

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

June/July 2008

Volume 48, Number 6

*on the
inside . . .*

Swan Song
◇ p. 8

VBS/Day Camp
◇ p. 13

Summer Camps
◇ p. 15

St. Olaf pastoral intern to work at St. John's this summer

Andrew Nelson, serving his internship at St. Olaf College this past year as he prepares for ordination, will be doing some pastoral work at St. John's this summer to broaden his experience beyond that which he could do at the college. Andy will likely preach a couple times and lead worship, but will primarily be doing pastoral visitation to shut-ins in coordination with Pr. Quam, visiting in the hospital

in coordination with all the pastors, and working with the children and family ministry programs, such as Vacation Bible School and possibly Confirmation Camp.

Andy is a native of Red Wing, Minnesota, and is pursuing his M.Div. degree at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. He will be introduced to the congregation at worship on a Sunday early in June.

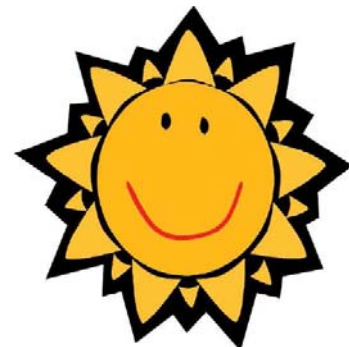
Council changes office staff configuration

The Congregation Council voted on May 13 to eliminate the position of Coordinator of Communications and incorporate the duties of the bulletin, *Voice*, and website into the secretary-receptionist position, making it full-time. (Stephanie Ewing is stepping down from the secretary-receptionist position in June to pursue her masters degree in social work.) Acting on a recommendation from Personnel Committee, the council made this decision to reduce costs to the personnel budget and because it felt the office would benefit in efficiency and access with a full-time person doing the duties currently split between part-time staff.

Given this decision by council, Jodi has decided to resign both her positions, effective June 6. St. John's will miss Jodi's spirit and passion for ministry that she shared with the staff and the congregation.

The new full-time position is currently in the hiring process, and will carry the title Office Manager. Applications may be obtained in the church office; contact Pr. Crippen or Shelley Keske for more information and a position description.

This decision means that Jodi Johnson's position in communications comes to an end on June 14. Jodi holds two part-time jobs at St. John's, coordinating our Shared Ministry program as well.



The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church of Northfield, Minnesota. Articles for the *Voice* must be submitted by the 15th of each month to the Church Office or by e-mail to: communications@stjohns-elca.org. For information, contact the Church Office: **phone:** 507-645-4429 **fax:** 507-645-9633 **e-mail:** info@stjohns-elca.org **website:** www.stjohns-elca.org

Church office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

9:00 a.m. to noon and
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. to noon and
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer 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: mcisar@charter.net or 663-1097.

Confidentiality is key to relationships

Stephen Ministers receive ongoing training through regular continuing education classes. In May, a panel presented on the topic of confidentiality. Like Stephen Ministers, each panel member is privy to information about others that they hold in strict confidence although some are mandated to report instances of harm to self or others, danger of life, or abuse.

St. John's prayer group member Jane Rinehart said there is a common understanding in the prayer group that, "What's said here is confidential." Within the prayer group setting, people may be prayed for by name but the group is very careful not to disclose private information with which they are entrusted.

Karin Norgaard, a home health care and hospice nurse, shared that for her patients confidentiality leads to trust. This trust is important as she visits patients in their homes and makes sure they have the services they need.

Former teacher Liz Wicks worked with teen parents. She stated there is a code of honor in education – you don't talk about students in any way that's harmful to them. Often the teens she worked with had been mistreated and betrayed by adults in their lives. Creating a safe space for them was of utmost importance.

Stephen Ministers are bound by confidentiality, too. Although some aspects of their caring relationships may be discussed in supervision meetings, names of individuals and identifying information about them are never divulged. The purpose of supervision sessions is to improve Stephen Ministers' caregiving skills, not to talk about care receivers. If you or someone you know would benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, contact Joan Halvorsen at 645-8445 or Pastor Johnson at 645-4429.

*Bear one another's
burdens, and in
this way you will
fulfill the law of
Christ.*

Galatians 6:2



*Providing one-
to-one care and
encouragement*

St. John's Grief Group will hold another grief support session this fall. Watch for details in the August Voice and in the bulletin. Contact Barb Knaak, 646-0444, for more information.

Resources for grief support at St. John's include Stephen Ministers (contact Joan Halvorsen, 645-8445 or a pastor) and the Stephen Ministry book series "Journey through Grief", Care Notes in the Commons, various books in the church library, and your brothers and sisters in Christ at St. John's.

*Blessed are they who
mourn, for they shall
be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4

Bereavement Ministry



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."

July 16, 2008
Cary Harmon

From our pastors . . .

