

## INTRODUCTION

Followers of Jesus are inspired to develop patterns for living that are devoted to daily discipleship. Faith practices are God-shaping activities that add up to a way of life; they come out of Scripture, but are lived out in the world. They reflect and help us to sustain relationships with God, ourselves and the community. The following seven common faith practices have been identified: ***pray, study, worship, invite, encourage, serve and give.***

This booklet is designed to highlight these faith practices as they are learned and nurtured at St. John's. Reflect on your God given gifts. Consider becoming more involved by volunteering for one or more of the opportunities for discipleship listed on the following pages.

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## GIVE

*"We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love."*

‡ **What part does giving play in your Christian life?**

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

**MISSION:** To provide opportunities for the congregation to engage in ministry to those in need.

### HOW IS THIS DONE?

- ‡ Our main campaigns are the Mission Canisters (all year), Lutheran Charities (April/May), the Crop Walk (October), the Angel Tree (November/December).
- ‡ **Missionary** – The Social Ministry committee was also instrumental in promoting the sponsorship of a Missionary Couple in Africa. St. John's has been part of this ELCA program since 2005. The Hartwig's are dedicated to helping the AIDS community in Tanzania; Dr. Kristopher as a physician, Rebecca as a teacher of music. We were fortunate to have shared an evening with them when they returned to the States in 2006. At that time St. John's supported a musical instrument drive to help with the music program they were starting. We receive periodic letters of their ministries that are printed in the "Crossbeam".

**MEETINGS:** Quarterly, on a Monday night at 7 pm. Please contact Mike Setlock for dates.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Mike Setlock, Chairperson @ 651-9603

## **PROPERTY/ MONDAY MORNING WORK CREW**

*MISSION/GOAL:* The goal of the Property Committee is to help maintain St. John's buildings and grounds.

*HOW IS THIS DONE?* A voluntary work crew (Monday Morning Work Crew) provides various services every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. New volunteers are always welcome and cordially invited. No specific skills or expertise is required. The Property Committee also helps coordinate and monitor major repairs done by outside contractors.

*MEETINGS:* None

*CONTACT PERSONS:*

Property Committee: Roger McGill @ 684-2567

Frank Acker @ 822-6217.

Monday Morning Work Crew: Charlie Arnold @ 674-2409

Art Haase @ 674-8109

Harvey Borchert @ 674-4748

## **SENIOR CITIZENS**

*MISSION:* To provide fellowship for those 60+ years of age.

*HOW IS THIS DONE:* Currently we have about twenty people over 75 years old (who will admit to it).

- Coffee and Donuts
- A few games of BINGO
- When the group was started about 30 years ago, there were over 100 members. An invitation is extended to anyone 60 years of age or older to join us for fun.

*MEETINGS:* First Wednesday of the month in the Parish Hall.

*CONTACT PERSON:* Harvey Borchert @ 674-4748

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## PRAY

The daily discipline of prayer  
nurtures Christian disciples for  
service in the world.

✝ **What part does prayer play in your Christian life?**

### PRAYER CHAIN

**MISSION:** Members of this group continually pray for people with a diversity of needs.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** To meet this goal, we maintain a confidential list of people who are in need of prayer, and we study different uses and styles of prayer including opportunities to use our labyrinth. We also act as docents for groups using the labyrinth.

**MEETINGS:** Our regular meeting night is the first Wednesday of each month. We schedule special prayer nights throughout the year. Anyone who is interested is invited to join us.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Jeanne Schuler @ 822-7704  
(or any member of the group)

Pat Lipka

Tracy Lumb

Marie Ramey

Jeanne & Dick Stover

Sharon Tyler

Nancy Wright ( [njw7680@verizon.net](mailto:njw7680@verizon.net) –  
please use the words "prayer chain addition"  
in the subject line.)

### WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

**MISSION:** Women of the ELCA shall commit themselves to grow in faith, affirm their gifts, support one another in their callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, in society and in the world.

#### HOW IS THIS DONE?

✝ WELCA is the women's organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Together, this network of nearly 500,000 women makes a difference in the world because God has made a difference in their lives.

✝ ELCA Mission: To mobilize women to *act boldly* in their faith in Jesus Christ.

