

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2010

Volume 50, Number 1

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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.

For information, contact the Church Office:

phone: 507-645-4429

fax: 507-645-9633

e-mail:

office@stjohns-elca.org

website:

www.stjohns-elca.org

Church office hours:

Mon. - Thurs.

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

Friday

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

Epiphany worship at St. John's Jan. 7; potluck meal before worship

Please note date change!

For quite a few years we've had the tradition of celebrating the festival of Epiphany with a potluck and a Vespers service. Due to the very busy Wednesday night schedule at St. John's, this year we're having Epiphany on Jan. 7, Thursday night! (Epiphany is Jan. 6.) A potluck supper will begin at 5:30 p.m., and then worship at 6:30 p.m. The day of Epiphany is the celebration of God's light and love in Jesus spreading to the whole world. As these strangers from the East came to worship Jesus, his coming became a coming for all the peoples of the earth. Come and worship as we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord – join your family at St. John's for this celebration, and like the Magi, bring a gift (of hotdish, salad, or dessert this time, instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh) to share! This festival begins the season of Epiphany, a season of light and hope for the salvation of the creation.

Washed in God's Water: Baptism Recognition Jan. 10

Sunday, Jan. 10, is the Sunday of the Baptism of our Lord, the first Sunday after Epiphany. As is customary now at St. John's, we will not only celebrate Jesus' baptism in the Jordan that day, but also recognize and give thanks for all those brought through the waters of baptism in 2009. There will be engraved medallions for each of those newly baptized whom we recognize this day. In addition, in worship we all will affirm our own baptisms as we remember our call to minister on Jesus' behalf in the world.

Annual meeting Jan. 31

The Congregation Council has set Sunday, Jan. 31, as the date for the Annual Meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church, immediately following a potluck dinner in St. John's Hall. Items of business will include receiving of reports, election of officers, board, and council members, and action on the proposed 2010 budget. Annual reports are scheduled to be printed by Sunday, Jan. 24, and there will be an annual meeting preview on Jan. 24 between services.

St. Olaf Choir sings here Jan. 3

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to our worship service on Sunday, Jan. 3. They will lead us in worship and sing anthems at several places in our worship. This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of it's birth and as we are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music.

A reception will be held between services. Please take the opportunity to welcome the St. Olaf Choir to St. John's!

Prayer and Care Ministry

*Pray without ceasing.
1 Thessalonians 5:17*

Prayer Ministry

Gathered in the Word: Gathered in the Word: Mark the season of Epiphany during this time of silence and prayer guided by a verse from Scripture. Meets Thursday, Jan. 21, 7:00 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.

*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*

Have you discovered the gallery of bulletin boards in the Commons? The Stephen Ministry board uses a few words and some striking images to focus on a ministry of caring for each other. For the caregiver and care receiver, the central activity in this relationship is listening. What is given and received involves a high level of compassion surrounded by a strict confidentiality.

Paintings by the American Social Realist Isabel Bishop (1902 - 1988) reveal these relationships. Bishop's studio on Washington Square at Greenwich Village gave her the opportunity to study her favorite subject, human relationships in everyday life. A young woman on an office lunch break reads a disturbing letter, perhaps news from her fiancé injured in North Africa or an announcement of an impending breakup. Her friend stands by, listens, and offers support, merely by her presence. A drawing shows two elderly men meeting at curbside. Sid may be telling Jake when asked how's it going, "Not so good, Jake. The Missus is doctoring and won't get better." Jake listens intensely, silently promising to stay by his side.

An image of two young boys who are best friends, as only young boys can be, captures another deeply caring relationship. A dog and a cat decide to get along with each other, and discover their kinship provides warmth and play and companionship. Dandelion blossoms, despised by many, suggest a new sunshine warming the cold grip of winter and announcing a new life in a new spring. Caregivers and care receivers enable each other to break the bond of darkness and storm. The foundation of these relationships is the affirmation, "God is our strength and refuge, a very present help in time of trouble." As this new year begins, with short bright days and long dark nights, you or someone you know may be yearning for a caring relationship with a Stephen Minister. If so, contact one of the pastors at 645-4429 or Pam Schwandt at 645-6120.

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Grief Support Ministry: A grief support group begins this month sponsored by 3 Links and the Northfield Retirement Community. Mondays, Jan. 18-Feb. 22, 3 Links Care Center, 1:30-2:30 p.m. For info, call Pr. Goulson, 664-3478, Tana Kelly 664-8821.

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.



*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 . . .

*Let your
light
scatter*

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
The light no darkness can overcome.
Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
and the day is almost over.
Let your light scatter the darkness,
and illumine your church.

from Evening Prayer, ELW page 309.