Behind the Scaffolding

"...the hope to
which God has
called you..."
Ephesians 1:18



One of the candidates for the position of Director of Youth Ministry got lost on the way to their interview last month. It wasn't the street address or a phone call that eventually led the candidate to St. John's but the scaffolding around the bell tower. At the end of the driving directions the candidate received was a small but unexpectedly important statement: if you see scaffolding around the bell tower, that's St. John's.

The scaffolding around the bell tower not only serves as a good visual marker for lost drivers, but it also reflects the changes and growth that the congregation is going through this year. St. John's is in the midst of change - repairs on the bell tower and roof, staffing transitions, important conversations about the future of our ministry together and the church budget.

On good days change can be invigorating, like setting out on an adventure. Other days change seems like a burden to struggle with and a mystery that confounds us. For most of us change is unsettling. A pastor of mine once wrote, "Even when you are walking around in the dark, you like to know where the furniture is." In the midst of the changes we face at St.

John's and in the changes that come to our families and homes and places of work we are often lost and in need of direction.

The cross is our sign. There is a cross at the bottom of the bell tower and there will be a new cross, being recast this month, at the top of the tower soon. The cross is a sign that there is a way that has been made and a future that God is blessing in the midst of all the changes and chances of life. We place our trust in the promise of God's Word in the crucified and risen Christ. We give thanks for the gifts we've been given and for the guidance and the courage to use those gifts - and we go forward together.

The Letter to the Ephesians encourages us on, "I pray that the God our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe..." (Ephesians 1:17-19a)

The peace of Christ in the midst of scaffolding,

Mark

DYM Hiring Team Update

The Director of Youth Ministry Hiring Team interviewed four candidates in May. Two candidates were invited back for a second interview. A final decision had not been made regarding the position when this issue of the *Voice* went to print. A hiring announcement will be made sometime this summer at worship. More information will be provided in the August *Voice*.

May Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of: Marjorie Bly by Leo and Lois Bjorlie.

St. John's Foundation

In memory of: Caroline Talen by John and Eleanor Ellison, Curtis and Karen Swenson, Paul and Marilyn McRae Raadt, Wayne and Anne Reitter Wolf, Les and Carolyn Svendsen, John and Joan Hagman, David and Sally Hagman, Ed and Rose Youngquist, David and Patricia Halsor, Robert and Sandra Servais, Dick and Joann Morgan, Nathan and Michele Knutson, Sharon Bishop, Wil and Gertrude Brosz.

In memory of: Charles Dahlgren by Curtis and Karen Swenson.

In memory of: Mary Jane Evenson by Carl and Elsie Evenson.

Lutheran World Relief

In memory of: Ralph Arneson by Jack and Grace Huus.

Gift from: WELCA Abigail Circle.

Building and Property Fund

In Honor of: Lorene Elg by Howard and Julie Thorsheim.

Electronic Giving!

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? St. John's Lutheran Church continues to offer this service for those of you who wish to have your contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with your intended offerings. It allows you to avoid having to make up the difference later. For more details contact Shelley at the church or pick up your authorization form at the Welcome Center.

Radio Fund

In memory of: John Langehough by Duane and Marie Benson.

In memory of: Patti LaBeaux by Duane and Marie Benson.

Other Actions

Baptisms

Grace Elaine Grazzini, daughter of Chad and Lisa; sponsors are Carrie Sink and Erik Lohn; May 11, 2008

Weddings

Amber Brandmire and Jim Richardson, May 10, 2008

Radio Broadcasts

May 11, 2008 given in honor of Benny and Beverly Blanness' 56th wedding anniversary by Bernard Blanness.

May 18, 2008 in memory of Leon Ingram by his family.

Stewards of Grace Report

As we enter the final days of the Stewards of Grace three year capital campaign, a mid-May report is in order. Judy Swanson, the keeper of the program display in St. John's Hall, posted the total received to date; \$875,196. Two months ago the total on the "cup display" was \$851,590 so we had a gain of \$23,606. The Stewards of Grace pledge total is \$900,000.

You are encouraged by the Congregation Council to continue making payments through the entire 2008 year. We should be able to go over the pledged total during this summer. As of this date \$163,000 is yet to be received on pledges, \$59,596 was received in exceeded pledge offerings, \$24,428 was received from people that did not pledge, and \$40,186 was given through miscellaneous gifts.

Again, please prayerfully consider continuing your giving as is encouraged by the Council. Let's get to 10 cups on the display before 2009. Thanks a MILLION! - Bob Gelle

Mission Statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Go to the following websites for newsletters and information: semnsynod.org and womenoftheelca.org

Upcoming Events

June 11 and 12; July 9 and 10

Circles Meet

June 19 and July 7, 9:00 a.m.

Quilters meet in Fellowship Hall. The previous Monday is a work day.

