



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 6

JUNE 2017

MANNA AND MERCY



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Manna and Mercy Mondays

Continue this Summer Starting June 5
12:00-1:00 p.m.

Ever since Alan Storey preached at St. John's in October (you can find the [sermon on our website](#)) and led a *Manna and Mercy* retreat, we have been hearing from many people about how powerful it was and the impact he made on them. Those who attended the retreat have been wondering, "What's next?"

To help congregations dig into the themes and lessons of *Manna and Mercy*, Alan Storey has created over 40 short video clips that give new insight on how to read scripture, think about a particular Bible story, or how to think about God. They feel like a video daily devotional of sorts.

We invite you to bring a lunch and join us over the lunch hour to watch a video or two and have group discussion around the topic.

We hope you will join us! This is a great way to both grow in faith and in relationship with each other.

WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays
FELLOWSHIP
9:30 a.m. Sundays

LIVE BROADCASTS
8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays
KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM
kymnradio.net

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

Summer Worship Services

8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays

Summer Nursery Hours

10:00-11:15 a.m. Sundays

Summer Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Sundays

Live Broadcasts

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

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

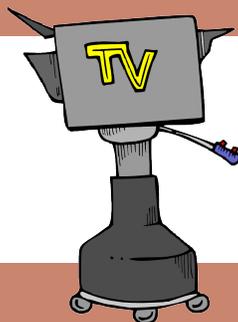


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



Fruit Sundays this Summer

**Fruit
Sundays**



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.

Please join us for the following Fruit Sundays:

May 28 - Rhubarb Sunday

June 25 - Strawberry Sunday

July 23 - Red, White & Blue Sunday

Please watch for additional information regarding sign ups in the Sunday Bulletins, News Blasts, or the Voice.

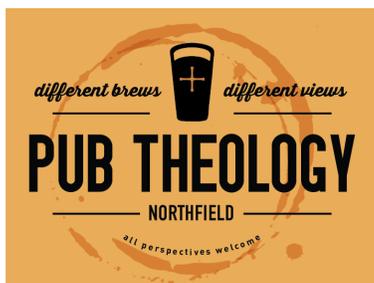
**Blessing of the Bikes
Sunday, June 11**



As VBS week kicks off, ride your bike to church on Sunday, June 11. After both services, free bike checks and adjustments will be available. Riders of all ages are welcome. Rain or Shine!

Weekly Summer Pub Theology Returns with a New Location!

Beginning on Monday, June 5, Pastors Pam and Jonathan and Mike Skunes are excited to launch weekly Pub Theology again!



What is Pub Theology? It is weekly conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet on Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at **Froggy Bottoms**. Feel free to invite family and friends, neighbors, and strangers. For parents who are interested, we are currently trying to find a way to offer child care – stay tuned!

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.

"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

Deaths

May 10, 2017
Thelma Nitz Lee

May 10, 2017
Basil Mroz

May 25, 2017
Warren Wold



Radio Broadcasts

May 7, 2017
Given in memory of
Margery and Omar Otterness
by the Otterness Family.

May 14, 2017
Given in memory of
Donna Lee on her birthday
by Walter Lee and Family.

May 21, 2017
Given in memory of
Della Gunderson
by Lester Gunderson and Family.

May 28, 2017
Given by Christine Anderson
in memory of her mother Thelma Nitz Lee.

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.

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Dear Friends in Christ:

President Trump has promised at various times to end the Johnson Amendment, the long-standing rule that prevents tax-exempt organizations such as churches from engaging in direct campaigning for parties or candidates. In May he issued an executive order which moves toward ending the distinctions the Johnson Amendment upholds.

On the next page you will find ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton's response to the President's recent executive order. Along with many other religious bodies, the ELCA is advocating *against* any change to this long-standing firewall between faith communities and partisan campaigning and fundraising.

As your pastors, we believe firmly that our faith can form the values which move us to political engagement, and that a living faith that touches the real world should engage with this element of our public life together. However, we wholeheartedly agree with Bishop Eaton that removing the Johnson Amendment would be unhealthy for both our nation's politics and for our faith communities.