During our Advent devotions, our family prays this opening litany from Evening Prayer each night as we light the candles on our Advent wreath. We always love the candles in Advent, which add a different level of attention and beauty to our family's evening prayers. I find myself thinking that it would be good to continue that litany and the lighting of candles throughout this season of Epiphany and into the rest of the year as well, as a reminder of the light of God breaking into the world and our lives.



January 6, the Epiphany of our Lord, marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas, and the beginning of the season of Epiphany, the season of light. We begin with the Magi from the East following the light of the Star to the infant Jesus. Throughout this season we celebrate and cling to the truth that in Jesus our Lord the darkness of the world is lighted. His peace in our hearts, his forgiveness washing our spirits and our lives clean, his love strengthening our faith through the Sacrament of his Body and Blood; in all these ways and more Jesus lightens our dark lives. In this coldest month of the year, when the days are only just starting to get longer, this reminder is so important.

Christian hope is real and concrete. In the midst of the worst life can bring, and the best, too, we boldly say that this light of Jesus cannot be overcome by the darkness of life. But the season of Epiphany is also our call to be that light as well. In our baptismal liturgy we speak the words of Jesus from Matthew 5 and say to the newly baptized (as we give them a candle lighted from the Paschal Candle of Easter): "Let your light so shine before others so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." By our being light to others, we show them God's glory.

"This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine." Remember your gift of light from Christ, and let it shine through your love and grace in this world of darkness. "Let your light scatter the darkness, Lord." Yes, Lord, through us and our light, scatter the darkness and bring light to your world.

December Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of **Raymond Larson** by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

In memory of **Elizabeth Wee** by Lois Rand

In memory of: **Jennings Feroe** by Ken and Lois Wilkens, Myrna Johnson

St. John's Foundation

In memory of **Buren Watland** by John Lundblad

In memory of **Elizabeth Wee** by John and Patricia Ophaug, Leslie and Carolyn Svendsen

In memory of **Myrt Ophaug** by John and Patricia Ophaug, Dennis and Jane Rinehart

In memory of **Jennings Feroe** by Wil and Gertrude Brosz, David and Joan Halvorson, Terry and Cheryl Johnson, David and Martha Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Horwath, Carol Johnson, I. Ruth Hansen, George and Gretchen Hardgrove, Solveig Steendal, Sanford and Kathryn Haugen, Leslie and Carolyn Svendsen, Daniel and Susan Jorgensen, Edward and Anne Sovik, John and Barbara Maakestad, Gertrude Deremer, Valborg Hallan, David and Ruth Legvold, John and Louise Quam, Elaine Thurston, Charles Lunder, Noreen Benson, Duane and Elaine Kringen, Connie Ryberg, Janice Walker, Lois Rand, Gerhard and Gloria Knutson, Delmar and Katherine Jacobson, Basil and Kathryn Mroz, Donna Jean Larson, Bertrand and Maxine Petrick, Mary White, Walter and Thelma Lee, David and Lora Lee Ruthenbeck, Marilyn Haugen, Robert and Jane Gelle, Paul and Deaun Peterson, Howard and Julie Thorsheim, Philip and Barbara Eaves, Alf Odegaard, Don and Ann Walker, Richard and Joanne Dahlin, Don Kimber, Millie Johnson, Lester and Della Gunderson, Mona Lund, Lowell and Sharon Kutches, Eugene and Lynnette Verhel, Ruth Severson, Ronald and Carol James, Kenneth and Carolyn Jennings, Dean and Dorothy Ostlie

Lutheran World Relief

In memory of **Jennings Feroe** by John and Frances Evenson

Radio Fund

In memory of **Ray Larson** by Loretta Siler, Leonard DeWolfe

In memory of **Jennings Feroe** by Marilyn Boschee, Haakon and Valborg Fure, Shirley Falck, Duane and Marie Benson

Building Fund

In memory of **Jennings Feroe** by Ed and Rose Youngquist, Eulalie Smestad, Lorene Elg, Gordon and Delores Mickelsen, Richard and Joann Kleber

Youth Fund

In memory of **Ansley Gunderson** by Martin Gunderson

In memory of **Lloyd Lunder** by Kathryn Lunder

Pastors' Emergency Fund

In memory of: **Jennings Feroe** by Paul and Marilyn McRae Raadt

Other Actions

Funerals

Alexander James Werner, November 26, 2009

Music Life at St. John's

Music Ministry Notes:

January Singing Schedule for Choirs:

- Jan. 3** – St. Olaf Choir (8:30)
St. Olaf Choir (10:45)
- Jan. 10** – Laudate (8:30)
Senior, Alleluia, Hosanna (10:45)
- Jan. 17** – Senior, Rejoice Ringers (8:30)
Jubilate, Rejoice Ringers (10:45)
- Jan. 24** – Senior (8:30)
Laudate (10:45)
- Jan. 31** – Senior (8:30)
Jubilate (10:45)



Sunday Night at St. John's twice this month, Jan. 3 and 31

Due to the closeness of Christmas to the last Sunday of December, December's Sunday Night at St. John's worship service was planned for Jan. 3. In addition to January's regular last Sunday, Jan. 31, that gives two opportunities for this new time of worship.

