



The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2017

# Lent.

a season of renewal

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## Lent Begins March 1 with Ash Wednesday

Lent, our springtime period of renewal and focus on repentance and life in Christ, begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1, with worship and the imposition of ashes at noon and 6:30 p.m.

The ashes we receive on our foreheads remind us that we, along with all of creation, are dependent on God's grace.

Mid-week worship begins the following week, March 8, at 6:30 p.m. In the Gospel of John, which is where most of our Lenten Gospels come from this year, testimony plays a crucial role. Very often people hear about Jesus and Jesus' deeds not directly from him, but from other people. Even some of the apostles are healed "second-hand" by one person witnessing to another.

**Soup Suppers** precede each midweek service (*including* Ash Wednesday), serving from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

### 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/95.1FM

### 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 / 95.1 FM

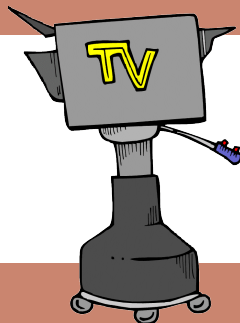


**TV Broadcasts**

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



**March 5:**

*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*

*Accompany, Undercroft*

*Lenten Book Read Small Groups, Fireside Room / Room 212*

**March 12:**

*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*

*Accompany, Undercroft*

*Lenten Book Read Small Groups, Fireside Room / Room 212*

*Toddler Time, Room 20*

**March 19:**

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

*Accompany, Undercroft*

*Lenten Book Read Small Groups, Fireside Room / Room 212*

**March 26:**

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

*Easter Garden Orders, Commons*

*Intergenerational Event: Baby Care Kits, St. John's Hall*

*Accompany, Undercroft*

*Lenten Book Read Small Groups, Fireside Room / Room 212*

In our fall Stewardship appeal, we set out three goals: *excelling in ministry, welcoming here and beyond, feeding the community*. Thanks to your generous commitment to the ministry of St. John's, we are already hard at work putting some practical things into place to meet those goals.

While there are a variety of ways that we plan to continue and grow these goals at St. John's, I am increasingly aware of one hour each week when these goals seem to be met and are thriving: *Wednesday Night Meals*.

Practically speaking, we are quite literally *feeding the community*. On average, we serve somewhere between 140–180 meals each Wednesday. Not only are we feeding the community, but our incredible Wednesday meal cooks are intentional about keeping the meals as healthy as possible, while also providing a hearty and sustaining meal for those who need it. At a recent Wednesday meal, I was told that we served around 30 pounds of broccoli. That's a lot of broccoli.

It has also become clear that we are not just feeding the St. John's community, but also the Northfield community, as we have seen many new faces this year during this meal time. At a Night to Unite event in August of 2015, one of our neighbors said about our community meal, "This is great! You should do this every week." After hearing that, my first thought was, "We should!" and then my second thought was, "Wait a minute. We do! Wednesday Night Meals." Since then, we have been intentional about getting the word out that this is not a church meal, it is a community meal. All are welcome. Since last May and especially this fall, we have seen an increase in the number of people who both attend this meal and rely on this meal, especially among our immediate neighborhood. The reach of Wednesday meals seems to be growing, which is to say that this time of the week is a moment when we are *welcoming here and beyond*.

In the midst of this influx of new faces, it is not hard to see how St. John's is *excelling in ministry* too. We have the joy of watching as our staff and congregational members warmly welcome people in the meal line, or even pull up a chair and a tray of food next to someone they do not know to welcome them personally, but also on behalf of St. John's.

All that is contained in this one hour of our week is made possible because of the generous and regular stewardship of this congregation. Stewardship means we don't have to require payment of anyone, and people can help pay for the food if they can. Stewardship means the lights stay on, the dishwasher keeps working, and we can supply our volunteer cooks with all the tools they need to do this well.

This year we are spending a lot of time in the gospel of Matthew in worship. One major theme in this gospel is the theme of sight and vision. In one story, two men who are blind plead with Jesus, "Lord, let our eyes be opened." Sometimes, I find myself praying the same prayer – *Lord, let our eyes be opened*. Recently, I feel as if my eyes have been opened to a new layer of God's ministry that is at work here at St. John's.

What do you see on Wednesday evenings?

