

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2009

Volume 49, Number 5

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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:

office@stjohns-elca.org.

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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.

Hosanna Musical May 17



The Hosanna Choir will present the musical, "By the Sea," on May 17, during the education hour.

The musical, by

John D. Horman, dramatizes in song and story some incidents from the life of Jesus that took place along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, in and near the town of Capernaum. In the story three people are looking for Jesus: one is sick, another hungry, and the third in need of a friend. Together they represent the needs we all bring to Jesus. The three go from place to place looking for him. They never catch up with him, but eagerly listen to the stories of people who knew him. It's a good story, set to good music, performed by our young singers from St. John's. Please come and listen on May 17.

Festival Service for Choir and Brass May 3

The St. John's Senior Choir and the St. John's Brass will provide music in a Festival Service on May 3 during the 8:30 and 10:45 services. Music by J.S. Bach, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Daniel Pinkham, and Kenneth Jennings will be performed. Martin Hodel, Professor of Trumpet at St. Olaf, will be featured along with members of the St. John's Brass. Both groups are directed by Ron Rodman. Come join us for this festive day of worship!



Summer Schedule

St. John's begins summer worship schedule on Sunday, May 24.

Summer worship times are as follows:

First Service:	8:30 a.m.
Coffee:	9:30 a.m.
Second Service:	10:00 a.m.

Congregation meets Apr. 26

At a special meeting of the congregation, a revised and balanced budget for 2009 was passed. The Council's Budget Committee used a combination of budget cuts and additional revenue to balance the budget. The additional revenue comes from the insurance settlement on the roof, and re-pays the general fund for the legal fees incurred to reach the settlement. Copies of the revised budget are available at the Church Office.

The vision of St. John's: growing as disciples + becoming signs of God's love for each other and the world

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word: An informal time of prayer using Scripture as guide. Mark the days of Easter in prayer. Meets Thursday, May 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room.

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.

Supervision meeting:

Tuesday, May 19,
7:00 p.m. Fireside
Room

*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*

A History of Caring

St. John's has been a Stephen Ministry congregation for twenty eight years, equipping one hundred nineteen people to serve as Christian caregivers in our congregation and community. Nineteen Stephen Ministers currently serve St. John's as caregivers to individuals who are in need of support from a Christian friend during times of challenge and transition. This fall St. John's will offer Stephen Ministry training for those who are interested in developing their gifts for care giving and who are open to sharing those gifts as a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministry training increases the reach of our congregation's ministry as we extend God's love to St. John's members as well as to those who are not members of St. John's. But training also enriches the lives of those who provide that care. The fifty hours of training and regular continuing education include topics like these: listening, prayer, communication skills, community support resources, caring for those who are hospitalized or living with a chronic illness or grieving or going through a divorce, for those who are alone or who are struggling with family discord. Are you looking for a way to nurture and use your gifts and to give back to St. John's and the community? Do you feel the call to walk with others in faith as they face the challenges of life? For additional information about Stephen Ministry training contact a pastor, Jennifer Edwins, Shirley Falck, or Pam Schwandt. If you or someone you know could benefit from speaking to a Stephen Minister contact one of the pastors or Joan Halvorson (645-8445).

The Grief Support Group of Bethel Lutheran and First United Church of Christ begins to meet this month on Wednesday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran. Contact Barb Knaak (646-0444) for more information.

Grief Booklets: "Journeying through Grief" booklets are available 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.

*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."

May 29, 2008
Vera Johansen

From our pastors . . .

At the Table

“When Jesus was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him...” Luke 24:30-31



Sharing a meal together in Christ’s name can open eyes to see the power and presence of the Risen Savior in the world.

On February 4, staff from El Milagro Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, including Pastor Judith Van Osdol, Youth, Family, and Outreach Director Warren Croft, and Music Director Jim Seller sat down for lunch with members of the Mission Partner Team to discuss, among other things, ways our congregations can support one another in ministry. After a time of transition El Milagro is experiencing a new kind of vibrancy. The El Milagro staff described how the vibrations of music are rippling throughout the congregation as young people help to lead worship. With congas, tambourines, keyboards and bass, the rhythms and melodies of music are carrying the words of the gospel proclamation and bringing together members of the congregation in ways unimagined. This youth-led evangelism brings new challenges to El Milagro but the vibrations of growth are helping to send out God’s creative, redeeming, and healing word into the community.