Sunday night at St. John's began last fall, meeting in September and November, as an informal kind of worship experience, held in St. John's Hall. This year is a kind of testing year to see if there's interest in sustaining such a venture, and exploring different styles of worship, possibly different dates (including whether Sundays are best for this or other days would be good), and who might be involved in planning.

The worship begins at 5:00 p.m. on Jan. 3 and Jan. 31. Jan. 3 will be a celebration of Christmas, with carols. Jan. 31 is still in planning. There is a need to have a ministry team develop who would work with staff to plan and execute these services. If that's something you feel passionate about, please contact Director of Shared Ministries Regina Hassanally in the church office, 645-4429.

Augusta Victoria news, *continued from page 8*

gates. Some are elderly men who walk hunched over with the support of a cane, some are wheelchair-bound but younger, others are hospital employees – medical professionals who help treat the same people they've just made the commute with. All are Palestinians from the West Bank and in many ways their lives depend on this East Jerusalem hospital."

The article goes on to say that here is the only place where dialysis for kidney patients (both adults and children) and radiation therapy for cancer patients can be secured for those living on the West Bank. There are now over 1,200 radiation treatments given here every month, four times the number before this arrangement was made and an equally greater number of patients in other fields.



Shared Ministry

With the advent of January come the preparations to begin a new ministry year. On Sunday, Jan. 17 we'll be emphasizing the work of Shared Ministry at St. John's and the 2010 Time and Talent Sheets will be available.

The Time and Talent Sheet is a way for you to indicate the areas of ministry you are most interested in serving and those areas in which you feel you have the gifts and abilities required to serve. Indicating an interest in a ministry team does not necessarily commit you to that team but allows me, and our ministry team coordinators, to know who is interested in a particular area of service. Based on this indicated interest you will be invited to serve at various times throughout the year. I hope you'll begin considering the ways you might be able to serve at St. John's in the 2010 ministry year.

To be a child of God is to be gifted, in some way, by the Spirit. This means that as members of the body of Christ we have each been given gifts from God to be used to do the work of God. Our gifts are as varied as we are but as Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians it is the same God who gifts and calls us all. Though we are diverse in our abilities and talents we are each members of one body and as such are called to use our gifts to benefit that body.

In looking ahead to the 2010 ministry year there are two specific areas of ministry to especially consider. The first is an opportunity that comes about every few years. The Evangelism and Communications Board has decided to begin the process of putting together a new photo directory for St. John's. If this idea excites you, or you're simply happy to have this project set in motion please consider serving on the Picture Directory Ministry Team. The second opportunity of special emphasis this year is the Hospitality Ministry Team. This team works together to host various events at St. John's. The Hospitality Team oversees new member receptions, receptions for the St. Olaf choir and football team, and helps with lunch for WelcomeFest and the Advent Fair, among other things. This team requires a variety of people with a variety of gifts. We need those who enjoy cooking and baking, those who can organize events, and those who are willing to prepare and clean-up. The Hospitality Team not only creates a hospitable environment for members of St. John's but for members of the community as well.

The foundational belief undergirding Shared Ministry at St. John's is that we have all been gifted by God and are exhorted to use our gifts for the glory of God and benefit of the body. If we're involved in a ministry that uses our gifts and if we can see the work that we do as a means of blessing others than the 'work' of being involved isn't a stress or a task to check off the list but a source of joy as we participate in the work we were created for. I hope 2010 will be another year of ministry in which we each participate in the kingdom work we were made to do.

Regina Hassanally, Director of Shared Ministries

News and Events

Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Sunday School teachers and assistants are invited to brunch on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room in honor of their hard work and dedication to Christian Education. When you see your child(ren)'s Sunday School teacher, remember to express your thanks! Here they are:

- Preschool 1: Stephanie Aman, Berit Seeberg, Martha Sudermann, Dodie Mickelsen
Preschool 2: Kim Norton, Katy Wagner, Lauren Ehlers, Kelly Culhane, Jordan Cook
Kindergarten: Deanna Tollefson, Deidre Kiefer, Grace Boyton
First Grade: Hannah France, Katherine Peterson, Sonja Wermager
Second Grade: Karleen Sherman, Julie Ims
Third Grade: Kirsten Gunn, Kristy Mikula, Julie Becker
Fourth Grade: Beret Amundson, Martha Crippen, Liv Thompson
Fifth Grade: Sue Brockman, Ellen Iverson
Music: Jenny Pelletier, Deanne Weber, Andrea Hoff
Library: Susan Canon, Connie Menssen, Anne Fitzgerald, Amy Christianson, Katie and Kelsey Bull

Parent's 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 is on Saturday, Jan. 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 next 2 dates after that are scheduled for Mar. 6, and Apr. 10. A sign up poster is in the Commons. Please call Julie Brehmer at St. John's if you have any questions.