✝ ELCA Purpose statement:

As a community of women  
created in the image of God,  
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and  
empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we commit ourselves to  
grow in faith,  
affirm our gifts,  
support one another in our callings,  
engage in ministry and action, and  
promote healing and wholeness  
in the church, the society,  
and the world.

✝ Our members serve the community and support each other through various activities: devotional time and bible study, presentations of topics of interest to women, food pantry collections. We also collect offerings at our meetings. These offerings support our national group as well as supporting our year of women's health, helping us purchase items for health kits that will be distributed locally.

**MEETINGS:** WELCA meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7pm, the months of September, October, November, February, March, April, May and June.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Connie Arnold @ 647-2409

You are welcome to join us at any meeting!

## LADIES AID

**MISSION:** The Ladies Aid Society shall support and aid the congregation in a benevolent manner primarily through fund raising activities and involve as many members as possible in their activities.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** We organize the roast beef dinners. These dinners serve as fund raisers to assist the church in paying for improvements on the church property. Improvements we've contributed to include the remodeling of the fellowship room, remodeling of the kitchen, repainting the educational building, purchasing new carpets for the educational building, paying for window washing, carpeting shampooing and so much more. Our members serve and support each other through our monthly meetings. The meetings are designed for fellowship and planning of the dinners.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP:** There are several ways you can help! Volunteer at the Roast Beef dinners – we appreciate your help in all areas of the dinners, from roasting beef, to set up of the parish hall, to kitchen help, to serving our diners, to clearing tables. Anything you can do is very much appreciated! Thank you to all those that come and dine!

**MEETINGS:** Ladies Aid Society meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 7:30pm, the months of September, November, December, February, April and June. You are welcome to join us at any meeting!

**CONTACT PERSON:** Sandy Haase @ 674-8109.

## MORNING PRAYERS

**MISSION:** To provide an opportunity for congregational members and others to begin the day with prayer and meditation in Christian fellowship.

### HOW IS THIS DONE?

- ✠ Morning prayers feature a psalm, daily Bible readings, a theological reading on the selected scripture and a prayer of the day. *"For All the Saints"* a prayer book for and by the Church is used as the resource.
- ✠ Each day an individual or family of the congregation is selected in alphabetical order from the current church directory to have prayers offered (the individuals are notified of this schedule the previous week by mail).
- ✠ The ELCA daily "Prayer Ventures" is also used.
- ✠ Congregational and other persons known to be in special need are prayed for including such events as hospitalization, illness, difficult times, bereavement, marital issues, world issues, disasters, travel safety, etc.

**MEETINGS:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Room.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Pastor John Klatt @ 668-2152

### NOTE:

Although there are only two groups named under "PRAY" it is important to mention that St. John's follows the Upstate New York Synod Mission Statement....

*"We are a resurrection people who pray first,  
walk together and change lives."*

All committees/groups pray first and are therefore part of this section as well as the one under which they are listed.



## STUDY

Entering the world of Scripture initiates us into a story-shaped world and offers us a way to understand our own. Study of the Catechism and Scripture mark the life of Christian discipleship.

† **What part does study play in your Christian life?**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**MISSION:** The Christian Education committee acts as a reporting agent for all educational programs and activities within the congregation and makes recommendations which will enhance the educational program.

**WHAT IS DONE?** Our Christian Education programs include the Adult Education program, the Catechetical program, the Splash (cradle roll) program, the First Communion program, Library, Preschool, Sunday Church School, SCS Christmas program and Vacation Church School. The committee monitors each of the programs and offers assistance to our volunteer leaders whenever needed.

**MEETINGS:** This large group meets on an ad-hoc basis. Smaller focus groups meet whenever necessary; an example is when a new program is introduced. (We introduced Splash in early 2007 and we'll introduce Akaloo in fall 2007.) The larger Christian Education group will meet on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

**CONTACT PERSONS:** Please contact Kathy Moody @ 824-9632 or Pastor John if you are interested in offering your assistance to any of the Christian Education groups.

## HEALTH CABINET

**MISSION:** The healing ministry of Jesus inspires the ministries of St. John's congregation to promote the transformation of our faith community into a source of wholistic health and healing.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** The cabinet meets with the parish nurse once a year to design the health programs and topics of articles and the bulletin board and as needed for participation in health programs.

