



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 5

MAY 2017



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Congrats Class of 2017!

On Sunday, May 21, during the 10:45 a.m. service, St. John's will recognize our graduating High School Seniors.

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

God's blessings on your future plans!

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

Cameron Beedle, Synneva Bratland, Ashley Canedy,
 Jack Cuddy, Kate Erickson, Elizabeth Evenson,
 Alaina Falck, Timothy Gasior,
 Alex Gunn, Bergen Hoff,
 Nicole Malecha, Gregory Pelletier,
 Taylor Pleschourt, Nicolas Zabel

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
8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays beginning May 28

Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays
10:00 - 11:15 a.m. Sundays beginning May 28

Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays
All Ages from September-May

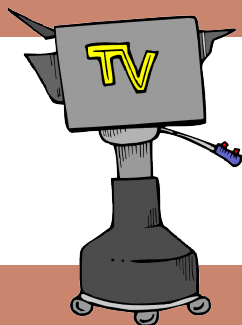
Live Broadcasts

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



May 7:

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
Toddler Time, Room 20
Sunday Morning Concert Series: St. Olaf Gospel Choir,
St. John's Hall

May 14:

Coffee and Fellowship, Lower Level
Fair Trade Sales of Coffee and More, Lower Level
Sunday School Celebration, Lower Level

May 21:

Coffee and Fellowship, Commons and St. John's Hall
St. John's Forum: Reflections from Tanzania, Sanctuary
Bold Café, Fireside Room

May 28:

Rhubarb Sunday, Commons and St. John's Hall

St. John's Forum: Reflections from Tanzania

Join us for the adult forum on May 21, in the Sanctuary, as we hear from Pastor Pam and our Tanzania travelers about their trip and their reflections on what they experienced and came away with.

March Companion Visit to Tanzania

By Pastor Pam Fickenscher



From March 10-23, I was with six other members of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA on a Companion Church visit to the Central Diocese of Tanzania. Kristin Partlo, Terry Gilbertson, and I

joined Kathy Chateleine from the synod office and three others from around our synod on a series of visits to ELCT churches, schools, and hospitals. (Bishop Delzer had planned to be with us but was unable to travel at the last minute due to illness).

It's hard to summarize 12 days of encounter that was so intense, multi-sensory, and spiritually moving. We have hundreds of pictures, videos, and stories, some of which we will be sharing with Sunday School children this month and in an adult forum on Sunday, May 21. But here's a start:

Although 100 years ago Tanzania was the kind of place that European Lutherans sent missionaries to, it now feels more like a place that might send some witness and wisdom to us. Why?

The Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) is growing rapidly. There are more Lutherans in Tanzania than in the United States now. Yes, you read that right. Their congregations are exploding and many of them are building new facilities as fast as they can to keep up.

Why this growth? First of all, it's a very young country – 45% of the population is under 15. They are laser-focused on leadership development, from helping young people finish secondary school to making sure every congregation has enough trained evangelists to care for their growing communities.

Another reason may be their focus on the whole person. The Lutheran Church in Tanzania has a three-legged stool of ministry which includes robust evangelism, many schools for all age levels, and health care facilities ranging from small dispensaries to specialist hospitals. In these institutions, the faith-based purpose of their work is never forgotten, even as a diversity of people benefit from the ministry.

As a nation, Tanzania is evidence that diversity does not have to lead to violence. In spite of hundreds of different tribal and language groups, they are one of the few African nations that had a peaceful transition away from the colonial era -- and they have never had a civil war. In a nation that is 40% Christian and 40% Muslim, interreligious violence is exceedingly rare. A spirit of cooperation is so institutionalized that their presidents have alternated between Christian and Muslim faiths. Our driver said that interfaith marriages are not at all

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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."

May 6, 2016
Roger Hand

May 11, 2016
Keith Ingbritsen

May 17, 2016
John Hjortland

May 30, 2016
Ed Youngquist

Why Did I Seek Out a Stephen Minister?

