

# THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

February 2010

Volume 50, Number 2

*on the  
inside . . .*

Tanzania partner-  
ship updates  
✧ p. 7

Last words from  
Marv and Jean  
✧ p. 12

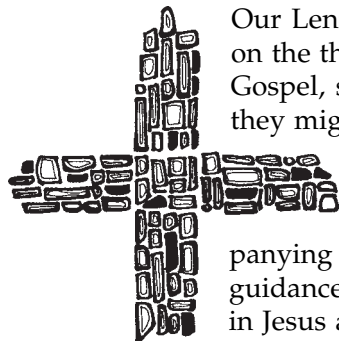
Youth Fundraiser  
Feb. 14  
✧ p. 17

## Lent begins Feb. 17 with Ash Wednesday

*"Signs to Faith" point the way to us*

Lent, our springtime period of renewal and focus on repentance and life in Christ, begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, with worship and the imposition of ashes at noon and 7:00 p.m. We will abstain from celebrating Holy Communion on this day of repentance and confession. Mid-week worship begins the next week, Feb. 24, at 7:00 p.m.

Our worship will be Evening Prayer, using in various weeks the Holden Evening Prayer setting, the setting in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, and a special setting led by the Senior Choir. Soup Suppers precede each midweek service (except Ash Wednesday), serving from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.



Our Lenten mid-week worship will center on the theme "Signs to Faith." John, in his Gospel, says that he wrote about Jesus, told these stories, that they might be signs to us to help us believe. Each week we'll look at a sign that Jesus reveals which helps us better know God's plan for us, God's real will, and also better know the nature of God and so come to faith. Accompanying each sign each week will be a work of art, with the guidance of Jon Rondestvedt, which will visually help us see God in Jesus and so come to faith as well.

## Boards and council members elected at Annual Meeting

*Orientation and first board meeting Feb. 9*

At the Annual Meeting of the congregation on Jan. 31 thirty people were elected to positions of leadership in the congregation, to the Congregation Council, our ten boards, and other standing committees. The first meeting of the new boards for 2010 is Tuesday, Feb. 9. Starting at 5:30 p.m., the boards will have pizza together, then a brief orientation at 6:15

p.m., and then break off to do planning for 2010. Council and board members newly elected will be installed at worship on Feb. 7 at second service.

Elected to the Congregation Council were: Tim Eklund, president; Carrie Duba, president-elect; Deanne Weber, secretary; David Neuger, treasurer and chair of Business Management; Keith

The *Voice* is a monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church of Northfield, Minnesota. Articles for the *Voice* must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to the Church Office or by e-mail to:  
[office@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:office@stjohns-elca.org).

For information, contact the Church Office:

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**website:**

[www.stjohns-elca.org](http://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.

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:** Gathered in the Word - Mark the beginning of the season of Lent with a time of silence and prayer guided by a verse from Scripture. Meets Thursday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.

**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.

## Food for You, from the Spirit

Lent is a time when Christians have sought to deepen their life of faith through spiritual disciplines. Two of the simplest and most profound of these disciplines are prayer and Scripture reading. If these two are not a part of your daily life, this is a good time to begin. Consider these suggestions to help you get started.

1. Set aside a specific time and place for daily prayer and Scripture reading. Any quiet and comfortable spot will do. Allow fifteen minutes when others in the household are asleep or understand that you are not to be disturbed. Consider this daily appointment.
2. Prepare your place ahead of time: set a Bible or New Testament next to your chair. You may also want to include a small notebook and pen or pencil.
3. Follow a routine. Begin with a short prayer, the same one every day. Here is one: "Speak Lord, your servant is willing." Read a short passage from Scripture. Try Mark, our gospel for the present church year. Each day read a paragraph or two, pause to think about it, and then read it again. This time listen for a verse that seems to speak directly to you. Write that verse in your notebook and date it. Shut your eyes and pray, in response to the passage you read, to the verse you wrote out, or to something in your life. If words don't come to you, close with a simple memorized prayer, such as "Thy will be done." In Romans 8, Paul assures us that as we stumble through our prayers, the Holy Spirit "helps us in our weakness" and "intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

If for a time such a structure seems no more than lifeless routine, do not lose heart. Structure can relax and liberate your mind, heart, and spirit; it can see you through a difficult time. By submitting yourself to these disciplines, you have opened yourself to the work of the Holy Spirit, though you may not yet perceive it. The Spirit will help you hear God's voice speaking to you and will teach you how to pray, all in God's own time. Have faith—that meanwhile you are being nourished.

*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*

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

*Matthew 5:4*

## Grief Support Ministry

**Northfield Grief Support Coalition:** A grief support group continues meeting this month sponsored by Three Links and the Northfield Retirement Community. Mondays, through February 22 at Three Links Care Center from 1:30-2:30 p.m. For information call Pr. Goulson, 664-3478 or Tana Kelly 664-8821.



*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."*

January 6, 2009  
**Sigved Sampson**

January 26, 2009  
**Alice Erickson**

# From our pastors . . .

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## Looking and Listening for the Signs

*"Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them."*

Luke 7:22



Finding a portage in the Boundary Waters can be a lesson in faith. Paddlers have to pay attention to the terrain of the lakeshore and to often subtle signs that will lead them to the trail that they will have to walk to get to the next lake. Sometimes conditions at the trailhead have changed or poor weather makes it a challenge to find the portage even if you're armed with good maps and experienced companions. In which case, you keep paddling with open eyes, patience, and trust that the portage is there - and with hope that once you find it, the portage will be short and flat.

