

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 7

JULY 2017



Neighbors Joining Together

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

Save the Date: Night to Unite on August 1

St. John's will again be hosting our annual Night to Unite celebration. This is a part of a national program that encourages neighbors to come together on the first Tuesday in August to strengthen community and increase the safety of neighborhoods.

The celebration will include a picnic style meal along with a bouncy tent, emergency vehicle tours, vintage cars, live music, and games.

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

- showing/giving rides in your interesting vehicles
- singing and playing instruments or setting up music
- making and/or distributing flyers
- setting out and/or putting away chairs and tables in the parking lot

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

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

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Fellowship and Hospitality

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

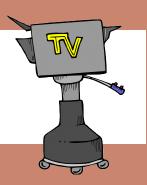
Live Broadcasts

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



WELCOME STATEMENT

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace, and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

Red, White & Blue Fruit Sunday is July 23!

We love coming to church on Sunday. We loved Rhubarb Sunday and Strawberry Sunday. We love to share in fellowship with one another. We love to eat, especially desserts. We love fruits that are red, white, and blue. Why not combine it all and have another special fruit Sunday? Okay we will - Red, White & Blue Fruit Sunday is July 23!

The date is set. The sign ups are ready. We need you to sign up to help and bring desserts! Would you please consider signing up to help with setup or flowers on Saturday, July 22 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.? How about helping on Sunday morning doing prep and serving, or serving and clean up? We need YOU to make fruit Sundays possible!

Sign-ups are available in the Commons, by emailing Christy or Mary at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org, by calling 507-645-4429, or online thru CCB.

Please join us on Sunday, September 23, for Apple Sunday!

Dear Friends in Christ:

"Everyday, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every...economic circumstance." - Section from St. John's newly adopted Welcome Statement

Last month, an article in the Star Tribune began with this line... "There is nowhere in this country where someone working a full-time minimum wage job could afford to rent a two-bedroom apartment."

This fact should stop us in our tracks. That one sentence alone raises two major concerns: minimum wage and the cost of affordable housing in our country. The article itself is primarily concerned with affordable housing.

Now, you might think, "Can't someone just downgrade to a onebedroom apartment then?" Easier said than done. There are only 12 counties in the country where even that is affordable.

For almost a year, I have sat on the Northfield Affordable Housing Taskforce. Sadly, one thing is clear - Northfield is no different than the rest of the country.

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's 2017 report, a single parent in Rice County would need to work 71 hours a week at minimum wage to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

Simply put, Northfield (and Rice County) is currently experiencing a housing problem. We are very much in need of emergency housing, transitional housing, and affordable housing. I was new to the needs we have here and to some of the terms for them.

Broadly speaking, *emergency housing* helps shelter people for up to two weeks, but rarely leads to a stable housing situation. This is why we need *transitional housing* - which is supportive housing from two weeks to two years, which often includes furnished housing with utilities and case management. Transitional housing programs help people get back on their feet after a crisis like homelessness or domestic abuse. From there, in order to stay on one's feet, a person then generally needs to be able to find *affordable housing*.

The lack of affordable housing affects everyone. Employers in North-field are learning that their employees cannot afford to live in North-field, so the employees commute in. By commuting in, they are less invested in Northfield and less likely to stay at their job, which then leads to a lot of turnover in staff - particularly in our care-oriented organizations, like nursing homes.

Thankfully, Northfield City Council has been working on a Strategic Plan and affordable housing - of all kinds - has been named as a high priority for the city.

Our newly adopted welcome statement says that Christ welcomes people of all economic circumstances, and therefore all people are welcome at St. John's. One way we can continue to live out this welcome statement is to extend it to our community. Does Northfield extend a welcome to people of all economic circumstances? Over the years, our congregation has been actively concerned about and

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Continued on page 5

Prayer and Care Ministry

Pastors Pam and Jonathan invite those who are grieving or suffering loss to join them for dessert and social time.

Wednesday, July 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

After losses, many find comfort being in the company of others who have also experienced loss. This is an opportunity for fellowship, to make new friends, and to spend time with our pastors. If you have questions or need a ride to this event, please call the church office, 507-645-4429.







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 507-663-1097.

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.

Stephen Ministry: Q&A

How do I know whether a Stephen Minister might be appropriate for me or someone I am concerned about?

If you are looking for a caring, confidential friend with whom you or that person can talk about the stresses of life, a Stephen Minister might be helpful. Common issues Stephen Ministers deal with include: the loss of a friend or loved one, illness, loneliness, moving, and a new baby.

How are Stephen Ministers assigned?

Assignments are based on who among Stephen Ministers currently without care receivers would be the best match for the individual. Care receivers are always assigned to a Stephen Minister of the same gender.