We can preach good news to the poor and freedom to the captive, but we should never tell you who to vote for. We can speak up for the orphan, the widow, and the stranger, but we should never direct church dollars toward a candidate or party.

The church remains one of the few public institutions left in our society where we can come together across ethnic, class, and political divides. The more divided our public life becomes, the more important it is for the church to be a place where we can talk about our lives together in ways that are not about winning or losing elections.

The truth of the Gospel has always suffered when it has come too close to political power – whether under Roman emperors, Henry VIII or the Third Reich. Jesus himself made it very clear that he did not seek to rule this world by means of political or economic might. Whether you are on the right or the left, people of faith should be deeply worried when the distinction between faith-based engagement and direct political campaigning is blurred.

We hope you will read Bishop Eaton's letter and write our congressman about your own views, and pray for the health of our faith communities in this highly divisive time.

In Christ's love,

Pastors Pam and Jonathan

Letter from Bishop Eaton

May 5, 2017

On May 4, President Trump signed an executive order titled "[Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty](#)." The measure addresses the IRS ban on political campaigning by tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations, an important protection for houses of worship. That regulation is codified into law, so it would take an act of Congress to reverse, but President Trump signaled his administration's opposition to the rule by directing the IRS to use maximum discretion to refrain from enforcing it.

The Lutheran Confessions state "the power of church and civil government must not be mixed ... [while] both be held in honor and acknowledged as a gift and blessing" (Augsburg Confession, Article 28). The ELCA Constitution affirms that one of the purposes of this church is to "work with civil authorities in areas of mutual endeavor, maintaining institutional separation of church and state in a relation of functional interaction" (ELCA Constitution 4.03.n.). Our social teaching encourages members and leaders to be politically active as citizens and to provide moral leadership that advocates for just and fair policies. Nothing in the current IRS rules prohibit such activities.

Neither our theological heritage nor our social teaching lift up what we would understand today as partisan activity by church officials by church officials - endorsing or funding specific candidates, for instance - because that confuses the appropriate responsibilities of church and state leadership.

[Exemption from taxation](#) is an appropriate benefit granted to churches and other charities. The restriction on endorsement of political candidates in no way restricts freedom of religion. In fact, it allows churches to continue to focus on ministry and protects them from being lured into participation in partisan politics to the detriment of their proclamation and mission. The ELCA provides this guidance to ministries on [participation in the electoral process](#).

Earlier this year, the ELCA joined with [99 diverse faith groups](#) in sending a letter to Congress opposing any effort to undermine the so-called Johnson Amendment - those IRS regulations that protect both the taxpayer and our houses of worship. We do not seek or desire a change in tax law that could prove divisive in our congregations or detrimental to our witness of Christ.

Let us not be tempted to participate in partisan politics, but rather focus on being part of God's reconciling work through Christ in the world and proclaiming the gospel word.

God's peace,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

From Our Bishop



Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Children and Youth

Sunday School Offering!



Thank you for giving to our Sunday school offering's mission this year. Our kids delivered a check to the Northfield Public Schools Area Learning Center. The \$400 we donated will be used to purchase food for their Food Backpack Program. Each week ALC students stuff an average of 17 backpacks and deliver them to Northfield school social workers who give them directly to families who are in need. For more information about this program visit: <http://northfieldschools.org/alc/2016/02/help-the-backpack-drive/>.



Thanks to all
our wonderful volunteers
who helped with
Children's Ministry this year!

We couldn't do
great programming
without YOU!



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)

There is still time to register. 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.

Get involved with Children's Ministry!

For children to feel connected to their church, it's important for them to build relationships with at least 5 adults, other than their parents. Please consider volunteering with Children's programming this fall with Sunday Morning or Wednesday afternoon programming. We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities. Please talk with Julie Brehmer or check out the volunteer opportunities in the Sunday School registration packet. **P.S.: High School students** – talk with Julie how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays!



Looking Ahead to Camp!

