



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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NOVEMBER 2016

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

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Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service at St. Dominic Church

As we launch into a year of remembering the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 1517, St. John's will be gathering in worship together with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters on Thanksgiving Eve.

We will gather at St. Dominic's at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23, for worship with hymns, homily and prayers, and then gather in their fellowship hall for pie and ice cream. Our offering for the evening will benefit the Community Action Center of Northfield's food shelf.

St. John's is providing the pie for the festivities! Please sign up to contribute to the refreshments. You can sign up in the Commons starting Sunday, November 6 or online thru CCB or by contacting Mary Kelvie at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

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

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

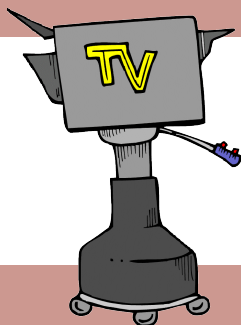


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



Learning and Fellowship

November 6:

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

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, 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: Columbarium Dedication, Courtyard

Accompany, Undercroft

November 13:

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

Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, 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: Reconciling in Christ - Next Steps, Sanctuary

Accompany, Undercroft

Youth Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal, Room 205

Toddler Time, Room 20

November 20:

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: David Tiede and Lutheran Social Services -

Ministry to Refugees, Sanctuary

Accompany, Undercroft

Youth Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal, Room 205

Bold Café, Fireside Room

November 27:

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

Adult Forum: Year A - Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew,

Sanctuary

Youth Percussion Ensemble Rehearsal, Room 205

Live Generously, Give Joyfully

Dear Friends in Christ,

Is there anything more joyful than being able to give -- when you know you have something to contribute, and you care about the cause? Is there anything more satisfying than seeing your gifts make a difference in the world? At St. John's, we have many reasons to be joyful, because we have lots of gifts and lots of reasons to share.

This month as we conclude our annual appeal for your financial gifts, you will be hearing about various ways your generosity shapes the St. John's community, and about how our dreams for future ministry depend on that generosity. We have so much to be thankful for, and thankful hearts are a source of great joy in life. Our theme is **Live Generously, Give Joyfully**.

On Sundays we are hearing stories of how your offerings have changed lives, and how the act of giving brings joy. On November 13, we will celebrate our goals and commitments for next year by offering our Intent Cards in worship.

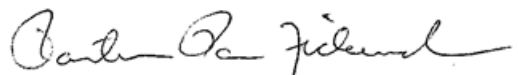
Why fill out an Intent Card, when so much is uncertain in our world and lives? Because stating our intention -- whether for a yoga class or a gift to the church -- *changes us*. When we state our intention, we call to mind again what is important to us, where our priorities are. We put into action Jesus' words "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*"

Every response counts. This year we have a challenge grant of \$20 for every intent card -- no matter the amount -- returned by December 13.

Our world, now more than ever, needs the word of hope and joy that the grace of Jesus Christ brings. The generosity of St. John's members is the only source of income that keeps our ministry going. Please pray for this time of challenge and growth in our congregation, so that in 2017 we can all live generously and joyfully share God's beauty with the world.

Thank you for all you have given in 2016, and for your prayerful support of St. John's.

In Christ,



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 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."

November 11, 2015
Dean Ostlie

November 16, 2015
Chester Hoversten

New Columbarium Unit to Be Dedicated on November 6

It's been about ten years since St. John's first created a place for St. John's members to lay loved ones to rest. The Columbarium is a dedicated set of niches where the ashes of the cremated (also called "cremains") are kept. In 2006 the first unit was installed in the courtyard and since then many St. John's saints have taken a place there.

As the niches have been filled and reserved, the Columbarium Committee determined last year that it was time to invest in a second unit. That unit is now installed and the courtyard is being spruced up for All Saints Sunday, November 6. Between services at 10:00 a.m. all are invited to gather in the courtyard as we dedicate this sacred space. There will be a reading and prayer in remembrance of those who are already there, and consecrating this space for those to come.

Thanks to the St. John's Columbarium Committee: Char Carlson, John Ferguson, and Basil Mrosz, for seeing this project through.