A few days later, on February 7, members of the Mission Partner Team sat down for a meal with Lutherans from Colombia including Jorge Diaz, communication director for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia, and Pr. Natanael Lizarazo, pastor at First Lutheran in Sioux Falls. Jorge and Pr. Lizarazo grew up in El Cocuy (pronounced “kô-kô-ç”), Colombia and were once members at El Salvador Lutheran, another of St. John’s partner congregations. Jorge and Pr. Lizarazo told the story of how Canadian Lutheran Missionaries visited the Eastern Cordilera Mountains

around El Cocuy in 1939, serving the people of the area and witnessing to life in the name of the Risen Lord. Despite years of civil war and violence, the Gospel story still reverberates in those mountains through worship and music, a church-sponsored elementary school, and scholarships that have given young people in El Cocuy, like Jorge and Nate were given, the opportunity to receive an education and to serve their communities. Colombian Lutherans are seeing a renewed vibrancy in the church as it seeks to continue the mission of serving in Christ’s name.

This past year, members of St. John’s and visitors have gathered for a meal on Second Wednesdays, in addition to the meals we traditionally share together on Wednesdays during Lent. This month’s Second Wednesday meal on May 13 is open to all and will coincide with a celebration of our children and youth ministry and education programs. These times of food and fellowship are a vibrant part of our ministry together, providing an opportunity to meet one another and to build connections with one another – to experience the community we share as followers of the Risen Lord.

In baptism we have been joined to the death and resurrection of Christ and are called to be witnesses to God’s redeeming love. We are nourished for this work at the tables we share with one another - most especially at the Lord’s Table. Through the bread and wine and power of God’s word, with sins forgiven and brothers and sisters to love, our eyes are opened again to see the power and presence of the Risen Savior in the world.

Marks

April Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Al Finholt**: by Ralph and Marilyn Haugen, Duane and Elaine Kringen, Donald and Joan Starkweather, Forrest and Virley Brown, John and Barbara Walters, David Finholt and Deborah Steed, Mary White, Basil and Kathryn Mroz, Robert and Jane Gelle, Thomas and Gloria Porter, Louise Holmquist, Shirley Falck, Solveig Steendal.

In memory of **Gordon Rasmussen**: by Charlotte Rasmussen, Charis Stenberg, Kristi Knecht, Valija Springstead, Julie Rasmussen, Rachel Rasmussen, Thomas Rasmussen, Mr. and Mrs. Stenberg, David Heikkinen, Omar Otterness, Robert and Cora Scholz, Eldon and Elaine Person, Brynhild Rowberg, Harold and Donna Hoekstra, Van and Ruthanna Miller, Richard and Lela Olson, Brynhild Rowberg, Ronald and Carol James, Howard and Julie Thorsheim, John and Louise Quam, Robert and Jane Gelle, Charles Lunder, Kenneth and Carolyn Jennings, David and Carol Reitz, Eugene and Claire Fox, Myron and Carol Solid, Duane and Elaine Kringen, Ivan and Pauline Fagre, Bruce and Carol Benson, Paul and Deaun Peterson, Dagfinn Moe and Lydia Quanbeck Moe.

In memory of **Sig Sampson**: by Howard and Margaret Gilbertson.

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Al Finholt**: by Richard and Jo Dahlin, Carol Johnson, Wil and Gertrude Brosz, David and Patricia Halsor, Howard and Julie Thorsheim.

In memory of **Bonnie Dowell**: by Jessie Lindberg.

In memory of **Gordon Rasmussen**: by Carol Johnson, Solveig Steendal, Jennings and Elaine Feroe, Wil and Gertrude Brosz, Shirley Falck, Sharon Bishop, Bruce and Audrey Moe, Richard and Jo Dahlin.

Radio Fund

In memory of **Gordon Rasmussen**: by Paul and Marilyn Raadt.

In memory of **Al Finholt**: by Dean and Dorothy Ostlie.

Building Fund

In memory of **Al Finholt**: by I. Ruth Hansen, Roald and Shirley Kindem, Wesley and Rae Pearson, Roger and Darlene Hand.

In memory of **Gordon Rasmussen**: by I. Ruth Hansen.

Choir Chair Fund

In memory of **Gordon Rasmussen**: by Keith Homstad

Other Actions

Baptisms

Isabelle Kate Paulson, daughter of Scott and Jennifer; sponsors are Kylie Faust and Ryan Paulson; April 19, 2009

Funerals

Gordon Rasmussen, April 22, 2009

Radio Broadcasts

April 5, 2009, in memory of **John Falck**, by Shirley Falck

April 12, 2009, in memory of **her parents**, by Sharon Bishop

April 19, 2009, in memory of **Fritjof "Fritz Christensen and his Apr. 14 birthday**, by Judy Christensen

April 26, 2009, in loving memory of **Don McRae**, by Marilyn and family

News and Events

A Message on the Food Shelf from Trina Carlson:

"I know someone that would rather starve to death than go to the Food Shelf." This statement was from a lady I had the pleasure of meeting at Thursday's Table. I work behind one of the toughest doors to walk through for the first time in Northfield—the Community Action Center Food Shelf. That door is located discreetly at 1651 Jefferson Parkway, on the back of the Senior Center. First time visitors are easy to identify. Their demeanor bespeaks of defeat and loss of pride. Some cry, some are simply numb. All apologize and all are hungry, some near starvation. It is the last door they had dreamed they would ever enter, but they have suffered job loss or hours cut, domestic violence, divorce, death of spouse, medical issues and overwhelming prescription costs, disability, or simply the inability to have money left over for food, despite working several jobs.