Our prayers are with all of our campers as they head off to camp this summer, June 18-23!

Shores of St. Andrews, New London, MN

Grades 2-5

Campers attending this year:

Will Becker
William Fowler
Cora McBroom
Dyson McBroom
Edy McLaughlin
Will McLaughlin
Emmett Norrie
Joran Peterson
Marissa Vatter
Mason Vatter

Green Lake Lutheran Bible Camp, Spicer, MN

Grades 6-8

Campers attending this year:

Amelia Becker
Thea Benson
Benjamin Blomberg
Jackson Blomberg
Trevor Dell
Clayton Garlie
Prescott Garlie
Rhett Garlie
Mack Haines
Annelise Hall-Holt
Kaylee Malecha
Ainsley Nutt
Elsa Nystrom
Halle Pinc-Sutterfield

Check out Family Camp!

Interested in going to Family Camp this summer? Check out the family camp options at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN or at Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer, MN. Go to Good Earth Village's website at www.goodearthvillage.org or Green Lake Lutheran Ministry's website at www.GLLM.org to find out dates and registration information.

Adopt-A-Highway



When: Thursday, June 8, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Where: Meet in the HS parking lot

pick-up at Culver's

Who: Anyone 12 and up (friends welcome!)

What: We'll work on cleaning up our stretch of highway then end with a treat at Culver's.

Children and Youth

Magical Mystery Tours



Magical Mystery Tours are events organized by the youth directors of churches in Northfield for middle school youth who've completed grades 5-8. 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.

We usually mix in fun events like going to waterparks, baseball games, and zoos with service projects like Feed My Starving Children and environmental cleanup. Watch your mail for details on this summer's trips.

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

2017-2018 REGISTRATION



**Watch for
Children and Youth
Registration Packets
for the 2017-2018 school
year coming in June!**

Shared Ministry

Summer Sunday Morning Hospitality - Everyone is Invited to Sign Up!

There are no monthly hospitality groups during the summer months because it takes ALL of us to make summer schedules work to provide Sunday Hospitality. **How can you help?**

1. **Decide** how you feel most comfortable serving St. John's on Sunday mornings. "Church Chores" are like house chores -- we all take turns, but there are some we like better than others! Here are the options: **Greeting, Welcome Desk Attending, Communion Set and/or Clean Up** (hint: no glass cups to wash during summer!!!), **Coffee Set, Serve, & Clean Up**. Training is provided - just let us know you want it.

2. **Sign up** on the sheets in the Commons, or email sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org or call 507-645-4429, or online through CCB.

We will all be so grateful for YOUR service! Thank you!



Fruit Sunday Celebrations

By Christy Hall-Holt

It's a sure sign summer has arrived when St. John's begins its Fruit Sunday Celebrations. First up is the enigmatic rhubarb. Here to give us an introduction to this delicacy is Dr. Robert (Bob) Nyvall who has dedicated much of his life to the study and teaching of plants and how to keep them healthy. Bob and Sandra Nyvall come to St. John's by way of Grand Rapids, MN. They are the proud parents of Martha Erickson (partner of Chris and member of the Wednesday Meal Crew), and grandparents of Kate Erickson who is graduating this month from Northfield High School.

Bob wrote the article below for the Northfield News, so we are lucky to get a preview that coincides with Rhubarb Sunday!

Rhubarb Dr. Robert Nyvall

The rhubarb pies and crisps are being served and the sauces made and put away. Rhubarb, a member of the buckwheat family, has an unkempt appearance that makes it somewhat of an outcast in a flower or vegetable garden. The large leaves, colorful stems, and robust growth seem more suitable for a jungle plant.

Technically classified as a vegetable, rhubarb has none of a vegetable's appeal. No red fruit of a tomato, orange of a carrot, or green plumpness of peas in a pod. Rather, it "squats" in a corner of the garden like a plant pariah, disheveled and scruffy.

In defense of this brawny plant, a German proverb states, "Rhubarb and patience can work wonders." And rhubarb crisp or pie topped with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream is a gardener's best reason for growing this plant. However, the flavor has no subtlety, eliciting either a "yum" or a "yuk".