Stephen Ministers Commissioned on November 13

On Sunday, November 13, at the 10:45 a.m. service, a new group of Stephen Ministers will be commissioned to serve our congregation. Since January, this group has studied and practiced skills to prepare them to help those who are experiencing difficult times in their lives. Those participating in the class sessions include Deb Christensen, Mary Cisar, David Hagen, Christy Hall-Holt, Alan Marks, Lynette Marks, Alyssa Ness, and Neil Rowley.

Stephen Ministers work with people in our congregation and community who are experiencing crises such as hospitalization, retirement, financial setback, the loss of a loved one, or many difficulties that come out of daily living. Those who are commissioned make a commitment to serve our congregation for two years as a Stephen Minister, meeting with a care receiver on a regular basis and attending monthly supervision meetings. Those who choose not to be commissioned continue to serve family, friends, and co-workers with the skills they have learned. Our congregation is greatly enriched by this group and by 137 other St. John's members who have received Stephen Ministry training since 1981.

We invite everyone in the congregation who has received Stephen Minister training to attend this service and be prepared to stand up to be recognized.

If you or someone you know might benefit 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, November 7th, 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 News Blast, and an email list.

Contact Pastor Jonathan (jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org) to add your name to the email list.

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

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 will open on January 1, so 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.

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/>.

Informational meetings will be held Sunday, November 6, after the 10:45 service, and Wednesday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m.

Life and Growth

Births

September 23, 2016
McKenzie Marie Erickson
Daughter of Lynnette & Nick Erickson

October 9, 2016
Evelyn Marie Langan
Daughter of Emily and Aaron Langan
Granddaughter of Alan and Lynette Marks

Baptisms

October 23, 2016
McKenzie Marie Erickson
Daughter of Lynnette & Nick Erickson

Deaths

September 14, 2016
David Skaar

October 13, 2016
Darrin Whitmire



Thank You

"Thank you to St. John's Parishioners who gifted money to Emily Westerback's college. Your support has been unexpected and greatly appreciated as Emily pursues her dream of becoming a teacher."

The Westerback Family

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember!

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

November 6	Sunday School (Daylight Savings Time)
November 13	Sunday School Toddler Time
November 20	Sunday School
November 27	No Sunday School (Thanksgiving Break)

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

November 2	CAT (Grades 4 and 5)
November 9	
November 16	
November 23	No Programming (Thanksgiving Break)
November 30	

Breakfast, PJs, and Movie Morning

Monday, November 7, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Advent Fair

Wednesday, November 30, St. John's Hall

Christmas Worship Service with our Sunday School Kids

Sunday, December 11,
10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary



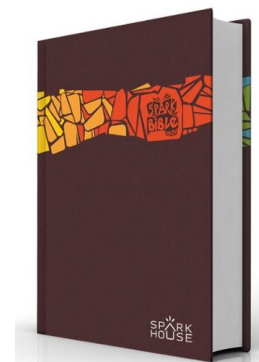
Children's Communion Instruction Available

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.

Blessings and Congratulations to our 3rd Graders who received their Spark Bibles in October!

Sam Froehle, Kayla Kelvie, Kaille Jo Little, John Malecha, Austin Mathre, Tristan Mattson, Clara Nelson, Osiris Perez, Will Redetzke, Kate Sand, and Bailey Strese.

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



Sunday School Prays for Children Around the World

Each month, our Sunday school kids will be praying for children from another country. Last month we prayed for Mexico. In November we will be praying for children in the Middle East.

Our Sunday School Offering Goes to Northfield's Backpack Food Program

This year our Sunday School offering will be supporting the Northfield Area Learning Center's Backpack Food Program. Students at Longfellow's Learning Center fill an average of 17 backpacks per week with donated food. They then deliver the packs to our Northfield school's social workers who distribute them to families in need.

Toddler Time Continues on November 13

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:

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

Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!



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

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

When: Monday, November 7
NO SCHOOL DAY!

Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Parent help is appreciated!

St. John's Sunday School Classes Participate in Worship Sunday, Dec. 11

Mark your calendars! St. John's Sunday School classes will be participating in our 10:45 a.m. worship service, Sunday, December 11, in St. John's Sanctuary.