How long will a care giver/care receiver relationship last?

It depends on what the care receiver needs; every relationship is different. Some pairs meet for weeks and others meet for years.

Do Stephen Ministers meet with couples?

No. A Stephen Minister is a listening friend to one person. If both people in a relationship could benefit from a listening friend, both can request individual Stephen Ministers.

Can I request a Stephen Minister for my teenager?

Stephen Ministers pair with adults; they are not assigned to teenagers. To explore resources for teenagers, contact one of the pastors.

Will I receive a Stephen Minister with expertise in my problem?

Possibly although not necessarily. Care givers receive 50 hours of training on a wide variety of topics, but they are not professional therapists or counselors. What you receive from a Stephen Minister is a caring friend who walks with you and supports you as you work through the issues you are facing.

How do I request a Stephen Minister?

To request a Stephen Minister, please contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at 507-645-8445.

Divorce Support Group for Men

As many of us are aware, divorce and struggling relationships are all too common in our world, and St. John's is no different. We have people living through divorce and strained relationships. Such a life circumstance can leave people grieving and lost and asking a lot of questions, often with few people knowing and little support. In light of this, we are piloting a 6-week support group for men living with divorce, hoping to begin in July. The details are still being worked out, but if you or someone you know would benefit from and be interested in this support group, please contact Pastor Jonathan at 507-645-4429 or idavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Recently, the need has arisen among men living with divorce and so we have decided to start there. If there is a need and desire for a similar group for women in the congregation and community, please let us know.

Retired and Restless? Single Again? Like to Lunch?

A question has been raised about a singles group for St. John's and we would like to try to get organized to do that.

If you are interested in helping form this fun group please bring your suggestions to an organizational meeting on Wednesday, July 12, at 1:30 p.m. at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive in the TV Room. Coffee and goodies will be served.

Please contact Shirley Tollefson at 645-5800 or shirleytoll@charter.net to let us know you would like to come and join us.

From Our Pastors...

Continued from page 3

supported the housing needs in Northfield, as we've generously supported the Community Action Center and Habitat for Humanity. Thank you for this ministry you help provide!

Alongside this financial support, know that work to reduce the housing problem in our town needs your vocal support. We need to ensure that our city council members and city officials know that all of us consider this a priority - a priority our city should expend time and energy on above other things.

People of all economic circumstances are welcome at St. John's. People of all economic circumstances are welcome in Northfield. As an act of faith, I ask for and encourage your continued support and advocacy for affordable housing in our community.

With peace and gratitude, Pastor Jonathan

Life and Growth

Deaths

June 9, 2017 Siri (Thompson) Raskob

> June 10, 2017 Laura Tverberg







Radio Broadcasts

June 4, 2017

Given by Shirley Falck in celebration of the high school graduations of Alaina Falck and her St. John's classmates.

lune 11, 2017

Given in memory of Marion Boyd by Mary and Jim Bierman.

June 18, 2017

Given by Judy Swanson in memory of Cully, Dot, Marilyn, and Steve Swanson.

lune 25, 2017

Given by Tony Becker and Rebecca Judge.

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

Magical Mystery Tours



When:

Wednesday, July 12 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Where:

Drop off/Pick up in Bethel Parking Lot

What:

Magical Mystery Tours are events organized by the youth directors of churches in North-field 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. This next one will make youth "leap" with joy.

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

Looking Ahead to September...

September 6Orientation for Wednesday Programming

September 10Worship changes to 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

September 13Wednesday After School Programs Begin

September 17Sunday Morning Programs Begin

Day Camp is Coming in August

Good Earth Village is coming to Northfield in August to lead, "The Table is Set" Day Camp. The theme centers on food and hunger. We'll explore the variety of people Jesus ate with, the gifts we have to serve those who hunger and give thanks to God who provides all that we have.

Dates: August 7-10
Grades: K-5 (completed)

Times: 8:30-4:30 (before & after care available for an additional fee)

Place: St. Peter's, 418 Sumner Street E.

Lunch: Bring your own Monday-Wednesday. Thursday we'll cook!

Cost: \$65 (scholarships available)

Limited space so sign up soon!

The registration form is online at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org or stop by the church and pick one up in the upper Commons.

St. John's Children and Youth Registration for 2017-2018

St John's is redesigning the website! Registration for the 2017-2018 school year will be coming out along with the unveiling of the website in August. Watch for more information.

Get involved with Children's and Youth Ministry at St. John's!

For children and youth 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 programming this fall on a Sunday Morning or Wednesday afternoon/evening. We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities. Please talk with Julie Brehmer or Mike Skunes at 507-645-4429 or check out the volunteer opportunities in the registration packet.