August 4, 9:30 a.m.

WELCA Executive Board meets in Fireside Room.

August 7, Thur. – 10:00 a.m.
Morning Birthday Coffee, election of Officers. Executive Board Members Host in St. John's Hall.

Health Kits for LWR

We are now focusing on health kits.

The following items are needed for each kit: 1 hand towel, 1 wash cloth, 1 bar of antibacterial soap, 1 tooth brush, 1 wide-tooth comb, 1 metal nail file or 1 nail clipper with a file, 6 band aids (1/2"

to 3/4"). Please begin collecting these items. Collection boxes are on the shelf over the mail slots by the south entrance to the church. 42 layettes, 55 school kits and 37 quilts were delivered to Lutheran World Relief in April.

Women Interested in Joining a Circle

Please contact Winnifred Alberg at 645-8630 for further information and to make contacts.

Circle Bible Study Regular Meeting Times each month are the second Wednesday or Thursday at the times below: (June 11 and 12; July 9 and 10)

Lydia – Wed. 9:30 a.m.

Sarah - Wed. 9:30 a.m.

Abigail – Wed. 2:00 p.m.

Claudia –Thurs. 9:30 a.m.

Martha – Thurs. 9:30 a.m.

Dorcas – Thurs. 1:30 p.m.

Elizabeth – Thurs. 1:30 p.m.

Rebecca – Thurs. 2:00 p.m.

Mary – Thurs. 7:30 p.m.

Miriam – Time to be decided

Womens' Breakfast Group – **second**

Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in Fireside Room.

News and Events



Congregation Gives Lorene Elg Maakestad Painting

On Sunday, May 4, the congregation had an opportunity to thank Lorene Elg for her 32 years of dedicated service. The Council presented Lorene with a beautiful original painting by our own John Maakestad. It was a wonderful celebration and we wish Lorene a blessed and happy future as she begins a new chapter of her life.

Annual Lutheran Night at the Twins – August 19

The North Rice Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Chapter invites Thrivent members, their families, youth and their guests to the fun on Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2008 from 5:15 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. The discounted ticket price is \$20 per person in lower reserved seating (Section 115). A free bus ride is provided by North Rice County Thrivent Chapter. Bus pickup and drop off is at Bethel Lutheran Church. Registration forms are available at the literature table in the Commons. Registration forms and payment are due July 15 to Shelia Sumner, 952-288-4603.

A Bit About Open Door Nursery School

This fall Open Door Nursery School (ODNS) will begin its 42nd year serving the Northfield community and its 21st consecutive year housed at St. John's Lutheran Church. ODNS offers 2-day and 3-day programs for children 3-5 years old. At ODNS, children are free to be children. Equipment and activities are designed especially for them.

ODNS provides a positive, nurturing environment for a child's total growth. Art, music, dramatic play, story-time, large and small motor activities and social interactions in a play setting are all part of the developmentally appropriate program. In addition, ODNS will continue its collaboration with the Biology Department at [St. Olaf College](#) to offer environmental science curriculum.

If you are interested in how your children can share in all of these unique experiences, please call the Registrar/Director, Barb Howe, at 645-5786 or visit www.opendoornurseryschool.org for more information.

From the Faith and Health Board:

Blood Pressure Testing is Back!

Lynette Marks is offering blood pressure checks on the first Sunday of each month. The checks will be located in the sacristy during the Education Hour between services.

Celebrating Summer Birthdays!

Mark your calendar and stop by for a piece of cake in the Commons between services on the following Sundays this summer: June Birthdays are celebrated on Sunday, Jun. 8; July Birthdays are celebrated on Sunday, Jul. 13; and August Birthdays are celebrated on Sunday, Aug. 10.

From the Benevolence and Social Concerns Board:

July Fund Raiser for Solar Panels and a Water Pump:

Last year St. John's funded work on a well at the Iambi Lutheran Secondary School in our companion synod in Tanzania. The well worked only intermittently prior to this repair. Now the well pipes run deep into the ground so water is reached even in the dry season. A chlorination system was also installed to purify the water and reduce the incidence of typhoid and dysentery. This \$1,200 project was financed by the Stewards of Grace Benevolence Fund. Rev. Kingu, the school headmaster, has sent his thanks from the school and the village for this work.

The well would be even more useful to the school and village if the water could be pumped and stored in water tanks. Since the school does not have electricity, a solar powered pump with pipes to water storage tanks is the ideal solution. The cost of solar panels, pump, water tank, pipes, the shipment and installation is \$8,000. The Benevolence and Social Concerns Board has

decided that this project would be a worthy use of the remaining \$5,000 in the Stewards of Grace Benevolence Fund. Urand Lutheran Church, a rural church in our SE Minnesota Synod, is contributing \$650 to the fund. That leaves \$2,350 to raise.