Children who would like to perform either a solo or be part of an ensemble for the pre-service music, can contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org. In the past, children have played instruments and sung solos, usually with a Christmas theme.

Youth Blast 2016! - "Messy Kingdom" A Goey, 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!

Give Julie Brehmer a call at 507-645-4429 or email at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org to see if space is still available.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Youth to Remember!

Life Groups & Life Group Guides Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

November 6	Life Groups
November 13	Life Groups
November 20	Life Groups
November 27	No Life Groups (Thanksgiving Break)

Confirmation (Grades 6-9)

6:15-7:30 p.m.

November 2	
November 9	
November 16	
November 23	No Confirmation (Thanksgiving Break)
November 30	



2017 High School Summer Mission Trip Planning Meeting

Do you have a desire to serve? See a different part of the country and meet new people? Then we hope you join us on our 2017 Summer Mission Trip through CSM. If you want to be a leader for our trip and help plan where we go and when, then come join us on the following night over a pizza dinner:

Where: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

When: Thursday, November 17, 6:30 p.m.

Contact Mike Skunes at 507-645-4429 or youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you're interested in being part of the leadership team.

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.



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, or signing into CCB and signing up yourself.

Serving Others and Giving Thanks

By Mary Kelvie

It has been about 2 months since I jumped on board here at St. John's. In the last 2 months, we have ended summer with Apple Sunday, started the school year with the Ministry Fair, kicked off Sunday school, started Wednesday evening programming, served 7 Wednesday Night Meals to the church and surrounding community, celebrated Pastor Pam's 20th year of being ordained, worked at Thursday's Table, delivered Meals on Wheels, spent time hammering for Habitat for Humanity, cleaned up our church grounds and confirmed 14 students. This means by the end of October, St. John's members will have had well over 350 opportunities to serve others just since I started here. WOW! I am giving thanks for all of you and your generous hearts to give of your time, and talents by serving and showing God's love to one another.

November is a month where we talk about being "thankful" a lot. What does it mean to be thankful? I asked this question of my three new blessings. My 8 year old blessing said it means you feel happy for something. I thought it was a great definition from someone so young. I also appreciated it coming from her as she is particularly thoughtful and thankful for so many things. She is quick to thank the person who cooks the meal, pays for the meal at the restaurant or gives her treats. Her little sister has begun to follow in her footsteps, too. If I know I have made another person "feel happy for something," I am much more likely to do it again, right? After all, who likes to go out of their way to do something for someone else and have it not acknowledged, or worse, have someone grumble at you for doing it?

In the Bible (Luke 17), Jesus heals ten lepers. He HEALS them of leprosy, a horribly painful disease of the skin that sometimes led to amputations of body parts. Yet, how many lepers returned to say, "Thank you"? One. Uno. Un. En. Unum. Only one leper could bother to turn around and say 2 simple words, "Thank you!" Why? This has always bothered me. Why would you receive such an incredible gift as complete health and lack of pain, and not thank the person who gave it to you? Yet, how many times during the day do we have people do things for us, and we do not remember to say those same 2 words? A child shares a treat. A spouse brings us a drink so we don't have to get up. A meal is made. A phone call or text happens in the middle of the day, just to brighten your day. The newspaper makes it all the way to your door instead of at the end of your driveway. A door is held open as you walk into a building. A free meal is served to you at church on Wednesdays, and a delicious dessert is perfect ending to your meal. Someone cleans up your plates, silverware, and glass on the table so you can sit and visit. Coffee and treats are provided on Sunday mornings, allowing you to visit with others while enjoying a little bite to eat. Your kids are being taught about the Lord when they come to Sunday School or Wednesday programming. Our pastors work hard every day of the week (not just Monday - Friday) making sure their congregation is being nurtured in God's word, feels cared for and the finances are in place to be able to keep serving and reaching more people for the Lord's glory.