Help furnish the El Milagro Church nursery!

El Milagro Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis, a mission partner of St. John's, is requesting help in providing supplies for their church. Our focus is on their nursery which is in the process of being repainted and updated.

During the month of January, there will be a bulletin board in the commons with individual items that you can help provide (such as diapers, blankets, crayons and toys, etc.). Please take a tag with an item to purchase and return it to the commons as indicated on the bulletin board.

Thanks for your help in this important, "local" mission project! Contact Julie Brehmer at 645-4429 or Jenny Pelletier at 664-9296 with any questions.

*Hey Gals! Treat yourselves to an evening of:
Great Conversation
Good Laughs
And a little bit of Pampering*



When: Friday Evening, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Geniene Scherer's home, 617 Turnberry Court

Please bring your favorite appetizer to share. Beverages will be provided!

Please R.S.V.P. to: Geniene Scherer, genieneb@charter.net, 507-663-0075

Co-Hosts: Cheryl Buck, Sandy Kimmes, Kristin Hummel and Julie Brehmer

Saturday Morning Family Time

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 work off that extra energy. Board games and other sports equipment will be available but feel free to bring a favorite game! Every Saturday beginning Jan. 16 through March 27. Questions, call Frances Boehning at 645-2961.

News and Events

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

Planning
Advocacy

Save the date!

Thurs. March 25,
2010; 9:00 a.m. -
2:00 p.m.
Joint Religious
Legislative
Coalition's Day on
the Hill: "Justice
we Pursue"

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Advocacy is one way we seek to love our neighbor in response to God's love given to us. By working to advance public and corporate policies that advance justice, peace, human dignity, and care for the earth we are responding to the mission of the ELCA as declared in our constitution and bylaws and in policy resolutions and to our commitment of faith. Advocacy is an action of giving voice to the needs of those whose voices are not heard by those in power.

At our January meeting we will bring forward causes, programs, issues that members of the group are interested in working on, such as Bread for the World, Center for Victims of Torture, Lutheran Human Relations, Lutheran Peace, Fellowship, Hope Center, issues before the Minnesota legislature, care for all creation, torture and murder in Colombia, the role of war. The response to this list can help shape the

Peace & Justice work of 2010, some of which will begin on Jan. 11. We will share how we respond as individuals and as groups.

Continuing from work this past year, we will have as a central task of the evening to plan a meeting with Representative John Kline about the situation in Colombia and the challenges of climate developments facing the world.

Those who are interested in following other topics will have a model to guide actions in support of their work and may begin some planning right away.

Working together we gain strength for the causes. We also learn and respect not only how we agree with one another, but where we disagree and why.

This meeting is open to persons at all levels of interest and commitment.

Good News for Augusta Victoria!

St. John's has given support to Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem from time to time as have many individual parishioners. An article in Israel's leading newspaper, *The Jerusalem Post* last month had an interesting story pertaining to this hospital.

Until now it has been very difficult for Palestinians in the West Bank, including Bethlehem, to reach this hospital located on the Mt. of Olives because of restrictions at the checkpoints and the huge separation wall. Now it appears that an Israeli Jew named Dalia Bassa has been able to coordinate with the Civil Administration so that she can give entry permits for both the hospital's patients and employees on a daily basis and then transport them directly to the hospital by bus.

The following is a quotation from the *Post* article: "At Augusta Victoria Hospital, medicine transcends politics. Every morning a big Mercedes bus pulls up outside the AVH and its passengers make their way through the old steel

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2010 Bread for the World Workshops

"Bridging the Gap - Making Work Pay"

Feb. 20: 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.;
Colonial Church of
Edina

Feb. 21: 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.;
Church of St. Peter
Claver, St. Paul

Feb. 22: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.;
Bethel University,
Arden Hills

