

THE VOICE

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2010

Volume 50, Number 10

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St. John's Welcomes Pastor Bob Iverson

Last month St. John's congregational council hired Pastor Bob Iverson to serve as interim senior pastor. Pastor Bob began work at St. John's on October 25. In addition to three installed pastorates, Pastor Bob has served five interim pastorates, the most recent being Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lakefield, Minnesota. A

litany of welcome took place in worship on October 31 and a reception to welcome Pastor Bob and his wife Sandy will be held on Sunday, November 7 following the second service in St. John's Hall. All are invited to attend. Welcome Pastor Bob!

Strategic Planning Event Nov. 5 and 6

The evening of Friday, November 5th and all day Saturday, November 6th St. John's will hold a strategic planning event. The purpose of this event is to gather as a community and develop several major strategies to guide us in future planning, funding allocation, and program implementation. If you would like to participate in this weekend event, to be held in St. John's Hall, please e-mail the planning team at challengeteam@stjohns-elca.org or call the Church Office.

The work done in this weekend event will be presented to the congregation in several formats for revision and input. On Sunday, November 13th during the education hour a meeting will be held in the sanctuary to discuss the outcomes of the strategic planning event. Please plan to attend and come prepared to offer suggestions and feedback.

Stewardship - Shaped by God's hands for love and service

Thank you members for your strong and faithful support of St. John's. Your partnership in ministry and the gifts you have shared this past year have made it possible for St. John's to extend God's love in Christ to fellow members, to those in our community and region, and to people around the world through our global partners in ministry. To those who have completed a pledge card for 2011 - thank you! To those who have not, we ask that you complete your pledge card and return it to

worship on Nov. 7 or return it to the Church Office as soon as possible. Pledges help to guide council and staff as they make decisions about the church budget for the sake of ministry in the coming year. If you have questions about pledge cards or comments you would like to share with the Stewardship Board, contact Mike Sylvester at 645-2638. Again, thank you for the gifts of all kinds that you share on behalf of the ministry at St. John's!

-St. John's Stewardship Board

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.

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 is a time of prayer guided by scripture. Gathered in the Word will not meet in November but will meet during Advent on Thursday, December 16 at 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.

*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*

Pride: Another Great Barrier to Seeking Help

Last summer a group of Stephen Ministers met to plan for the coming year, and a question arose: why is it hard for some people to seek help from a Stephen Minister or to accept that help when it is offered? We came up with several possible answers and boiled them down to two: fear and pride. In the October Voice, this column explored the barrier of fear. Here is what one Stephen Minister had to say about the other barrier, pride:

"Even I might be reluctant to ask for a Stephen Minister," she said. "Why? It doesn't make sense. For many years I've observed the relief and healing that come from sharing burdens with a sympathetic listener. So why might I try to tough it out on my own during a time of trouble? Pride, pure and simple. If I had a physical injury or ailment, I know I would seek help from a physician. But if I had an emotional

injury or ailment, or a time of spiritual questioning or darkness, I might hide them from other people—as long as I was functioning on the outside. I know I would pray for help—God already sees how much I am implicated in my own difficulties. But I might resist seeking the help God offers me through other people, even through fellow Stephen Ministers. Before them I might try to show that I'm strong and doing well, that I'm in charge of my life. Here in a nutshell is the sin of pride: the ridiculous notion that I am in charge, not God. This is a violation of the first commandment!"

A while later she added: "When I was ill for months, sometimes in pain

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

Matthew 5:4

Grief Support Ministry

Grief Support Group meets this month at St. Dominic Catholic Church; Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. from Nov. 8 - Dec. 13. For more information contact Nancy Ludescher, 645-8816, ext.203.

Grief Resources: Care Notes covering a variety of topics are available in the Commons. Stephen Ministers are available to offer Christian care to individuals who are grieving the loss of loved ones or grieving other kinds of losses. Contact Barb Knaak, 664-0444 or one of the pastors for other grief support resources.



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."

November 1, 2009
Elizabeth Wee

November 22, 2009
Jennings Feroe

November 26, 2009
Alex Werner

From our pastors . . .



I want to begin, this month, by introducing myself to you. I am Pastor Bob Iverson. Most call me Pastor Bob. I am married to Sandy; and we have three grown children. Our son, Darren, is the oldest and is married to April. Shawna is next, and she is married to Pat. They have a son, Collin, who is three. Emely is our youngest. Our home is in Jordan, where I served my last permanent call (12 years).

After serving for 23 years in three “settled” calls, I trained for, and began serving as an intentional interim pastor in the fall of 2004. I have served four places in the Southwest Synod, and one in the Southeast. St. John’s will be my sixth interim.