**MEETINGS:** Early September, generally after the 11:00 a.m. worship service and as needed.

**CONTACT PERSONS:** Joe Brady @ 668-9080  
Gary Huenniger @ 668-5075

## PARISH NURSE

**MISSION:** I promise as Parish Nurse, with God's help, to minister to His people, guiding them to take responsibility for their spiritual, physical and emotional well being. As I serve in this healing ministry, I will nourish my own body, mind and spirit through prayer, scripture and peer support with the aide of my faith community.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?**

- † Parish Nurse meets with Pastor quarterly to review the shut-in list and decide who we will visit.
- † Monthly articles, quarterly bulletin boards and an annual intergenerational program as per design/recommendation of the Health Cabinet
- † Blood pressure monitoring is offered monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month by request.
- † Parish Nurse is notified of those parishioners who are hospitalized by the Pastor or church Administrative Assistant. Discharge planning follow-up and visit per request or need are made.
- † Health Care Proxy/5 Wishes are presented in a table talk annually and assistance with questions and form completion are given as needed.
- † Participates in healing services, funerals and shut-in services

**MEETINGS:** See Health Cabinet

**CONTACT PERSON:** Carrie Weinreich @ 693-1898

## **HANDS & HEARTS KNITTING MINISTRY**

*MISSION:* Our hands become God's hands, when we use them as instruments of sharing Christ's love with others. The mission of Hands and Hearts Knitting Ministry is two-fold.

- The first is that of outreach, by knitting (or crocheting) items for those in need.
- The second is that of fostering an environment of learning and fellowship while working with one's hands.

### *HOW IS THIS DONE?*

- Outreach is achieved by identifying needs and knitting (or crocheting) items to meet these needs. Examples include prayer shawls, premie caps and sweaters for impoverished children around the world through Guideposts' "Knit for Kids" sweater project.
- Secondly, those interested in knitting, or learning how to knit are welcome to join us. Also anyone who may not knit, but performs other hand/needlework may also come and join in the fellowship of this group. It has been said that this group must be having the most fun, as peals of laughter are usually heard coming from the room where we meet.

*MEETINGS:* Hands and Hearts meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, 7:00-9:00 P.M., from September through June (no meetings in July and August). It is not necessary to attend every gathering. Participants can come when they are able.

*CONTACT PERSONS:* Linda Wetzler @ 668-3569  
Corinne Northem @ 668-7766

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*MISSION:* The Sunday Church School provides opportunities for children in pre-school through 7<sup>th</sup> grade to learn about our faith.

*WHAT IS DONE?* The committee's job is to ensure the Sunday School teachers are provided support and resources to effectively teach our children.

*MEETINGS:* The Sunday School teachers meet on a monthly basis while Sunday Church School is in session. Additionally, the Co-Superintendents and Treasurer meet on an ad-hoc basis whenever necessary. If you are interested in helping out the SCS either through teaching, aiding the teachers, or helping out for special programs; please contact the persons named below.

*CONTACT PERSON:* Sandy Haase @ 674-8109 or  
Kathy Moody @ 824-9632.

## **PRESCHOOL**

*MISSION:* To provide a quality and well rounded education for 3 & 4 year olds preparing them for Kindergarten.

*HOW IS THIS DONE?* We work to make the transition from home to school a happy one through careful planning by experienced teachers. Our class time is spent in a Christian setting; the areas are designed and supervised to encourage creativity while at the same time meeting the children's individual and special needs.

### *CLASS TIMES:*

4 year olds M-W-F 9:00-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3:00 p.m.  
3 year olds T-T 9:00-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3:00 p.m.  
Enhanced Kindergarten readiness program  
M-F 12:30-3:00 p.m.

*MEETINGS:* Preschool Board meets four times a year; the staff meets on a regular basis.

*CONTACT PERSON:* Sandy Haase, director  
School @ 668-3584  
Home @ 674-8109

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

### † Sunday Morning Bible Study

**MISSION:** To be inspired by God's Word and its application to our daily lives.

#### *HOW IS THIS DONE?*

- ☼ The group picks a topic or a book of the Bible. We read and discuss the lessons.
- ☼ Courses presented have included: Women of the Old Testament, the Book of Isaiah and Thirteen Miracles from the Life of Christ.
- ☼ The leader does the extra Biblical work to enhance our study.