Rhubarb originated in the mountains of western China and Tibet. It was originally cultivated for medicinal purposes as it's rich in vitamin C and dietary fiber. In China the dried rhizome and roots are still used to stimulate digestion and appetite.

Legend states that rhubarb was initially brought to Italy by Marco Polo. From there it migrated to the rest of Europe where it's first recorded in 1778 as a filling for tarts and pies. It was likely brought to North America by northern Europeans.

The several cultivars of rhubarb produce stalks in a spectrum of colors from red (least productive) to green; however, color and sweetness are not related. Rhubarb leaves are highly poisonous, containing oxalic acid, but can be safely composted.

Rhubarb is a cool season and winter hardy plant. It requires temperatures below 40 F to initially break dormancy and stimulate spring growth. After that, temperatures must average less than 75 F for vigorous summer growth.

Bon Appetit!

the WOMEN'S page

Summer Gatherings

Most of our St. John's Women small groups will be taking breaks during the Summer months.

Group Leaders: Please provide updated list of your regular attendees, with their contact information.



The Boomers are having so much fun getting to know one another and making new friends, we decided to continue gathering through the Summer.



JUNE:

Meet us at **The Contented Cow**
Saturday, June 3rd @ 4:30-6:00

JULY:

Meet us at **Froggy Bottoms**
Saturday, July 1st @ 4:30-6:00

AUGUST:

Meet us at **The Tavern**
Saturday, Aug. 5th @ 4:30-6:00

All gatherings will be on the patios, weather-permitting

contact info: Julie Zdenek
julie.zdenek@gmail.com
618.698.4870



Got plans for Summer fun? Don't forget these important ministries & events

Take advantage of the St. John's Women's offer

PAY YOUR WAY to a day of inspirational speakers, educational workshops, and... wait for it... **SHOPPING** at the International Bazaar! Free registration while funds last.

Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering
Friday, July 14 or Saturday, July 15
Minneapolis Convention Center

Contact Merylyn Calcutt for registration details.
For additional information visit: www.welcatg.org



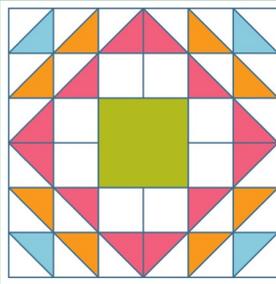
GARAGE "SAILING" THIS SUMMER?

Don't forget to look for these items for Baby Kits:

SIZE 6 - 24 months

- T shirts size (no onsies)
- Sleepers (without feet)
- Dark colored hand towels
- Hooded jackets / sweaters and caps.

Drop off in the collection basket, located in the Commons shelves, located beneath the bulletin boards. Or contact J. Rondestvedt: jjrondestvedt@gmail.com



GOT SHEETS?

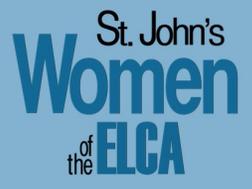
St. John's Quilters are looking for fabric. Donate your clean, colored sheets and fabrics to the Quilters.

Drop in the "Finished Quilt Top" basket in the Commons shelves located beneath the bulletin boards. Or contact Sue Sharrow: sue_sharrow@msn.com



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



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."

June 2, 2016
Andrew Westerback

June 8, 2016
Edwin "Jack" Huus

June 20, 2016
John Lawrence Carlson

Stephen Ministry: How to Comfort People Who are Grieving

Working through grief is a process that requires the support of others. You see a friend in church who has recently lost a spouse, or relative, or close friend. You know you should say something, but what do you say?

Ministering to those experiencing grief is part of the Stephen Ministry curriculum. In class sessions, we learn how to respond in a meaningful way to those who are grieving the loss of loved ones or friends. We also explore what not to say. Perhaps some of these suggestions will be helpful to you.

Make contact with those who are bereaved as soon as possible. Those in grief need to see and feel the concern and the love you have for them. Statements like "You have my sympathy" or "I am praying for you," let the grieving person know you are fully present with them.