Hebrews describes faith as the "assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1) Paul says "...faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. (Romans 10:17)

The Christian life calls us to be attentive to what God is saying and what God is doing in the world and then to respond to God in faith. This does not come naturally to us and so God gives us gifts like Scripture, prayer, Christian fellowship, and worship to help train our ears, our eyes, and our hearts to be open to the signs of God's presence in the world and to learn how to trust what God is doing and to follow God's way.

One of the ways God helps us to develop listening ears is by giving us Scripture that comes to us as a story.

The Bible is not a systemized book of doctrine nor is it simply an instruction book on how to live a happy and moral life. Fundamentally the Bible is a story of God's salvation, and the way that God's Word is told, in the form of a story, is itself an important part of the truth that the Scriptures proclaim. When you listen to a story you enter into it and there's a possibility that your vision or understanding of the world and your life could be changed. As we listen to the stories of the Bible we are shaped by what we hear and are drawn into the action of God through history, discovering that we are part of the story - that we are on a journey following Jesus, sharing in ministry and traveling toward the future God is preparing for us.

Lent is a time to practice being attentive to God's Word and a time to practice living in the truth of that Word. This year's Lenten worship on Wednesday evenings will focus on five stories of Jesus and will include a visual depiction of each Gospel story that might help us to see and hear God's Word in new ways. You are invited to come and see and listen.

During the days of Lent may the Spirit help train our hearts to look and listen for the signs of God and with those signs help us to believe that Jesus is God's Messiah - and that through believing, as John's Gospel puts it, we may have life in Christ's name.

*Mark*

# January Actions

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## Memorials and Gifts

### Special Gifts and Memorials

*In memory of: Eileen Reed* by Albert and Linda Kolman, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4393, Johnson Motors of St. Croix Falls

*In memory of: Jennings Feroe* by Kenneth and Carolyn Jennings, Connie Gunderson

*In memory of: Frank Ozmun* by Minnie Ozmun

*In memory of: Alex Werner* by Borris and Joyce Mokoff

### .St. John's Foundation

*In memory of: Jennings Feroe* by Ruth Severson, Ronald and Carol James, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Mona Lund, Lowell and Sharon Kutches, David and Joan Halvorson, Eugene and Lynnette Verhel

*In memory of: Eileen Reed* by Paul Willink, Sanford and Kathryn Haugen

### St. John's Foundation Music Fund

*In memory of: Jennings Feroe* by John and Ruth Ferguson

### Radio Fund

*In memory of: Jennings Feroe* by Duane and Marie Benson

### Building Fund

*In memory of: Jennings Feroe* by Richard and JoAnn Kleber, Gordon and Delores Mickelsen

*In memory of: Alex Werner* by Wes, Rae, Paul and Mark Pearson

## Other Actions

### Baptisms

**Brynn Elizabeth Bahler**, daughter of Zachary and Maren; sponsors are Chad and Anne Gilbertson; Jan. 10, 2010.

### Radio Broadcasts

Jan. 3, in memory of **Eileen Muckey and Deborah Nugent**, by Chuck Muckey

Jan. 10, in memory of **Donna Lee**, by Walter Lee and Family

Jan. 17, in memory of **Don McCrae** by Ed and Lou Gass

Jan. 24, in memory of **Bill and Verna Quinnell**, by Milo and Eloise Quinnell

Jan. 31, in memory of **Ruth and Maurice Hagen**, by David and Susan Hagen

# Music Life at St. John's

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## Music Ministry Notes:

- Wednesday evening rehearsals for Laudate Choir and Senior choir move to an earlier time – 6 p.m. – for Wednesdays during Lent beginning February 17
- February Singing Schedule for Choirs:
  - February 7 – Senior (8:30); Senior, Laudate (10:45)
  - February 14-Hosanna, Jubilate (8:30); Senior (10:45)
  - February 17 (Ash Wednesday)-Senior
  - February 21 – Senior, Rejoice Ringers (8:30);  
Laudate, Rejoice Ringers(10:45)
  - February 24 (Wednesday Vespers) - Alleluia, Hosanna
  - February 28 – Senior (8:30); Jubilate(10:45)



## St. John's Children's Choirs Out and About

The Alleluia Choir won't be singing for our Sunday services at St. John's in February, but they will be busy! On Saturday, Feb. 6, they will visit Three Links to participate in the weekly worship service there. On Sunday, Feb. 28, they will travel to El Milagro Lutheran Church in Minneapolis (one of our partner congregations) along with Hosanna and the 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Jubilate choir to worship with our Minneapolis neighbors. Thank you, choirs, for sharing your music with others—and thank you, parents, for supporting what they do!

## Bells! Bells! Bells! Sunday Morning Concert Series to feature the Rejoice Ringers

The 2009-2010 season of the Sunday Morning Concert Series at St. John's continues with a morning of music featuring our own Rejoice Ringers (Jo Dahlin, director) in concert at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, February 28 in St. John's Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.



# Shared Ministry

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In January the 2010 Time and Talent Sheets were distributed. If you did not receive a Time and Talent Sheet please let me know and I'll make sure you get one. If you have yet to turn your Time and Talent Sheet in please feel free to drop it off at the church office.