**CLASSES:** Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in Room #111, the copy room in the Education Building.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Carrie Weinreich @ 693-1898  
Gary Huenninger @ 668-5075

### † Adult Forum (Sunday Morning)

**MISSION:** To provide an educational opportunity for adults on Sunday morning so that adults may also be part of the ongoing Christian learning process.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** Programs are scheduled as a cooperative effort with the Pastor and leaders from the Christian Education and Membership Committees. Suggestions from attendees are also welcomed. Topics include:

- ☼ Bible based studies such as Peter and Revelation
- ☼ ELCA suggested courses such as those on Sexuality
- ☼ Guest speakers from the Samaritan Counseling Center or other venues of interest
- ☼ Participation in scheduled Intergenerational Events or special programs such as "Kuchen and Carols" at Christmas or "Making Palm Crosses" during Lent.

**CLASSES:** Classes are held Sunday morning in the Fellowship Room from 9:35 – 10:30 a.m. September through June.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Nancy Kessler @ 674-7950

### † Tuesday Evening Bible Study

**MISSION:** To study faith-related topics of all kinds in a relaxed, informal setting.

- ☼ At our monthly meetings, we educate ourselves via a brief bible study. We support each other, offering prayers for our loved ones and for fellow church members in need. Our sessions last approximately 90 minutes.
- ☼ What types of ministries do we participate in? All of them! Look at the Table of Contents of this booklet to view a complete list of the ministries at St. John's

**MEETINGS:** We meet once a month at 7:30pm, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month (Except for July & August).

**CONTACT PERSON:** Sue Koeppel @ 823-2071 or  
Kathy Moody @ 824-9632

## CEMETERY

**MISSION:** St. John's Cemetery was established in 1864 to provide an affordable, church affiliated, final resting place for members and their families. Over the years, the cemetery has evolved into a community cemetery.

#### *HOW IS THIS DONE?*

- During the past year we were faced with the difficult task of cleaning up the aftermath of the October Surprise, the October 13<sup>th</sup> storm that left our trees heavily damaged.
- Maintain the property and arranging for burials is ongoing.
- The part-time staff takes care of maintenance and burials while the administrator takes care of the administrative work.
- Anyone interested in becoming involved with the ongoing ministry of the cemetery is invited to contact Carolly Huth.

**MEETINGS:** The Cemetery Committee, per se, does not hold regularly scheduled meetings as our main purpose is burials. Meetings are held when a decision needs to be made or a recommendation needs to be presented to the Congregation Council for approval.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Carolly Huth, Cemetery Administrator  
@ 826-0506



## SERVE

*"Gathered to worship; scattered to serve."*

*The Christian life is not one of maintenance, but one of mission, and that mission is in and to the world.*

† **What part does service play in your Christian life?**

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL (CHURCH COUNCIL)

**MISSION:** The Congregation Council has general oversight of the life and activities of the congregation, and in particular worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Congregation Council is also responsible for the financial and property matters of the congregation.

### *HOW IS THIS DONE?*

- ⊗ Your Congregation Council is made up of the pastor and no more than 15 elected members of the congregation. A non-elected, non-voting member of the council is the Treasurer.
- ⊗ Each year in August, elections are held to fill vacant seats on the Council. Members are elected to three year terms (you can serve two terms consecutively.)
- ⊗ Each Council member has an area of responsibility. During the month, the Council member is expected to meet with their small group and make positive progress towards the goals of that particular ministry.
- ⊗ During the meeting, each member is responsible for completing a written report that summarizes the actions their ministries took during the previous month. It is at the monthly meetings when the Council acts on any business of the church as well. This might include anything from reviewing contracts for snow removal to discussions surrounding the best use of our church funds.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** Below are a few examples of Bible studies we have done in the past.

- ⊗ "NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY" by Kelly A. Fryer. In this Bible study; we read verses from the Bible, listened for God's voice and talked about what we heard.
- ⊗ "SEE THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES" by Harry Wendt. This Bible study underscored the importance of understanding all that preceded Jesus, in order to grasp the truly immense and earth-shattering nature of His life and ministry.
- ⊗ "OPENING THE BIBLE" by Robert Kysar. This study helped us rethink some of the questions that haunt us today concerning the Bible and helped us toward reading the Bible with greater meaning.
- ⊗ "TEN KEY PEOPLE FROM THE BIBLE - Bible Basics for Adults" In this study we read passages that have given strength and guidance to people for centuries. These passages helped us become familiar with key stories of the Bible and to see our life experiences as a part of the story of the people of God.
- ⊗ "WHO IS JESUS?" by Sheldon Tostengard, "WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?" by Foster R. & Jannine B. McCurley, "WHY BOTHER?" by Robert Benne and "WHAT HAPPENS IN THE END?" by Philip Ruge-Jones. These books provided key biblical and Lutheran theological teachings that served as the foundation for discussion which helped us connect these core teachings with our lives today.