Often we feel at a loss for words when expressing sentiments to a grieving person. Simply stating, "I don't know what to say. You've had such a great loss and I'm sorry," sends a powerful message. You can also express yourself through a loving hug, a handshake, emails, cards, or a phone call.

Visiting over a cup of coffee or lunch is another way of expressing love and concern, and can open the door to talk about the loss. Being there as a listener is important to those who are grieving.

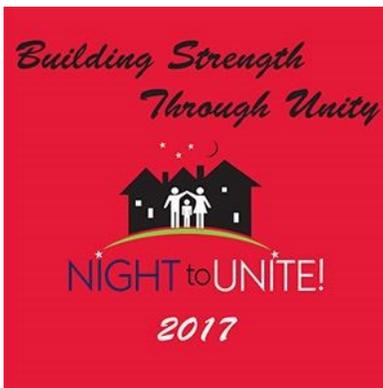
Avoid saying clichés such as "I know just how you feel" or "Time heals all wounds." While these statements are not meant to be insensitive, they can be perceived that way and they can actually make the grieving person feel worse.

Remember dates important to the person who is grieving, such as birthdays, holidays, and anniversaries. Contact the grieving person on these important dates. In this way, you convey your continued concern at times that are special for them.

If you know someone who would benefit from a Stephen Minister as they work through the grief process, contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at 645-8445.



Save the Date: Night to Unite on August 1



With the last Wednesday Meal behind us, we begin thinking about the next big meal we'll have together on the first Tuesday of August - Night to Unite on August 1 in the early evening.

Please let Christy Hall-Holt or Mary Kelvie know if you can provide one of the following:

- Showing/giving rides in your interesting vehicles (or those of a friend, loved one, etc.)
- Singing and playing instruments
- Acting and performing skits or stunts (unicycles, juggling, fire swallowing, etc.)
- Drawing, face-painting
- Setting up music for the time we don't have live music
- Making and/or distributing flyers
- Setting out chairs and tables in the parking lot
- Putting away chairs and tables

Christy and/or Mary can be reached by phone at 507-645-4429 or email at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Welcome Back, Mary!

Extra! Extra! Read All About It! Mary Kelvie is back on St. John's Staff!



She will be collaborating with Christy Hall-Holt in a job share of the Shared Ministry position. During this summer, Mary and Christy will be dividing up the 20 hours per week role. Both can be reached by calling the church office and emailing sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Broadly speaking, Mary will focus on scheduling and logistics coordination (online and paper sign ups, liaison between church staff and volunteers) and Christy will focus on volunteer recruitment and training, and the Accompany newcomer welcome.

Mary will be the "go to" person for Sunday Hospitality and Christy will be the "go to" person for Wednesday Meals.

News and Updates

Happy Summer Everyone!

See you at Night to Unite on August 1!

From your friends
in the Wednesday Night Meal Crew...

(from left to right)
Bernie Renander, Kristy Harms, Peggy Dell,
Martha Erickson, Jon Rondestvedt,
Doug Johnson, Sue Renander



As a thank you to the crew from the congregation, they were presented with the aprons they are wearing at the Wednesday Night Meal on May 10.

Thank you Anita Hellie and Bev Johnson, for taking that fabulous fabric from our partners in Tanzania and turning it into aprons in record time!

Thank you, Pastor Pam, for the great apron idea, and for donating (along with Kristin Partlo and Terry Gilbertson) the fabric to make these special gifts.

News and Updates

St. John's High School Graduates Presented with Quilts

St. John's High School Graduates received quilts from the congregation during the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, May 21, with the hope that each time they use their quilts they remember how much their St. John's family loves them!

Thank you to Kathy Vang, Sue Brockman, Jeanie Owens, Marie Struss, Judy Smith, Deanne Webber, and Julie Brehmer for helping construct the quilts and to our many members who helped lend a hand tying quilts on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings.