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Church Music Intern Program

By Nathan Proctor

One of the quietly growing pieces of the Music Ministry at St. John's has been the creation of a Church Music Intern Program. It has become a source of great joy for me, and I want to share a bit about this program so that you might join in the excitement. In 2013, we began with an idea of having paid singers from St. Olaf sing with our adult choir. We believed that not only could these singers contribute to the sound of the choir, but the choir itself could offer hands-on vocational training to these future music educators and church musicians. The program has been steadily expanding each year, and for 2016 I took a leap of faith to see if we could support five interns with the Chorale, and one intern with our Jubilate Choir.

While most of their work happens behind the scenes in our weekly Wednesday rehearsals, or in the balcony on Sunday morning, this program has truly been life-giving to music at St. John's. It is exciting to see these students become a part of our choir family each year. In addition to adding their voices to our wonderful Chorale, in the course of a year they will also experience conducting the choir, leading sectionals, accompanying hymns and anthems, cantoring for psalms, and singing solos. Our congregation has had a strong connection with the music at St. Olaf over the years, and my hope is that this internship program allows us to deepen that relationship.

In 2013, when John Ferguson, as Interim Director of Worship, Music, and Arts, introduced this idea, the funding was made possible from a small amount from the estate of Alice Hanson. Alice was a devoted member of the Chorale and embodied this connection between St. John's and St. Olaf. Now, four years later, this program continues from ongoing financial gifts to the Alice Hanson Education Fund, named in her memory. I am very grateful to the many gifts given that help us continue this program into the future.

These Interns are so warm and personable, and I hope you find a chance to say "hi" and thank them for their work this year.

Interns for the 2016-17 year are:

St. John's Chorale:

Kayleigh Shaffer, Vocal Music Education major, from Tacoma WA

Kellie Asher, Vocal Music Education major, from Minneapolis MN

Andy Jacob, Music major, from Edina MN

Jacob Sorrells, Music major, Weaverville NC

Andrew Horton, Vocal Music Education major, from Seattle WA

Jubilate Choir:

Isabella Gentleman, Church Music major, from Rutland MA

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, November 2
Goulash (Chili Mac)

Wednesday, November 9
Sloppy Joes

Wednesday, November 16
Beef Stew with Mashed Potatoes

Wednesday, November 23
No Meal - Thanksgiving Break

Wednesday, November 30
Pulled Pork



News and Updates

Radio Broadcasts

October 2, 2016

Given in memory of
Teddy Miller by Van Miller.

October 9, 2016

Given by Marilyn Boschee in loving memory
of her late husband, Gene Boschee.

October 16, 2016

Given by Elsie Nelsen
in memory of Arne Nelsen.

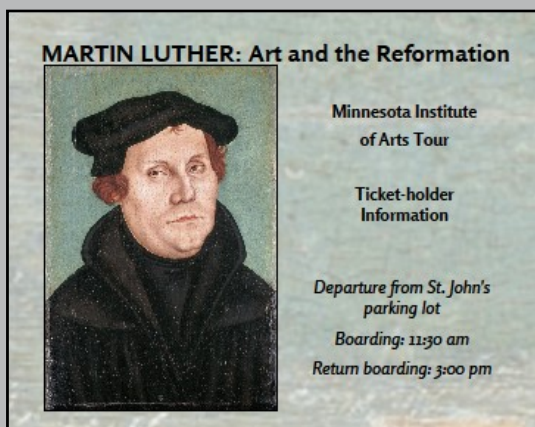
October 23, 2016

Given in memory of Roger Hand
by his family.

October 30, 2016

Given in memory of
Stanford "Sam" Haugen 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.



Reconciling in Christ Update

By Brent Nystrom

Grace and Peace to all St. John's Members. I hope you will take a few minutes to read this important update that relates to how the Church Council has determined we will finish up our year-long Reconciling in Christ (RIC) discussion and process.

Nearly a year ago, we as a congregation, voted at our annual meeting to spend the 2016 year in intentional conversation about becoming an RIC church. For those who don't know, an RIC church is a congregation that creates an intentional welcome statement, reaching out to those who often feel alienated from the church. This welcome statement specifically includes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. This is a way for a church to be known as a "safe" place where all people are welcome.