Serving on Sundays in January

Acolytes

- January 3** (8:30) Bjorn Bade, Lars Christianson; (10:45) Lydia Storlie, Rebecca Storlie
January 10 (8:30) Bailey Dell, Greta Hummel; (10:45) Emma Knoch, Hannah Cuddy
January 17 (8:30) Nicholas Gonnerman; (10:45) Jimmy Rowley
January 24 (8:30) Hunter Redfield, Mike DeCramer; (10:45) Katelyn Canedy, Katharine Herrlich
January 31 (8:30) Paul Hummel, Jessica Smith; (10:45) Wylie Kimmes Kneser, Olivia Riggins

Coffee

- January 3** Wes and Rae Pearson, Krisit Wermager and Mark Gleason
January 10 Dick and Jo Dahlin, Chuck and Marilyn Jacobson
January 17 Ruthie and David Neuger, Doug and Jamie Debner
January 24 Howard and Julie Thorsheim, Shelley and Brent Keske
January 31 Beckie Judge and Tony Becker, Todd and Vicki Heather

Communion preparers

- January 3** Elaine and Duane Kringen
January 10 Marie and Duane Benson
January 17 Jane Koskovich and Judy Smith
January 24 Karen and Dale Schuette
January 31 Rose and Ed Youngquist

Nursery

- January 3** (8:20 a.m. - noon) no nursery; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Saul and Amy McBroom
January 10 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem, Kris Vatter
January 17 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem, Ann and Doug Fitzgeralds
January 24 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem, Nick and Roz Neeb
January 31 (8:20 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem; (10:30 a.m. - noon) Dory Liem, Adam Neuger

Ushers

- January 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
January 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, Terry Dell, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Guy Reid, Jon-Erle Reid, Steve Williams
January 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
January 24 (8:30) Dallas Berg, Niles Austvold, Myron Dack, Erik Hong, Eric Lund, Mark Polzin, Bruce Rickert, Ken Wilkens; (10:45) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback
January 31 (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, Terry Dell, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Guy Reid, Jon-Erle Reid, Steve Williams

News and Events

Welcome New Members, November 2009!



Brent and Diana
Mueller



Jim Rossow
Andrew



Zach and Maren
Bahler



Lance and Stephanie
Huston
Grant



Samantha Zempel



Dan Fenn



Jamison and Jodi
Doeden
Addson and Charlotte



Jeff and Amanda
Distad
Torres, Noah



Brent Bash and
Trish Goodrich
Anna

Not Pictured: Emily Erwin

Mission Outreach

Update from Jean and Marv

It was announced in November that the ELCA is discontinuing support of the positions held by Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen at the Masaae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Monduli, Tanzania. Jean and Marv were approaching their retirement, and so this position was one that was cut due to budget concerns. Jean and Marv will remain in Tanzania through the end of January 2010 and continue their work on behalf of the Division of Global Mission through the end of June 2010. Below are portions of Jean and Marv's November and December newsletters.

Dear beloved friends, family, sponsors and all,

On the last Sunday of October, we celebrated the baptisms of 17 students and another 21 who were confirmed. Of these 38 students, 4 received religious training in their home congregations and the rest received Christian education here at the school. For those who prayed for rain, we've gotten rain. Our world, that dust-filled desert is now green, lush, and lovely. And then, after we had filled all our flushing buckets with rainwater, we got water in our pipes! The water is a little slimy – we don't drink it – but it is running. November was Marv's last month of teaching. The schools close for December except for A-level (Forms 5&6) and the Pre-Form Ones at the MGLSS. So Jean continues to teach divinity for A-levels and singing (teaching English through song) for the Pre-Forms until Christmas. The schools are scrambling to find teachers to replace us by January. The ELCA is bringing in new people to help with the impossible task of trying to keep up with the work of the Holy Spirit in Tanzania. Pastor Josh and Susan Magyar will be preaching, teaching, and helping to train new church leaders around Morogoro (south of Monduli) where the Church is experiencing large growth. The ELCA is responding to the needs in Tanzania and to the invitation from the Church in Tanzania – the ELCA has not abandoned missions.

We love you all and thank you for the many kinds of support you have provided us over these last twelve years. The work you have enabled us to do has been wonderful; we pray that you continue to support another missionary. And we ask that you consider sponsoring a girl here at the Masaae Girls Lutheran Secondary School. The school is helping to change the face of Tanzania, one educated woman at a time. Sponsorships can be made through Operation Bootstrap Africa. We also ask for your prayers; for Jean's work with the school's Career Committee as they try to develop an ongoing system of financing for the work of helping MGLSS graduates train for employable professions; for the transition to a new chaplain and teacher of Bible at MGLSS; for the selection of a new bursar and a librarian to serve with competence and diligence on behalf of the students and school.