For those of you unfamiliar or uncertain about how the Time and Talent Sheets are used allow me to give a brief explanation. I use the information on them to gain a better understanding of what ministries you are interested in and what gifts and abilities you have to offer the greater body. As ministry opportunities arise I then contact those of you who have indicated an interest or ability in that ministry area and invite you to participate. Some of the opportunities are occasional and some are ongoing and some arise more than others.

For those of you who filled out the 2009 Time and Talent Sheet I hope you feel as though the information you gave me was used well. If you have suggestions on how this might improve I'd be more than happy to hear them. With a congregation of our size one of my greatest challenges is getting to know members of the congregation well enough to know what gifts you might have and in what areas you might like to serve. The Time and Talent Sheets help me gain this understanding but my goal continues to be to know more of you personally and to invite you to ministry from that knowledge.

The joy of working in Shared Ministry comes when members of our congregation take advantage of opportunities to serve our own community as well as our greater community. I am aware of the many things that vie for our time and attention and how difficult it can be to find space in our lives for another task. Yet opportunities for service are not simply additional tasks to be completed and as we participate in them we come to know first hand the unique sense of accomplishment and joy when we serve others out of the gifts we've been given and in the name of Christ.

I hope you'll consider the many opportunities that will arise in the coming year as invitations to further the work of God in the world and I trust that as we strive to extend God's love we'll find ourselves more aware of the love God extends to us.

*Regina Hassanally, Director of Shared Ministries*

# News and Events

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## Visit to Our Partner Congregation, Iambi Lutheran, Tanzania

*A report by Jane Rinehart.*

On October 11, 2009, I had the privilege of worshipping with our partner congregation, Iambi Lutheran, in the Central Diocese of Tanzania. During the worship, I brought greetings from our church and presented the congregation with a Bible that has parallel translations in Swahili and English. I brought a second identical Bible back to St. John's, and it is now in our church library. The Bibles are a symbol of our partnership; as the words of scripture are side by side on the pages, so do we walk side by side with our new partner congregation. I told them about the well project that St. John's is funding for the Iambi Secondary School, and this was received with applause. The Iambi Church gave me gifts to bring back to St. John's: katanga's (colorful fabric) for each of our pastors to be sewn into shirts, and a kanga (fabric with a border and a message) for our pastor's wife. After the worship service the church leaders and I went

to the pastor's house for a dinner. I was given more gifts, three hand woven placards. These placards are now on our mission bulletin board in the Commons, and have the words, "In Christ We Are One," "Partnership Iambi + St. John's Luth. Church," and "Iramba District + Northern Field."

The Iambi pastor also brought out the packet St. John's had sent last May. We held up the "Extending God's Love" banner, and I described how banners are used in our church. We looked at the pictures in the photo directory, and I told them about our choirs, youth groups and other groups pictured. The church evangelist, who had preached for the church service, asked that St. John's pray for them, and said he would like it if we sent a volunteer to stay longer to teach them more about our programs. I asked for their prayers, as well, and told them that their church is often in the Sunday morning prayers at St. John's.

## Thank You from Tanzanian Students

Thanks to all who donated to the Tanzanian Scholarship Fund, which was part of the Christmas Giving Tree in December. A total of \$2,820 was donated. These funds will be sent to our Companion Synod in Tanzania, for scholarships for students who attend the Lutheran Seminary at Kiomboi, or one of the three Lutheran secondary schools in the diocese, located at Iambi, Ihanja, and Kijota.

The cost per student at the seminary is \$2,000 per year, and the cost per student at the secondary schools is \$525. One of the past scholarship recipients sent this message:

"I thank God to have this chance to say thank you for choosing me to be one among few recipients. . . I sincerely promise to use this chance to study hard and acquire knowledge which will help me to build good foundation of my future . . . Convey my special regard to all people who participate in one way or another to make this sponsor possible. May God bless."

# News and Events

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## Foundation blesses ministry at St. John's in 2009

During 2009 the St. John's Foundation gave over \$14,000 to the ministry of St. John's congregation. The mission of the Foundation is to provide funds to the congregation for new ministries that otherwise aren't budgeted, to continue the mission of the congregation. The Foundation is an endowment of over \$380,000, and the grant to the congregation for 2010 is \$14,700.

The projects and ministries funded by the Foundation in 2009 include: funding to bus children to Wednesday programming for the year to see if it's feasible and beneficial to the ministry; funding to start the new giving envelope program; new folders for the Senior Choir; pilot program for Sunday morning music leader; funding for the stage in St. John's Hall; El Milagro Mission; Media fund (video supplies); support for our seminarian, Regina Hassanally; scholarships for twelve St. John's members attending ELCA colleges this year; two new bells for the Rejoice Ringers.

Thanks to all who have given to the St. John's Foundation over the years for all the ministry that fund continues to do! Brochures describing the Foundation are available in the Commons and elsewhere in the church for those who'd like more information.

## Thinking about joining St. John's? Come to lunch!

Those considering joining St. John's are invited to an informational lunch with St. John's staff on Sunday, Feb. 28 at noon in St. John's Hall. There will be opportunity to visit with staff and get more information on the ministries of St. John's and the new member process. For more information contact one of the pastors or Linda Anderson, 645-7170. RSVP for the Feb. 28 lunch to the church office at 645-4429 or [office@stjohns-elca.org](mailto:office@stjohns-elca.org)

## Dad's Time Out Feb. 10

The regular monthly fellowship and conversation for dads meets this month on Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 9:00 p.m. at the Contented Cow. This is a chance for dads to meet and talk about issues of importance and help each other grow in faith. Put your kids to bed, and then come up. Some may arrive late due to Board orientation this month, so those who are on time are encouraged to wait!