P.S.: High School students - talk with Julie how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Next Summer Supper is August 23!

We hope you will join us for St. John's second Summer Supper!

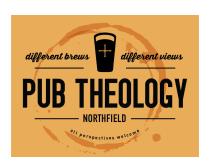


The first Summer Supper, held in June, saw over 30 St. John's community members and friends getting better acquainted over cozy home meals, eating, and visiting into the early evening. Thank you, organizers, hosts, and attendees, for making this first event fun, meaningful, and tasty!

An opportunity for fellowship sponsored by the Adult Education & Ministry Board, Summer Suppers are part of an intentional effort to bring together members of St. John's in ways that foster and renew our connections to each other. This effort is a response to the sense of being fragmented in many ways in our culture as well as in our church, and can be a way for us to recognize in each other our oneness as children of God.

Inspired to join in? Look for the Summer Supper display in the Commons, and RSVP on the sign-up sheet to host or attend the second Summer Supper, set for **Wednesday**, **August 23**. We warmly welcome previous participants and newcomers to join us in this second event. We look forward to seeing you!

Weekly Summer Pub Theology Continues in July and August!



What is Pub Theology?

Led by Pastors Pam and Jonathan and Mike Skunes, 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.

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 (<u>jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org</u>) to add your name to the email list.

News and Updates

St. John's College Graduates Spring 2017

Erik Berthelsen
B.A. in Economics
from St. Olaf College
summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa
Starting this summer Erik has a position with
Optum as a senior business analyst.

Kirstin Buck
B.A. in Nursing and a
minor in Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies
from Gustavus Adolphus College
Kirstin plans to study for and take her
Nursing Boards, present research in Ireland
this summer at the International Nursing
Research Congress in Dublin, Ireland,
train to be a sexual assault nurse examiner
(SANE) and secure a position
as a clinical nurse.

Irene Duba B.A./B.S. in Physics from Lewis & Clark College

Cameron Judge-Becker
B.A. in both Russian and Political Science
from St. Olaf College

Cam's plans for the future are to pursue a career in law enforcement.

If we have missed any graduates please contact David Sudermann at dsudermann@charter.net or 507-663-1097.

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 to Julie Zdenek for our new Women of St. John's booklet.



Women of the Baby Boomer generation:



The Boomers are having so much fun getting to know one another and making

new friends, we decided to continue gathering through the Summer. First Saturday of each month. Come join us!

IULY:

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 If the weather in nice, you'll find us outside on the patio!

info: Julie Zdenek







Take advantage of Back-to-School Sales!



Watch the Voice, Blast and Bulletin for details



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

SIZE 6 - 24 months

the WOMEN'S

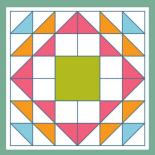
T shirts size (no onsies)

Sleepers (without feet)

Dark colored hand towels

Hooded jackets / sweaters and caps.

Drop off in the collection basket, located in the Commons, in the shelves 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

St. John's

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals open their elevnth 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. John's Lutheran Church, 500 3rd St. W. Dobson Organ, 2 manuals, 26 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 rkcollman@msn.com.



News and Updates

Action Alert: The Benevolence Committee along with the Refugee Resettlement Team request your help.

Lutheran Social Services is in immediate need of items for newly arriving refugee families.

Items include:

- light bulbs (pack of 4)
- shower curtain liner and rings
- large kitchen trash can with swinging lid
- 13 gallon trash bags
- box fan
- electric alarm clock
- pots with lids, brooms and dustpan
- All-purpose cleaner
- sponges and dish scrubber

Donated items will be collected thru Sunday, July 9. You will find a deposit box for donations located in the Commons.

If you have questions, contact Kathy Schuurman at 507-645-9617 or at kathy.schuurman@gmail.com

Update from St. John's Refugee Team

On Saturday, June 17, Paul, Ariat, and family packed up their home in St. Paul and moved into an apartment in St. Cloud

near Ariat's sister and her family. Volunteers from St. John's loaded the rental truck along with members of the Christ Church Refugee Team. The move went extremely well. The rental truck arrived earlier than expected and our volunteers jumped into the task of emptying the house and filling the truck. Paul, Ariat, and the older children pitched in, making things move along smoothly and quickly. The loading began shortly after 8:30 a.m. and was finished by 9:45 a.m.

Some of the breakable and bulky items were loaded into cars, Karl's minivan and Brad's pick up truck. As things were moved out of the house, volunteers followed behind to clean up each room. Dawn and Rob stayed in St. Paul to finish the cleaning while the rest of us got into our cars to drive up to St. Cloud.