By Christy Hall-Holt

2004 was momentous year for our family. Our second daughter, Annelise, was born in April at the end of a two year stay for a post-doctoral research fellowship at Stony Brook University on Long Island. In August we moved back to our home state of Minnesota where my husband, Olaf, joined the computer science faculty at St. Olaf College. A new job, a new baby, and a new city -- these were big adjustments on their own.

Then came sickness. Only a month into his new role as a teaching professor, Olaf was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, an auto-immune disease much like Crohn's. One night after symptoms had intensified, Dr. Rod Christensen, advised us to be on our way as soon as possible to the Emergency Room. Olaf was admitted and ended up staying a week in the hospital.

Strangers from our new St. Olaf community brought us special meals. One couple gave us the poignant gift of a fishbowl containing a monarch chrysalis waiting to hatch! Our families rallied around us. Olaf's godmother, our Aunt Carolyn, even came to stay with us for a week. Despite all these concrete gestures of goodwill and support, I felt like I was sinking, unable to cope emotionally with the demands of life. At this point I knew these challenges were significant and I needed help. We had visited St. John's three times and I felt comfortable taking my concerns to the Associate Pastor. He recommended that I begin meeting with a Stephen Minister, and that is how I met Marie.

Marie Benson has a great deal of experience caring for people who are grieving or going through difficult life transitions. In addition to being a trained Stephen Minister, she is a pastor's daughter, a nurse, and for many years a partner in her husband's funeral home practice. Marie visited me for the first time in the two bedroom apartment where we were living behind Cub Foods and Target. I'll never forget her delight in meeting our children, her kind eyes, and the prayers she said for me and my family. We met weekly at first, and because I knew she was committed to keeping what I told her confidential, I was able to share openly about my struggles and concerns. Marie helped open my eyes to see the hope and care God was providing for me. Her faithful and affirming presence reflected God's steadfast love and helped me stand on a firm foundation as I continued to build a life here in Northfield.

Twelve years later, Annelise just turned 13, Viveka is a junior in high school, and Olaf is now a tenured professor at St. Olaf. I have been working at St. John's in shared ministry, and last year began training to become a Stephen Minister myself! I am so grateful for the gift of listening and care I received, and now I hope that I will soon have opportunities to give that to another. Thank you, Marie! Thank you, St. John's and our Stephen Ministry Team!

Stephen Ministry: Expressing Feelings Benefits Your Relationships and Health

One of the training sessions for Stephen Ministry focuses on feelings. Stephen Ministry defines feelings as “the internal reactions generated by our own interpretation of people, events, and life experiences.” Feelings come from within us. No one can force us to feel a certain way. While others’ actions may affect us physically, how we interpret their actions may affect our feelings.



It is important that people have safe environments in which they can acknowledge and express their feelings. When individuals deny their feelings or keep their strong feelings bottled up, there are often serious negative consequences for

them and for those around them. When people share their feelings in honest and positive ways, they receive significant benefits for their lives, their relationships, and their health.

Stephen Ministers are trained to listen to others share their feelings while being non-judgmental and respecting confidentiality. If you or someone you know would benefit from a Stephen Minister to deal with feelings or other life issues, contact Joan Halvorson at 507-645-8445 or one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

"Summer Suppers"

You may find yourself on a porch exchanging stories, or seated around a fire, roasting marshmallows; connecting with friends, or getting to know someone new. These are possible scenarios if you choose to join small groups of people in enjoying a “summer supper” together in the coming months.



There will be two opportunities this summer to join in “summer suppers”, sponsored by the Adult Education & Ministry Board at St. John’s. These fellowship events are an intentional effort to bring together members of St. John’s who may not be well acquainted with each other--yet. This effort is

a response to the sense of being fragmented in many ways in our culture as well as in our church. It can be a way for us to recognize in each other our oneness as children of God.