Thanks to an RIC committee (formed in 2015), these last ten months have included a variety of forums, discussions, reading opportunities, listening posts and presentations for the congregation to participate in on the topics of God's welcome, human sexuality and the Bible, and what it means to be a welcoming church to all. The Council as well has spent large portions of time discussing the results and feedback from the events and asking questions back to the RIC committee.

At the Council's request, work on a welcome statement draft began this past May with forums open to all members, seeking congregational input. Since then, the draft has been refined by a working group and again by the RIC committee and Council.

The history of this process is significant and shows that we have worked very hard on this process for quite some time. As a result of this work, the church Council has decided that it is time to make a decision on whether to become an RIC congregation or not. As elected leaders, the Church Council feels it is their responsibility to make a faithful decision based on congregational input. Outlined below is the process the Council has requested in order to make a decision at the January council meet. Here are the next steps:

November 13 Adult Forum – Conversation centered around what it means to be an RIC Church and review of the past history and conversations. Discuss and answer questions about the remainder of the process, including introduction of a spectrum survey (see below).

December 4 Adult Forum – Discuss the spectrum survey which will indicate preference toward St. John's becoming an RIC church. This survey is the opportunity for all St. John's members to participate directly in the council's decision making. It will be the Council that makes the final determination on moving forward as RIC or continuing discussions, based in part on the survey results. Surveying will be by printed survey and will stay open for several weeks. We hope all congregation members will vote and express their opinion.

Continued on page 11

Reconciling in Christ Update

Continued from page 10

January 10 Church Council Meeting – After reviewing the results and feedback of the spectrum survey, the Council will decide on whether to become an RIC congregation or not. Please note, this decision will not be made on a “majority wins” mentality. Rather, this decision will be made on the faithful discernment of the council as to whether St. John’s is in a place to become an RIC congregation. As the elected leaders and representatives of the congregation, the Council has been very involved in the process and felt strongly that it was their duty to navigate this decision – with your input.

I would like to publicly thank the members of the RIC committee, other St. John’s members who have carried this conversation along, our Pastors Pam and Jonathan, and certainly the Council for their ongoing leadership on the subject. Thanks too, to all the members who have participated, shared, edited and communicated on this topic. One of the many wonderful things about the St. John’s community is that we are not afraid to participate! I have full confidence that the Council will consider all the data and opinions on the matter of RIC and make a faithful decision for St. John’s.

I welcome your individual comments, questions and concerns on this process to date and the upcoming steps. I can be reached at the contact information below.

Yours in Christ,
Brent Nystrom, 2016 Congregation President
brent.nystrom@gmail.com or 507-581-6715 (cell)

Christmas Sharing Tree Nov. 14 – Dec. 4



Our annual “Christmas Sharing Tree”, a program sponsored by the Northfield Community Action Center, will be displayed in St. John’s Commons from **November 14 - December 4**.

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

Purchased gifts should be placed, unwrapped, with the paper star attached, and put under the tree by Sunday, **December 4**.

In addition, we will also offer gifts to our Companion Synod, the Central Diocese of Tanzania and the Colombian Lutheran Church for scholarships for the Lutherans schools. The tree will be decorated with 50 envelopes for making donations.

Thank you in advance for your donations.

News and Updates



Lively conversation
New friendships
Bible Study
Girls Only ☺

FIRST GATHERING!
Saturday, October 29th, 5:00-6:30p
Jo Franklin's home, 1001 Freedom Ct.
rsvp to Julie

Julie Zdenek ★ julie.zdenek@gmail.com ★ 618.698.4870

Laura Baker Services Association Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Laura Baker Services Association is hosting their Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 24, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in Millis Dining Hall, at 211 Oak Street.

Everyone is invited for this delicious buffet-style meal - bring your family! If you need a ride or know of someone who needs a meal delivered to their home call Krista with Laura Baker Services at 645-8866, ext. 123, by November 21.