Thank you for partnering with us in ministry. We are grateful for you and hope you know what a difference you make.

## 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.

## Help Us Reach Out to Our Community and Beyond!

Did you know...

- that St. John's is a Stephen Ministry congregation that offers a FREE one on one caring ministry to anyone (members and non-members alike) going through a difficult time?
- that Stephen Ministers have completed 50 hours of intense training to become effective caregivers?
- that a Stephen Minister will typically offer weekly one-hour visits to listen, care, support, and pray with you for as long as there is a need?

And did you know...

- that every member of the congregation, whether a trained minister or not, has a part in this ministry?

With a church family as large as St. John's, it is sometimes difficult for the pastors and Stephen Leaders to know who might be struggling through difficult times. We need you to be the eyes and ears for Christ care. You are on the front line of caring ministry at St. John's. The Stephen Ministry motto is "Christ Caring for People through People." If you see a friend, coworker, neighbor, relative, or someone else who could use some extra Christian care, tell that person about our Stephen Ministry and get permission to refer him or her to one of the pastors (507-645-4429) or Pam Schwandt (507-645-6120).

It is often helpful to be assertive when you sense that someone is in need. You may recall the February article that states assertiveness is relating gently but firmly. You may use statements similar to the following: "I feel that you might really benefit from having a Stephen Minister, and I would like to connect you with one." Or, "A Stephen Minister could be the best gift that you can give yourself right now."

This is your ministry, and we hope that every member will recognize the need to look out for one another. Additionally, we hope that you will accept care when you are in need, recognizing that we all experience brokenness from time to time. Finally, we ask for your prayers for God to bring hope and healing to all those who are hurting.



## Lenten Wednesdays: The Gospel According to St. John's

In the Gospel of John, which is where most of our Lenten Gospels come from this year, testimony plays a crucial role. Very often people hear about Jesus and Jesus' deeds not directly from him, but from other people. Even some of the apostles are healed "second-hand" by one person witnessing to another.

It is clear that John did not consider his Gospel to be the final word on Jesus' action in our world either. He concludes the Gospel this way:

"This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."

Today we are still part of writing the "many books" that contain the works of Jesus. While many Christians are uncomfortable talking about their faith, personal experience of God's work in our lives is the core of faith. Our own faith is strengthened when someone we know well experiences God's grace and healing.

This year five St. John's members have been invited to share their "testimony," that is, their story of God at work in their life. We are so grateful to these individuals for their courage in sharing their story with us, and we are excited to see how their example helps all of us think more deeply about our experience of Jesus.

Lenten Vespers – taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy – will take place each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. from March 8 through April 5.

## March Special Offering: CAC Food Shelf

Northfield Community Action Center (CAC) is in the midst of its annual March Minnesota Food Share Campaign. For 34 years the CAC has participated in the Minnesota FoodShare to raise hunger awareness and financial support for our food programs. Every dollar and pound raised in our community is dispersed by the CAC into the Northfield food programs. The CAC stretches donated dollars by purchasing food at a reduced price, so monetary donations are preferred.

You may use the St. John's special offering envelope for the CAC Food Shelf, or donate via your on-line giving. If you write a check, please write it to St. John's, and indicate CAC Food Shelf on the memo line. As in previous years, our goal is to reach at least \$10,000.

Thank you for your support!

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

February 9, 2017  
Charles "Chuck" Jacobson

February 12, 2017  
Nancy Gatton

February 15, 2017  
Olaf Millert



### Radio Broadcasts

**February 5, 2017**  
Given in honor of Emese Posfay by  
Eva Posfay, Pepe Kryzda, and Cecilia Kryzda.

**February 12, 2017**  
Given in loving memory of  
Andy and Loretta Siler  
by the Connie & Wayne Finnern Family  
and the Charles & Margaret Babcock Family.

**February 19, 2017**  
Given in celebration of  
Chuck Muckey's 81st birthday  
by Charleen and Pete Volkert.

**February 26, 2017**  
Given in memory of Marion Boyd  
by Mary and Jim Bierman.

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 and Youth

### Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

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

March 5	Sunday School/Life Groups
March 12	Sunday School/Life Groups Toddler Time (Daylight Savings)
March 19	No Sunday School/Life Groups (Spring Break)
March 26	No Sunday School/Life Groups (Spring Break) Intergenerational Event

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

March 1	
March 8	
March 15	
March 22	No Programming (Spring Break)
March 29	

#### CATechism for Grades 4 and 5

March 8
March 15
March 29
April 5



### Toddler Time

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).