## Girls' Night Out!

Bring your favorite movie snacks and/or beverage and join us for Movie Night! Popcorn will be provided.

**When:** Friday, Feb. 26, 7:00 p.m.,  
movie starts at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** St. John's Theater – upper level

**What's showing:** Julie and Julia

Hope to see you there!

# News and Events

## From the Peace and Justice group . . .

### A Conversation on Health Care

**Next meeting:**

Monday, Feb. 8  
7:00 p.m.  
Fireside Room

Conversation on  
Health Care

**Justice  
Calendar:**

March 5-6  
Nobel Peace Prize  
Forum  
Augsburg College

March 25  
Day on the Hill  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00  
p.m.

What do the debates about the U.S. health care system mean for you and your “neighbor”? Health care issues have dominated Congress recently, and hovered over the country for decades. The February meeting of the Peace and Justice Group will be a lively and valuable conversation about what we can expect from any new health care legislation.

If a health care bill is passed by then, we will look at what it says, includes, and leaves out. Our focus on a bill that is passed will be to see how we can all come together to make the most of what it provides rather than to continue the debates, how we can support health care for the common good, in Northfield, in Minnesota, in the country.

Whether or not a bill has been passed by Feb. 8, our conversation will include sharing our experiences under the system or systems we have known and some reflection on how we regard health care. Is it a human right or something only for those who can pay for it? Is it a service of our society like law enforcement, fire protection, roads? Where do insurance companies fit?

The idea is to hear from different perspectives: users of the system, medical professionals, insurance providers, and employers. Come confident that you can voice your hopes and concerns, knowing that they will be heard and respected.

Everyone who is interested is invited to come and participate. Bring friends who may not come regularly. If you have any questions please be in touch with Judith Stoutland at 645-7842.

## Bridging the Gap: Making Work Pay

Low-income US workers are struggling. Rent, child care, transportation and utilities are fixed expenses, so food is one place struggling families will cut corners.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is one program we have that helps bridge the gap. *Bread for the World* offers the strength of many voices combined to advocate to protect and strengthen the programs which will help bridge the gap. You can learn more about the program at the workshops listed below.

In addition to an overview of poverty in Minnesota by Nancy Maeker, Director of *A Minnesota without Poverty by 2020*, there will be a panel by low income Minnesotans, plus advocacy and legislation strategies.

If you can't go to a workshop, you can learn more about the program of advocacy and join in writing letters at any time. We will also have a special day of making an Offering of Letters this spring.

## Workshops

Feb. 20, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.: Colonial Church of Edina  
Feb. 21, 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: Colonial Church of Edina  
Feb. 22, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.: Bethel University, Arden Hills  
More details are on the Peace and Justice boards.

## Justice Calendar

March 5-6: Nobel Peace Prize Forum  
Augsburg College  
March 25: Day on the Hill  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

# Serving on Sundays in February

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## *Acolytes*

- February 7** (8:30) Michael Gasior, Ian Iverson; (10:45) Alexa Nutt, Amelia Tjaden  
**February 14** (8:30) Evan Nelson, Kristopher Swanson; (10:45) Ryan Buck, Daniel Langehough  
**February 21** (8:30) Amelia Kimmes Kneser, Andrew Dell; (10:45) Madeline Miller, Amanda Nelson  
**February 28** (8:30) Emily Westerback, Kelsey Bull; (10:45) McKenna Boyum, Evan Heather

## *Coffee*

- February 7** Charles and Rachel Stark, Lloyd and Connie Gunderson, Elsie Nelson  
**February 14** An unlimited cup of coffee will be sold in St. John's Hall as part of the Youth Camp Fundraiser  
**February 21** John and Carrie Duba, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie, Evelyn Estenson  
**February 28** Todd and Vicki Heather, Rachel Peterson, Mark and Mary Polzin

## *Communion preparers*

- February 7** Doug and Anne Fitzgerald  
**February 14** David and Debbie Nitz  
**February 21** David and Debby Becker  
**February 28** David and Sue Rudser

## *Nursery*

- February 7** (8:20 a.m. - noon) No Nursery; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Steve and Sherri Williams  
**February 14** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Todd and Connie Menssen  
**February 21** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Amy Willkomm  
**February 28** (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Saul and Amy McBroom

## *Ushers*

- February 7** (8:30) *Team 1* Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Alice Bates, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen, Sandy Whitworth, Bill Whitworth; (10:45) *Team 2* Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber  
**February 14** (8:30) *Team 3* Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:45) *Team 4* Jonathan Norrie, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams  
**February 21** (8:30) *Team 5* Mark Anderson, Jim Bierman, Jerry Bothun, Dave Hagen, Sue Hagen, Nicholas Gonnerman, Patsy Ophaug, John Ophaug; (10:45) *Team 6* Margaret Hayford O'Leary, Bonnie Jean Flom, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary  
**February 28** (8:30) *Team 7* Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:45) *Team 8* Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback

# Mission Outreach

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## Thank You from the CAC

*In December, St. John's members donated gifts for 200 children in Northfield. Here is a portion of the December 21, 2009 letter from Community Action Center:*

"This year 889 children from 374 families that live in the Northfield School District received gifts [through the CAC Christmas Sharing program]. Many of these families are dealing with job loss or work at low-paying, often part-time jobs. The down turn in the economy has affected many people living in our community: forcing families to make difficult choices and requests for assistance have risen dramatically. Thank you for helping all the families who will experience the warmth and generosity of the Northfield community. Thank you for taking the opportunity to give a part of yourself this holiday season."