I will be commuting from Jordan during my time with you. My typical schedule will be office hours, Monday – Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays are available by appointment. There are regularly scheduled meetings each week, but I practice an “open door” policy – so feel free to make an appointment, or drop by.

As we begin our interim time together, I will tell you that my initial goal is to help provide a stable environment for ministry to take place. As we move in that direction, we can begin to tackle the tasks of transition. The church council and I will keep you well-informed about what tasks are being tended to; and progress, in general.

As is the case following a pastoral vacancy, there is often a sense of loss or hurt. In any event, healing is necessary before moving ahead is possible. Your sharing and my listening is a good first step in the healing process. Please know that **my door is always open**. Give me a call and we can make the time. My cell phone is the best way to reach me. It is 612-396-6504. It will be published elsewhere in this newsletter, and also printed each week in the worship bulletin.

Many of you have already expressed your gratitude for my presence. Let me say that I am delighted to be here with you. I look forward to doing ministry together.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bob

October Actions

Memorials and Gifts

Special Gifts and Memorials

In memory of Lloyd Gunderson by Dennis and Jane Rinehart, Danny and Sherry Steffl Family, David and Gina Steffl Family

In memory of Adeline Larson by Millie Johnson.

In memory of Robert Seitz by Lydia Quanbeck and Dagfinn Moe

Debt Reduction/General Fund

In memory of Ed Gass by Orwell and Jean Anderson

Radio Fund

In memory of Valborg Fure by Pete and Debi Edmund Ellertsen

Other Actions

Baptisms

Chen Ye, son of Luying Chen and Qiang Ye; sponsor is Eric Lund; Oct. 9, 2010

Weddings

Jeff Morrell and Barb Adrian, Oct. 9, 2010

Ryan Allen and Betsy Lueck, Oct. 29, 2010

Radio Broadcasts

Oct. 3, 2010 in memory of **Arnie Nelsen**, by Elsie Nelsen

Oct. 10, 2010 in memory of **Teddy Miller**, by Van Miller

Oct. 17, 2010 in memory of **Frank and Minnie Ozmun**, from their family

Oct. 24, 2010 in memory of **Lorraine Kimber**, by Don Kimber

Oct. 31, 2010 in memory of **Lowell Smestad**, by Ruth Anglin

Music Life at St. John's

Thanksgiving Eve Family Choir

All singers grade 4 - adult are invited to sing in worship on Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 24. Rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. in the balcony, with service at 7:00 p.m. Music will be easy to learn. For more information call Dan Fenn.

Sunday Morning Concert Series:

Koffee and Keyboards – November 28

Join pianists Daniel Fenn and Donna Paulsen in music for two pianos at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 28 in St. John's Hall.

Sing for Six with the Senior Choir

You are invited to be a part of the Senior Choir for the six weeks leading up to our Advent Concert (Sunday, December 19, 7 p.m.). We will rehearse music for this program in the last portion of our rehearsals beginning Wednesday, November 3 (7:30-8:15 p.m.). There will be music by Paul Christiansen, Randall Thompson, John Rutter, and more! All adults college-age and up are welcome. Contact Dan Fenn for more information, 645.4429 ext. 58.



... from and around the greater Church

St. John's is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with nearly 5 million Lutherans across the United States and the Caribbean. There are 65 geographic synods within the ELCA, and St. John's is a part of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. As baptized children of God in Christ, the congregation is also part of more than a billion Christians on earth. On this page each month news from our synod, from the churchwide organization, and beyond will be shared.



Seek and You Shall Find

Ways to stay informed about the Mission of our Synod and the ELCA

from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod:

Would you like to receive updates from our synod in online? Visit www.semnsynod.org and look in the left-hand column under "News." You'll find a link to sign up for their weekly *E-Newsletter*. You can also find *River Crossings*, the synod's monthly newsletter. It is available online and you can sign up to receive e-mail reminders for when it becomes available each month. Also

available online is *The Bridge*, a monthly publication explaining what the synod does, the ministry of the larger church, and how church members can be more active in the church.

from the churchwide organization:

Follow the ELCA on Twitter (@ELCAnews)! The ELCA also has a Facebook page (ELCA News Service).

For news updates, visit www.elca.org and search "ELCA News Service." In the left-hand column you will see a link for "Subscribe." You can sign-up there to receive short news updates from the ELCA.