### June 12-15 Age 3 (by 9/1/17) – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Kids go on an awesome adventure alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God.

St. John's, Bethel, Emmaus, and St. Peter's Churches come together to provide this fun-filled summer camp experience.

This year's VBS is at Bethel Lutheran Church for all age groups.

The cost is \$15.00 per child with a \$30.00 family limit.  
(Scholarships available)

Registration forms will be available the beginning of March in the lower and upper Commons and on St. John's website.

#### We need many volunteers for Hero Central!

- Hero Helpers – lead a small group of children to various stations
- Station Leaders and Assistants – lead music, crafts, games, Bible storytelling, snacks
- Decorating and Prep – prior to VBS
- Help with Registration on Monday, June 12
- Nursery Care

Please call Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or email at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet if you are willing to help.

### Confirmation in Lent

On these dates in Lent: **March 8, 15, 29**, and **April 5**, Confirmation will meet from **6:30-7:30 p.m.** Youth will be expected to attend worship with their small groups from 6:30-7:00 p.m. and then discuss what they heard and do their weekly ritual of check-in and prayer from 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Small Groups will not meet on **March 1** (Ash Wednesday), **March 22** (Spring Break), and **April 12** (Holy Week - no service).





**Andy's Gang,  
Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp,  
June 18-23**

Kids in 2nd - 5th grades! We'd love to have you join us at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp this summer in New London, MN. Feel free to invite a friend!

St. John's will be attending the week of **June 18-23**.

To find out more info about camp or to register online, go to <http://www.gllm.org/>. Everyone receives money from the fundraiser towards the registration fee, so please pay only the deposit of \$125. We have spots reserved until March 16. After that date, we'll check availability.

If you are in need of a scholarship, please feel free to talk with Julie Brhmer or Mike Skunes. We want everyone have the opportunity to attend.



**Prayer Buddies During Lent**

During the Lenten season, 14 of our 4th and 5th grade Catechism kids are paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their "Prayer Buddy". Prayer Buddies are asked to pray for a child through the Lenten season, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

Thank you to our Prayer Buddy volunteers for being a part of this faith sharing experience: Barry Becker, Brenda Boone, Brian Evenson, Dan Franklin, Mary Hoff, Nancy Kmoch, Nick Neeb, Kristin Partlo, Jane Rinehart, John Quam, David Quarberg, Scott Swanson, Julie Thorsheim, and John Walters.

**Children and Youth**

**Children,  
Come to the Table!**

When is my child ready to take Holy Communion? When is anyone really ready? As Lutherans we believe that the sacraments are gifts of God not dependent on our understanding or preparation to be effective as gifts of grace. At St. John's we urge parents to bring their children to the table every week, whether they receive a blessing or the bread and wine. Parents may use discretion based on their own piety and family situation as to when a child receives the bread and wine, but there is no minimum age. Age appropriate materials are available for discussing communion with your child from age 4 and up. Contact Pastor Fickenscher or Pastor Davis if you are interested in having your child commune for the first time.



**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)

## Shared Ministry



### Lenten Soup Supper Traditions

Lenten Soup Suppers are a lovely tradition here at St. John's. We take a step back from our typical Wednesday routines to be fed both by the meal and with the words shared during the Lenten services afterward.

Our energetic and very hardworking **Wednesday Meal Crew** takes a respite during Lent while another very hardworking group, the **St. John's Council & Boards**, step in to set up, serve, and clean up for the Soup Suppers.

**Kristy Harms** and **Peggy Dell**, the Wednesday Meal chefs and coordinators have once again kindly offered to plan, shop for, and prepare soups for all the suppers, including on Ash Wednesday. Thank you, all!

We hope you can all join us for soup suppers during Lent! And invite your neighbors, friends, and anyone else who might want a warm meal!

*See the menu for Lenten Soup Suppers on page 9.*

## Home Again, Home Again!

By Christy Hall-Holt

While the five months traveling the world with my family and 11 St. Olaf students was an enriching experience, it is so good to be home again!