In the May issue of *River Crossings*, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod newsletter, we are reminded of "water as an issue of justice... More than one billion people around the globe lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation services. In developing countries, 80 percent of illnesses relate to poor water quality: someone dies of a water-related illness every 14 seconds." In the summer we all appreciate the sun and water we have in abundance in Minnesota. Solar panels and a well pump are a way to make the water more accessible to the 165 residential students at Iambi School, as well as for the nearby villagers.

Our goal is to raise this \$2,350 by the end of July. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please write a check to St. John's, and note "well project" on the memo line. Put your checks in the offering plate on Sundays, or mail to the church office.

Office Volunteers Needed for the Month of June

We are still in the process of looking for an individual to take Stephanie's place in the church office. Until that person is hired, we are in need of volunteers to fill in. Stephanie has agreed to fill in on Monday and Wednesday mornings for us, but we also need your help.

If you have some time to work a shift, which entails answering the phone, taking messages and light office duties, *please sign up* at the welcome desk. We would love to have you and the congregation needs you!

Swan Song

One definition of a “Swan Song” is a beautiful, legendary song sung by a dying swan. Another is a final or farewell appearance or action. Well, this article is my Swan Song. I’d hardly say that there will be anything legendary about it. And I’m not dying, so I guess the second of the two definitions would best describe this, as it is both my final and farewell writing here at St. John’s, since I have resigned.

Honestly, I don’t even know how or where to start. How do you write an article that can convey the depths of your being and how this place, this congregation has forever changed it? How does one begin to thank the countless people that have made such a lasting impact on your life? How do you tell a group of people that just doesn’t seem to fully understand how they have filled and shaped your heart and how you will miss them dearly?

This has been a place of wonderful beginnings for me. I remember well my first experience at St. John’s. I came in to offer my time and talents and Becky had no problem finding something for me to do. I had no idea then how that one meeting was the beginning of such a wonderful and amazing journey. After my time as Pizza Coordinator ended, I was offered the opportunity to get involved in the ChristCare program. I truly loved and still do love that program. Not because of the program itself, but because of the people, the stories, the growth and the joy I experienced in it. ChristCare was what really got me connected here. It was one more step in my journey here.

Then the position of Shared Ministry Coordinator became available. I found out more about it and thought, why not? The job description seemed like it matched my skills and abilities and I was ready to get out of the restaurant world. I applied and was blessed with the position. It all seemed to work out. It was as if God were moving the pieces around to put me here. And I still am convinced that he really was. From the moment this position was posted I knew this is where I was supposed to be.

Now, I am being led in another direction and I am learning a tough lesson about discipleship. My will

is to stay here and continue to serve this congregation. But it is clear that God’s will for me is something very different. I am learning to really, really trust God right now. I have to trust that God has another amazing beginning in store for me. Though I can’t see it, I know it’s there. I know because God has promised it to me. In a world where everyone wants and likes to think that they are in charge of their lives, it’s times like this that I am reminded that it is not me or us that are in control at all. Trust, patience, courage; it’s seems sometimes you have to learn them the hard way.

There are no words to describe what an absolute joy working here has been. True, every day wasn’t a mountain top, but there were so many that were. I was given far more than I could have ever given. I laughed and cried. I learned. I grew closer to God. And in the end, if I helped even one person learn something about their gifts or their relationship with God, then I know that God is smiling on me and every day in the valley was worth more than anything imaginable.

Shared Ministry has amazing life, church and community changing possibilities. I pray that it continues to grow and prosper here at St. John’s. Just as I hope and pray that God continues to richly bless you, the members. And, if you aren’t sure what Shared Ministry is all about then I encourage you to find out. It will be well worth the effort.

I guess all that’s left to say is thank you St. John’s. You have changed my life.

- Jodi Johnson

Current Opportunities for Sharing Your Gifts

Rides Coordinator
Helping Hands Coordinator
Hands and Feet Coordinator
Audio/Visual Coordinator
Nursery Coordinator(s)
Christmas Dinner Coordinator(s)
Wednesday Night Meal Coordinator(s)
Fellowship Events Team Coordinator(s)
Communications Team Coordinator(s)
Health Care Directive Team Coordinator(s)

Serving on Sundays

Serving in June

Acolytes

- June 1** (8:30) Kristin Beck, Erik Berthelsen; (10:00) Katie Bull, Rachel Crippen
- June 8** (8:30) Ezra and Savannah Carlson; (10:00) Peter Duba, Bethany Emanuelson
- June 15** (8:30) Colton Kastner, Rachel Langehough; (10:00) Molly Polzin, Adam Neuger
- June 22** (8:30) Billy Seeberg, Connor Rowley; (10:00) Isaak Tjaden, Will Swanson
- June 29** (8:30) Karl Amundson; (10:00) Irene Duba, Cameron Judge-Becker