All members of St. John's should receive a monthly subscription to *The Lutheran* magazine, which tells the stories of the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you do not receive this magazine in the mail, contact the church office (507-645-4429). If you would like to learn more about specific ministry organizations of the ELCA, you can visit their Web sites:

Stories of Faith in Action	www.elca.org/stories
Justice, Health Care, Immigration, Environment	www.elca.org/advocacy
Disaster Response	www.elca.org/disaster
Global Mission, Missionaries	www.elca.org/globalmission
World Hunger	www.elca.org/hunger
Mission Builders	www.elca.org/missionbuilders
Funding the Mission	www.elca.org/missionsupport
Lutheran Outdoor Ministry	www.elca.org/outdoorministry
Lutheran World Federation	www.lutheranworld.org
Lutheran World Relief	www.lwr.org
Lutheran Volunteer Corps	www.lutheranvolunteercorps.org



Shared Ministry

I've been a part of more churches than the average person. I've never lived anywhere more than four years and each move has always brought at least one new church. Unlike some of you I didn't grow up Lutheran. I didn't really grow up belonging to any denomination. We just went to church.

There are parts of this background that I really appreciate. I have a fairly ecumenical sense about me. I'm comfortable in almost any Christian church because I've had experiences in quite a few.

I've worshiped in a variety of styles in a variety of settings and attending churches on opposite ends of every spectrum. There are some things that make every church unique. And there is at least one thing that every church has in common beyond basic Christian beliefs. Every church is a flawed institution.

So if you're hoping to find the perfect church I'm sorry to disappoint you, but there isn't one. No church will have everything you're looking for. At no point in time will every single member of the church be completely happy or satisfied. Every church is a flawed institution.

We often join churches because we like what they have to offer. We like what we get out of being a part of a particular congregation. We go to church because we get something out of it.

That's not all bad but it's not necessarily the best perspective either. When we attend church because of what we get from it it's a lot easier to grow frustrated and to walk away, to stop attending all together. If we stop receiving what we want we get angry and go somewhere else. Somewhere that will better meet our desires and needs.

There are seasons in life when church is about pouring into us and ministering to us. But there are more seasons in life when what

we're getting out of church isn't as important as what we're giving in church.

Part of that giving is financial, yes, but that's not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about how we participate in the ministries of the church, how we tangibly represent Christ to those next to us in the pew and those in the greater community. When we think of church purely in terms of what we get we're thinking about it all wrong. The church doesn't exist to simply meet our needs and keep us happy.

If you're coming to church because of what you get then eventually the imperfections are going to wear you down. You'll grow frustrated because you won't always be getting what you want. The church won't always be meeting your wants or needs.

If you go to church because you've got something to give your perspective suddenly changes. Church is no longer a source of frustration because your needs and desires are unmet but you begin to see the church and all its flaws as opportunities for service, opportunities for you to participate in the kingdom work of God.

The church is to be the body of Christ in the world. We are God's plan for proclaiming the good news throughout the earth. This is it. We are it. In all of our flawed glory we are the chosen tool for the work of the Spirit throughout the world.

If you're coming to church principally for what you can get out of Sunday morning services you're missing the point and you're going to be disappointed. Our church isn't perfect and we never will be. You're not going to get everything you want out of our church, or out of any church. My challenge to you is this: start thinking about church in terms of what you can give. *Ask how can I make this church better? How can I serve in this place? How can I reflect Christ to these people and this community?*

Regina Hassanally,

Director of Shared Ministries

SERVING TO LOVE



LOVING TO SERVE

From the Faith and Health Board:

Things to Do For the Season...Flu Season, That Is

Submitted by Addy Roadfelt

1. What is flu, anyway? Influenza is a serious contagious respiratory infection that causes illness and related hospitalizations and deaths every year in the United States. It is caused by viruses that constantly change, so that is is not unusual for new flu strains to appear each year. Flu seasons vary in severity from year to year. In 2009 the emergence of the H1N1 virus caused the first influenza pandemic (global outbreak of disease caused by a new flu virus) in more than 40 years.

2. How do I get flu? The virus is mainly spread through droplets from coughs and sneezes. Unfortunately, one can spread the flu to others before symptoms occur. People with flu may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five to seven days after becoming sick. Symptoms include: fever, cough, sore throat, chills, headache, muscle aches and fatigue. For many people the symptoms last only a few days. But infants, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with certain health conditions--such as heart, lung or kidney disease or a weakened immune system--can get much sicker.

3. What should I do to prevent getting the flu? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against the flu. Persons six months of age and older should get the flu vaccine. There are two types of influenza vaccine: 1) Inactivated (killed) vaccine is given into the muscle by injection. 2) Live, attenuated vaccine (LAIV) contains live but weakened influenza virus. This vaccine is sprayed into the nostrils and is recommended for healthy people age two to 49 (excluding pregnant women).

4. Are there people who should not get the flu vaccine? Yes. Influenza vaccine virus is grown in eggs. People with a severe egg allergy should not get the vaccine. Health care providers should always be consulted about severe allergies, previous reactions to the vaccine, or history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (a severe paralytic illness). In addition, there are groups of people who should not get the nasal spray vaccine. Specifically, adults 50 years and older and children from six months through 23 months, pregnant women and children and adults with long-term health problems or weakened immune systems. They should get the inactivated vaccine--the "flu shot."