We distribute over 30,000 pounds of food each month. Currently, we service approximately 400 families representing 1200 individuals, most of whom are children. Our client list grows daily. Last Friday alone, five new families came to our door.

So where will your generous donations go? The money that the CAC received from St. John's is going directly to feed your neighbors here in the Northfield area. To be eligible to receive food at the Food Shelf, one must be a resident of the Northfield School District and have an income less than 200 percent of

the poverty level. This translates into \$21,660 for a single individual and \$51,580 for a family of five. A family of one receives a minimum of 30 pounds of food and each additional household member is allocated 15 pounds. Guests are permitted to visit the food shelf only once per month. Many choose to come just a few times a year when they have nothing left in their cupboards—literally. Through your generosity, those of us who welcome recipients are recipients ourselves of heartfelt thanks dozens of times each day.

The Food Shelf's staff of volunteers welcomes guests warmly and provides an atmosphere of respect and integrity. A first-time visitor recently said, "Wow, I really was dreading coming here and was afraid of what you would think of me. We had no food left so we had to finally come because my kids were hungry. But strangely in a really weird way, this was such a nice experience that I am sort of looking forward to coming back. Thank you."

No. Thank *you!* You have given this man's family food to eat tonight. We at the Food Shelf were simply your vessels. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the Food Shelf, please call me at 664-3585.

Trina Carlson is a member of St. John's, and serves on the Benevolence and Social Concerns board

Thank you to the members of St. John's, including Sunday School students, who raised \$13,063.40 for the CAC food shelf in March!

News and Events

Thank you for your support!

Apr.14, 2009

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church
Congregation,

We would like to thank you for your very generous support of the 2009 MN FoodShare Campaign in Northfield. St. John's congregation members donated \$12,470.00 and the Sunday School classes raised an additional \$593.40. The Northfield Community Action Center food shelf has been serving a record number of people and we accept these donations with much gratitude.

This past month CAC has focused our appeal on hunger and on its solution: sharing food. Because of your support, we can sustain the promise that "nobody goes hungry in our community." We are pleased to report

that the goal for the MN FoodShare Campaign has been met in Northfield. That success is directly attributable to a caring and generous community that understands the greater food needs of our community.

The CAC Board of Directors, and most importantly the people who use the food shelf, say a hearty thank you for your generosity.

If you know anyone in need of the food shelf service, please, refer them to the CAC.

With sincere appreciation,

Jim Blaha Executive Director
Judy Bickel Program Director

St. John's Congregation Council

Betsy McLaughlin, *President*

Tim Eklund, *President Elect*

Patsy Ophaug, *Secretary*

Bron Scherer, *Treasurer, chair of Business Management*

Pat Fick, *chair, Adult Ministry and Education*

Barbara Wilson, *chair, Benevolence and Social Concerns*

Sue Brockman, *chair, Children's Ministry and Education*

Paula Carlson, *chair, Evangelism and Communications*

Barb Knaak, *chair, Faith and Health*

Scott Swanson, *chair, Properties and Grounds*

Michael Sylvester, *chair, Stewardship*

Judy Swanson, *chair, Worship and Arts*

Brett Norgaard, *chair, Youth Ministry and Education*

Pr. Joseph Crippen and Pr. Mark Johnson also serve on the council, with voice but not vote.

Welcome, New Members!

St. John's welcomes new members!

On Sunday, Apr. 19, 13 new members were welcomed into St. John's congregation. A reception was held in their honor between services. Please take the time to get to know these new brothers and sisters!



Jamie Debner
13346 Hummingbird Lane
Apple Valley, MN 55124
612-963-3737
Hosts: Katherine and Jonathan Norrie



Saul and Amy McBroom, Cora and Dyson
2808 Oaklawn Drive
Northfield, MN 55057
507-664-9195
Hosts: Brian and Andrea Hoff



Howard and Louise Midje
36885 Cty 24 Blvd
Dennison, MN 55018
507-789-6765
Hosts: David and Genevieve Quarberg

Welcome, New Members!

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Steve and Karin Pahs, Hannah and AJ

2313 Harbor Drive
Northfield, MN 55057
507-645-2921

Hosts: Dan and Kristin Hummel

Photo not available:

Bill Purcell

21 Park Drive
Northfield, MN 55057
507-663-8852

Hosts: Scott and Lynette Swanson



Julie Schaplowsky

Unit 206
101 St. Olaf Ave.
Northfield, MN 55057
507-301-3267

Hosts: John and Patsy Ophaug

A Greeting from Regina

I'd like to begin by telling you a little more about myself and my background. I'm still fairly new at St. John's, still fairly new in town, and still fairly new in my position with Shared Ministry. There are plenty of people here I'd like to meet and get to know. I have come to accept that this is not going to happen as quickly as I would have preferred but it recently occurred to me that perhaps you would like to know a bit more about me and how I understand my work here.