Advent is the season of anticipation and hope. Slowly, the 'looking forward' feel is being born in us as we prepare to leave the school and Tanzania. The meaning of it all will have to come later. Let us together move forward in anticipation of the work of the Christ Child in our hearts. With love and joy from your fellow pilgrims in this Advent season,

Jean Wahlstrom and Marvin Kananen

Thanks for the warmth for Pine Ridge!

Tusen Tak - or a "thousand thanks" to all of the kind people at St. John's who had remembered the text where John the Baptist exhorts people, "If you have two coats, give one to the poor." When you were asked to give warm winter clothing and blankets to the people at Pine Ridge Reservation, you responded by the boxfuls! The truck left from Waseca on Saturday, Dec. 12, none too early for the cold weather we already have. By the time you read this, I hope many of those coats, hats, mittens and blankets are being used. They are being distributed by the Pine Ridge Retreat Center, a ministry of the ELCA and the Presbyterian church. A small Episcopalian congregation at Mystic Lake also joined in and Grace Lutheran in Waseca has been doing this since 1996. It took many of you, a couple of us to box

continued on back page

**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 and womenoftheelca.org
Program Theme for Year: Local Connections*

Upcoming Events

Jan 7, 11:30 a.m.

We will gather for lunch at the St. Olaf Kings Room and enjoy some music by St. Olaf Students. This event is in place of our general meeting. Call Jo Kleber at 645-8330 or kleberj@stolaf.edu to let her know you are coming so she can update reservations. The cost is \$9.95 plus tax and tip per person.

January Schedule

Jan. 11 – Noon - Bible study leaders meet in the Fireside room.

Jan. 5 and 19– 9:30 a.m. – Knitters meet in the Library.

Jan. 13 and 14 – Circles meet.

Jan. 18 and 21 – Women of the ELCA Workday for Quilting and other mission projects is Thursday at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall. Quilt preparation is the Monday before the Thurs. workday at 9:30. Quilts are tied on Thursday.

Looking Ahead

Feb. 8 at 2:30 p.m. Abigail and Sarah Circle women provide a program and refreshments at Three Links.

Fe. 4 – Women of the ELCA general meeting is at 1:00 in St. John’s Hall. The program is a “Love Story” with a musical group serenading.

Circles Meet

Women interested in joining a Circle, please contact Ann Ness at 645-5133 for further information and to make contacts.

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 and 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.

Wanted! A volunteer is needed to sell the Fair Trade Chocolate at Church. Please contact Norma Gilbertson for details on ordering and selling. We thank Kathy Shea for many years of working with this program.

The Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women need a Secretary for their new Synodical Board. Also needed is an editor for “River Channels” Magazine, the small quarterly publication the Synod sends to the leaders of the WELCA organizations in the area churches. You can contact the President of the Synod WELCA, Kathy Tanabe, for more information. 507-269-2380 or kathyt6@msn.com. The Dec. issue of “River Channels” gives more information about qualifications needed for both jobs.

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

Contact: Judith Stoutland 645-7842

Meets: 2nd 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

Women's Bible Study, Parkview West

Contact: Dick Dahlin 645-5978

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

January: Delight or Dread?

When I was a child, January meant ice skating for hours on end on the neighborhood ice rink and dreaming of becoming a figure skating star one day. It meant coming home with hands and feet so frozen that Mom had to untie my skates and ask, "Why didn't you come in before you got so cold?" to which the reply was always that I was having too much fun. January also meant sledding, making snow forts, trying to walk on snow drifts without falling through...and more snow just meant more fun.

Today, January brings to mind bitter cold days and long dark nights, and the dread of falling on the ice. It means deciding who will walk the dog this time. It means seeking to stay warm and not get frozen hands and feet. At the same time there is within me a resolve to keep going out into the cold whenever possible in order to stay connected to others and feel the warmth that of community.

The Small Groups at St. John's are good places to come any time of the year, but perhaps particularly in the mid-winter, as the fellowship shared within those settings spreads a warmth that helps to dispel the coldness of isolation that can easily lead us into singing the blues.

As you look at the small groups listed on this page, perhaps one of them will peak your interest; if so, you are invited and encouraged to call the contact person to learn more about the group or better yet to inquire about attending a session.

- Barb Eaves

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.

Jan. 3: Reception for St. Olaf Choir, St. John's Hall. No St. John's Forum.

Jan. 10: *St. John's Forum:* Northfield Union of Youth, presentation by youth and by Executive Director Amy Merritt on Northfield's non-profit youth-run youth center.

Jan. 17: *St. John's Forum:* The Church in Burma, presentation by Luther Seminary student Hrang Hlei. Hrang is affiliated with the American Baptist Church and is pursuing a Ph. D. at Luther Seminary in Congregational Mission and Leadership. St. John's Hall

Jan. 24: *St. John's Forum:* Annual Meeting Preview, Presentation of Annual Report, Annual Meeting agenda and proposed 2009 budget, St. John's Hall.

