1/16) and Preschool 1, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler Time.



Rachel Skunes leads the children in song, games, crafts and story time. Toddler Time meets monthly at 9:45 a.m. in Room 20 (lower level).

Here is our schedule for the year:

Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, March 12, April 9, and May 14.

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

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

For more information, contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## 3rd Graders and Preschoolers to Receive Bibles



3rd graders and parents meet in St. John's Hall on **Saturday, October 29, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** for a Retreat on the Word – an Introduction to the Bible.

This class will be a primer on the Bible for students who will receive their Bibles at the 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, October 30th. Please call Pastor Pam or Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either day.

## Thank You, Sunday School Volunteers!

Sunday School is off to a great start thanks to the dedicated teachers and volunteers at St. John's. Our teachers: **Preschool 1** - Jenny Nystrom, Abby Harris, Cole Little; **Preschool 2** - Amy McBroom, Dena King, Erin Gunn; **Kindergarten** - Anne France, Jada Johnson, Elsa Hoff; **First / Second Grade** - Sue Rod, Mai Moua Lee, Padra Change; **Third Grade** - Elizabeth Evenson, Jennifer Antoine; **Fourth Grade** - Kully Vance, William Holt, Rachel Saxton; **Fifth Grade** - Julie Becker, Kris Vatter; **Toddler Time** - Rachel Skunes

## Children's Ministry



### Youth Blast 2016! "Messy Kingdom" A Goopy, Sticky, Slimy look at God's Kingdom

**Who:** Kids in grades 3 – 5  
**When:** Friday - Saturday, November 4-5  
**Where:** Good Earth Village  
**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 5:30 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!**

Parents - It's fun to chaperone! Let Julie know if you are interested.





## Lutheran College Road Trip

**Who:** 10th-12th Graders

**When:** Sunday, November 6 & Monday, November 7

**Who:** 10th-12th Graders

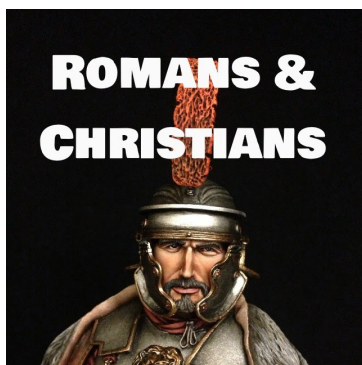
**Where:** Wartburg & Luther College (Meet @ St. John's)



**What:** Thinking about colleges, yet? St. John's 10th-12th Graders are invited to join us on an over-night journey to visit two ELCA Lutheran Colleges down in Iowa for tours over an

extended weekend. If you contact Mike Skunes at 507-645-4429 or [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

## Romans and Christians



**Who:** 6th-8th Graders

**When:** Friday, October 28, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** St. John's

**Cost:** \$5 (covers pizza and pop)

**What:** Join us for Romans and Christians, an insanely fun night-game, with your friends. This is the night we'll partner with other churches

from the area to offer a game for all middle schoolers in the community which in the past has drawn over a 100 6th-8th grade youth. Friends that aren't St. John's members are absolutely encouraged to come - so invite a group to come!

## Youth Ministry



### High School Club "Teen Together"

**Who:**  
9th-12th Graders (Friends welcome!)

**When:**  
Once-A-Month  
Sundays, September - May

**What:**  
Gather with other Senior High students for a relaxing hangout with discussions and engaging activities.

**Questions?**  
Contact Mike Skunes at 507-645-4429 or [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org)



### Percussion Ensemble

Come try our new percussion group, exploring drums, chimes, and Orff instruments. This group is intended to support congregational hymns and other worship music as needed. We are trying a flexible approach with participants signing up for one worship service at a time (plus a few rehearsals). Contact Jenny Pelletier for more information at [pelletierfamily@outlook.com](mailto:pelletierfamily@outlook.com).

## Shared Ministry

### Sunday Hospitality Groups

Are you wondering which month your Sunday Hospitality Group is serving?

You can find out by logging on to CCB. Once logged in, look on the left side of the screen. You should see either the word "Groups" or under the little house icon, there appears to be a picture of 3 heads in circles. "Click" on either the word "Groups" or the icon of the heads in the circles. You should then see all of your groups - look for the "Monthly Hospitality Group" you are assigned to in this list.

Note: You can still sign up to serve in other months in addition to the month you are currently assigned to serve.

If navigating CCB is difficult for you, please contact Mary Kelvie in the Shared Ministry office at 507-645-4429, or at [sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org).