**MEETINGS:** Currently we plan to meet from October through mid December, every Tuesday evening in the Fellowship Room from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Amy Setlock @ 651-9603

If you are interested, **ALL ARE WELCOME** to join this highly amusing group of individuals for faith-based studies...hope to see you there!

## † **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

**MISSION:** The mission of the Thursday morning Bible Study is to foster Christian learning, fellowship, and service.

### *HOW IS THIS DONE?*

- ⊗ The group has studied a variety of books, such as Footsteps of the Fisherman - a book about St. Peter, a short course on Christian hymnody and selections of/or books of the Bible such as Revelation.
- ⊗ Pastor John and lay volunteers provide leadership for the group.

- ☼ The group provides leadership for the homebound luncheon and worship gathering that takes place in Advent, Christmas Lent and Easter each year.

**CLASSES:** The study group meets each Thursday morning at 11:00 a.m. Each session begins and ends with prayer and last until about 12:15 p.m. Currently the group meets in the activity room of the Burchfield's Commons on Union Road next to the Arby's near French Road. The group is active from September to May or June.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Pastor John @ 668-2152  
Everyone is welcome!

### † Thursday Evening Bible Study

**MISSION:** The mission of the Thursday evening Bible Study is to foster Christian learning, fellowship, and service.

#### *HOW IS THIS DONE?*

- ☼ The group has studied a variety of books, such as Footsteps of the Fisherman - a book about St. Peter
- ☼ Selections of/or books of the Bible such as Revelation.

**CLASSES:** The study group meets each first and third Thursday evening of the month at 7:00 p.m. Sessions begin and end with prayer and last until about 8:15 p.m. Currently the group meets at St. John's in the Fellowship Room or the copy room.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Pastor John @ 668-2152  
Everyone is welcome!

### † Saturday Morning Men's Bible Study

**MISSION:** To provide a place for men to gather around God's word and discuss topics relative to their lives.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** The Bible that we are using is entitled "*Master Builders Bible for Men*". There are ten major topics in the Bible that cover:

- ☼ Men, Women, Singles
- ☼ Marriage, Parenting, Youth
- ☼ Market Place, Spirituality
- ☼ Special Needs and Recovery

Each topic presents several subjects relating to the major topic and is based around scripture. Discussions as well as personal reflection are outgrowths of the time spent together. We also have prayer time for all concerns and pray for one another.

## VISION FOR MISSION

**MISSION:** To provide a long range plan or overall direction for St. John's. The committee seeks to be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit in being responsive to the changes and challenges of being effective and faithful to our Lord Jesus.

#### *HOW IS THIS DONE?*

- ☼ The committee has been active in the current year and has been prayerfully asking questions.
- ☼ Through the support of the committee Pastor John has encouraged the formation of a young adult fellowship and study group.
- ☼ Everyone is welcome to be part of this ministry through your prayer support.

**MEETINGS:** The committee has meets about every other month at a date and time convenient for the members.

**CONTACT PERSONS:** Don Denzel @ 674-7945 or  
Pastor John @ 668-2152  
If you have suggestions or would like to serve.

## YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

**MISSION:** To provide a time and place for conversation and support for the Christian lifestyle among young adults.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** As this is a new small group for St. John's it is still in the planning stages. Anyone 20 something to 30 something is welcome and invited to help design this ministry.

**MEETINGS:** The group meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Steve Heine @ 432-0100

## GROUP FELLOWSHIP

**MISSION:** To provide good Christian Fellowship for adults of all ages, young and old, couples and singles by scheduling a variety of fun and/or educational activities. Many events are planned with families in mind and are great fun for children.