## Update from Marv and Jean

Thus begins our last "official" newsletter. As of Jan. 2010 we will have ended our wonderful time with the right to claim the title of 'Lutheran missionaries in Africa.' ...In Jan. there will be the Form VI graduation, in Feb. the same girls take their National Exams. We won't be here to see their results. We know some will qualify for university. Their futures will now be guided by Operation Bootstrap Africa (OBA) and the competent and caring teachers on the MGLSS Career Committee. There are sixteen girls graduating from out of an original class of 63, a remarkably high percentage for Tanzania. Fifty-seven went through Form IV and 22 qualified to begin Form V. For this graduation, OBA will be bringing a group of 13 to meet with MGLSS staff and Diocese officials. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom in all these encounter that solutions can be found for the challenges facing the school in 2010, especially that a new bursar and librarian can be in place soon. The needs continue.

In our twelve years here (we came when the first class to begin studies at MGLSS was in Form III) there have been about 750 students, of whom 397 graduated from Form IV, 130 graduated from Form VI, 39 graduated from university, 137 graduated from other post-MGLSS programs (think nurses, teachers, etc.) and 64 who are currently in advanced education somewhere in Tanzania. Remember, in 1995 when this school opened, there were only 24 Maasai girls in secondary education throughout the whole country. Thank you for sharing your prayers and resources to help make all this happen.

When we arrived in Tanzania there were no Alcoholic Anonymous groups in the country. Marv organized a group in the Arusha area soon after his arrival and now there are AA meetings from Lake Victoria to Tanga on the coast and south to Mozambique. In America, when one person gets sober it positively affects nine people;

*Continued, page 15*

## El Milagro Nursery Drive Update

Thank you to all who donated new and gently used items to El Milagro Lutheran Church. The gifts of crayons, diapers, toys and many other materials are greatly appreciated! In addition, \$128 from the St. John's Foundation last year has been designated for the nursery ministry at El Milagro. Your gifts are greatly appreciated and are another way we are extending God's love. Thank You!

**Women of the ELCA Mission Statement:  
To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.**

Websites for newsletters and information: [semnsynod.org](http://semnsynod.org) and [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org)  
Program Theme for Year: Local Connections

**Upcoming Events**

**Feb. 4, 1:00 p.m.**

“Love Stories and Poems” with a musical group serenading. Lydia Circle members will serve refreshments. Come join the fun!

**February Schedule**

**Feb. 2 and 16:** 9:30 a.m. - Knitters meet in the Library.

**Feb. 8 – Noon -** Bible study leaders meet in the Fireside room.

**Feb. 10 and 11 –** Circles meet.

**Feb. 15 and 18 –** Women of the ELCA Workday for Quilting and other mission projects is Thursday at 9:00 in Fellowship Hall. Quilt preparation is the Monday before the Thurs. workday at 9:30 a.m.. Quilts are tied on Thursday.

**Feb. 25 – 9:30 a.m. -** Board Meeting in Fireside Room

**Looking Ahead**

**March 4** at 1:00 p.m. – WELCA General Meeting: Mac Gimse, Professor Emeritus of Art at St. Olaf College, shares his vision of life through his “Sculptural Expression.”

**Circles Meet**

*Women interested in joining a Circle, please contact Ann Ness at 645-5133 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:

**Lydia** – Wednesday, 9:00 a.m. Marilyn Boschee & Judy Smith, Leaders

**Sarah** – Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Carole Nesheim, Leader

**Martha/Claudia** – Thurs., 9:30 a.m. Eulalie Smestad, Leader

**Elizabeth** – Thursday, 1:30 p.m. Darlene Hand & Iva Dodson, Leaders

**Abigail/Rebecca** – Thurs., 2:00 p.m. Gert Brosz, Leader

**Mary** – Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Rachel Stark, Leader

**Miriam** – Time to be decided, Cheryl Buck, Leader

**Women’s Breakfast Group** - second **Saturday** at 8:30 a.m. in Fireside Room, Kathy Mellstrom, Leader.

**The WELCA Board recommended the following Charitable Giving for 2009**

- ◆ \$200 to Northfield Community Action Center
- ◆ \$100 to Global Mission for postage for shipping bandages
- ◆ \$200 Lutheran World Relief Project Comfort for postage for shipping quilts.
- ◆ \$200 to Central Asian Institute: Greg Mortenson’s school building efforts, as described in “Three Cups of Tea.”
- ◆ \$100 Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women of the ELCA for education scholarships for women.

This giving was approved at the general WELCA meeting on December 12 with Gen Quarberg making the motion and Eulalie Smestad seconding it.

In addition \$1,305.40 was contributed to the general fund of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the Women of the ELCA.

# Adult Ministry and Education

## Small Group Ministries

Providing opportunities for fellowship, Bible study, health and wellness, faith in daily living, learning, and service.

### Connections

Contact: Carol Schoen 645-6840

### Dad's Time Out

Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271

### Everyone Has a Story

Contact: Phil Eaves 645-4172

### Grief Support

Contact: Barbara Knaak 664-0444

### Men's Breakfast Bible Study - Food, fellowship,

Contact: Dean Ostlie 645-2597

Meets: Every other Thursday, 7:30-9:00 a.m.