My husband and I recently moved from Philadelphia, where we completed graduate school. We ended up in Minnesota because this is where I'm from and because Terrence accepted a position with Carleton College. We've enjoyed our time here thus far, though winter seems longer than I remember!

I started working with Shared Ministry in the middle of January and I think it might be useful give you an idea of how I understand the work of Shared Ministry. My perspectives on Shared Ministry are rooted in the biblical imagery of the body of Christ. For some reason that image has been inescapable for me as I contemplate this role and the place of shared ministry in the larger ministry of St. John's. That image, and the understanding we're given about what it means to be the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians and Romans, forms the basis of my approach to my work at St. John's.

"For as one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us..." Romans 12:4-6

Earlier in Romans we're told we belong to one another. That is a powerful concept for me: we are part of one another. God has given us gifts not for our own good but for the good of the body and the glorification of God. Nowhere is it implied that only some people are given gifts, nor is it

implied only some gifts ought to be used. Rather we are told all are given gifts, each child of God is a member of the body, and each gift is given so that it might be used.

This is the foundation for my understanding of Shared Ministry. We are each given gifts. Every gift can be used for the benefit of the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God. We are given gifts and expected to use them, to make a return on our talents so to speak. The way I understand it, my job is to help the members of this body recognize their gifts and then to use them.

It is something I take seriously because I believe in the power of God and the work God can do through a congregation like St. John's. Every Sunday morning our pews are full of people who have been gifted by God to do the work of God. You are one of those people. Our congregation's theme this year is "Extending God's Love." It fits perfectly within my understanding of Shared Ministry. We are each gifted members of the body of Christ called to extend God's love. Extending implies an outreach, an action that takes us outside of ourselves. Extending implies using our gifts for something more than our individual benefit.

I have seen the beauty of the body of Christ at work, each member using his/her gifts to meet the needs of other members, to meet the needs of those outside the body. It is actually quite striking to reflect on the potential the body of Christ holds when each member carries out the function it is put in place to do. Suddenly a healthy, working, loving, body is in place. Though the work of the individual member may seem small, when it is put together with the work of every other member and we step back to see the body at work we find a whole organism doing the mightily significant work of extending God's love.

It is not always easy to be a member of the body and there are often glitches along the way. We

continued on page 16



Serving on Sundays

Serving in May (summer schedule begins May 24)

Acolytes

- May 3** (8:30) Alexa Nutt, Hunter Redfield; (10:45) Evan Nelson, Noah Parker
May 10 (8:30) Rebecca Storlie, Kristopher Swanson; (10:45) James Rowley, Amelia Tjaden
May 17 (8:30) Karl Amundson, Irene Duba; (10:45) Kirstin Buck, Zachary Evenson
May 24 (8:30) Cameron Judge-Becker, Dalton Skrove; (10:00) Jasmine Newman-Evans, Bjorn Bade
May 31 (8:30) Michael Anderson, Erik Berthelsen, Rachel Crippen; (10:00) Kristen Beck, Katie Bull, Peter Duba

Coffee

- May 3** Scott and Lynette Swanson, LaVerne and Otto Reitz, Shirley Falck
May 10 Mary Cisar and David Sudermann, Bill and Char Carlson, Kathy Mroz
May 17 Brian and Lois Pleschourt, Lori and Tim Peterson, Peggy and John Hanson
May 24 Fred and Marlene Dahl
May 31 David and Sue Hagen

Communion preparers

- May 3** Marybeth and John Bremer
May 10 David and Sue Rudser
May 17 Nordis and Larry Christenson, Barbara and John Walters
May 24 Otto and LaVerne Reitz, Kathy Vang
May 31 Ed and Rose Youngquist

Nursery

- May 3** (8:30) Roz Eaton; (10:45) Betsy and Jeff McLaughlin
May 10 (8:30) Stephanie Aman; (10:45) Ann and Doug Fitzgerald
May 17 (8:30) Greg and Grete Walter; (10:45) Kris Vatter
May 24 (9:45) Connie and Todd Menssen
May 31 (9:45) Betsy and Jeff McLaughlin

Ushers

- May 3** (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Alice Bates, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen, Sandy Whitworth, Bill Whitworth; (10:45) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber
May 10 (8:30) Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Guy Reid, Jon-Erle Reid, Steve Williams
May 17 (8:30) Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:45) Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Lowell Johnson, Todd Iverson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
May 24 (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:00) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback
May 31 (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

Calendar page

(we can use this master page to get the page number at the bottom, if there's room)