Jan. 31: *St. John's Forum:* Presentation by Bishop Harold Usgaard, Southeastern Minnesota Synod. Bishop Usgaard reports on his trip to the Middle East last year and shares reflections on the mission of the Synod. St. John's Hall

. . . from our Boards

From the Faith and Health Board

Insomnia

Sleep problems are very common and Americans often don't allow themselves enough time for sleep. Lack of sleep has many detrimental effect on our health. Probably the most widespread and frustrating problem is the inability to fall asleep or to stay asleep. Here are some simple suggestions that may be helpful:

- Try to have a routine. As much as possible, go to bed and get up at the same time every day.
- Get regular exercise, but not right before bed.
- Avoid bright lights and computer work before bedtime. The light can reset the clock in your brain.
- Avoid caffeine, especially after noon. Avoid heavy meals or alcohol close to bedtime.
- If you have trouble falling asleep, avoid naps, or limit them.
- If you are worried about something, try to spend time thinking it through and writing down your plan, several hours before bedtime.
- Don't use the bed for watching television, working or prolonged reading if you have insomnia.
- Try a white noise machine, a fan or earplugs if noise is bothering your sleep.
- If you can't fall asleep, get out of bed. Do something quiet and relaxing and go back to bed only when you are sleepy.
- Avoid looking at the clock. If you awaken during the night, try to go back to sleep without checking the time.

If these simple measures don't help, consider seeing your health care provider for advice.

Important Dates to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Jan. 3 | No Sunday School (<i>Christmas Break</i>) |
| Jan. 10 | Sunday School |
| Jan. 17 | Sunday School |
| Jan. 24 | Sunday School |
| Jan. 31 | Sunday School (<i>Camp Sunday/Teacher Brunch</i>) |

CATechism / "DOG"

Grades 4 & 5 – Youth Room 3:15 – 4:00 p.m.

| | |
|---------|-----|
| Jan. 6 | CAT |
| Jan. 13 | CAT |
| Jan. 20 | CAT |
| Jan. 27 | DOG |

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday, Jan. 27, 4:15 p.m.–5:45 p.m., Youth Room
"The Sacrament of Baptism"

"Second Wednesdays" meal

For everyone!

Jan/ 13, 5:15 p.m.–6:15 p.m., St. John's Hall

Menu: Meat Loaf and Cheesy Macaroni!

Parents Night Out

Saturday, Jan. 9, 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

4th and 5th Grade CAT resumes in January

4th and 5th graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, Jan. 6. CAT classes will meet in the lower level of St. John's; 4th grade in the Youth Room and 5th grade in Fellowship Hall from 3:15 – 4:00 p.m. on Jan. 6, 13, and 20.

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

Third graders will meet Wednesday, Jan. 27 from 4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. in the Youth Room for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism. Pizza will be provided. If you are unable to attend, please call Pastor Johnson or Julie Brehmer at 645-4429.

Skating!

Good News Gang, 3rd – 5th Gr.

NO SCHOOL on Monday, Jan. 18! Join your friends at the Northfield Ice Arena for skating and then we'll walk over to Wendy's for a treat!

Date: Friday, Jan 18

Times: 11:30 a.m. - Meet at Northfield Ice Arena; 12:30 p.m. - Walk to Wendy's for a treat; 12:50 p.m. - Parent pick up at Wendy's.

Admission: \$1.00 for skating; \$3.00 for skate rental (skate rental is limited so come early if you need to rent.) Bring treat money for Wendy's.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or across from the Nursery by Jan. 13 so we can plan the event! Friends are always welcome!

Parents: If you can help as a chaperone, please let me know at jbrehmer@stjohns-elca.org or call the church at 645-4429, ext. 25.

Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Parents who wish to have their baby or child baptized at St. John's are asked to attend a preparation session to discuss the meaning of baptism and to talk about the details of the day. Baptism preparation is held on the first Saturday of each month in the Fireside Room.

The next session is Saturday, Jan. 2, at 10:30 a.m. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

High School and Middle School Ski Lock-in at Welch

On Saturday, Jan. 16, we are going to Welch Village for a ski lock-in. This is a NAYW event, so our friends at Bethel, St. Peter's, and Trinity will be coming along as well. Look for details and permission slips to be arriving soon.

Camp Sunday

Sunday, Jan. 31 is Camp Sunday! The 3rd through 8th grade students will meet downstairs in the Youth Room from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. Green Lake and Shores of St. Andrew Camp Counselors will be here to answer questions and to get kids excited about attending Summer Bible Camp. Parents are welcome to attend, and we hope to see you there!