Coffee

- June 1** Bruce and Audrey Moe; Zach and Jennifer Pelletier
- June 8** Brent and Jenny Nystrom; Kurt and Barb Anderson
- June 15** Dave and Debbie Becker, Corrine and Elvin Heiberg
- June 22** Maribeth and Paul Beck, Pat and Dave Halsor
- June 29** Karl and Dao Hella, Duane and Marie Benson

Communion preparers

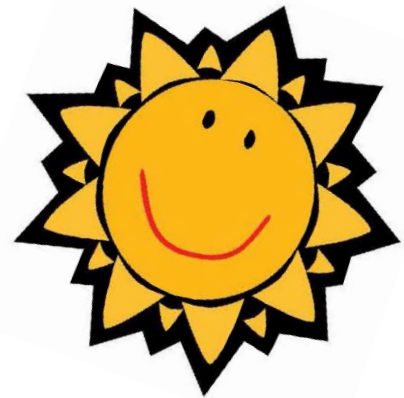
- June 1** Jim and Judy Cederberg
- June 8** John and Patsy Ophaug
- June 15** Dave and Susan Rudser
- June 22** Mark and Mary Polzin
- June 29** Susan and Dave Rudser

Welcome Desk

- June 1** Elsie Nelsen
- June 8** Joan Olson
- June 15** Bette Quinnell
- June 22** Arlene Sivanich
- June 29** Dorothy Sorenson

Nursery

- June 1** (8:30) Connie and Todd Menssen; (10:00) Kelly Lynn and Rob Nutt
- June 8** (8:30) Jenny and Brent Nystrom; (10:00) Betsy and Jeff McLaughlin
- June 15** (8:30) Stephanie and Dave Aman; (10:00) Angie and Dale Gehring
- June 22** (8:30) Sherry and Mark Benson; (10:00) Andrea and Bryan Hoff
- June 29** (8:30) Roz and Nick Neeb; (10:00) Steve and Sherri Williams



Serving on Sundays

Serving in July

Acolytes

- July 6** (8:30) Nick Huschle, Zach Evenson; (10:00) Jasmine Newman Evans, Dalton Skrove
July 13 (8:30) Karl Amundson; (10:00) Irene Duba, Cameron Judge-Becker
July 20 (8:30) Nick Huschle, Zach Evenson; (10:00) Jasmine Newman Evans, Dalton Skrove
July 27 (8:30) Will Swanson, Isaak Tjaden; (10:00) Billy Seeberg, Connor Rowley

Coffee

- July 6** Gordy and Delores Mickelsen; Joe and Ginny Shaw
July 13 Martha and Chris Erickson, Dave and Debbie Nitz
July 20 Rusty and Nancy Kluver, Carol and Bruce Benson
July 27 David and Ruth Legvold, Dave and Sue Rod

Communion preparers

- July** To be Determined

Welcome Desk

- July 6** Suzanne Sylvester
July 13 Sue Anderson
July 20 Lois Bakko
July 27 Marilyn Boschee

Nursery

- July** To Be Determined

Serving in June and July

Ushers

- Jun. 1, Jul. 6** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Alice Bates, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen, Sandy Whitworth, Bill Whitworth; (10:00) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber
Jun. 8, Jul. 13 (8:30) Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:00) Jonathan Norrie, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Guy Reid, Jon-Erle Reid, Steve Williams
Jun 15, Jul. 20 (8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Lowell Johnson, Todd Iverson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
Jun. 22, Jul. 27 (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Robin Ness, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback
June 29 (8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:00) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Lowell Johnson, Todd Iverson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

A World Free of Torture

No Meetings are scheduled for June, July or August. We will reconvene in September.

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."—
Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

June 26
UN International Day In Support of Victims of Torture

On December 10, 1948, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was accepted unanimously by the newly formed United Nations. The specific guarantees of rights that all humans share were named in the 30 articles of the document as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. The right to be protected from torture was clear and straightforward.

Yet 39 years later members of the UN felt it critical to address this right again, to make clear beyond a doubt what the intent of Article 5 is, and to address what it means in the complexity of modern life and relationships. On June 26, 1987, the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment went into effect. This complex document of 33 Articles covers the areas of ambiguity that had arisen. Very specific 'loopholes' are dealt with.

"No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for torture." Article 2, part 2: United Nations Convention Against Torture.

Here in Minnesota we have a great resource in the Center for the Victims of Torture in the Twin Cities. It is the first such institution in the U.S. In addition to the healing services offered to victims, CVT trains health care providers, educators and others about the devastating effects of torture and war trauma. This work is on local, national, and international levels. CVT conducts research on effects of torture and effective treatment and also advocates for public policy initiatives in Minnesota, the U.S. and worldwide both to help heal survivors and put an end to the practice of torture.