News and Events

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Next meeting:
Monday, May 11
7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

“Reforming Aid”
Bread for the
World focus
2009

Reforming U.S. foreign assistance is the focus of the Bread for the World’s 2009 Offering of Letters. The meeting of the St. John’s Peace and Justice group on Monday, May 11, at 7:00 p.m., will feature a compelling video presentation from Bread for the World on the importance and effectiveness of this ecumenical grass roots communication with members of congress. Research by the Congressional Management Foundation confirms that advocacy does make a difference. Virtually all the Capitol Hill staff surveyed (96%) reported that if their member of Congress had not reached a firm decision on an issue, individualized letters would influence the member’s position. The 2005 study also found that handwritten, mailed letters are still the best way to communicate with your members of Congress.

This year’s letters will point out that the nation’s foreign assistance programs are seriously outdated and need to be better coordinated in order to be more effective. The U.S. Foreign Assistance Act, passed in 1961, now encompasses 33 different goals, 75 priority areas, and 247 directives and is executed by at least 12 departments, 25 different agencies, and almost 60 government offices. Letters will also ask that development be elevated as a national priority,

alongside defense and diplomacy, in our foreign policy.

At the May meeting there will be an opportunity to discuss such questions as: “What exactly is foreign assistance?” “Does foreign assistance really work?”; and “Given the state of our own economy, shouldn’t we address the problems of people hurting here at home rather than focusing overseas?”

St. John’s members will be urged to participate in an offering of letters on Bread for the World Sunday in the fall. Letters, however, are appropriate at anytime and can be addressed to Senator Amy Klobuchar, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510 and Representative John Kline, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. Further information can be found at www.bread.org.

Mission Outreach



Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

Since 2006 Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Rice County Habitat for Humanity have joined together to build houses through a partnership called Thrivent Builds. From 1995-2005 Rice County Habitat for Humanity built one house a year. Through Thrivent Builds an additional house per year has been built in the county since 2006. This year's Thrivent Builds house is being built in Dundas. As part of the Thrivent Builds grant Lutheran congregations in Rice County are asked to raise \$12,000.00 and to provide volunteers

to help work on the construction. St. John's work day is Wednesday, Aug. 9 from 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 8 volunteers are needed to help install fixtures and accessories, to clean up before the final inspection, and to provide food for the work crew. Sign up at the display in the Commons. St. John's is also asked to raise at least \$1,200.00 for construction costs. \$600.00 has already been raised. Checks can be made out to St. John's with "Thrivent Builds" in the memo line. Thank you for helping to build affordable housing in our community.

Update from Charity in Japan

This is a portion of the April newsletter from Charity Hall. Charity, a St. Olaf graduate and Minnesota native, teaches English and serves at Koishikawa Lutheran Church in the ELCA's J-3 program. St. John's has helped to support Charity since 2007.

Konichiwa everyone! Hope this note finds you genki (healthy, well). In March I spent three days at the Asian Rural Institute, an agricultural learning center in northeastern Japan. Together with long term visitors and farm staff, we joined daily community life and work from group exercises at 6:30 am to organic dinners at 6 pm.... Despite growing up in a rural farming community, I never had done real farm work before...Feeding chickens, fertilizing fields, planting seeds, hauling split wood...it was great!... Every year from April, the Institute hosts about 35 community leaders from all over Southeast Asia and Africa in their training program. Over the next 9 months, these leaders learn environmentally friendly agricultural practices, hands-on. Participants are also encouraged to grow as servant-leaders, with Jesus as a model... The sakura have come again in all their beauty and with these graceful cherry blossoms comes the new year in Japan. My second year of teaching will start up this coming Tuesday (April 14). It's difficult to believe a full year of teaching has already passed...Happy Easter! Easter is the reason [the world] has hope for the future in the risen Christ. Hallelujah!

Peace be with you! Charity

Volunteer Need for Red River Flooding Clean-Up

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is coordinating volunteers for clean-up in the Red River Valley following flooding in March and April. Funds are also needed for the clean-up operation. To sign up to volunteer or to make donations visit www.lssmn.org/disaster or send a check payable to Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, 2485 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. Designate the gift to Disaster Response.

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

Our theme for 2008-2009: One World: Our World.

Websites for newsletters and information: semnsynod.org and womenoftheelca.org

Another Special Happening

On Saturday, May 2, 9:30 a.m. women from all churches in the Northfield area are invited to the 10th Annual Gathering of the Northfield Ecumenical Women on Saturday, May 2, at 9:30 a.m. at Little Prairie United Methodist Church. Grace Lusher will speak on "Rags to Riches." We will give an offering for the "Fellowship of the Least Coin" and share an Agape Breakfast. The event is co-hosted by Little Prairie and Holy Cross Episcopal Church of Dundas. Come to see acquaintances you haven't seen for a long time, to meet new friends, and to let others know that you are still around.