Women of St. John's

November Circle Meetings

Abigail/Rebecca

Thursday, November 10, 2:00 p.m.
Parkview West Conference Room (2nd floor)
Northfield Retirement Center

Elizabeth

Thursday, November 10, 1:30 p.m.
Marie Benson's Home
1509 Water's Edge Circle
Northfield
507-645-7979

Lydia

Wednesday, November 9, 9:30 a.m.
Judy Smith's Home
12366 Ibson Avenue
Northfield
507-645-8617

Martha/Claudia

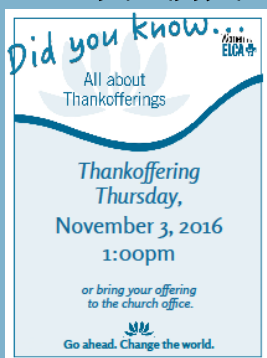
Thursday, November 10, 9:30 a.m.
Parkview West Dining Room
Northfield Retirement Center

Mary

Friday, November 11, 1:00 p.m.
Lydia Moe's Home
219 Nevada Street
Northfield
507-645-4577

Sarah

Wednesday, November 9, 9:30 a.m.
Location: TBD
Contacts: Char Nelson at 507-663-0564 or
Carole Nesheim at 507-645-5907



St. John's Women present

WOMEN OF THE REFORMATION: More than Footnotes



Join us!

November 3, 2016

1:00pm

St. John's Hall

Our own Sharon Flaten will offer insights into the female movers and shakers of the Reformation - ex-nuns, wives of reformers, and peers of Katie Luther.

Growing up in Calgary, Alberta, Sharon attended college in Edmonton. She graduated from Concordia Teachers College, Nebraska, with BSED, taught in Lutheran Schools in Independence, Missouri and Michigan, and Public Schools in Montana and Michigan, elementary grades. Sharon earned her MA EdPsych at Eastern Michigan University, founded a Lutheran Child Development Program and headed the Child Development component of the Teen-parent Program in Lincoln Park, Michigan. After a brief interlude in the business world, Sharon returned to her nurturing core and earned a BS Nursing at Wayne State University in Detroit. She worked in nursing at University of Michigan Hospital and Mayo Rochester hospitals for a dozen years until retirement.

"The involvement of many women in Reformation history is especially intriguing as it relates to the empowerment of women in the midst of today's massive societal changes."

Video/Audio
taping Dates:

Saturday, November 19th, 9:00-noon, St. John's Hall
Sunday, November 20th, 1:00-4:00, NRC



The 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's & 70's were the times of the greatest change for women in the history of the world!

We want to hear from you women who served the church during that time. We're sure you have stories of tumultuous change!

- ★ What leadership positions did you fill?
- ★ What did you do to support the church?
- ★ What did you do to support missions?
- ★ What changes in women's roles have you experienced?
- ★ How did your congregation deal with women in leadership?
- ★ What stories can you tell?

Contact Julie Zdenek to schedule a video date/time/place 618.698.4870
or julie.zdenek@gmail.com

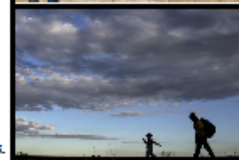
YOU CAN CHANGE THE WORLD, ONE KNOT AT A TIME

Can you tie a knot? Can you use scissors?

That's all you need to do to help assemble quilts. Each quilt is sent directly to someone needing for warmth and protection.



Quilts are desperately needed in places like hurricane ravaged Haiti, Nepal's earthquake recovery and Syria's refugee crisis.



St. John's Women created 120 quilts last year. The need is still great. You can help by:

- Tying knots (third Thursday of the month and the Monday prior)
- Cutting fabric squares (this can be done on your own time, at home)
- Sewing quilt tops (kits are available in a basket in the Commons)
- Donating JoAnn Fabric coupons
- Donating funds (for materials and shipping)



Lutheran World Relief

Go ahead. Change the world.

Contact:

Judy Pinc 612.816.7027
Dodie Mickelson 645.8101
Julie Zdenek 618.698.4870

ELCA World Hunger Appeal

By John Gorder

It's autumn in southern Minnesota. The combines and corn pickers are working late into the night, harvesting a bumper crop. It's marvelous to behold. Lying beyond the big machines and ripe fields are processing plants that turn the produce into cereals and cooking oil, feed for livestock, and fuel for automobiles. If a farmer is thoughtful, ample grain will be left in the fields for wild game to glean during the long winter months.