Ariat's extended family members were waiting to unload the truck, so by the time some of us got to the apartment building, the truck was already emptied. To our surprise, most of us were heading back to Northfield shortly after 1 p.m. It was wonderful to meet the extended family and to watch all the cousins interacting. The apartment complex is home to many Ethiopian and immigrant families so will provide a supportive environment for the family.



Paul will continue his work at the poultry processing plant, working the night shift. The rent and utility payments are much lower for this apartment, so the move not only brought them closer to family, but will also help them with their finances.

Many times throughout the day, Paul and Ariat expressed their gratitude for all the support and help given to them since their arrival to Minnesota. Paul saying, "We could not do this without you, thank you!" and Ariat saying, "Thank you, thank you, how to thank you, what can I do?"

Paul, Ariat, and family have made a remarkable transition to life in Minnesota. Lutheran Social Services see them as a true success story. The financial support from St. John's and our collaboration with Christ Church Lutheran have been the bridge to this success. This move marks the beginning of true independence for the family and the end of our role as financial supporters. However, let us keep Paul, Ariat, and their children in our thoughts and prayers.

Submitted on behalf of the St. John's Refugee Team, Kathy Schuurman, Co-coordinator



Many thanks to the St. John's volunteers who did such an outstanding job:

Jim & Judy Cederberg

Krysta Flaharty

Brad Kmoch & Nancy Ordahl-Kmoch and Merri,

Karl Nelson

Adam Neuger

Liz Parroquin Rob Quanbeck & Dawn Tommerdahl Doug Schuurman

Also, thanks to Christ Church Lutheran volunteers: Erik Haaland Ron Johnson Marylyn Kochsiek Rachel Slater

From Bread for the World

Nearly 500 Bread members and activists visited Capitol Hill on June 13, Bread's Lobby Day, to personally ask their members of Congress to oppose any budget cuts or structural changes that would increase hunger and poverty.



President Trump's budget cuts billions of dollars from SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), refundable tax credits for low income working families, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Medicaid would face hundreds of billions in additional cuts above the \$834 billion that would already be

taken from the program by the American Health Care Act. International programs would also be severely cut at a time when 20 million people are at risk of starvation or near-famine conditions in South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen.

Beckmann, Bread board members, and other religious leaders urge members to advocate against cuts in vital programs for the poor and hungry and to join them in prayer, fasting and other steps to aid those who struggle to get enough to eat in our country and abroad.

At this year's Lobby Day gathering Bread honored Senators Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Bob Casey (D-PA), and Representatives Betty McCollum (D-MN) and Chris Smith (R-NJ) for their outstanding leadership toward ending hunger and poverty.

You can connect to members of Congress by calling the Capitol switchboard at 1-800-822-7323. Much more information at bread.org.

Attention: Knitters and Crocheters... and Wannabes!

St. John's Women's group would like to form a new group to knit and crochet prayer shawls and christening blankets for baby baptisms. Gifting of these loving creations to people among us suffering loss or



illness (and numerous other reasons) and to welcome God's gift of babies into our congregation also has added benefits to knitters and crocheters. Friendships among a group of knitters grow in this unique ministry of love and compassion.

An interest and planning meeting will be scheduled early in the fall to launch this new group. All are welcome; even if you don't know how to knit or crochet, we can teach you! Contact Sue Sharrow at sue_sharrow@msn.com with questions or to indicate your interest.

St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Visitation Pastor

John Quam jequam@rconnect.com

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Facility Manager

Tim Byers facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Financial Manager

Bernie Renander finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

Carol Benson - Alleluia Choir caroldbenson@gmail.com

Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers rejoiceringers@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Office Manager

Leah H. Garlie office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry

Christy Hall-Holt / Mary Kelvie sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Youth Ministry

Mike Skunes vouth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Congregation President

Ruthie Neuger rneuger@engageprint.com



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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 500 Third Street West · Northfield MN 55057

PHONE

507-645-4429

FAX

507-645-9633

EMAIL

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-Th 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fri



It's time to collect school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. Our kits will be delivered to school children in places of crisis and need throughout the world.

Items needed for one kit include:

- four 70-sheet notebooks of wide of college-ruled paper
- one 30 centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- one pencil sharpener
- one blunt Fiskar scissors
- five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- five black or blue ballpoint pens
- one box of 24 crayons
- one 2 ½" eraser

Collection will begin mid-July. Watch the news blast and the Sunday bulletin for further information.

If shopping is not your thing, monetary donations will be cheerfully accepted. Make checks payable to WELCA and write "school kits" on the memo line, and place in the Sunday offering plate or bring to the church office.