Directions to the Little Prairie Church: Go south from Nfld. on Highway 3. Turn right at 130th St. E. After a zigzag continue west on 130th St. E for about 1.1 miles. (This event is not just for women who come to the General WELCA meetings)

Meetings Scheduled:

Tuesdays, May 5 and 19, 9:30 a.m. - Knitters meet in the Library. Do you like to knit? New knitters are welcome. Questions? Contact: Bobbie Maakestad

Mon, May 11, 9:30 a.m. - Executive Board of the Women of the ELCA in the Fireside Room.

Mon, May 11, 12:00 p.m. - Bible Study Leaders join Ruth Hansen in the Fireside room to prepare for Circles.

Mon, May 18, 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship Hall. Getting the quilts ready for Thursday.

Thurs, May 21, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. - "Workmorning" for Quilting and other projects, every third Thursday in Fellowship Hall. Additional helpers are always needed.

Looking Back:

At noon on Apr. 4, 25 women from St. Peter's joined 25 women from St. John's to feast on salads and then learn about many of the hymns of the Lutheran Church from St. Olaf Professor Emeritus Bob Scholz.

GREEN HINT-O-THE-MONTH

If you are concerned about pesticides in food buying organic is an option, but it can be expensive. Various fruits and vegetables have been analyzed for pesticide content. The following 12 tested high enough that buying the organic version may be sensible: apples, bell peppers, carrots, celery, cherries, imported grapes, kale, lettuce, nectarines, peaches, pears, strawberries. (WELCA's National Convention passed a resolution suggesting careful use of all resources.)

WELCA Mission Action Report

Mission Action is now concentrating on Hospice/Aids Kits. Dr. Kristopher Hartwig (Shoonie Hartwig's son) who works in Arusha, Tanzania has issued an urgent call for Hospice/Aids Kits. He states in the Global Health Ministries newsletter, "We'd like a full container of hospice kits shipped to us in Tanzania. But Global Health Ministries needs another 7,000 kits to fill the container. And the shipping costs - another \$12,000.00."

There is a shopping list on a table in the Commons for those who would like to assemble a kit or kits on their own. One kit costs between \$20.00 - \$30.00. If you prefer to donate money and have us do the shopping, make checks payable to St. John's with "WELCA Hospice Kits" on the memo line and place in the offering plate on a Sunday, or make checks out to St. John's WELCA, with the memo "for Hospice Kits", and give to Norma Gilbertson or to your offering at your circle meeting. *Be sure the check is marked for Hospice Kits.* Another urgent need is white rolled bandages. Global Health Ministries has barely enough for one more shipment. There are sheet strips ready to be rolled and rollers in the sewing closet off the Fellowship Hall. It's easy to roll bandages while watching TV. We thank the middle school age young persons who rolled bandages and tied quilts during their Sunday School hour in March.

Circle Meetings, Wed, May 13 and Thurs, May 14

Time	Leader
Lydia: Wed, 9:00 a.m.	- Marilyn Boschee
Sarah: Wed, 9:30 a.m.	- Carole Nesheim
Miriam: Wed, 6:30 p.m.	- Cheryl Buck (a Christ Care Circle)
Martha/Claudia (combined): Thurs, 9:30 a.m.	- Brynnie Rowberg
Elizabeth: Thurs, 1:30 p.m.	- Ann Ness
Abigail/Rebecca (combined): Thurs, 2:00 p.m.	- Gert Broz
Mary: Thurs, 7:30 p.m.	- Rachel Stark
Women's Breakfast Group: Kathy Mellstrom, Second Saturday at 8:30 a.m.	

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 - Tues, May 12 9:00 p.m.

Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271

Grief Group

Contact: Barb Knaak 664-0444

Men's Breakfast Bible Study - Food, fellowship, Bible study on Genesis

Contact: Dean Ostlie 645-2597

Meets: Every other Thursday, 7:30-9:00am

Miriam ChristCare Women's Circle - Bible study and conversation

Contact: Cheryl Buck 663-9056

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 pm and 4th Wed. 8:45-9:45am

Mission Partner Team

Contact: Jane Rinehart 663-1659

Noon Bible Study

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

Peace and Justice - Informing and engaging people of faith in issues of faith and justice

Contact: Judith Stoutland 645-7842

Meets: 2nd Monday, 7-9pm

Praise and Prayer

Mondays, 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Mary White 645-4783

Shepherds of the Flock - Tending to the care and appreciation of pastors and staff

Contact: Barb Anderson 663-7941

Meets: 2nd Wednesday, 7-8pm

St. John's Knitters

Contact: Bobbie Maakestad 645-4397

St. John's Quilters

Contact: Kathy Vang 645-4849

Women of the ELCA Circles

Contact: Pat Fick 645-8331

Women's Breakfast Group

Contact: Kathy Mellstrom 663-1451

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



Something New

By Barbara Eaves

When I was a child, I remember what fun it was to get a new outfit, including hat and gloves, to wear on Easter Sunday. And it didn't matter whether it was March or April, cold or warm, white shoes were okay. I still have a few Easter Sunday photos from those years.