Since 1998, June 26 has been observed as UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. Watch for the initiatives that the Center provides for that day. Remember victims of torture and those who torture in your prayers regularly, and especially that day.

From the time news of the Abu Ghraib scandals, the situation at Guantanamo, and the treatment of persons imprisoned when denied entry into the U.S. has become known and verified beyond doubt, people of faith have voiced their opposition to such actions. Individuals and institutions have come together in the National Religious Campaign Against Torture with membership of over 130 groups across the spectrum of religious communities and beliefs. The ELCA is one of the members.

The goals of NRCAT include to bring about changes in U.S. policy to prohibit—without exception—all U.S.-sponsored torture and cruel,

inhuman and degrading treatment of detainees. For more details go to www.nrcta.org/

The myths of the effectiveness of torture have been dispelled by testimony of military experts as well as medical and humanitarian workers. The cost in long-term enmity, the destruction of trust and the negative effect on those who torture attest to the practical as well as the ethical significance of abolishing torture.

In every way that we can, from our own personal attitudes to any actions we can take to support the prohibition and ending of torture, we are called in faith to recognize our common humanity and responsibility to work for justice and peace in all the world.

"Our task today is not simply clinical, not simply to heal the wounds, not simply to prevent new wounds from happening. Our task today is to end". Author of "Oath Betrayed: Torture, Medical Complicity, and the War on Terror."

Mission Outreach



CAC Food Shelf in July

St. John's is responsible to help staff the Northfield Community Action Center Food Shelf during the month of July. Sign up in the commons. Contact Don Sahling at 645-9220.



Report from Japan

This is a portion of the May newsletter from Charity Hall. Charity teaches English and serves at Koishikawa Lutheran Church in the ELCA's J-3 program. St. John's has supported Charity since 2007.

Hello from Tokyo!

If you would have told me a year ago that I would be teaching English to high school and university women in Japan... I would never have believed you. But here I am! Each week I work with approximately 18 women over 14 hours of class. Getting to know the women has been my biggest joy. It's fascinating to learn more about Japan, Japanese culture, and lifestyle through their words and stories. I'm beginning to discover just how much "teaching" means making mistakes, learning, and listening. Thursday nights I join some of the women in the cafeteria downstairs for a good hearty Japanese meal made by the two grandmotherly chefs... May 11 is Mother's Day and Global Day of Prayer... in preparation for this day, a friend from St. Olaf set up a continuous 24-7 prayer room at her church. The room hosted groups or individuals for the last six days straight. I've never felt such inner peace as I did one day after praying. If you have a moment today, pause and pray. With so much brokenness in our world, I feel prayer is one of the best ways to connect to the perfect peace and grace of God.

In peace, Charity

St. John's Mission Partners Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen visited St. John's April 20. Marv and Jean serve at the Massae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania. St. John's has supported Marv and Jean through the Division of Global Mission (ELCA) since 2005.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity in August

St. John's will join Thrivent and other Rice County Lutheran Churches in helping to build this year's Habitat for Humanity house in Faribault. This summer group work days will be on Wednesdays. St. John's is responsible to provide volunteers on Wednesday, Aug. 6 as well as provide food and beverages that day. A sign up sheet will be in the Commons. If you are not able to help by putting up siding or providing food your financial contributions are welcome and needed. Make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church and write Thrivent Builds in the memo line.

Adult Ministry and Education

Small Group Ministries

Body, Mind, and Soul

Contact: Doug Johnson 645-6916

Connections

Contact: Carol Schoen 645-6840

Dad's Time Out

Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271

Grief Group

Contact: Barb Knaak 664-0444

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Contact: Dean Ostlie 645-2597

Mission Partner Team

Contact: Jane Rinehart 663-1659

Mutual Ministry

Contact: Barb Anderson 663-7941

Noon Bible Study

Contact: Pr. Crippen or
Pr. Johnson 645-4429

Peace and Justice

Contact: Judith Stoutland 645-7842

Praise and Prayer

Mondays, 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Mary White 645-4783

St. John's Knitters

Contact: Bobbie Maakestad 645-4397

St. John's Painters

Contact: Scott Swanson 663-1073

St. John's Quilters

Contact: Rae Pearson 645-7437

Women of the ELCA Circles

Contact: Winnifred Alberg 645-8630

Women's Breakfast Group

Contact: Kathy Mellstrom 663-1451

Dad's Time Out meets June 10

Dad's Time Out, the monthly fellowship time for dads, meets Tuesday, June 10, at 9:00 p.m. at the Cow. Put your kids to bed and come and share some time with others from the congregation.

Providing small group study and fellowship opportunities

ChristCare Small Groups Ministry

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.