5. Is there anything else I can do to stay well during flu seasons? CDC recommends following good health habits to help stop the spread of germs: 1) Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep away from others to protect them from getting sick too. 2) Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth so germs are not transferred. 3) Washing hands thoroughly will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol-based (at least 60%) hand sanitizer may be used. 4) Follow other good health habits. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

Source: www.cdc.gov/flu

...Pride, cont. from pg. 2

and always low in energy, I welcomed help from others. I even asked for it. I couldn't pretend to myself or others that I was in charge. All that time I felt close to God. I felt continuously tended by God, knew well that those cards and visits and telephone calls and hot dishes had been sent by God. Why should I allow pride to deprive me of God's help if my distress is inner and invisible?"

Don't let pride be a barrier to help. If you or someone you know can benefit from talking with a Stephen Minister, please call a pastor, 645-4429 or Joan Halvorson, 645-8445.

Serving on Sundays in November

Acolytes

- Nov. 7 (8:30) Kris Swanson, Mike DeCramer; (10:45) Grant Erickson, Kate Erickson, Emily Westerback
- Nov. 14 (8:30) Dylan Matson, Kris Swanson; (10:45) Grant Erickson, Kate Erickson
- Nov. 21 (8:30) Hunter Redfield, Kris Swanson; (10:45) Alexa Nutt, Michael Gasior, Timothy Gasior
- Nov. 24 (7:00 p.m.)
- Nov. 28 (8:30) Ryan Buck; (10:45) Andrew Dell, Bailey Dell

Communion preparers

- Nov. 7 Patsy and John Ophaug
- Nov. 14 Betty and Walt Stromseth, Judith Stoutland
- Nov. 21 Joanne and Paul Jorgenson
- Nov. 28 Gloria and Tom Porter

Coffee Servers

- Nov. 7 Brent and Diana Mueller, Jon and Jeanette Rondestvedt; (cookies: Joan Halvorson)
- Nov. 14 Charles and Barbara Wilson, Jennifer and Zach Pelletier; (cookies: Brynhild Rowberg)
- Nov. 21 Carol and Eric Hong, George and Gretchen Hardgrove; (cookies: Bette Quinnell)
- Nov. 28 Kristi Wermager and Mark Gleason, Jane and Richard Nelson (cookies: Solveig Bailey)

Ushers

- Nov. 7 (8:30) Doug Child, Alan Alberg, Duane Benson, Len Hoffmann, Rick Hillard, Loren Lee, Dan Lueck, Gordon Mickelsen; (10:45) Wes Pearson, Brian Boyum, John Hanson, Peggy Hanson, Brandon Kimber, Dale Kimber, Don Kimber
- Nov. 14 (8:30) Bob Gelle, Jim Enestvedt, Bob Johnson, Chuck Lunder, Rob McCarthy, Ruthie Neuger, Tom Porter, Don Sahling, Myron Solid; (10:45) Jonathan Norrie, Terry Dell, David Halsor, Dick Kleber, Todd Nichol, Kristin Nichol, Michael Sylvester, Suzanne Sylvester, Steve Williams
- Nov. 21 (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, Todd Iverson, Lowell Johnson, Andy Langehough, Greg Norman, Doug O'Leary
- Nov. 24 (7:00 p.m.) Corrine Heiberg, Elvin Heiberg, Tim Eklund, Lois Eklund, David Rudser, Susan Rudser, Andy Westerback
- Nov. 28 (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



This month's Hands and Feet Service project is Feed My Starving Children, Friday, Nov. 12 - Sunday, Nov. 14 at the Skoglund Athletic Center, St. Olaf College. The St. John's time slot to serve has been filled with volunteers but if you would like to serve at another time visit www.5thbridge.org for

more information. **Save the Date!** December's Hands and Feet Project is the Community Christmas Dinner for All – held here at St. John's on Dec. 25. Watch for more details in the bulletin and in next month's Voice.

St. John's Members to visit Partner Congregation in Colombia

On November 9, Pastor Johnson, Jane Rinehart, and Kristi Wermager will travel to Colombia as part of a week-long delegation visiting congregations and leaders of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia. The trip will include a visit to St. John's partner congregation, El Salvador (Our Savior's) Lutheran Church in El Cocuy, Colombia. This will be the first visit between members of St. John's and El Salvador since the congregations became partners in January of 2008. El Salvador was founded in 1936, the first Lutheran congregation in Colombia. The visit will include worship, sharing faith stories, and conversations about a proposal to build a playground for El Salvador's elementary school. The delegation to Colombia includes members of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, including Bishop Harold Usgaard, and members of the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA.