### HOW IS THIS DONE?

- ⊗ Monthly meetings are usually potluck dinners followed by a program, games, videos, a speaker or annually a planning session to schedule events for the year.
- ⊗ Special yearly events include:
  - New Years Eve “Elegant Potluck”  
fun, fellowship and worship
  - Valentines Dinner out
  - Brunch Cruise on the “Grand Lady”
  - Plan and sponsor “Adventure” an Advent family event to help get ready for the coming of the Christ Child. It includes a pizza supper and family project.
  - Christmas Caroling to St. John’s shut-ins
- ⊗ Other activities have included the Lancaster Opera House, a trip to the Shaw Festival, a tour of the Corning Glass Works, various museums and points of interest in Western New York.

**MEETINGS:** The Group Fellowship usually meets and schedules activities on the second Saturday of each month. However, that date may be changed due to the availability and scheduling of special events.

Meetings and activities are announced in the worship bulletins; posters are hung in the entrance hallway off the parking lot (sign- up and pre-pay may be required when advance reservations are needed) and listed in the monthly “Crossbeam”.

**CONTACT PERSONS:** Gary and Sandy Huenniger @ 668-5075  
Jeanne Stover @ 674-1032

**MEETINGS:** Saturday morning, usually every six to eight weeks and set up with group needs considered. We meet for one to one and one half hours. Watch the Crossbeam and Bulletins for upcoming dates

**CONTACT PERSON:** Jerry Schuler @ 822 7704 or  
Jerry Schuler @ 891 3722 (daytime) or  
Pastor at the office @ 668 2152 daytime.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** All men of the church are welcome and if you have a friend bring him along as well. We are just starting out so flexibility is one of our major traits.



## WORSHIP

Worship sets us on the path of the cross-shaped life of discipleship; we acknowledge God's participation in our lives, and we offer ourselves in service to the neighbor.

† **What part does worship (public and private) play in your Christian life?**

## WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

**MISSION:** The Worship and Music Committee seeks to plan, coordinate and implement innovative and helpful worship experiences for St. John's congregation.

### HOW IS THIS DONE?

- † The committee uses creative ideas and suggestions received from a variety of sources to be part of the worship.
- † The committee is always open to all who love the Lord and seek his Praise.
- † Worship and Music is most noted for hosting the annual Greening of the Church.
- † We also coordinated the purchase of the new hymnals.

**MEETINGS:** The first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Carrie Weinreich, Chairperson  
@ 693-1898

## ALTAR GUILD

**MISSION:** The Altar Guild is the ministry of preparing and maintaining the vessels, altar and chancel area before and after worship.

### **HOW IS THIS DONE:**

- ✠ Members of the Altar Guild set up the church altar for weekly church services by preparing the elements for communion and Baptism, placing/arranging altar flowers, changing the paraments as needed, maintaining the altar linens and candles.
- ✠ Rose buds are placed on the altar for baby's births; Altar flowers are purchased for weeks that are not sponsored.
- ✠ Fund raisers are organized to pay for altar linens, communion implements, and various other altar needs. Fund raisers include the flower calendar, a Penny sale, the Easter breakfast, the Christmas poinsettia and Easter plant sale.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP?**

- ✠ Members sign up in a monthly rotation to care for the altar. You prepare the altar for services during the weekends of the month(s) you are scheduled.
- ✠ Typical duties would include preparing for Sunday morning 8:30 am service on Saturday evening, and then resetting the altar between Sunday services in preparation for the 11am service. Cleanup is also done, after the 11am service.
- ✠ The time commitment is approximately one hour every weekend during the assigned month. Members are paired in teams, which makes the work go quickly.
- ✠ You can also help by sponsoring flowers on the altar to commemorate your loved ones or celebration of special days (a sign up sheet is in church, across from the elevator).
- ✠ ***New members are always welcome!*** Attending meetings is not required to serve on this committee. You will be scheduled with an experienced Altar Guild member(s) to ensure you have support.

**MEETINGS:** The Altar Guild meets quarterly; September, November, February and June at 9:30am in the copy room of the educational building.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Connie Arnold @ 674- 2409.

## CROSSBEAM (NEWSLETTER)

**MISSION:** The Crossbeam is the official newsletter of St. John's. It is published ten times per year.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** You can help by submitting articles to Sue Koeppel ([skoeppe@adelphia.net](mailto:skoeppe@adelphia.net)) or leaving articles in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office by the second Sunday of each month.