Watch for upcoming sign-up opportunities to host or attend the Summer Supper in June, set for **Wednesday, June 21**. There will also be sign-up opportunities for a second event later in the summer. **We hope you will join us in enjoying food and fellowship this summer!**

Life and Growth

Baptisms

April 23, 2017
Cora David Nelson
Daughter of Peter and Jane Becker-Nelson

April 30, 2017
Ozzie Mac Taggart
Son of Suzanne and Steven Taggart

Deaths

April 11, 2017
Omar Otterness

April 22, 2017
Ken Madole



Radio Broadcasts

April 2, 2017
Given in memory of Marion Boyd
by Mary and Jim Bierman

April 9, 2017
Given by Sharon Bishop
in memory of her parents.

April 16, 2017
Given by Judy Christensen
in memory of Fritjof (Fritz) Christensen
whose birthday was April 14.

April 23, 2017
Given in memory of
Roger and Lee Mahachek by Bev Mahachek.

April 30, 2017
Given in honor of Richard and Joyce Moore’s
46th wedding anniversary on April 16.

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.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

(9:45-10:30 a.m.)

May 7 Sunday School

May 14 Sunday School Celebration

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

May 3

May 10

May 17

Summer Activities

June 12-15 VBS for age 2 (by 1-15-17) thru 4th grades (completed)

June 18-23 Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp for grades 2-5 (Registrations still being accepted)

Third Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday, May 3

5:30-6:45 p.m., Undercroft



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).

The last Toddler Time of the school year will be Sunday, May 7.



June 12-15

Age 3 (by 9/1/17) - 4th 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 are available
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 or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet if you are willing to help.

Third Grade CAT Retreat

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend our last Catechism retreat of the year on Wednesday, May 3, from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Undercroft. Our topic is the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

At the retreat, our third graders, along with their parents, will be making Communion bread to share with the congregation at the May 7 worship services.

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



Last Day of Wednesday Programming for K-5th Grades is May 17 and We'll be heading to the YMCA!



We'll celebrate our last day of programming for the school year at the "Y" on Wednesday, May 17. The buses will take their normal routes from the schools. When our Bridgewater/Sibley/Prairie Creek after school bus arrives at St. John's, the Greenvale kids will hop on board at 3:35 p.m. and we'll head to the

Y. If you do not normally ride after school, you can come to St. John's and ride or feel free to meet us there.

We'll start with snack in the community area around 3:50 p.m. At about 4:00 p.m., kids are welcome to play in the gym and/or swim in the pool. Parent pick up is at 5:15 p.m. at the Y. Parents - we need a few chaperones so let me know if you can help out. A YMCA permission form will be sent to your home. This is a free event, but if you are a member of the Y, please check the box on the form. Please return the form by Sunday, May 14. Thanks!

Magical Mystery Tours

MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR I

Magical Mystery Tours are events organized by the youth directors of churches in Northfield for middle school youth who've completed 5th-8th grades. The 'mystery' part of it is that we try to keep our destination a secret from our youth. We meet in the parking lot of Bethel Lutheran Church on the 2nd Wednesdays of the month during the summer, load up a bus and take off. The first date is June 14.

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

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

For additional information, contact Mike Skunes at 507-645-4429 or youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Are You Attending Summer Camp?

Shores of St. Andrews, New London, MN (Grades 2-5)
Green Lake (Grades 6-8)
June 18-23

At this week long Bible camp, kids have lots of fun with friends laughing, learning and growing in their faith. Enjoy swimming, kayaking, games, campfires, fellowship, singing and more! These camps are offered through Green Lake Lutheran Ministries. Check it out at www.gllm.org!

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Youth to Remember!

Life Groups & Life Group Guides Schedule
9:45-10:30 a.m.

May 7 Life Groups

Confirmation (Grades 6-9)

6:15-7:30 p.m.

May 3

May 10

May 17

Canoe the Cannon

Saturday, May 13, 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Meet at Riverside Park

(For more information see page 9.)



High School Senior Recognition and Lunch

When:

Sunday, May 21, at 10:45 service and noon lunch

What:

Families of High School Seniors, mark your calendars for May 21 as we'll be celebrating your youth's journey with us here at St. John's and offer a blessing for their next steps.

Watch for a letter in the mail asking for pictures and thoughts on future plans.

Families of Seniors, please RSVP for the luncheon by Sunday, May 14.