Prayers for Healing

Members of St. John's Healing Prayer Ministry Team will be at the altar rail in the chancel following both worship services on Sunday, November 7, to offer prayers for healing and anointing with oil.

St John's Debt Reduction Appeal

St John's will begin a two year debt reduction appeal on January 9, 2010 as part of the long range plan to strength our community of God. At present there are two mortgages (16 years remaining on each) with a total balance of over \$1.6 million. The annual payment is \$163,000. This debt binds us by restricting all programs, diverting considerable staff effort, and detracting leadership efforts. The debt reduction appeal will seek to raise \$800,000 to retire one mortgage and reduce the annual payment by \$78,000. A successful debt reduction drive will unbind our community of God and enable us to extend God's work through programs at St John's and outside through our benevolence to God's greater world. We ask your prayers in support of the members who are organizing this appeal and for the future of a revitalized St John's community of God.



St. John's Suppers

Wednesday night supper just got a little easier! Come, share a meal! All are welcome, it's a fantastic time for fellowship for ALL ages!

Supper is served from 5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

November 3

Pizza and Tossed Salad

November 10

Tater Tot Hotdish

November 17

Hot Dogs and the fixin's!

November 24

No Meal - Thanksgiving

December 1

Pizza and Tossed Salad

Calling all Snowbirds!

For those of you that are leaving us for the winter, please let the Church Office know the effective date of your new address. Have a great winter!

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. The next session is Saturday, Nov. 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Please call the Church Office if you plan to attend.

News and Events

Next meeting:

Tuesday, Nov. 15
7:00 p.m.
Fireside Room

Conversation on
“Politics,
Religion, and
Christian Faith”
with guest
Richard Crouter,
author of
*Reinhold
Niebuhr*

All are welcome!

From the Peace and Justice group . . .

Richard Crouter, author of *Reinhold Niebuhr: Politics, Religion, and Christian Faith*, will be our guest for our continuing conversation about faith in our private and public lives.

Crouter, now retired after teaching for many years at Carleton College, began this book in response to the growing interest in the work of Niebuhr which developed since 9-11. Niebuhr, pastor, teacher, prolific and skillful writer, was often quoted in support of wide spectrum positions, often with dubious understanding of what Niebuhr meant. Crouter wrote this book to help place the quotes and comments about Niebuhr in the context of his basic work. For Crouter, the book is a meditation on the value (and complexity) of Niebuhr’s thought.

Advocating the importance of knowing oneself was, to Niebuhr, an important task for each person. This is not an easy task, Crouter reminds us. He continues with a series of questions that may stimulate your thinking and draw you to our conversation:

* Nothing which is true or beautiful or good makes complete sense in any immediate context of history; therefore we must be saved by faith.

*Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary.

*All human sin seems so much worse in its consequences than in its intentions.

*Original sin is that thing about man which makes him capable of conceiving of his own perfection and incapable of achieving it.*What follows for our lives if we acknowledge both good and evil tendencies in ourselves, while knowing how difficult or impossible it is to judge such matters honestly?

*How can we live with such troubling incongruities? Recognizing evil within oneself or one’s nation requires an act of truthful self-scrutiny and painful self-recognition. That task requires courage.

Niebuhr clearly states that he believes in sin: “Original sin is that thing about man which makes him capable of conceiving of his own perfection and incapable of achieving it.”

He also believed there was hope. This was not a hope of wishful thinking, Crouter states, but one based on a belief that the created order is good. “Nothing that is worth doing can be achieved in a lifetime; therefore we must be saved by hope.”

We hope you can join us!

November 11, 2010

ADAYOFFASTINGFORPEACE

Individual actions throughout the day. To end the day of fasting, a vigil will be held between 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in St. John’s Fireside room. Meditations for the day of fasting are on the P&J bulletin boards.

Join the vigil at any time and leave at any time.

Light a candle and record a wish for peace.

Pledge to work for justice however you can.

ALL Are Welcome!



Mission Statement:
**TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY
 ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST**
 Lutheran Woman Today Bible study theme for 2010-2011 is
**“The People of God:
 Unity in the Midst of Diversity”**
 Amos 3:3 “Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”

For newsletters and information: www.semnsynod.org and www.womenoftheelca.org

Upcoming Events

Nov. 4 at 1:00 p.m.: General meeting: Panel discussion by Pastors Dianne Goulson, Regina Hassanally, Jennifer Koenig and Bev NestingenLundeen on their experiences as women of the Church, and commemorating the 40th year of women’s ordination in the ELCA. Celebrate this momentous anniversary with us!