Open House in Celebration of Mary White's 99th Birthday

You are invited to join Mary on Saturday, June 10, between 2:00-4:00 p.m. to help her celebrate her 99th birthday. The celebration will take place in the Parkview West Dining Room at Northfield Retirement Center.



Help Needed to Sew Quilt Tops for Lutheran World Relief

Kits are available in the Commons Area. Also help is needed to cut squares for the kits. We sew 10 to 12 tops a month.



Questions? Please contact the church office at 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Are you away on a Sunday this summer?

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!



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD-MN

From Bread for the World: The Cost of Hunger



\$160.7 billion, at the very least, more than all annual state and federal spending on higher education, that's an estimate of how much hunger and food insecurity cost the U.S. economy in poor health outcomes and additional health care every year. If the \$18.8 billion in poor educational outcomes is added, the total cost estimate is \$178.9 billion.

Labor productivity, crime rates and Gross Domestic Product are also affected by hunger.

It was assumed that food insecurity numbers would fall as the economy improved after the Great Recession, but this has not happened. Prior to 2008, according to federal government data, the largest number of food insecure people in any single year was 38 million. But every year since 2008 the number has hovered between 48 and 50 million. Policymakers and the American public seem to share an alarming complacency about this leap of 10 or 12 million in the number of extra food-insecure people.

As in the 2017 Offering of Letters, Bread for the World members are called on to urge Representatives and Senators to resist cuts in the Federal Budget to vital programs for "the least of these" such as WIC, SNAP, tax credits for low-income workers, and international development assistance. For information on the research underlying estimates cited: www.hungerreport.org/costofhunger.

More at www.bread.org

ACT Garage Sale - Lighten Up!

Come to the Carleton College ACT Center's Lighten Up Garage Sale!



This year Lighten Up will take place on Friday, June 16, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 17, 8:00 a.m.-noon. Come support this amazing fundraiser for the Northfield Union of Youth, Northfield Special Olympics,

and Project Friendship. The sale is at the West Gym at Carleton College, off Hwy 19. For questions, please contact the Center for Community and Civic Engagement at Carleton at (507) 222-7020.

News and Updates

Registration Time for Open Door Preschool

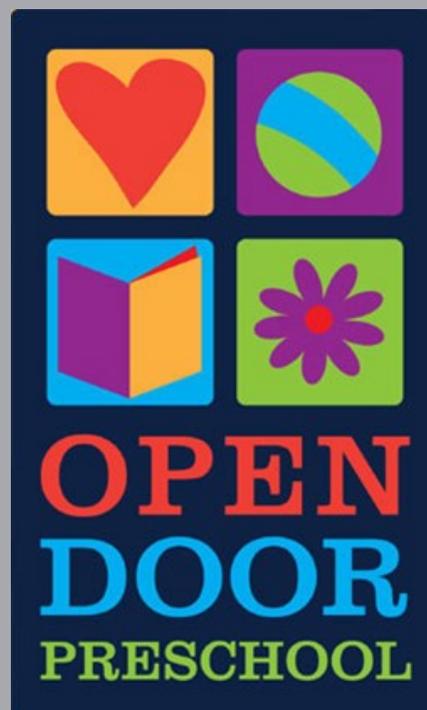
Open Door Preschool has openings for the 2017-2018 school year.

Open Door offers 2 and 3 day morning and afternoon sessions. Combinations and extended day options are also available.

Visit our website at: www.opendoorpreschoolnorthfield.org or contact Barb Howe or Sue Anderson at 507-645-8532 for further information.

Scholarships are available.