Today, when I think about the practice of wearing something new on Easter Sunday, it doesn't have anything to do with clothing, but rather has to do with donning the new life we have been given in Christ. The Easter message of Jesus' death and resurrection mean that we too can rise to new life...each and every day. Gloom and doom no longer need to rule in our lives as we have a new understanding of faith-living.

With all the foreboding messages we read and hear each day, we need one another to keep us mindful of the good news that abounds around us if we look at the world and one another with "Easter eyes."

When the road ahead is bumpy and uncertain, it is a good time to be the church...to come together to rehearse, remember, and renew that which we hold dear: a God who loves us, a Savior who shows us a new way to live, and a Holy Spirit to guide and comfort us along the way. And so we gather for worship, for coffee and conversation, in Bible study, and in the support of small groups. In that togetherness we find strength, comfort, and encouragement to face the difficulties that come our way and threaten to undo us.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

Adult Ministry and Education

Education Opportunities for Adults on Sunday Mornings

Education Hour is at 9:45 a.m. Coffee is in the Commons between services.

The St. John's Forum meets in St. John's Hall between services.

May 3: *St. John's Forum:* Rice County Habitat for Humanity, Dayna Clemment. People may have heard of Habitat for Humanity but many don't know what the organization does or how the process works. Hear about the need for affordable housing in Rice County; hear how families are selected for Habitat homes, how financing is set up, and learn how the county chapter of Habitat for Humanity is organized. **St. John's Hall**

May 10: *Sunday Morning Concert Series:* Youth Recital, **Sanctuary**

May 17: *Sunday Morning Concert Series:* Hosanna Choir Musical, **Sanctuary**

St John's Forum Ministry Team meets May 19.

The St. John's Forum Ministry Team meets on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 p.m. to plan for next year. If you have suggestions for topics contact Pr. Johnson.

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never quite seem to work as perfectly as we'd like to. Recognizing ourselves as members of the body, recognizing our gifts, whatever they may be, as significant to the work of the body of Christ is an important place to begin. When it comes to Shared Ministry this is the paradigm from which I operate. This is the place I begin. As I work alongside you in our shared ministries I look forward to learning more about you and where you come from; and I look forward to learning about the gifts you have been given for the glory of God.

-Regina Hassanally
Director of Shared Ministries

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

May 3 - Sunday School

May 6 - Alleluia Choir pizza party

May 10 - Sunday School (Youth Recital)

May 13 - End of the year celebration at St. John's

May 17 - Hosanna Musical and last day of Sunday School (Ice Cream Treats!)

5th grade CAT

Fifth grade CAT students will have their last CAT classes for the year this month. Classes will be held in the Youth Room from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m. the following dates:

May 6 - Third Article and Meaning

May 13 - Completion of Third Article and Meaning

May 20 - Review of Third Article and year-end party.

The last session will be an ice cream party and review. Please bring a favorite ice cream topping to share!

3rd Grade Catechism Projects

In April, a Catechism retreat for 3rd grade students was held to talk about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This year's retreat included an at-home project that asked parents and students to create something that shows what the Sacrament of Holy Communion means to their family. The projects will be on display in the Commons starting Monday, May 3 – Sunday, May 17.

Preparing for 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, May 2 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

Pizza Party for Alleluia Choir

Alleluia Choir (K-2nd grade) will celebrate their choir season with a pizza party on May 6. This group (K-2nd Grade) sang at least once per month throughout the school year, and participated in a service at the Northfield Retirement Community (NRC) chapel in February (see photo). Thanks, Alleluia Choir, for extending God's love to those throughout our community!



Vacation Bible School / Day Camp August 10 -13

VBS is a joint venture with Bethel and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches. VBS is for children age 3 (by 9/1/08) – kindergarten (completed). It will be held at St. John's from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., August 10 – 13. Registration information will be mailed to families soon!

Day Camp "On The Road" will be offered through Good Earth Village this summer. Bethel, St. Peters and St. John's Lutheran Churches will be hosting the event. Go online to www.goodearthvillage.org and click on "GEV On The Road" to register for the Northfield camp.

It takes many volunteers to make this week happen. If you are interested in helping please check out the opportunities on the registration form or call Julie at 645-4429, ext.25. Thanks!

Scholarships are available for all summer camps offered by St. John's.

Summer Nursery Schedule:

Starting on Sunday, May 24 the Nursery will be providing childcare during worship for only the 10:00 a.m. service during the summer months. The change was made due to fewer families using the Nursery for first service and the number of volunteers interested in helping with childcare. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer.