### Nurturing Prayer

Contact: Dick Beckmen 664-3882

### Options Bible Study - Gospel of Luke

Contact: Dave and Gen Quarberg 645-0089

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

Contact: Judith Stoutland 645-7842

Meets: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

### Prayer and Praise, Mondays, 10:00 a.m.

Contact: Mary White 645-4783

### Tuesday Noon Bible Study

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

### Women of the ELCA Circles

Contact: Ann Ness 645-5133

### Women of the ELCA Knitting

Contact: Bobbie Maakestad 645-4397

### Women of the ELCA Quilting

Contact: Kathy Vang 645-4849

### Women's Breakfast Group

Contact: Kathy Mellstrom 663-1451

### Yoga

Contact: Patsy Ophaug 645-6231

### Young Professionals' Book Group

Contact: Terrence Hassanally 612-819-0605

Providing small group study and fellowship opportunities

## Small Groups Ministry

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

Matthew 18:20

## Grace Notes

A delightful story is told of a Yankee who, while traveling through a southern state, stopped at a café for breakfast. When the server set his order in front of him, he looked at a white mound of something on his plate and, inquiring what it was, the server told him it was grits. "But I didn't order grits," he declared, to which the server replied, "Sir, you don't order grits, they just come."

That is what grace is like...we don't order it...it just comes! Grace comes when we hear words of care and concern. Grace comes when we receive deeds of kindness and compassion. God's grace and blessings surround us every day. Physician and writer Rachel Naomi Remen relates the story of a patient who had an image of all of us being circled by our blessings, like airplanes in a holding pattern at an airport, waiting for a place to land.

Among the ministries by which we are being graced at St. John's, small group settings often are landing places where God's blessings are received. If you are looking for a place to connect and belong in a meaningful way, consider one of the small groups listed on the side bar of this page. A catalog, with a brief description of each group, is available at the Small Group bulletin board display in the Commons area.

## Young Professionals' Book Study Group

A new small group, meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday evenings for fellowship, discussion, and refreshments. The group is just beginning a new book, *A Generous Orthodoxy*, by Brian McLaren. McLaren, pastor of Cedar Ridge Community Church in Spencerville, Md, is a proponent of the emergent church movement. This book discusses Christian faith that combines liberal and conservative, contemplative and charismatic, and the systematic and mystical to form "a Christianity which will embrace the good in many traditions and historic streams of Christian faith and integrate them." (Jeremy Rein, reviewer).

Contact Terrence Hassanally at [terrencemsh@rogers.com](mailto:terrencemsh@rogers.com), 612-819-0605 for more information about this group.

# Adult Ministry and Education

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## 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.

**Feb. 7:** *St. John's Forum: Health Finders of Rice County* – a presentation about the organization that provides health care and prescriptions to under and uninsured people. Presenter is Angela Koch, Executive Director of Health Finders of Rice County. St. John's Hall

**Feb. 14:** *Youth Fundraiser:* Enjoy a pancake breakfast and bid on Silent Auction items. Funds raised help to send St. John's youth (grades 3-12) to summer camp.

**Feb. 21:** *St. John's Forum: Exercise at Home* – a presentation sponsored by the Faith and Health Board about how to stay active at home during the winter months, with little or no equipment. Presenters are John and Leah Sand, certified athletic trainers and physical and health education teachers at Northfield High School. St. John's Hall

*Children's Ministry Forum:* parents of children (ages birth to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade) are invited to the opening of Sunday School followed by a conversation about Children's Ministry at St. John's. Coffee served. Fellowship Hall (downstairs)

**Feb. 28:** *Sunday Morning Concert Series:* Rejoice Ringers and director Jo Dahlin. St. John's Hall

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### *Haiti relief, cont. from back page*

to refugees and Haitian Americans entering or returning to the United States.

**How you can help:** Contributions for the earthquake relief effort that is ongoing in Haiti can be made directly to the ELCA Disaster Response or Lutheran World Relief, or given through St. John's to those arms of our church which are on the ground working right now. If giving through St. John's, put "Haiti relief" in the memo line, or specifically list either LWR or ELCA Disaster Response if you have a preference.

### **Second Wednesday Meal Feb. 10**

All are invited to the next Second Wednesday meal, a monthly time for food and fellowship with others in the congregation. February's second Wednesday is Feb. 10, and the meal is served between 5:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall. Pulled pork sandwiches are on the menu, and a free-will offering will be taken to defray expenses. Come and enjoy the last of these meals before the Lenten soup supper season begins!

### *Marv and Jean, cont. fr. p. 13*

in Tanzania that number is forty-five. It is probable that AA will have an effect on Tanzania equal to the impact of the education of the Maasai women but without the headlines.

Now, share in the joy and rejoice with us, true partners in mission! Mungu asafiwe! God be praised! We begin 2010 with praise and thanksgiving in our hearts for all God has done! We also begin by asking for the Spirit's help in: helping us show grace-filled closure of all sorts, wisdom in the sorting and packing process, energy and clarity in the training and position transitions, and God's manifestation in all of us during the Epiphany Season.

Thank you for all your support over these many years.