Nov. 11, 12:00 noon: Bible study leaders, Fireside room.

Nov. 3 & 17, 9:30 a.m.:Knitters, Library

Nov. 13, 17 & 18: Circles meet

Nov. 15 & 18: Workdays for mission projects (quilting, 9-11 a.m., Fellowship Hall)

Nov. 22, 9:30 AM—Executive board meeting, Fireside room

Our annual thank offering will be collected at this meeting. Last year this donation from Women of the ELCA made up over 25% of the national organization’s operating budget, helping to support publications such as Lutheran Woman Today (LWT), Café, Bold Connections and Threads; providing financial assistance for the triennial gathering; and supporting other worthy and worthwhile projects. Circle members contribute small amounts of money throughout the year, and every year in November this thank offering is sent to the WELCA office in Chicago.

Women! Are you handy with a sewing machine or with a needle and thread? We need volunteers to sew quilt tops at home, to hem receiving blankets, and to sew nightgowns for layettes. Please contact Norma Gilbertson (664-9591) for information on layettes, and Kathy Vang (645-4849) for information on quilts.

Circles

Women interested in joining a circle, please contact Barbara Walters (663-1055 or waltersb2@gmail.com). This year’s study leader for St. John’s WELCA is Pastor Bev Lundeen (507-301-3088). For a subscription to the LWT magazine, please email: subscriptions@augzburgfortress.org or ask one of the circle leaders for information.

Circle Bible Study Regular Meeting Times each month are the second Wednesday or Thursday after the first Thursday of each month at the times below:

Lydia – Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Marilyn Boschee and Judy Smith, Leaders

Sarah – Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. Char Nelson, Leader

Martha/Claudia – Thursday, 9:30 a.m. at Parkview West; Eulalie Smestad and Joyce Schrader, Leaders

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

Abigail/Rebecca – Thursday, 2:00 p.m. at Parkview West, Gert Brosz, Leader

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

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

Please submit items for this information page to Ruth Smestad Anglin: ranglin@weststartv.com or (507) 301-4744

How About July in Spokane?

The 2011 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering will be July 14-17, 2011 in Spokane, Washington. Early cost is \$299, and the theme is ‘Renew, Respond, Rejoice!’ Registration began Sept. 15th, 2010. For more information, go to www.womenoftheelca.org. Check it out!



Small Groups Ministry

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

Matthew 18:20

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

Biblical Archaeology Today

Contact: Ruth Hansen 645-8228

Connections

Contact: Carol Schoen 645-6840

Everyone Has a Story

Contact: Phil Eaves 645-4172

Gathered in the Word

Contact: Pr. Johnson 645-4429

Grief Support

Contact: Barbara Knaak 664-0444

Healing Prayer

Contact: Dick Beckmen 664-3882

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Contact: Dean Ostlie 645-2597

Men's Time Out

Contact: Greg Kneser 663-0271

Options Bible Study: Gospel of John

Contact: Dave and Gen Quarberg 645-0089

Peace and Justice

Contact: Judith Stoutland 645-7842

Prayer and Praise

Contact: Mary White 645-4783

Tuesday Noon Bible Study

Contact: Pr. Johnson 645-4429

Women of the ELCA Circles

Contact: Barbara Walters 663-1055

Women of the ELCA Knitting

Contact: Bobbie Maakestad 645-4397

Women's Bible Study at Parkview West

Contact: Dick Dahlin 645-5978

Women of the ELCA Quilting

Contact: Kathy Vang 645-4849

Women's Breakfast Group

Contact: Kathy Mellstrom 663-1451

Surrounded by Blessings

by Barbara Eaves

"You won't find it looking on the ceiling," my mother would say as she watched me looking aimlessly for something I had misplaced. And more often than not the "something," when discovered, had been right under my nose or within arm's reach all along.

Upon reflection some 50 years later, my mother's admonishment seems to have many applications for today. How often do we look "out there" for something when in fact what we seek may be close at hand. During this month of Thanksgiving when talk of blessings abound, where is it that those blessings are manifest?

Countless blessings are right over our heads, circling around and waiting for us to receive them: blessings such as the opening of each new day and the celebration of all of life within it; the grace of an ever-loving, ever-present God; the joy of a friendship; the presence and support of a faith community.

Many blessings are within our grasp: making a difference through acts of kindness, compassion and loving care remind us that when we invest ourselves in others we are blessed as well; offering a smile and kind word to another person may turn out to be the only affirming gesture he or she receives in an otherwise dismal day.

Some of our richest blessings are received through relationships we have with one another. A women's retreat planning team that I was part of years ago still brings warm memories and streams of blessings because of the women who came together for a specific task and along the way got to know one another personally and established precious and long-lasting friendships.