Music Events

Hymn Festival

Thursday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m.
St. John's Sanctuary

Concordia College – New York presents a Hymn Festival in celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Featuring the Concordia College - New York Tour and Chamber Choirs directed by Dr. Jason Thoms.

(Let us know if you would be willing to host two students from the choir for a night!)



Children's Choir

Join us for an end of the year celebration with our children's choirs on Wednesday, May 10, at 6:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall.



Sunday Morning Concert Series Presents: *The St. Olaf Gospel Choir*

Sunday, May 7, 10:00-10:30 a.m. in St. John's Hall

The Gospel Choir of St. Olaf College is a unique ensemble on the St. Olaf campus. Consisting of students from various backgrounds, majors, and musical experiences, this ensemble is devoted to the pure joy of worship through traditional and contemporary gospel music, as well as spirituals and anthems. As one of the few collegiate gospel choirs in Minnesota, the students in this ensemble share their enthusiastic voices with a sense of pride and purpose. The choir will present at special concert here as part of the Sunday Morning Concert Series.



Chione - A Celebration of Mothers

Sunday, May 14, at 3:00 p.m. in St. John's Sanctuary

Chione is a new Twin Cities based woodwind quintet. *A Celebration of Mothers* will feature music by women composers.

Bring your mother, daughter, sister or friend with you to this Mother's Day celebration!



Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra

Sunday, May 21, at 3:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall

CVRO finishes their 2016-17 season with *Sommar Kommer: Music by Svendsen, Grieg, and Sibelius*. Featuring Tracey Engleman, soprano and Becky Weis, hardanger fiddle. Conducted by Ron Rodman.



Sunday School Celebration Sunday, May 14

SUNday SCHOOL
YEaR-END
CELEBRATION!

Everyone is invited to celebrate the last day of Sunday school for the school year! The celebration will take place in the lower level of St. John's from 9:45-10:30 a.m. This year, our Sunday school kids prayed for children from around the world.

Our celebration will highlight the countries we have prayed for. Each class from K-5th grade will be highlighting one of our countries. Enjoy music, storytelling, refreshments, games, and crafts with your family and friends.

If you are interested in lending a hand to help at the event, contact Julie Brehmer by phone at 507-645-4429, or email at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Canoe the Cannon

Who: Anyone! (But we ask those younger than 4th grade be accompanied by an adult)



When: Saturday, May 13, 1:30-5:30 p.m.

Where: Meet at Riverside Park (behind Ace Hardware)

What: Our annual end of the year canoe trip is almost here. Bring your friends as we take a leisurely paddle down the Cannon and finish with a picnic with hot dogs, chips, and fruit.

Sign up outside the Youth Room or contact Mike Skunes at 507-645-4429 or youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Fruit Sundays this Summer

Have you been anticipating the joys of Fruit Sundays? Can you picture St. John's Hall dressed up with fresh flowers and colorful napkins and a myriad variety of fruit desserts spread over three serving tables? Who is invited? You and all your friends and family.

Fruit Sundays



In preparation for Rhubarb Sunday, John Ophaug has again volunteered to provide some of his bumper crop of rhubarb to all of you who wish to fashion a rhubarb delicacy to share. Please call him to reserve a bundle.

May 28 - Rhubarb Sunday

June 25 - Strawberry Sunday

July 23 - Red, White & Blue Sunday

Intergenerational Events

St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Let's get together for Dinner -
Come, share a meal!

All are welcome, it's a fantastic time for fellowship for ALL ages!
Supper is served from 5:15-6:15 p.m.
in St. John's Hall.

Free will offering appreciated!

Wednesday, May 3
Pulled Pork

Wednesday, May 10
Fried Chicken

Wednesday, May 17
Chef's Choice



Shared Ministry

Lent and Holy Week Invisible Angels

Holy Week at St. John's is truly one of the glorious times of the whole year! What a celebration of Love and Life With Us!

Thanks to each and every one of you who have graced St. John's with your gifts of time, service, and talent.

The challenge of thanking people specifically is that inevitably we will miss someone.