*Love, Jean and Marvin*

### **Important Dates to Remember!**

#### ***Sunday School Schedule***

Feb. 7 - Sunday School  
Feb. 14 - Sunday School (*Youth Fundraiser*)  
Feb. 21 - Sunday School  
Feb. 28 - Sunday School

#### **CATechism / "DOG"**

Grades 4 & 5 – Youth Room 3:15 – 4:00 p.m.  
Feb. 3 - DOG  
Feb. 10 - DOG  
Feb. 17 - DOG  
Feb. 24 - DOG

#### **"Second Wednesdays" meal for everyone!**

Feb. 10, 5:15 p.m. – 6:15 p.m., St. John's Hall  
Menu: Pulled Pork Sandwiches

#### **Annual Youth Fundraiser**

Sunday, Feb. 14, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

#### **Kids' Night Out**

Feb. 19, 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

#### **Parents' Night Out**

Mar. 9, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

### **4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT Resumes in March**

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, Mar. 3. CAT classes will meet in the lower level of St. John's; 4<sup>th</sup> grade in the Youth Room and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Fellowship Hall from 3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on the following Wednesdays in March: 3, 10, 17.

### **Parents' Night Out at St. John's**

This is a chance for parents to enjoy a night out with the church providing a "Kids' Night Out" for your elementary age children. It will be held on Saturday, Mar. 9 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Here's how it works: sign up and bring your children (up to grade 5) on any/all of these nights. Parents are encouraged to stay back one night each year to assist with childcare/activities at church. (Confirmation students are encouraged to help out as well – earn cubits!) The last date will be Apr. 10. A sign up poster is in the Commons. Please call Julie Brehmer at St. John's if you have any questions.

### **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, Feb. 6 at 10:30 a.m. Please call the church office if you plan to attend.

### **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.

### **Parents' Forum Feb. 21**

Parents are invited to Sunday School's Opening/Music time on February 21 at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. At 10:00 a.m. children will be dismissed to their classrooms and parents are invited to stay for a cup of coffee and conversation with the Children's Ministry and Education Board in regards to Children's Ministry. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429, ext. 25.

#### **Kid's Night Out!**

Grades 2-5  
Feb. 19, 6:00 - 9:30 p.m.  
Activities provided by St.  
Olaf Christian Outreach

Check the Children's  
board for sign up and  
details!

# Children's and Youth Event

## Youth Fundraiser Sunday, Feb. 14!

8:00 a.m. Silent Auction Begins with a **BUY IT NOW!** Option

9:30 a.m. "Valentine" Pancake Breakfast  
(\$6 per person/ \$20.00 per family)

Pancakes

Sausages

Fresh Fruit

"Valentine" Cinnamon Rolls – claim a prize if you find a hidden heart in your roll!

Kid's Activities – Face Painting, Wheel of Love, Cupid's Arrows . . .

12:30 p.m. Breakfast Ends

12:30 p.m. Silent Auction Ends

We want everyone to be involved in this year's fundraiser to help families with the cost of camp. Over the last few years we've noticed that it's the parents of the kids going to camp who are the biggest financial contributors to the Youth Fundraiser. We'd like to expand the support of camp to the rest of the congregation! Please use one of the slips below to donate to our youth and give the slip to the Church Office, Mike or Julie, AND, make sure you come to the Fundraiser Breakfast on Feb. 14.

*Thanks in advance!!!*



SUPPORT OUR YOUTH WITH A DONATION OF

\$25 \$50•••75••\$100••\$150 \_\_\_\_\_ other

Please circle the amount you would like to donate or write in amount of your choosing. Thank you!



3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be traveling to  
Green Lake and Shores of St. Andrews Bible  
Camp in Spicer/New London, MN

9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders to Christikon in Montana and  
Youth Works in South Dakota

From (your name is optional):

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH WITH A DONATION OF

\$25 \$50•••75••\$100••\$150 \_\_\_\_\_ other

Please circle the amount you would like to donate or write in amount of your choosing. Thank you!



3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be traveling to  
Green Lake and Shores of St. Andrews Bible  
Camp in Spicer/New London, MN

9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders to Christikon in Montana and  
Youth Works in South Dakota

From (your name is optional):

# Children and Youth this Summer

<b>Summer 2010</b>				
Camp	Age	Dates	Cost	Other important info:
Vacation Bible School (VBS) Northfield	<i>Age 3 (by 9/1/09) – K</i>	August 9-12	\$10.00	Registration Forms available in April; due by June 1.
Good Earth Village “On the Road” Northfield	<i>Grades K-4</i>	August 9-12	\$65.00	“On the Road” is a summer camp coming to Northfield through Good Earth Village. Register at <a href="http://www.goodearthvillage.com">www.goodearthvillage.com</a> “GEV On The Road”
Shores of St. Andrew Spicer/New London, MN	<i>Grades 3-5</i>	June 20-25	\$380.00	Registration and \$165 due February 14; campfires by the lake, swimming, canteen, singing and lots of fun!
Confirmation Camp @ Green Lake Spicer/New London, MN	<i>Grades 6-8</i>	June 20-25	\$380.00	Registration and \$165 due February 15; Confirmation students are expected to attend camp at least once during their 7 <sup>th</sup> or 8 <sup>th</sup> grade year. Sixth graders will participate in regular camp activities.
Magical Mystery Tours	<i>Grades 6-8</i>	TBA	Cost Varies	St. John’s youth join other Northfield area youth for mystery activities three times throughout the summer. Register when you get the letter in the mail before the event.
Christikon McLeod, Montana	<i>Grades 9-12</i>	July 12-20	Approx. \$500	Registration and deposit due on Feb. 15. Christikon is an ELCA sponsored camp located in southern Montana, just north of Yellowstone Park. St. John’s will travel with Bethel youth to Christikon
Youth Works Rosebud, S.D.	<i>Grades 9-12</i>	July 24-30	Approx. \$475	Registration and deposit due on Feb. 10. At Rosebud Sioux Reservation of South Dakota you’ll learn about the culture and history of the people, help lead a children’s program and participate in service projects.
Mission Minneapolis	<i>Grades 6-8</i>	August 6 & 7	\$30	We will team up with our friends at El Milagro Lutheran Church to work on service projects, sing and play, worship together and build bonds between our two churches.