### Volunteer Opportunities

Did you know you can serve anytime, not just in your assigned hospitality group? Sign up today!

Current weekly opportunities available:

- Sundays - greeters, coffee servers, dishwashers, treat makers (or buyers), communion prep and cleanup.
- Wednesday Night Meals - table bussers, dishwashers, dessert makers (or buyers), table washers, pots and pans scrubbers, floor sweepers.

If any of these sound like something you would like to step out and do or learn please contact Mary Kelvie by calling 507-645-4429, emailing [sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org), or signing into CCB and signing up yourself.

## Fresh starts...New beginnings...

As we start this Fall with all of the "new"-ness it brings, I have a question for you - what new thing(s) are you learning, trying, or doing? Are you learning a new job? Are you trying a new hobby? Are you doing something new to challenge yourself to stretch beyond your comfort zone? If you answered, "No" - why aren't you trying something new this year? Are you stuck in a rut or "comfortable" doing what you have always done? Are you afraid of new things? Are you too nervous to try something and possibly not have a 100% success rate at it, so you won't try it at all?

If you are like me, you do not like a lot of changes. I like my world comfortable and predictable. However, as I have learned this last year, our God is in the business of challenging us to learn new things, try what we wouldn't necessarily want to try, and do what he is calling us to do. If you doubt the Lord calls us to more than we think we can do, try reading about Noah, Moses, Esther, David, Daniel, and the list goes on.

I have another question for you...What is the Lord challenging you to learn, try or do here at St. John's? Is he challenging you to be a Sunday School teacher? A nursery worker? An usher? Accept a position on a committee / ministry / board? Join the choir? Help with homework on Wednesday nights? Bake or buy treats for Wednesday nights? Lead a confirmation group? Help with communion prep and cleanup? Make coffee? Run the dishwasher? Commit to a small group study? Greet people on Sunday mornings? Say yes to be an assisting minister? Serve communion? If any of these possibilities resonate with you, what is holding you back? Did you know you can ask questions, lots of questions about how to do something and people will be happy to answer your questions?

Here is my challenge for you, step out in faith. Listen to that small voice inside prompting you to try something new out of your comfort zone. Come in and shadow someone one Sunday morning or Wednesday evening to learn what a particular job is all about before you volunteer to do it. Don't wait around to be asked, take the initiative to volunteer first, and trust in the Lord to carry you through your fears. Joshua 1:9 says, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Blessings,

Mary Kelvie





**Did you know...** 

All about  
Thankofferings

November 3, 2016  
1:00pm

ﷲ Since the 1800's Lutheran women have collected offerings for social activism and missionary support.

ﷲ The American Lutheran Women's Missionary Society was founded in 1837 to financially support education and ordination of foreign missionaries.


ﷲ Today the Women of the ELCA receives more than \$1 million annually for ministries and missions.

ﷲ These offerings support educational resources, communications, grants, scholarships, Triennial gatherings, and U.S. and foreign mission work.

Share your Thankoffering Thursday,  
November 3, or bring it to the church office.

**Go ahead. Change the world.**

In honor of St. John's women who have experienced the greatest changes in women's roles, we want to hear your stories from back in the day, before it was common for women be active in church leadership.

**We Want Your STORIES!** 

...for the  
**"Katie Luther Tea"**

(March 4, 2017)

To tell your stories-

- fill out an application, found on the St. John's Women's bulletin board in the Commons
- or contact Julie Zdenek,  
women.stjohns500@gmail.com or 618.698.4870

Interviews will be taped in November

## Women of St. John's

### October Circle Meetings

#### Abigail/Rebecca

Thursday, October 13, 2:00 p.m.  
Parkview West Conference Room (2nd floor)  
Northfield Retirement Center

#### Elizabeth

Thursday, October 13, 1:30 p.m.  
Delores Mickelsen's  
1000 Cannon Valley Dr. #105  
Northfield  
507-645-8101

#### Lydia

Wednesday, October 12, 9:30 a.m.  
Randvig Norvold's home  
2215 Greenfield Dr. E  
Northfield  
507-645-2699

#### Martha/Claudia

Thursday, October 13, 9:30 a.m.  
Parkview West Dining Room  
Northfield Retirement Center

#### Mary

Friday, October 14, 1:00 p.m.  
Winnifred Alberg's home  
11125 Kane Trail  
Northfield  
507-645-8630

#### Sarah

Wednesday, October 12, 9:30 a.m.  
Solveig Bailey's home  
1906 Lincoln St. South  
Northfield  
507-645-2496

**STITCHERS!** 

WE NEED  **Quilt tops**

Pick up materials in the Quilt basket in the Commons.  
Or call Kathy Vang 645.4849

## News and Updates

### Update on Reconciling in Christ Process

As many of you know, St. John's congregation decided to spend this 2016 year in intentional conversation around becoming a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation.