At the same time, we don't want that to prevent us from thanking and recognizing the blessings we've received.

If your name is not here, know that we are truly thankful to YOU!



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 Christy Hall-Holt at 507-645-4429 or email sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org, or signing into CCB and signing up yourself.

The Blessings	The Invisible Angels Who Give Them
Lenten Soup Suppers	Set-Up/Serve/Clean Up Volunteers and Soup Chefs: <i>Peggy Dell, Kristy Harms, St. John's Council and Board Members, Doug Johnson, Ken Sprute, Jon Rondestvedt, and many more!</i>
Kitchen Angels	Coffee Machine Refill & Servicing, Dishwasher & Stove Servicing, Overall Tending To: <i>Ted Peterson, Char Nelson</i> Laundry and/or Kitchen Tending: <i>Char Nelson, Marilyn Boschee, Pat Fick, Karen Schuette, Sue Hagen, Barbara Walters, Sharon Bishop, Brian Evenson</i> Kitchen Laundry Angels: <i>Betsy Busa, Merilyn Calcutt, Char Nelson, Judy Smith</i>
Easter Garden Flowering plants donated by many!	Chancel Guild Chair: <i>Deb Christensen</i> Chancel Guild Members: <i>Pat Fick, Debby Becker, Char Carlson, Jennifer Edwins, Shelley DeBernardi, Joan Halvorson, Barb Knaak, Sue Renander, Lynette Schroeter, Lynette Swanson</i>
Commons, St. John's Hall Decoration, and Sanctuary Décor & Installation	Green plants donated and tended by <i>Judy Swanson;</i> <i>Judy Swanson & Scott Swanson</i>
Spring Planters and Landscaping	Donated & planted by <i>Leif Knecht.</i> Tended by <i>Properties & Grounds Board,</i> and Garden Plot Caregivers: <i>Bob Nyvall, Joe and Judy Smith, Bill and Jill Malecha & Family, Herb and Pat Fick, Ted Peterson, Angie Gehring & Family, Jane Rinehart</i>
Communion Preparation & Clean Up	Communion Overall Tending To: <i>Judy Smith.</i> Communion Volunteers: <i>Chris Anderson, Carolyn Nitz, Terry and Norma Gilbertson, Deb Seitz, Dennis and Jane Rinehart, Dale and Karen Schuette</i>
Ushering & Communion Flow Coordination	Usher Coordinator: <i>Doug Child.</i> Usher Team Leads: <i>Mark Anderson, Dallas Berg, Dan Franklin, Jonathan Norrie, Margaret O'Leary, Wes Pearson, David Rudser</i>
Accompany New Member Luncheon and Coffee/Treats Facilitation	<i>Pat Fick, Jo Franklin, Sandra Nyvall</i>
THANK YOU, ALL OF YOU WHO SUPPORT OUR ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY!	

May 14 is Picture Day!



On Sunday, May 14, St. John's will be taking pictures! We are beginning the process of updating our website design and finding that we need more "action" pictures of our community at worship, work, and play.

Getting these pictures takes more intentionality than we usually have in the midst of our activity. We will be asking a few people to take pictures that day that might be closer up than what you are used to – because nothing is more attractive than your smiling faces!

If you do NOT want your picture shared, you will have the opportunity to opt-out that day before any pictures are used.

(And if we take a picture that you want that day – we will be happy to share it!)

PRESENTING **St. JOHN'S ART SIT**
...OR... "Virtual Art Crawl"
One night only!
Enjoy St. John's artwork from the comfort of a chair!
Presented by St. John's artists in residence:
Judy Swanson
Bobbi Maakestad
John Walters
Refreshments!
May 4th, 7:00 pm
St. John's Hall

Are you away on a Sunday this spring?

Remember St. John's in your prayers and in your offerings.

You can give at any time by mail or online at
www.stjohnsnorthfield.org.

We depend on your generosity all year long!

News and Updates

Pub Theology in May

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, May 1, 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) to add your name to the email list.