I knew I was really home when

- on Sunday in the Sanctuary, hearing the choirs, seeing all your precious familiar faces
- on Wednesday in St. John's Hall, sharing a warm meal together and hearing your voices
- in the Kitchen, joining other volunteers preparing fruit for the Youth Fundraiser Breakfast
- in the Commons, being invited to join in the Lenten Book Read

Thank you for the warm welcome home, St. John's!

A heartfelt "Thank You!" to **Mary Kelvie**, who stepped into Shared Ministry during my five months away. We appreciate your positive and organized approach to coordinating volunteers. You kept this work going superbly!

Thank you to **Char Nelson** and **all our faithful Funeral Volunteers** who did wonders of hospitality in the busy month of February.

**Sandra Nyvall** coordinated the Accompany group gatherings and **Pat Fick** provided the New Member Lunch and refreshments for each meeting. **Jo Franklin** has been guiding people through Accompany since the groups began and is the main facilitator again for this Spring. Thank you!

Thanks to everyone in the **February (Co-leaders Dick & Jo Kleeberg and Eric Lund)** and **March Sunday Hospitality Groups** who signed up to serve on Sunday mornings.

On **March 5**, the **April Hospitality Group** will meet in St. John's Hall between services for coffee, fellowship time, and to sign up for Sunday Hospitality Roles: Greeting & Welcome Desk, Coffee & Fellowship between services, and Communion preparing and clean up.







**Sunday of the Passion, April 9**

Procession with Palms and Holy Communion  
8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday, April 13**

Holy Communion  
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

**Good Friday, April 14**

Liturgy of Good Friday  
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

**Holy Saturday, April 15**

The Great Vigil of Easter 7:00 p.m.  
Beginning in the St. John's Courtyard  
Service with candlelight and Holy Communion

**Celebration of the Resurrection**

**Sunday, April 16**

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.  
Holy Communion at all services  
Easter Breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
9:30 service broadcast on KYMN 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

**News and Updates**

**St. John's**

**Lenten Soup Suppers**

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, March 1**

Spring Chicken Soup (Chicken Noodle)  
Broccoli Soup Au Gratin

**Wednesday, March 8**

Lickity Split Pea (Split Pea with Ham)  
Pot of Gold (Corn Chowder)

**Wednesday, March 15**

Farmhouse Soup (Vegetable Soup)  
Full Moon Soup (Zuppa Toscana)

**Wednesday, March 22**

Twist and Shout (Beef Noodle)  
Sweet Dreams Soup (Ginger Carrot)

**Wednesday, March 29**

MN Nice Rice (Wild Rice Soup)  
Bisque in the Sun (Tomato Soup)



## News and Updates

### It's 2017-18 Registration Time for Open Door Preschool!

Open Door Preschool, located in the basement of St. John's will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, March 2, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. and on Saturday, March 4, from 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Open Door Preschool offers 2 and 3 day morning and afternoon sessions for children ages 3-5.

Combinations and extended day options are also available.

Registrations will be accepted during the Open House. Scholarships are available.

For further information visit our website at: [www.opendoorpreschoolnorthfield.org](http://www.opendoorpreschoolnorthfield.org) or contact Barb Howe or Sue Anderson at 507-645-8532.

Open Door is proud to be a 4 star Parent Aware rated program.



## Spring Intergenerational Event: LWR Project Promise Baby Care Kits – How You Can Help?

Project Promise Baby Care Kits are part of an emergency relief effort through LWR. Kits are given to expectant women around the world to encourage them to seek prenatal care. Thank you to Sarah Circle who has supported this program throughout the years at St. John's.



On Sunday, March 26, our Intergenerational Event is helping create these kits. Starting February 19, we began collecting two different items each week to create our Baby Care Kits. A donation basket and shopping lists are by the Sanctuary entrances and in the Upper Commons.

### A few guidelines:

- Clothing between 6–24 months. New is preferred, but can gently used is fine. No worn or stained clothing because it is increasingly difficult to get through customs in many countries and the entire shipment may be jeopardized.
- Soap, towels and diapers must be new.

No religious symbols, messages, patriotic or military symbols on clothing please.