Special Needs Camp – Families with campers with special needs are invited to check out this camp at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org). The camp is being held on July 5-8!

Family Camp opportunities are also available at Green Lake and Good Earth Village – check out their websites!

**Scholarships are available!**

Please talk with Pastor Johnson, Julie or Mike for more information.

# YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

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## Senior High Sunday School

This month there is High School Sunday School on Feb. 28. Tony Becker and Beckie Judge will be teaching. They will be leading a Bible Study based on topics that are important and relevant to our high school students. We'll be meeting downstairs in Room 4, near the Youth Room. See you there!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Middle School Sunday Line Up!</b></p> <p>Feb. 7: Jenny Pelletier, Drumming Lesson</p> <p>Feb. 14: Youth Fundraiser - No Sunday School</p> <p>Feb. 21: Mary Crippen</p> <p>Feb. 28: Mary Crippen</p>
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## Summer Trip Deadlines - Reminder!

The deadline to sign up for Youth Works is Feb. 10. The deadline for the rest of the camps is Feb. 15. Be sure to get your deposits in on time if you intend to go to camp.

*Continued from Children's Ministry, page 16*

## Saturday Morning Family Time

Do you have children climbing the walls on cold winter days? Please join us Saturday mornings in St. John's Hall from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for Saturday Morning Family Time! The Hall will be open for kids to run, jump, hop and work off that extra energy.

Family Morning Family Time will continue every Saturday until Mar. 27. If another event is scheduled in St. John's Hall, Family Time will move to Fellowship Hall or the Nursery (both on the lower level).

This is a time for parents and children to play together. Parents are responsible for supervising their own children. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Frances Boehning at 645-2961.

## 6th Grade CAT

6<sup>th</sup> Grade CAT meets Feb. 3 from 5:30–6:30p.m. We'll be discussing the 7<sup>th</sup> and final petition of the Lord's Prayer, and we'll be reviewing the rest of the petitions. We meet in the Fireside Room, and we will be sharing a meal together (pizza). We're looking forward to seeing you!

## Confirmation Classes

During the Lenten season, there are no confirmation class. Instead, we invite you to join us for worship at 7:00 p.m.

## Middle School, High School events for February

Keep your eyes peeled in the bulletin and in your mail for February Youth Events! Plans are in the works, to be announced soon! (And be sure to participate in the major event of the month, the Youth Fundraiser!)

**Pastors***Joseph G. Crippen**Mark E. Johnson**John E. Quam***Building Manager***Rich Kleeberger***Children's Ministry***Julie Brehmer***Interim Office Staff***Stephanie Aman**Stephanie Ewing***Music Ministry***Daniel Fenn***Music Staff***Jenny Pelletier - Alleluia**Cathy Rodland - Jubilate**Ruth Legvold - Laudate**Jo Dahlin - Rejoice Ringers***Parish Administrator***Shelley Keske***Parish Nurse***Lynette Marks***Shared Ministry***Regina Hassanally***Youth Ministry***Mike Sherman***Congregation President***Tim Eklund*

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*Boards and council, cont. from page 1*

Homstad, chair of Adult Ministry and Education, and Scott Swanson, chair of Properties and Grounds.

Elected to the boards of the congregation were: Adult Ministry and Education – Katie Helgen, Sandi Gerdes, Geniene Scherer, Karl Hella; Benevolence and Social Concerns – Nordis Christenson; Business Management – Bill Roadfeldt; Children's Ministry and Education – Kristy Mikula, Saul McBroom; Evangelism and Communications – Trish Goodrich, Ruth Anglin; Faith and Health – Elizabeth Bade; Properties and Grounds – Ruthie Neuger; Stewardship – Karla DeCramer, Christine Duffy; Worship and Arts – Jamie Debner, Susan Nissen; Youth Ministry and Education – Vicki Heather, Martha Erickson, David Buck.

Elected to standing committees of the congregation were: Audit Committee – Kathy Mroz, Bob Gelle; Nominating Committee – Ruthie Neuger, Patsy Ophaug, Mary Crippen.

## Update on Haiti relief



As of the end of January, contributions from ELCA members to relief for Haiti following the earthquake was over \$2.5 million.

The ELCA's community-based partners are already providing: Two water purification systems to bring clean water to 25,000 people; emergency food and medical supplies to thousands; blankets and tents to shelter 10,000 people who are homeless. \$300,000 has been sent to The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a key responder and member of Action by Churches Together (ACT). The funds support LWF efforts to provide shelter to people left homeless by the quake. \$150,000 has been sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Baltimore, for material aid. \$150,000 has been sent to Church World Service (CWS) for construction of temporary water systems and distribution of water purification materials. In addition, \$25,000 has been sent to Lutheran Services of Florida for initial support

*Relief, cont. on page 15*