Watch for summer dates.



the WOMEN'S page



May Gatherings

Abigail/Rebecca Circle
Thursday, May 11, 2:00pm
Parkview West Library
NRC

Elizabeth Circle
Thursday, May 11, 1:30pm
Rachel Peterson's home
14 Fareway Drive

Lydia Circle
Wednesday, May 10, 9:00am
Evie Bronson's home
2202 Pepper Ridge Knoll

Martha/Claudia Circle
Thursday, May 11, 9:30am
Parkview West Fireside Rm
NRC

Mary Circle
Friday, May 12, 1:00pm
Sue Rudser's home
5787 Erwin Way

Sarah Circle
Wednesday, May 10, 9:30am
St. John's Fireside Room

Bold Cafe
Sunday, May 21, 9:45am
St. John's Fireside Room

Baby Boomers
Saturday, May 6, 4:30pm
Barbara Wilson's home
1118 St. Olaf Ave.

Breakfast Group
Saturday, May 13, 8:30am
St. John's Fireside Rm



WHAT ON EARTH IS A "TRIENNIAL GATHERING" AND WHY ON EARTH WOULD I WANT TO GO?!

One of the largest Lutheran gatherings in the world, it's held every three years. Women come together in community to connect with other women, shop in the on-site international bazaar, meet authors and speakers, rejoice, serve, give, and gather resources for ourselves and other women of our congregation; enabling us to carry out our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly in our faith and service of Jesus Christ. More than anything it's a time to be inspired.

Normally held "somewhere else" in the country, this year, this exciting Gathering is coming to our own back yard: Minneapolis Convention Center, July 13-16!



Friday keynote speaker: Nobel Peace Prize winner and "ELCA International Leaders Scholarship" recipient Leymah Gbowee. A peace activist and Lutheran from Liberia, Africa.

Saturday keynote speaker: Pastor Alexia Salvatierra (ELCA), a national leader in areas of poverty and immigration.



"I found the triennial inspiring. The speakers, Bible studies, workshops, worship services offered depth and breadth. The social aspects were also wonderful. It was so enjoyable to connect with women who love the church and come from all parts of the country. I was so enthused by the 2014 triennial that I pre-registered 3 years ago for the 2017 triennial." - Jane Rinehart

"I strongly encourage everyone who can attend this summer to do so. Some women have gone to every one no matter where it is held across the country. We will never have it held closer than this so it's a real opportunity for us .

The programming will be some of the best you will ever have and you will be glad you went. You will see and hear people you might never otherwise meet. If possible don't pass up this chance that will essentially be in our backyard." - Sue Rudser



St. John's Women set aside \$2900 to pay registration fees for any woman desiring to attend a one-day session, Friday OR Saturday. St. John's Women will also contribute half of the registration fee for any woman wishing to attend all four days of the convention. First come, first served until all funds are used. We will also assist in arranging carpools or group transportation. Find information: May 14 in the Commons area, between worship services, OR at WELCA.org, OR Merilyn Calcutt at 507-645-2814.

Need a ride to our 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
Publicity: Julie Zdenek 618.698.4870

St. John's
Women
of the
ELCA

March Companion Visit to Tanzania

Continued from page 3

unusual. Chaplains report that people are open to praying with one another across religious lines. Christians might still rejoice when someone converts, but they do so without making an enemy of other faiths.

A visit of this kind reminds us constantly that the mission model of accompaniment is more about relationship than about resources. Though our two churches are rich in very different ways, we share the same hopes for our world and the same trust in a Savior who binds us together.

We were charged with bringing many greetings to all of you – from Randy Stubbs at Tumbani University Makumira, from Joyce, the hospice nurse at Iambi Hospital who visited with us in 2014, and from the people of Iambi congregation, who have a new pastor, Edward, leading them. Bwana Jesu asifiwe!



News and Updates

Welcome New Members

We welcomed the following new members this spring. They were recognized during the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, April 30, followed by a luncheon with St. John's Staff.