Briefly stated, an RIC congregation is one that creates an intentional welcome statement, reaching out to those who often feel alienated from the church, which specifically includes welcoming people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

This past spring, the Reconciling in Christ committee created three draft welcome statements based on information gathered from the congregation at an adult forum. A couple weeks later, the congregation was invited to give feedback on those three draft welcome statements.

Since then, the RIC committee has come up with two revised drafts that will be presented to the congregation at an adult forum this fall. The forums will also include information about what it means to be a Reconciling in Christ congregation and time for asking questions. Along with that, the St. John's church council is discerning the next steps in this process.

Stay tuned for more information. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Pastors Pam or Jonathan.

## Holden Village in 2017?

Holden Village is a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade mountains of Washington state. Originally a village for copper miners, it was gifted to the Lutheran church in the 1960's and has been operating as a unique year-round ministry for the renewal of the church for over 50 years. Pastor Fickenscher serves on the board of the village, and many Lutherans have visited either on their own family retreats or as part of college student groups on J-term.

The summer of 2017 will be a banner year for Holden Village. After nearly five years of disruption to programming because of a major environmental remediation on the old mine site, and enduring a major fire in the area in 2015, the village will (God-willing) be open for guests next summer.

Holden offers stimulation for the mind, body and spirit, and a unique sense of community that has renewed the faith lives of visitors time after time.

Pastor Fickenscher would love to have a group of St. John's members and friends join her for a week next July in the village. Registration may not be open for a while yet, but we need to be ready to say "we're going!" when it is. If you are interested in being part of such a group, please email Pastor Pam at [pfickenscher@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:pfickenscher@stjohnsnorthfield.org).


Travelers will be responsible for making their own travel reservations to and from the village. Holden is very remote – so please read their website "visit" page to understand if it is a feasible trip for you: <http://www.holdenvillage.org/visit/>.



# YAY!

## It's that time of year again!

### Bag the Backpacks!



**OCTOBER 23**  
**9:45**

St. John's Annual bagging of the backpacks, THE steadily growing Intergenerational Event

- Prior to 2014 we filled 60 bags each year.
- In 2014 we doubled that to 120 packs.
- Last year we filled 220!
- Our backpacks joined 261,580 school kits sent to 16 countries through Lutheran World Relief.
- Your participation provides the basic school needs for boys and, more importantly, girls to attend and succeed in school.

This event is for everyone.  
See you in St. John's Hall.  
October 23, during the Sunday School hour

## Clean Up Day

St. John's is a very active facility in a very active community. It takes a lot to properly care for a facility that is as busy as this one. Sometimes, we need help doing this. So, we have decided to have a fall clean up day on the exterior of the property. This will take place on Saturday, October 15th (rain date will be October 26th).



We will be sweeping debris from the curbs in the parking lot, sweeping sidewalks and steps to the entry ways, pulling weeds and raking leaves as needed. All who are able are encouraged to join us. Even if all you can spare is an hour, every little bit makes a large difference. Don't be shy! Come out and enjoy fellowship and the satisfaction of a job well done!

## From Bread for the World

The Scriptures speak to the role and responsibility of leaders in caring for poor people. Jesus calls his followers to love their neighbors



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

(Matthew 22:29-30) and warns that we will be held accountable and judged for the ways we have treated the least among us (Matthew 25). Psalm 72 and Romans 13 emphasize the role and responsibility of leaders. These passages suggest that our leaders are servants for the good whether or not they

acknowledge that their authority comes from God. As Paul exercised his power as a Roman citizen, so too can Christians advocate for government to protect and provide for all its people (Acts 21-26). Through our involvement with Bread for the World, we are advocating for humanitarian assistance and long-term solutions to hunger.

In the U.S. the fall elections will bring about changes in leadership. We renew our prayers for all who suffer from need or injustice and pray that our newly elected leaders will govern with wisdom, encourage healing and work for a future in which all have an opportunity to prosper.