### Here's our remaining donation schedule:

- Mar. 5: Sturdy diaper pins or cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- Mar. 12: Jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood or include a baby cap
- Mar. 19: Hand towel, dark color or receiving blanket in medium weight cotton or flannel up to 52" square

You are welcome to give monetary donations for purchasing items or for shipping the kits. Please make checks to Women of the ELCA. Thank you in advance!

## Sunday School Prays for Children Around the World

Each month, our Sunday school kids will be praying for children from another country.

Our prayers in February were for our friends in South Africa. The word "peace" in South Africa is spoken in many languages. Afrikaans' language for peace is "Vrede". We learned a African song last and made African collages.



## Monitors are Coming!

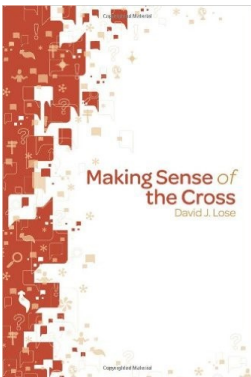


The Evangelism & Communications Board is pleased to bring to you, through Council support and Foundation funding, information monitors in the Commons and at the southwest entrance.

We are excited about this development as it will improve communication surrounding daily happenings, upcoming events, and celebration of past events. Through up-to-date information sharing, they will boost community and connectivity within our St. John's family.

In the larger context, monitors will also provide us a platform to communicate with all who walk through our doors who we are at St. John's, what our mission is, and that all are welcome.

## Did God Kill Jesus? – A Lenten Book Read on *Making Sense of the Cross*, by David Lose.



Beginning this month, 30+ people will be gathering in small groups to ask these questions - what happened on the cross and the day Jesus died? What did God accomplish through the cross? Did God kill Jesus? Did Jesus have to die?

While many of us know the importance of the cross and resurrection of Christ to the Christian faith, many of us struggle to articulate why it matters or what it means.

In his book *Making Sense of the Cross*, David Lose shows that the meaning of the cross has changed over the course of Christian history. To begin, Lose offers a thoughtful review of the four Gospels and how each portrays Jesus' death on the cross and what it might mean. He also walks the reader through three major ways that the cross has been understood over the past two thousand years, along with the benefits and drawbacks of each. In the end, Lose hopes to offer an alternative view of the cross that is both biblical and faithful to the Christian life, which then can inform the way we live out the Christian faith in our daily lives.

If you are not signed up, there is still time! If you are interested in participating, please speak with Pastor Jonathan. If you would like to read the book, but cannot join a small group, books are available for \$10 in the church office.

## News and Updates

### Pub Theology in March

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, March 6, 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 month, 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](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)) to add your name to the email list.



# the WOMEN'S page



## March Gatherings

**Abigail/Rebecca Circle**  
Thursday, March 9, 2:00pm  
Parkview West Library  
Northfield Retirement Community

**Elizabeth Circle**  
Thursday, March 9, 1:30pm  
Darlene Hand's home  
1109 Farehaven Ct.

**Lydia Circle**  
Wednesday, March 8, 9:00am  
St. John's Hall

**Martha/Claudia Circle**  
Wednesday, March 8, 9:30am  
Parkview West Fireside Rm  
Northfield Retirement Community

**Mary Circle**  
Friday, March 10, 1:00pm  
Sharon Flaten's home  
301 7th St. W Unit 1202

**Sarah Circle**  
Wednesday, March 8, 9:00am  
St. John's Hall

**Bold Cafe**  
Sunday, March 26  
Intergenerational Event  
Baby Kits, 9:45a St. John's Hall

**Baby Boomers**  
Saturday, March 4: Katie Luther Tea  
Saturday, April 1, 4:30pm  
Jennifer Edwins' home  
106 Nevada St.

**Breakfast Group**  
Saturday, March 11, 8:30am



## BABY KITS for Lutheran World Relief

**March 5:** Cloth Diapers & Diaper Pins\*

**March 12:** Jackets/Sweaters with caps, or hoodies\*

**March 20:** Hand Towels (dark color) & Receiving Blankets\*

(\*See shopping lists for details)

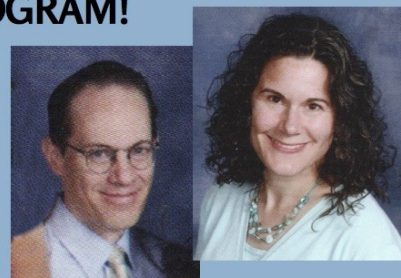
**March 26:** Compile and Complete Baby Kits  
together - Sunday School hour



## DON'T MISS OUR APRIL PROGRAM!

Olaf and Christy Hall-Holt share  
the adventures of their 2016  
"Global" trip with St. Olaf.