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



Happenings in Colombia
Curtis & Katie Kline
Spring Newsletter, 2017



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

Human Rights Planning Retreat, by Curtis

During the last weekend of March, the Human Rights program of the Lutheran Church in Colombia invited pastors, lay leaders and interested members on a retreat to help guide the design of the future of the program. A large group from all over the country participated in this retreat. We listened as Pastor Jairo Suarez shared his experience as the first coordinator of the program between 2002 and 2009 as well as the conversations had during its initial construction. Andres Alba, coordinator of the program between 2012 and 2014, also shared his experience. We studied biblical passages as well as some interpretations by Luther which point towards a responsibility to defend human rights. We also listened as representatives from our ecumenical partners involved in peace and justice work in Colombia shared their experiences. All the while evaluating what we were hearing according to the assets, dreams, and contexts of the Lutheran Church in Colombia. The proposals will be built out of all the evaluation that happened during this retreat. Towards the end of the year we will hold another retreat to finalize the proposals, and present a plan of action with clear guidelines for the future of the program. There will be a heavy focus on accompanying specific vulnerable communities and involvement in human rights themes, especially the right to food. There will also be a lot of attention to working with local congregations as they find the ways to involve themselves on the local level in the work for peace and justice. The importance of this process is that it is happening in a participatory manner, taking into consideration as many voices as possible.



Photo: Group from the Human Rights Retreat, taken by a staff member at the retreat center

Prayer requests

- † The pastors and the lay leaders and workers in the IELCO
- † Our ministries and our lives in Colombia - the everyday joys and challenges of being missionaries
- † The start of the peace talks with the ELN

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Lutheran in 2017, by Katie

This year, Lutheran Churches all over the world are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In preparation for what this means for Colombia and my work with the Education Ministry here, I have been doing some extra reading, especially in delving deeper into the rich theological Latin American traditions. I just finished reading 'Luther and Liberation: A Latin American Perspective', by Walter Altmann. One of the sentences in the book keeps coming back to me. *"But above all should prevail the challenge of living, in our time, the evangelical freedom he [Luther] so proclaimed, unfolded in a life of commitment, compassion, and love of neighbor, in solidarity with 'the least of these,' and committed, in the midst of a world torn by conflict and iniquitous inequality, to renewed efforts in favor of a world that is truly characterized by justice, peace, and care for creation."* It hits home, and it's meant to! It hits home to me living in Colombia and the experiences that are lived here, and it seems to hit home to the rest of the world. What does it mean to be Lutheran in 2017? What does it mean to me that 500 years ago Luther proclaimed his 95 thesis? We are living in exciting times. It is exciting to celebrate the Reformation, but it is also exciting to remember that that same Reformation gave us a responsibility to truly live into the promises of grace and a whole lot of work in this world!

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE! HERE'S HOW TO GIVE:

By check: Make payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" with "Curtis and Katie Kline GCS2017" in the memo line. Give through your synod office or mail your check to: ELCA, Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

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By automatic monthly bank withdrawal or to establish a covenant of prayer, communication and support: Contact 800-638-3522, ext. 2667 or globalchurch@elca.org

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals open their eleventh season this summer beginning July 5 and concluding on August 9. All six recitals will be held on **Wednesday noon hour from 12:15 to 12:45 p. m.** with the following schedule:

Wednesday, July 5

Stephen May

First United Church of Christ, 300 Union St.

Johnson & Son / Schlicker / Rutz, 3 manuals, 53 ranks

Wednesday, July 12

William Peterson

(Pomona College CA)

All Saints Episcopal, 419 Washington St.

Reuter Organ, 2 manuals, 9 ranks

Wednesday, July 19

Janean Hall

Bethel Lutheran Church, 1321 North Ave.

Holtkamp Organ, 2 manuals, 13 ranks

Wednesday, July 26

John Ferguson

St. Olaf College, Boe Chapel

Holtkamp Organ, 3 manuals, 90 ranks

Wednesday, August 2

Bob Henstein

United Methodist Church, 1401 S. Maple St.

Gabriel Kney Organ, 2 manuals, 27 ranks

Wednesday, August 9

Emily Rudquist

St. John's Lutheran Church, 500 3rd St. W.

Music of Bruhns, Bach, and Liszt

Dobson Organ, 2 manuals, 26 ranks

Some recitals will include a free-will offering to defray publicity expenses. For more information, contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357 or email rkollman@msn.com.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blessing of the Bikes
Sunday, June 11

Summer Suppers
Wednesday, June 21

Strawberry Sunday
Sunday, June 28

Night to Unite
Tuesday, August 1