*Kathryn Braaten
Dan Geslin
Rebecca Gummow & Michaela
Reed Hagberg
Donna James
Beverly Johnson
Samuel and Janet Lotegeluaki
Jon and Cindy McBroom
Peter and Jane Becker Nelson
& Liv and Cora Nelson
Tarkel Price
Mary Ann Scheid
Craig Schultz
Doneen Viall & Nick*



Notes of Thanks

Thank you! Our Easter Breakfast was a great success thanks to all those that donated food (and money to buy food) and volunteered for the event. We served over 200 people and raised over a \$1,400 for our 6th-12th grade students to attend Green Lake or our mission trip to Nashville this summer.

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

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

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

- **St. John's Members:** Julie Becker, Amy McBroom, Connie Menssen, Betsy McLaughlin, Jennifer Paulson, Frances Boehning, Katherine Norrie, Emily Westerback, Mike Skunes
- **St. Olaf Students:** Emily, Monique, Erin
- **Middle/High School:** Elizabeth Evenson, Kai Legvold, Sylvi Hanson

Thank you Nursery Volunteers! Many thanks to our Nursery Volunteers who help with our littlest ones during Sunday worship services at St. John's. Thank you to Erica Johnson, a St. Olaf senior, who served in our Nursery from January–May, Emily Westerback who served in our Nursery from October–December, and Amy McBroom for who coordinated our Nursery volunteers throughout the year.

Thank you to our congregation who stepped up to contribute time and gifts for the assembly of 40 Baby Care Kits. These kits are sent to families in Angola, Serbia, and Thailand. Remember, this is an on going project throughout the year which allows us to pick up items all year long at sales and garage sales as long as they are clean and not stained. Thank you so much for your contribution.

Mary Hoff, President of Women of St. John's

Summer Nursery Schedule

Starting on Sunday, May 28, the Nursery will be providing childcare only at the 10:00 a.m. service during the summer months.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in the Nursery, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



From Bread for the World:



breadfortheworld
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Standing around a wooden cross in front of the Senate steps of the U.S. Capitol on March 29, a group of Christian leaders prayed for God's favor as they spoke out on behalf of people struggling with hunger and poverty and opposed legislation and budget decisions that would endanger the well-being of

millions of Americans and people around the world. The leaders are members of the Circle of Protection, a broad coalition from all branches of Christianity who have come together around the biblical mandate to protect poor people. Bread for the World is a founding member of this coalition.

"We pray you bring wisdom to this nation," said Bishop Abel Palomo of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church. "That you bring unity, Lord, within the government halls, to do that which is right and righteous before your presence." The group sang "Ubi Caritas," Latin for "Live in Charity," and read passages of scripture – such as Matthew 5:3-10 and James 2:1-8 – to highlight the biblical basis for their advocacy.

Earlier in the day several of the faith leaders held a press conference to express their opposition to the Trump administration's fiscal year 2018 budget proposal. The proposal would slash funding for foreign aid and severely cut funding for domestic anti-poverty programs, including nutrition, housing, heating assistance, and community development.

The Circle of Protection believes that budgets are moral documents. The faith leaders acknowledged that their faith traditions differ, but that they stand together under the Biblical command to "love your neighbor as yourself."

More at www.bread.org

Join the Offering Counter Team!

Have you ever wondered what happens to the offering plates after the service? Join the Offering Counter Team and find out! Organized by the Business Management Board, every Sunday a team of four people counts the offering following both services.

There are two roles: Counter and Data Entry. Counters sort the offering, open the envelopes, and verify their contents. The Data Entry person uses a computer to enter the contributions into Church Community Builder (CCB). We are looking for both Counters and Data Entry, but our greatest need right now is for Counters. New Counters can easily pick it up "on the job". For Data Entry, basic computer skills are required plus a little (1-2 hours) training.

Please consider joining us! A larger team means each person can be scheduled to count less often. For more information, or to join the team, please contact Mark Ulmer at 507-645-7631 or by e-mail at markulmer@charter.net.

St. John's Staff

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Women of St. John's "Art Crawl 2017"

Thursday, May 4

Afterschool Programming Outing to the Y

Wednesday, May 17

High School Senior Recognition

Sunday, May 21

Summer Worship Begins / Rhubarb Sunday

Sunday, May 28