The Small Groups at St. John's offer settings where people can get together for a common purpose and at the same time get to know each other and build relationships where blessings can and do overflow.

If you are interested in leading a small group or have a suggestion for a new small group please contact a member of the Small

Group Leadership Team:

Sandi Gerdes 645-2290,
sandi@laurabaker.org

Cheryl Buck, 663-9056,
cbuck@charter.net

Barb Eaves, 645-4172,
pbeaves@hotmail.com

Mark Johnson, 645-4429
mjohnson@stjohns-elca.org

Experience a Small Group

Pick up a fall catalog at the Small Group bulletin board display in the Commons area. Read about the groups...find one that interests you and call the group leader for more information.

Come...taste...and see!

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.

Nov. 7: St. John's Forum: Series on the Old Testament: "The Psalms: Going By the Book", presented by David Quarberg. **St. John's Hall**

New Member Beginnings: Fellowship time with St. John's new members and hosts.

Fireside Room

Nov. 14: St. John's Forum: Series on the Old Testament: "Men of God: Elijah and Elisha", presented by Rev. Dr. Amy Gohdes-Luhman, Mainstreet Moravian Church. **St. John's Hall**

New Member Shared Ministry - Part Two: exploring shared ministry, followed by a tour of the church building. **Fireside Room**

Strategic Plan Update: Hear a report on the Strategic Planning Event held on Nov. 5 and 6 and take a look at the newly developed strategic plan for St. John's. **Sanctuary**

Nov. 21: New Member Reception: a time of food and fellowship to welcome new members to St. John's. **St. John's Hall**

Nov. 28: Sunday Morning Concert Series: "Koffee and Keyboards", presented by pianists Donna Paulsen and Dan Fenn. **St. John's Hall**

News and Events

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

Thanksgiving Eve worship will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 24 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

Calling All Kitchen Volunteers!

For the next several months the Kitchen Ministry Team will be offering kitchen training the second Sunday of each month between services. If you volunteer in the kitchen, would like to learn how the kitchen works or need a reminder of kitchen policies please attend one of our training sessions. Contact Alice Nasby, Kitchen Ministry Team Coordinator, with questions. See you on Nov. 14 at 9:45 a.m. in the kitchen!

Parent Forum

On Nov. 21, at 9:45 a.m., parents of middle and high school students are invited to a forum. We'll be discussing some of the action items from our last forum, and you'll also have a chance to discuss some new topics. This is your chance to give advice and input about the youth programming at St. John's, and to make our church the best church that we can be. Hope you can be there!

Progressive Dinner is Nov. 13

St. John's Progressive Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13. Everyone is welcome and this is a wonderful opportunity to share good food and good



fellowship with fellow St. John's members. Sign up boards are located at the Bridge and in

the Commons. If you have questions, please contact: Jennifer Bothun (645-5903), Guy Reid (645-7984), Sue Hagen (645-2504), Cheryl Buck (663-9056), or Pat Fick (645-8331).

Important Dates To Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

November 7 Sunday School –
(Daylight Savings Time)
November 14 Sunday School
November 21 Sunday School
November 28 No Sunday School
(Thanksgiving break)

Movie Morning!

Monday, Nov. 8, (No School!)
9:00 – 11:15 a.m., St. John's Theater

Liturgical Dance Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 13, 9:00 – noon; Fellowship Hall
Performs Sunday, November 14 during the
Prelude at both services

No Wednesday Programming on Nov. 24 - Thanksgiving Break!

Advent Fair

Sunday, Dec. 5
Lunch, Christmas crafts, food
demonstrations, Fair Trade Fair, fun, fun, fun!



Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 12, 3:00 p.m.

**Don't Forget! Wednesday Meals begin at
5:15 p.m. Check out the new menu on pg.
11! Come, Share a meal!**

3rd Graders Received Bibles

The Bibles are purchased using money from the Johnson Bible fund. Receiving Bibles this year are: Parker Aman, Catherine Carson, Nissa Christiansen, Alexander Dell, Liam Dixon, Madison Ims, Cole Johannsen, Jadyne McGovern, Peter Neeb, Natalie Nevin, and D'Andre Norton.

Youth Blast 2010!

We had a fantastic weekend in October at Youth Blast, a retreat for 3rd – 6th graders, at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. Many thanks to Dave Aman for helping chaperone.

Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!

Kids 5th grade and younger are invited to come in their pajamas to movie morning at St. John's! Come for breakfast and stay to watch the movie, "How to Train Your Dragon", (PG)

Where: The Commons for Breakfast,
Movie in St. John's Theater

When: Monday, November 8

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or call Julie at 645-4429, ext. 25



Liturgical Dance Workshop

St. Olaf's liturgical dance company, Leap of Faith, led by Britta Anderson and Libby Nail, will hold a dance workshop for St. John's kids in November. Participants will learn about liturgical dance and learn dance movements to the hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing".