Matthew 18:20



Serving Others

Barbara Eaves

It happened at a monthly circle meeting where the host was a friend 30 years my elder. As I was leaving, she thanked me for leading the Bible study and said she wished she had such a gift. That comment gave me the opportunity to remind Clara that she was one of the kindest people I knew and that she was often the first one to take a hotdish or plate of cookies or send a card to people who had a crisis in their family.

When thinking about serving others, often there is a tendency to count only major activities or those that might call for special skills or training. We may overlook or discount the impact of all the small and simple acts of kindness carried out, day after day without fanfare, which make such a difference in the lives of others.

I have always appreciated the story of a young schoolboy just learning to write the alphabet. His teacher would have her pupils go to the board and practice making letters and she would come around the room to observe their work. One day, while practicing to write the letter *a*, the teacher said to the young boy, "Harley, those are just about the most beautiful *a*'s I have seen". That statement caused the young boy think to himself: boy, if you like my *a*'s, just wait 'til you see my *b*'s.

A word of affirmation can go a long way in encouraging another to reach a little further. This affirmation is not a false compliment, but rather a reinforcement of our worth and value. Big or little, trained or not, each kindness we offer brings God's grace and blessing to someone else.

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some but encouraging one another, all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:23-25.

Photos from the "End of the Year" Celebrations at St. John's!



**Rock and Good News
Gang Group Photo**

**Confirmation
Celebration**



**Thanks to St. Olaf students Mackenzie
Peterson and Ally Harris,
Emily Frederick and Jacob Nelson
Not pictured – Emily & Jacob**



**Thanks to the United
Methodist Church Band
for playing at the
Confirmation
Celebration!**

One Great Week, Two Great Programs!

St. John's is excited to be participating in a joint **Vacation Bible School, Aug. 11 – 14**, with two other Northfield churches, Bethel Lutheran Church and St. Peter's Lutheran Church. The theme is "**God's Big Backyard**". Children age 3 by 9/1/07 - kindergarten (completed) are invited to register for VBS. The cost is \$10.00/child, \$20.00/family. Registration forms are at the Welcome Desk in the Commons or in the Church Office.



New This Summer!

Day Camp "**On The Road**" will be offered for kids in **grades 1 – 4, Aug. 10 – 14**, through Good Earth Village Bible Camp. Bethel, St. Peter's and St. John's Lutheran Churches will be hosting the event, which will take place at St. Olaf College. "**On the Road**" will kick off on Sunday, Aug. 10 at 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Go online to www.goodearthvillage.org and click on "**GEV On The Road**" to register for the Northfield camp. Space is limited so register today!

Scholarships are available for either program. Contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, ext. 25 if you have questions.

We Need Many Volunteers for our VBS/Day Camp program!

Volunteers needed for VBS (session held from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.):

- Clubhouse leaders/assistants** – lead a small group of children to various stations
- Station leaders and assistants**– to lead music, crafts, games, Bible storytelling, snacks
- Decorating prior to VBS**
- Help with registration** on Monday, Aug. 11 from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.
- Nursery Care** – help care for volunteers' children who are too young to attend VBS

Volunteers needed for "On the Road" (sessions held from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.):

- Provide an evening meal or housing for Good Earth Village camp counselors
- Help out on site during the week – you can volunteer for ½ day or all week!

Please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or email at jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet!

Children and Communion

Holy Communion is the meal of all the baptized children of God. If your baptized child has expressed an interest in receiving Holy Communion please contact a pastor. Preparation for children and parents is provided on an individual basis.

Thank you Sunday School Teachers!

Thank you to the Sunday School teachers and assistants who faithfully gave their time and gifts to teach Sunday School this year! Thank you to Sue Brockman, Jo Chambers, Dodie Mickelsen, Sherry Coudret, Deidre Kiefer, Deanna Tollefson, Becky Huncosky, Martha Erickson, Jenni Hegseth, Shelly Hanson, Kristy Mikula, Kirsten Gunn, Amy Boxrud, Mara Hessian, Stephanie Ewing, Maia Horsager, Kirsten Johnson, Liza and Sue Rod, Emilie Judge Becker, Ellen Iverson, Gretchen Falck, Michael Berger, Cheryl Buck, Mary and Martha Crippen, Geniene Scherer, Paul Hart Ruthenbeck, music leader Neil Rowley, Jenny Pelletier, Andrea Hoff, Doug Bratland, Amy Boxrud and library leaders Susan Canon, Amy Christianson, Stacy Nelson, and Sally Lindell.

Sunday School Offering

Thank you to our Sunday School children and their families for giving to the Sunday School offering this year. Over \$1,000.00 was given to provide support to the following missions:

- Our Compassion International child, Romairo Vasquez Polo, from Bocachica, Columbia. Our sponsorship provides Romairo with Bible teaching, medical care, nutritious meals, recreational activities, academic support, educational classes and literacy training.
- The Minnesota FoodShare Drive to help benefit the Northfield Food Shelf.
- The Bright Stars Program, which includes the Dar Al-Kalima K-12 School, in Palestine.