**Thursday, April 6th**  
1:00pm, St. John's Hall



### Need a ride?

Rides available for all St. John's Women's events.  
Call Mary Hoff 763.688.4516



like us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns"  
friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns  
(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Correspondence: [women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com)  
Publicity: Julie Zdenek 618.698.4870

St. John's  
**Women**  
of the **ELCA**

## From Bread for the World: Offering of Letters

The Apostle Paul declares that, because of Christ's death and resurrection, we are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). We see the world with new eyes and with hearts filled with God's limitless love. Remembering Joseph in Egypt, Jesus feeding the thousands, the early church in Acts, and Paul's charge to the Corinthians, we are moved to do our part to end hunger by advocating for Congress to lay the foundation for a world without hunger.



Through the federal budget process, Congress can make funding decisions that put us on track to end hunger and poverty by 2030. The federal budget uses the common resource of the people's taxes to supply the diversity of needs which includes those who are hungry and living in poverty. Federal budget proposals and resolutions -- including full employment, reframing tax codes, safety-net programs, global nutrition and international development -- can set forth a long-term vision of eliminating hunger and poverty.

We have made great progress reducing hunger and poverty in our country and around the world, but our work remains unfinished. Nearly 800 million people in the world are still hungry. In the U.S. 1 in 6 children lives in a family that struggles with hunger. **As members of St. John's we can take part in Bread for the World's 2017 offering of letters urging Congress to sustain and not reduce funding that moves us toward a world without hunger. Tables and materials for writing letters between services will be found in St. John's Hall on March 19 and 26 and April 2. Facilitation for letters by email will also be provided.**

## Opening of Exhibit, *Luther in Mansfeld - Childhood & Education*



In conjunction with the Euro-Atlantic Conference: "The Legacy of 1848 Through Today." Organized by Yogi Reppmann ([www.moin-moin.us](http://www.moin-moin.us)) and to be held at St. John's from March 30 through April 2, 2017 an interesting display - **Luther in Mansfeld** - of 17 posters (16 x 20 inches) concerning Martin

Luther's early life will be shown in the St. John's Hall.

These will revolve around the city of Mansfeld in central Germany where Luther grew up and will include early views of the city, the Latin school that young Martin attended, commentaries on aspects of Luther's life, and a painting of his aged parents. Here's a chance to learn quite a bit about Luther that you may well not have known.

Conference Website: [www.legacyof1848.com](http://www.legacyof1848.com)

## News and Updates

### Easter Garden Orders

If you would like to order a flowering plant in memory or honor of a loved one, the chancel guild will be taking orders on Sunday mornings, March 26 and April 2 between services. They will also be taking orders Wednesday night, April 5, at the soup supper.

There will be an assortment to choose from with different price ranges. Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

The flowers will be labeled with your name behind the bow and may be taken home after the last service Easter morning.



## News and Updates

### St. John's Launches Plans for 150th Anniversary Benevolence Project

The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board is planning a benevolence project for 2019 that will be specifically geared toward a local community initiative.

An invitation packet was recently distributed to approximately 29 local nonprofit organizations offering an opportunity to submit a proposal for how they would use St. John's benevolence funds. The letter suggests that we anticipate between \$25,000 and \$75,000 may be available. The goal is to select a project that can have a lasting, visible, and positive impact on Northfield in thanking the community for their support throughout our 150 years. We are also hoping to select a project where members of the congregation can engage with the nonprofit.

All non-profit organizations are welcome to submit a proposal so anyone interested in receiving a Request for Proposal packet may contact the church office. Additionally, anyone interested in seeing the list of nonprofits who received a packet can stop in the church office or check the St. John's website.

Questions? Contact Benevolence & Social Concerns Board Chair Jane Rinehart ([janesrinehart@gmail.com](mailto:janesrinehart@gmail.com)).