Easter Egg Hunt 2009

Thanks to all who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt by donating candy, filling and hiding eggs. We had a big crowd and lots of fun!!!

Special thanks to Goodbye Blue Monday for donating coffee and to Katherine Peterson, Mary and Peter Crippen, and college students Grace, Ashley and Deidre for their help on the day of the hunt!

Thanks!

To all the Sunday School children for participating in the March FoodShare Drive! During the month of March, we raised \$596.00 and collected a shopping cart full of groceries to give to the Northfield Community Action Center. Thank you for caring about our friends and neighbors in this community.



YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Senior Recognition

On Sunday, May 17 during the 10:45 service, we will be recognizing our High School seniors as they prepare to graduate and move onto new things in their lives. After service the seniors, their families and confirmation mentors are invited to a special lunch in their honor.

Christikon Meeting

On Apr. 19 at 6:30 p.m. we will be having a meeting for all of you going to Christikon this summer. We will be creating a group covenant. There will be other information as well, like a packing list. If you're going on the trip, this is a required meeting.

Youth Gathering Meeting

On Apr. 19 at 7:30 p.m. there will be another meeting for those attending the Youth Gathering. We will be creating a group covenant, and Pr. Johnson will share with us about the Colombian youth that we are sponsoring. If you're going on the trip, this is a required meeting.

Easter Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who came to the Easter Breakfast. It was a great success! We had a net income of over \$1,200.00! This money will be used to help our 6th – 12th graders get to camp this summer.

Youth Ministry Class

Mike Sherman will be out of the office from Apr. 27 to May 15. He's heading down to Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa for a Youth Ministry Certification class. Hopefully he will return with new skills and knowledge for running a successful youth ministry program here at St. Johns.

Sixth Grade Prayer

The Sixth Graders have met monthly since October to study the Lord's Prayer and to learn more about the gift of prayer. In February the Sixth Graders wrote an individual prayer using different types of prayer: adoration, confession, thanksgiving, offering, and request. Last week the Sixth Graders wrote a class prayer. You are invited to pray the prayer and see if you can identify the different prayer types:

Gracious God, We praise you and thank you for all you give us. Thank you for life, shelter, food, family, and all the adults who guide us in faith and life. We confess we can do better to tend your creation and take care of one another. Help us to do what you want us to do. We offer our lives for you. In your name we pray.
Amen

Youth Gathering Fundraising

So far, we have been able to raise almost \$4,500.00 to help our kids get down to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering this summer. This money comes from fundraisers like the Youth Auction, the Easter Breakfast, and cinnamon rolls, but a large portion has also come as direct donations from congregation members who are passionate about our youth. Thank you to anyone who has given to the youth this year, and to all those that participate in our fundraisers.

We are however, still short of our goal of \$6,000.00 for the Youth Gathering. Fortunately, it's not too late to reach our goal! Contact Mike Sherman, or talk to Pr. Johnson if you are interested in donating towards the youth gathering, or towards any other of our summer trips. Those contributing \$20.00 or more will be invited to a special "Thank You" dinner hosted by the youth in August.

Pastors

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

Building Manager

Rich Kleeberger

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

Office Manager

Laurie Prior

Organist

Cathy Rodland

Parish Administrator

Shelley Keske

Parish Nurses

Lynette Marks
 Karin Norgaard

Youth Ministry

Mike Sherman

Congregation President

Betsy McLaughlin

President Elect

Tim Eklund



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End of the school year party May 13: Come and celebrate!



Everyone is invited to the "End of the Year" celebration at St. John's!

When: 2nd Wednesday, May 13, from 5:15 – 7:00 p.m.

Where: St. John's Hall.

What's happening: St. John's will have its last Second Wednesday meal of the school year. These meals for all ages have been a wonderful addition to our life together.

We also will celebrate the wrapping up childrens and youth programs for the year.

A picnic style dinner will be served starting at 5:15 p.m. Then, at 6:00 p.m. there will be a presentation by Joy Gonneman called "The Least of These." Joy will bring a few of her creatures along like snakes, rats and cockroaches and talk about the beauty of God's creation. Stay for the largest ice cream sundae served at St. John's! Everyone is welcome!!!

Retirements announced, honored

Carol Benson, director of the Hosanna Choir for the past 23 years, has indicated that she will be retiring from this position at the end of the school year. Carol and her husband Bruce will be going on the St. Olaf Term in Asia next fall, returning in Feb. 2010, and this seemed like the right time to her. She has had a tremendous impact on young people at St. John's for so long - she will be missed! Also retiring this May, as announced last year, is Ron Rodman, the director of the Senior Choir for the past 8 years. (This latter position will be a part of the new Director of Music Ministry's role.) St. John's will be honoring these two faithful servants this May, most likely on the last Sundays they will serve - Carol on May 17, and Ron on May 24. Watch the service folder announcements each Sunday for more information.