Who: All youth in grades 1-5

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: Saturday, Nov. 13 from 9-noon.
We will be sharing what we learn during the prelude at both services on Sunday, Nov. 14 along with the members of Leap of Faith.

Why: To explore a new way to worship together! (Snacks will be served on Saturday during the workshop.) Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Nursery by Nov. 10 if you are interested in participating. Feel free to call Julie if you have any questions!

YOUTH MINISTRY @ ST. JOHN'S

Middle School Sunday School

Grades 6-8

Sundays 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 7	Ruth Hansen- Archaeology of the Bible
Nov. 14	Ruth Hansen- Archaeology of the Bible
Nov. 21	Kathy Vang - LWR Day
Nov. 28	No Sunday School - Thanksgiving Break

High School Sunday School

Grades 9-12

Sundays 9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 7	Student Review
Nov. 14	Summer Trip Day
Nov. 21	Peggy Hanson - Christ the King
Nov. 28	No Sunday School - Thanksgiving Break

Parent Forum for Middle and High School on Nov. 21.

See pg. 13 for article and details!

HS Event: Churchwide Romans & Christians

On Sunday, Nov. 7, at 7:00 p.m., many of the local churches will be getting together to play some Romans & Christians. Romans & Christians is a game where the Christians are trying to find Jesus and the Romans are trying to catch the Christians to put them in jail. It's sort of a cross between hide and go seek and capture the flag. It's super fun!

Also, we've invited some teachers from the high school to come and play with us. In breaks between the games, a few of them will share their faith stories with the group. We'll also spend some time talking about being a Christian at school.

The location is still yet to be determined. We'll might be here at St. John's, or over at Bethel. The night begins at 7:00 p.m. and we'll end at 10:00 p.m. Hope to see you there - Bring your friends!

HS Summer Trip Day

High Schoolers and parents, would you like to know what the 2011 Summer Trip is going to be - come to Room 09 at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 14 to find out! Not only will you find out what the summer trip will be, you'll also find out how to sign up, raise money, ask questions, and see who else might be interested in going. If you can't make it that day, we'll mail info out to you, although try to make it if you can.

HS Student Review

On Nov. 7th at 9:45 a.m., we're having a student review day in place of High School Sunday School (there will still be snacks). This is your chance to give Sherm advice and input about all the youth programming at St. John's and how, together, we can make the best church that we can be!

Middle School Events Galore!

Guess what? From now and into the unforeseeable future, we'll be doubling up on our Monthly Middle School Events!

MS Event 1: Board Game Night

Our first Middle School event is happening on Nov. 13, from 7:00p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at the church. Middle Schoolers are invited to get together to play Board Games, chit chat, and eat some snacks. Friends, of course, are welcome to come!

MS Event 2: Rock Climbing Vertical Endeavors

For our second Middle School Event, we'll head up to Vertical Endeavors in St. Paul to go rock climbing. Here are the details...

WHEN: Sunday, Nov. 21, from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Meet at St. John's, and then head up as a group

COST: \$18

OTHER: Everyone attending this trip will need to fill out a waiver. They will be mailed out with all the details.

6th Grade CAT

6th Grade CAT meets Nov. 3, from 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

We'll be discussing the 1st Petition of the Lord's Prayer, and reviewing the acronym for prayer, ACTORS. We meet in Room 09, and we will be sharing a meal together (pizza).

Looking forward to seeing you there!

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

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Advent Fair is coming!

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming Advent Fair at St. John's on December 5!

Volunteers are needed to help with lunch, crafts and Mission Possible – selling handcrafts from around the world with proceeds going to Lutheran World Relief and SERVV International Fair Trade Project and coffee and chocolate with proceeds going



to Lutheran World Relief. Look for a sign-up in the Commons soon!

Considering St. John's?

Interested in becoming a member at St. John's? New member sessions continue this month on November 7 and 14 in the Fireside Room at 9:45. New members are formally received on Sunday, November 21. Contact a pastor or the church office for more information.

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will be up in the Commons by the first Sunday in Advent, Nov. 28.

Paper stars will have written on them a gift idea along with the age and gender of a child for whom you can buy a Christmas gift. St. John's is sponsoring 200 local children whose families are unable to buy Christmas gifts. Purchased gifts should be placed, unwrapped, with the paper star attached, under the Giving Tree by Sunday, Dec. 12. In addition, we will also offer gifts to our Companion Synod, the Central Diocese of Tanzania. The tree will be decorated with 50 envelopes for making donations to the Tanzania Scholarship Fund.