Good News Gang and Rock Picnic



Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Parents who wish to have their baby or child baptized at St. John's are asked to attend a preparation session to discuss the meaning of baptism and to talk about the details of the day. Baptism preparation is held on the first Saturday of each month in the Fireside Room. The next session is Saturday, June 7 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Preschool Playgroup

Are you looking for a playgroup this summer for you and your preschooler? Come join us every Friday morning from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. to enjoy each other's company and watch our little ones enjoy God's world! Our first playtime will be June 13 at St. John's playground. If you have questions, please call Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, ext. 25

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Summer Camp 2008

Shores of St. Andrew and Green Lake

We can't wait to spend time with you at camp, June 8-13!
Remember to do the following things:

Fill out forms (St. John's forms and Camp forms) and turn into Julie or Peggy.

Pay your balance due (checks payable to St. John's) and turn into Julie or Peggy – you should have received a letter in the mail with your balance.

Departure: Sunday, June 8, 12:15p, St. John's parking lot.

Return: Friday, June 13, approximately 4 p to St. John's parking lot.

Those signed up to go:

Shores of St. Andrew, Green Lake, 6th - 8th grade 3rd - 5th grade

Jonah Berthelsen
McKenna Boyum
Kelsey Bull
Sydney Eddy
Elizabeth Evenson
Timothy Gasior
Greta Hummel
Wylie Kneser
Cecilia Kryzda
Amanda Nelson
Nicholas Pelletier
Olivia Riggins

Kristin Beck
Erik Berthelsen
Kirstin Buck
Katie Bull
Rachel Crippen
Irene Duba
Peter Duba
Zach Evenson
Bennett Falck
Michael Gasior
Nathan Berthelsen
Michael Anderson
Colton Kastner
Amelia Kneser
Rachel Langehough
Molly Polzin
Connor Rowley
James Rowley
Billy Seeberg

A Summer Magical Mystery Tour for 6th -8th Graders

It's a mystery, so here are some of the basics:

Who: 6th-8th Graders and friends (means that you have just completed those grades.)

What: Fun Activity with friends from Northfield area churches

Where: Cannot be disclosed at this time. It's a Magical MYSTERY Tour, remember? We will probably meet at Bethel Lutheran Church.

When: Wednesday, June 25; Tuesday, July 8; and in keeping with the theme - the August date is a mystery – watch for more details in the August *Voice* and in the Sunday worship folder.

Christikon – July 12-20

This summer St. John's high school youth will load a bus, along with Bethel Lutheran Church and head to Christikon – a Lutheran outdoor camp in the Boulder River valley in southern Montana. The following campers will spend five days hiking in the Beartooth-Absoraka Wilderness area:

Kevin Moore, Andrew Mikula, Nick Motzko, Alex Gerdes

YouthWorks! July 26 – August 2

YouthWorks! provides a weekly program of service, learning, and worship in Christ's name at over 75 sites around North America for high school youth. St. John's high school students will travel to the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota to paint houses, help lead "Kid's Club", and learn about Lakota culture. Those attending YouthWorks!:

Katy Ewing
Daniel Gerdes
Jon Reid
Berit Seeberg
Elizabeth Sorensen
Kelsy Sorensen
Martha Sudermann



THE
Voice
OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Northfield, MN

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*Joseph G. Crippen
Mark E. Johnson
John E. Quam*

Parish Administrator

Shelley Keske

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

Choir Directors

*Jenny Pelletier - Alleluia
Carol Benson - Hosanna
Cathy Rodland - Jubilate
Ruth Legvold - Laudate
Ron Rodman - Senior
Jo Dahlin - Rejoice Ringers*

Communications Coord.

Jodi Johnson

Nursery Coordinator

Angie McCarthy

Organist

Ruth Ferguson

Parish Nurses

*Lynette Marks
Karin Norgaard*

Secretary-Receptionist

Stephanie Ewing

Shared Ministry Coord.

Jodi Johnson

Youth Ministry

*Peggy Hanson - Interim
Kim Motzko - Interim*

Congregation President

Tim Eklund

500 Third Street West
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-4429

Cross given in memory of Brian Mickelsen

Thanks to Gordon and Dolores Mickelsen, a beautiful version of the St. John's cross now hangs in St. John's Hall, given in memory of their son Brian, who died in 2007. Gordie made the cross out of walnut, and the dimensions are 32 inches across the beams. The cross in the sanctuary measures a span of 48 inches. The cross is the form of the Greek cross, with arms of equal length. We are grateful for this beautiful addition to this space!

Care in Congregations

St. John's received a generous gift from Thrivent Financial through their Care in Congregations program. Thrivent contributed \$1,000 to help support our summer campers this year. Thanks, Thrivent!



Have a Great Summer!