High School Sunday School

This month, there will be High School Sunday School on Jan. 17, and on Jan. 24.

On the 17th, Tony Becker and Beckie Judge will be teaching. On the 24th, Peggy Hanson will be back to teach another lesson. 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 04, near the Youth Room. See you there!

Confirmation Retreat

- WHO:** all 7th, 8th, and 9th graders
- WHAT:** A once a year tradition where our confirmands gather together for worship, learning, and fellowship. It's also a time for them to get away and have some fun, and experience confirmation outside of the traditional setting.
- WHERE:** Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN
- WHEN:** For 9th Graders, Friday Jan. 8, to Saturday, Jan. 9.
For 7th and 8th Graders, Saturday, Jan. 9 to Sunday Jan. 10.
- WHY:** Because you'll have a great time!
- COST:** \$30 (if finances are a concern we have scholarships available – don't hesitate to ask!)
- BRING:** Sleeping bag, pillow, warm clothes, shoes for outside in the snow, Bible, flashlight, toiletries/towel

MS Sunday School Line Up

- Jan. 3 - No Sunday School
Christmas Break
- Jan. 10 - No Sunday School
Confirmation Retreat
- Jan. 17 - Mary Crippen
Strength Finders
- Jan. 24 - Mary Crippen
Strength Finders
- Jan. 31 - Camp Sunday!

Middle School Sunday School Teachers Needed

You may or may not be aware of how we run Middle School Sunday School, so I'd like to fill you in as to how we do it. Each week, a member of St. John's joins our class to teach a lesson. It's similar to St. John's forum in that it's a little different each week, depending on our teacher's passions and interests.

We are in need of Middle School Sunday School Teachers for Mar. 14, 21, and 28, and Apr. 11, 18, and 25. This is a very important ministry that we do here at St. John's, and we'd love for you to be a part of it. Contact Mike Sherman, if you're interested.

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

Betsy McLaughlin



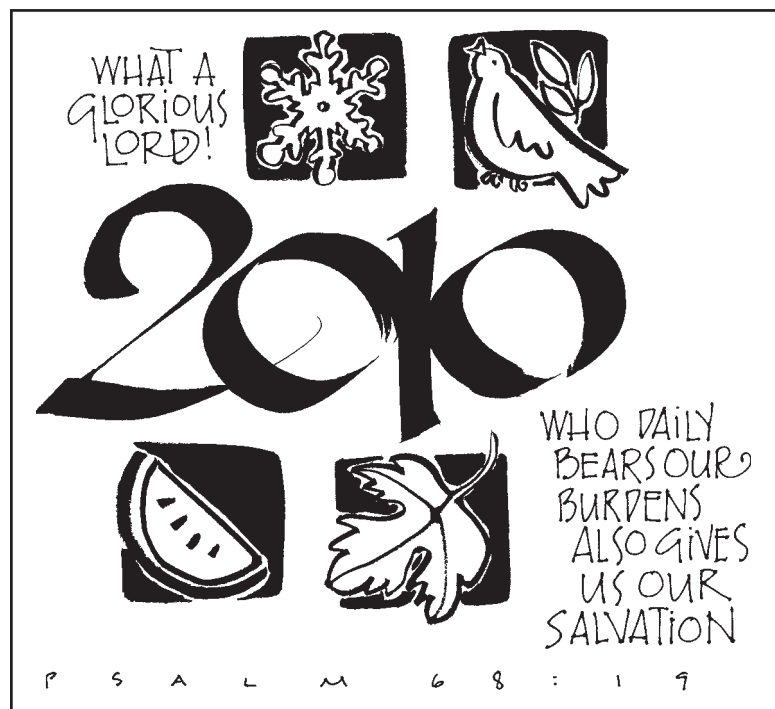
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**Dad's Time Out retreat
Jan. 22-23**

Dad's Time Out is a group of dads who meet monthly at the Cow for conversation and fellowship, and the occasional spiritual support. DTO is sponsoring a retreat at Gustavus Adolphus College on Friday, Jan. 22, through Saturday, Jan. 23. All men are invited for conversation about parenting and life, for good fellowship, some movies, and usually plenty of food. The group will leave the St. John's parking lot at about 5:30 p.m., and will return in the afternoon. Contact Pr. Crippen for more information and to sign up.

Thanks, continued from page 13

things up (thank you, Cora Scholz) and a couple of trips in trucks to Waseca (thank you David Quarberg, Brian Evenson, and Cindy and Bill Groh from Waseca). As Ward Ask from Waseca said, "This will not solve the deep problems of the people at Pine Ridge, but it will make them more comfortable." And warmed in heart, too, I think, to know there are other people who care about them. - Genevieve Quarberg