On October 16, St. John's will join with thousands of other churches across the country in celebrating **Bread for the World Sunday**. In our worship we will lift up our prayers for those who struggle with hunger – and rededicate ourselves to efforts to end hunger.

## News and Updates

### 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, October 5**  
Pizza Burgers and Salad

**Wednesday, October 12**  
Nacho Boats

**Wednesday, October 19**  
Egg Bake and Hashbrowns

**Wednesday, October 26**  
Chicken Alfredo and Salad





## News and Updates

### Refugee Resettlement Update

Pictured below is the St John's adopted refugee family, Paul, Ariat, and family, at a dinner hosted by mentor, Pr. Ron Johnson and his wife, Barbara, in their home in Minneapolis on September 18th. The three girls in brightly patterned tops are cousins from St. Cloud.

St. John's Refugee Resettlement Team will bring the family to Northfield for a welcome dinner at St. John's church later in the year.

Sharon Flaten and Solveig Zempel  
Co-coordinators



## From the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board...

Curtis and Katie Kline, the ELCA missionaries we support in Bogata, Colombia, have sent this update on the peace process in Colombia. You can read continuing blog entries at <http://800feetandcounting.blogspot.com>. As partner churches, our prayers are with the Colombian people as they vote on October 2nd, and work to implement the peace process...

### Lutheran Colombian Perspective on the Peace Agreements: Part One

The recent announcement of the final agreements between the government of Colombia and the FARC (Revolutionary Forces of Colombia) is exciting news. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO) and all affiliated organizations and ministries have been working for decades to build peace and look forward to the next stage in this long and arduous journey. What are the perspectives of Lutheran Colombians on the peace agreements and hopes for the future of their country?

The plebiscite, where the Colombian people will have the opportunity to vote “yes” or “no” the agreement, will be held on October 2nd. Between now and then we will be highlighting the voices of our Colombian Lutheran brothers and sisters and their perspectives on the agreement.

This week, Sara Lara, Coordinator of the Human Rights Program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia:

*The hopes of Colombians have grown with the “final agreement for the end of the conflict and the construction of a stable and durable peace” to live without the war that has scourged the country for more than 50 years. The surrender of weapons by the FARC also strengthens the possibility of realizing the right to peace, enshrined in Article 22 of Colombia’s Constitution of 1991.*

*Multiple organizations have arisen during this long war, many of them to defend the human rights of the conflict’s victims. These organizations have played an important role as protagonists of the social mobilization pushing for the peace agreements, as seen through the development of peace education, the diffusion of the agreements from Havana, and even the campaign for massive participation in the plebiscite which seeks to endorse the agreements on the 2nd of October.*

*Civil society organizations have taken on the tasks entrusted by the gov-*




ernment of President Santos, demonstrating the need to build peace from the grassroots and for forgiveness and reconciliation to become a reality. In this vein, the work carried out by churches is essential for the promotion of justice and the proclamation of the Gospel. Also noteworthy is the undisputed support of the international community for this process; since the beginning phase of secret negotiations to the implementation of the final agreements.

The challenges ahead are concerned with the experience of peace in everyday life; it is well known that the FARC exiting the armed conflict does not necessarily mean the end of violence in the streets, homes, schools and other living spaces. Nor can we ignore the persistence of other guerrilla groups like the ELN and the EPL and the criminal and paramilitary gangs that keep the Colombian armed conflict alive.

It is also our call to make visible the more than 8,131,269 victims of the conflict whom are at the center of the agreement. They will need greater attention from the government to ensure the effective enjoyment of their rights.

We will move forward, step by step, with trust in God to heal this land and with great expectations of peace. At the same time though, we are cautious of the current economic model, as well as the difficulties concerning the integration of demobilized guerrillas into political and civil life and the constant struggle for the respect of the rights of all people in Colombia.



## LIFE IN TRANSITION


One Transgender Person's Story

featuring Northfield native and former St. John's member: **Austen Hartke**


Thursday, October 6, 2016, 7:00 pm

Austen will share the story of his transition, examine gender identity, describe how church and community support have impacted his journey and help us learn how we can reach out to others on their journey to wholeness.

Austen is a graduate of Luther Seminary's Master of Arts program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies, and is the winner of the 2010 John Milton Prize in Old Testament Writing from the same institution.



Sponsored by:



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**OFFICE HOURS**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-Th

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fri

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

***All Saints Sunday***  
Sunday, November 6

***Thanksgiving Eve Worship / Pie Social***  
Wednesday, November 23

***Advent Fair***  
Wednesday, November 30