A large graphic for the 150th anniversary. The number '150' is in a large, bold, white font with a slight shadow. Below the '0' is the word 'YEARS' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

## Refugee Resettlement Update

We at St. John's enjoyed meeting Paul and Ariat and their children, as well as the mentors from Christ Church Lutheran when they joined us for worship and lunch in December. At that time, Paul was employed at Andersen Windows and the family was making progress in school and with English. Since then, Paul's job has ended, though he may be recalled, but in the meantime he is seeking other employment. Paul has gotten his learner's permit and is working towards a driver's license. As soon as he has that in hand, the family will get a donated car. Access to transportation will be helpful with employment opportunities. Good news! Ariat is expecting a baby this spring. She has seen a doctor and a hospital has been arranged, so that is in order.

Since Paul became unemployed, Christ Church stepped in with emergency funds to pay rent and utilities for February, and we hope St. John's will be able to help with future transition expenses. Kathy Schuurman and Solveig Zempel met with the mentor team from Christ Church Lutheran today and Kathy will be meeting soon with Paul and Ariat and one of the Christ Church team to get more insight into their financial situation and to discuss what kinds of on going needs the family has and how we can best assist them.

Right now, here are some practical ways in which St. John's members potentially could help:

- If anyone is available to go up to St. Paul to offer Paul driving lessons and help him practice his driving skills to move towards passing his driving test, please let Kathy know right away and she can help you get in touch with Paul to make arrangements.
- If anyone has contacts with potential employment for Paul, or part-time after school and/or summer employment for the older teenagers, please let Kathy know right away.
- If anyone knows of less expensive housing for a large family in the greater metro area, please let Kathy know right away so she can pass this on to the family and the mentors.

**The article below is excerpted from the January Christ Church Lutheran Courier and was written by Ron Johnson of the mentor team.**

It is nearly six months since Ariat and Paul and their seven children arrived in Minnesota. The adjustments required for this family have been many. The most obvious one is related to weather. Ethiopia (the country of origin) and Kenya (site of refugee camp) are located near the equator. This means that the temperatures are generally warm throughout the year and there is no snow. The -15 degree day in mid-December and the accumulation of snow over the past month represent new experiences. While the family members have purchased some good winter clothes, we all know that the cold has way of penetrating even the best clothing. This clothing was put to a test on December 18 when we drove the family to Northfield to meet some members of St. John's Lutheran Church (our co-sponsors). It was the coldest day in three years.

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## Refugee Resettlement Update

Continued from page 14

The second adjustment is that of living in a strange land where the common language is not what they can easily understand or speak. This can lead to a sense of isolation and anxiety. The children are learning English in school and Ariat and Paul have taken language training. Proficiency in English will probably come primarily through continued engagement with people in the course of daily life and work. Family members seem to be progressing well in this regard, but learning a new language is hard work and a long process.

A third adjustment has to do with learning how to be financially self-sufficient in this society. The family has already become fully responsible for the expense of housing. While some government assistance continues (depending upon income level), the large majority of financial aid has come to an end. With a family of nine persons, balancing income and expense is no small challenge. For two months Paul worked at Andersen Windows, but that job has come to an end. He is seeking new employment. The house in which the family currently lives is expensive in terms of both rent and utilities. Thus the family is looking for a more affordable place to live.

Ariat and Paul's family lived in two refugee camps over a period of twelve years. For eleven years the family lived in Dadaab, said to be the largest refugee camp in the world with more than 400,000 people. A book was recently published titled "City of Thorns." It is an attempt to describe life in this camp through the stories of nine persons. Interwoven with these accounts is a description of wider political forces that function to keep people trapped as refugees. The residents of Dadaab are from Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and other troubled places within the region. Dadaab is not a pleasant or safe place. It is filled with people who have little reason for hope that they can ever safely return home. The story is sobering but it is one that should be read because it represents an important part of the world's reality.

## Blessing of the Quilts

The quilts placed over the pews on Sunday, February 19, were taken to



the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul to be shipped around the world. If you would like to give to our quilting efforts, offerings directed to "St John's WELCA" will assist with material costs and shipping costs.

## St. John's Staff

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**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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



**Turn your  
clocks ahead  
on Sunday,  
March 12,  
at 2:00 a.m.**