Most of us seldom give thought to how the earth FEEDS us. We have an unlimited variety of food in local stores and big-box warehouses. *Hunger* isn't part of our vocabulary. When I'm hungry, it might be because the apples are ripe, so I feel hungry for a Honey Crisp or a piece of fresh pie. Or I might be hungry for a steak on the grill, a fresh salad from the garden, or an end-of-day dish of ice cream. The understanding of real hunger, for most of us, is pretty remote.

But there are families in our community whose hunger is profound and threatening. The statistics are available. The food shelf is a lifesaver for those who are hungry and do not have the luxury of abundance. We need to expand our understanding of hunger to include the whole community.

A few years ago, I had an opportunity to teach a group of Christian leaders in the small village of Koro, located at the eastern border of Mali in West Africa. My hosts prepared a meal of millet garnished with chicken seasoned in peanut sauce.

That evening, as we sat around a small fire, I noticed an enormous pile of millet stalks piled on a high rack at the side of the house. "Why are those dry stalks piled up there?" I asked.

"It is fodder for our one donkey," answered my host. "We've had five years of terrible drought and there is absolutely no grass or brush for the animals to eat. Without those stalks, our donkey will die. And we will also perish because we need the donkey to pull the plow so we can plant our last sack of peanuts in our fields. If there are no rains this year, we will face starvation and be forced to leave our home and our land. Starvation is that close to us."

Hunger is real. It menaces the homeless, the poor, those caught in civil wars, and those affected by global warming and drought. It is important that we SHARE from our abundance.

Our church is one of the trustworthy vehicles reaching out to places and people who need what we have to give. There will be an envelope in the St. John's fall packet for World Hunger, and we encourage people to make that donation in November. St. John's normally raises at least \$10,000. Be generous. It is important.

News and Updates

Concert to Benefit Ruth's House

Marilyn Sellars and Steven C. Anderson will be in concert at St. John's on Sunday, November 20, at 4:00 p.m.

The cost is free but donations will be accepted to benefit Ruth's House.

American Sign Language Interpretation Now Available on Sunday Mornings

St. John's is happy to announce that we now have an American sign language interpreter available for most Sunday worship services. If you or someone you know would benefit from this service, please let one of the pastors know, so that we can make sure to have an interpreter available that Sunday.

Reminder! Daylight Savings Ends November 6

Set clocks back one hour
Sunday, November 6, 2016
at 2:00 a.m.



News and Updates

Refugee Update

We have recently gotten a lovely update on Paul and Ariat and their family from the mentor team at Christ Church Lutheran. Plans for a dinner with the family are in the works.

All the nine members of Paul and Ariat's family are now in school. The four older children are attending the LEAP High School in St Paul, a school that is "dedicated to serving students who are new to the United States and are learning English while earning a high school diploma." (<http://leap.spps.org/>). They say with a smile that they are enjoying themselves. The two nine-year olds and the five year old are also in school. The littlest one enjoys himself in the car by counting to twenty in English. Both Paul and Ariat are also attending school full time, and their spoken English is improving rapidly. Their family in St Cloud visits every weekend, and often serve as language and cultural interpreters. With the help of donated bicycles, the family has explored their neighborhood, and Paul took great delight in showing me the library and giving me directions when we returned home from church by a different route!

Paul and Ariat will be meeting with a job counselor in the next couple of weeks and are actively seeking work. Despite tight finances and the onset of winter, they are positive, loving and hopeful, and they and their family are a delight to know. They are tremendously grateful for all the support.



2016 Benevolence Distributions (from the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board)

Have you ever wondered how much of the St. John's budget is given away and where it goes? What about the special offerings? Here is a list of benevolence given in 2016, listed by local, regional, and international giving. This list includes funds that come from the budget, from the St. John's Foundation, and from offerings to specific causes (listed as pass through funds).

Local and Regional

(\$27,035 from Benevolence Budget and St. John's Foundation)

- \$250 to SE MN Synod, for Lutheran Campus Ministries, Winona and Mankato
- \$500 to Northfield Public Schools for the weekend food backpacks.
- \$200 to Cannon River Watershed Project
- \$200 to Health Finders Collaborative (provides health care in Rice County)
- \$200 Ruth's House in Faribault (supportive housing for women and children)
- \$600 MN Joint Religious Legislative Committee (JRLC)
- \$2,500 to Lutheran Social Services (general fund)
- \$4,000 to Lutheran Social Services to support the refugee family
- \$2,500 to Green Lake Bible Camp
- \$2,360 to the ELCA Retired Pastors Supplement Fund
- \$2,000 to Seminarians from St. John's Church
- \$2,600 to Scholarships for St. John's students entering Lutheran Colleges
- \$5,000 to the Northfield CAC Pajama Project
- \$1,000 Rice County Habitat for Humanity
- \$1,000 Laura Baker Schools
- \$1,000 3 Links Care Center
- \$1,125 Northfield Retirement Center (includes \$750 from annual budget)

Both regional and international (\$56,900 from Benevolence Budget)

- \$55,000 to the SE Minnesota Synod of the ELCA
- \$1000 to the SE MN Synod Leading Together Fund
- \$500 to Bread for the World
- \$200 Lutheran Peace Fellowship
- \$200 Center for Victims of Torture

International (\$7,950 from Benevolence Budget)

- \$1000 Lutheran Disaster Response (to be used where most needed)
- \$500 Operation Bootstrap Africa, for Upengo, student at Maasae Girls School
- \$250 Mwangaza for Education in Tanzania
- \$200 ELCA Malaria Campaign
- \$2000 ELCA Missionary sponsorship for Randy and Carol Stubbs in Tanzania

Continued on page 15

From Bread for the World

We are moved by God's grace in Jesus Christ to work for justice for people who are hungry in our country and around the world. We believe that ending hunger by 2030 is a goal within reach, and we are taking action because our children, our neighbors are suffering.

Voting is Christian stewardship. Our Christian faith compels us to elect wise leaders who will uphold justice and the common good, especially for people who are poor and needy. Churches, communities and government working together have the



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

power to end hunger. Over 100 Christian faith leaders, through the "Circle of Protection" project, asked the Democratic and Republican candidates for president what they would do if elected to "offer help and opportunity to hungry and poor people in the U.S. and around the world."

You can read the responses of their campaigns at votetoendhunger.org, click on "Get Involved" and then "Presidential Candidate Hunger Statements."

Serving Others and Giving Thanks

Continued from page 8

In October, I challenged you to step out and try something new. Did you do it? Here is my November challenge for you – **be thankful** – not just in feeling but **SPEAK** it! When someone serves you or gives you something, speak your thankfulness right away. We often are grateful, but we don't say anything. Speak up St. John's Church! You never know what can happen from simply being thankful.

2016 Benevolence Distributions

Continued from page 14

- \$2000 ELCA Missionary sponsorship for Curtis and Katie Kline in Colombia
- \$2000 Lutheran mission in South Sudan

Pass Through Funds (\$43,358)

- \$11,735 March Food Share to CAC (local)
- \$12,376 Lutheran World Relief (international)
- \$12,667 ELCA World Hunger (international-2015 total)
- \$3,930 Missions (international)
- \$1000 Lutheran School in the Holy Land (international)
- \$1,650 Refugee support

Total from Budget, St. John's Foundation and Pass Through = \$135,243

St. John's Staff

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WEBSITE

Www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

St. John's Advent Fair Wednesday, November 30

Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, November 30, in St. John's Hall. Come enjoy our Wednesday Night Meal, the Fair Trade Fair, (through SERRV that improve the lives of artisans and farmers worldwide), and Advent activities for all ages. We encourage you to bring friends. The more the merrier!

Time: 5:15 - 6:15 p.m.: Wednesday Meal
5:45 - 7:00 p.m.: Advent Fair Activities and Fair Trade Fair



Can you help with Advent Fair?

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

Contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions at 507-645-4429 or childrens@StJohnsNorthfield.org.