**MEETINGS:** For a more hands-on experience, you can help assemble the Crossbeam. All ages are welcome. This is usually done the second-last week of the month. Assembly takes approximately two hours. Please let Sue know if you are interested in helping. "Many hands make light work."

**CONTACT PERSON:** Sue Koeppel, Editor @ 823-2071

## PARISH SOCIAL LIFE

**MISSION:** The Parish Social Life committee's purpose is to provide opportunities for fellowship among the members of the congregation.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** The committee's job is to develop activities that take into consideration all ages and interests of the congregation and to provide functions, both on and off premises that aid the members in getting to know each other better. If you have a penchant for party planning, this is the group for you!

**MEETINGS:** This group's next meeting is Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup> immediately following church, so that we may finalize plans for the Hal-luau-ween party in October. Next meeting dates will be decided then.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Please contact Kathy Moody @ 824-9632 if you're interested in helping to plan any of our activities.



## ENCOURAGEMENT

Luther envisioned a community of friends, called together to listen to the Good News and challenged to be a mouthpiece of that Good News to one another in speech, comfort, and friendship.

✝ **What part does encouragement play in your Christian life?**

## FRIENDS IN DEED

**MISSION:** The purpose or mission of "Friends in Deed" is to provide a ministry of caring for the home bound members of St. John's. Homebound members are unable to attend church on a regular basis due to some physical limitation.

### *HOW IS THIS DONE?*

Volunteers are trained in visitation so that they feel comfortable to maintain a relationship with a specific individual or household for a one year commitment. During that year, "Friends in Deed" volunteers are encouraged to make a visit, telephone call, or send a card as often as possible.

- ☺ "Friends in Deed" has been a ministry of St. John's for two years and has a list of 4-6 active volunteers. Even with a once a month contact, the ministry has generated a total of at least 120 visits in the past two years.
- ☺ Individuals of any age may participate. This would be a wonderful ministry for an entire family.

**MEETINGS:** The volunteers meet in the fall of each year at a predetermined meeting to review progress, ask questions, share suggestions and receive new volunteers. The meeting this year will be held on Tuesday, September 25 at 7:00 p.m.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Carrie Weinreich @ 693-1898 or  
Pastor John @ 668-2152  
to ask questions or volunteer.

## ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS

**MISSION:** An opportunity for youth at St. John's to participate as an active worship leader at worship services.

### *HOW IS THIS DONE:*

**Acolytes** - begin at 4th grade and are responsible for lighting and extinguishing the altar candles.

**Crucifers** - begin at appropriate grade and height and are responsible for leading Pastor and the choir as they enter and exit the church at services.

**MEETINGS:** None

**TO BE INVOLVED:** About a half hour training session with Kyle Whelan; you will then be put on a rotation schedule for the 8:30 or 11:00 am services.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Linda Altman @ 822-8417 or  
Kyle Whelan @ 668-5622  
New volunteers are always welcome!

## ASSISTING MINISTERS

**MISSION:** To support the worship liturgy of the congregation for each Sunday worship service and for seasonal services in Lent, Advent and Easter.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** The assisting ministers provide an invaluable service to show that the liturgy of the congregation is the work of the whole people of God and not just the pastor.

**MEETINGS:** Assisting ministers meet once or twice a year to share updates on their work together and to prepare for changes in the worship life of the congregation.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Pastor John @ 668-2152  
Any baptized member of St. John's is welcome to be considered to be an assisting minister. Speak to Pastor John of your interest.

## **BAND (FOLK BAND)**

**MISSION:** To provide instrumental leadership to the congregation at times when a contemporary worship service is used.

### **HOW IS THIS DONE?**

- ✠ The band plays the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month (September – June).
- ✠ Liturgical music and hymns are selected according to the scripture lessons assigned for the day of the church year.
- ✠ The music (liturgy and hymns) are appropriate for other instruments in order to give a “folk” sound.

**MEETINGS:** Music is prepared weeks in advance for rehearsals. Rehearsals are usually held the first Sunday of the month at 9:45 a.m. between worship services.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Nick Kempski @675-3472

## **CHOIR**

**MISSION:** To musically lead the congregation during a liturgical worship service; to provide meditative and/or inspirational music during the offering.

### **HOW IS THIS DONE?**

- ✠ The choir sings at the 11:00 a.m. service
- ✠ The adult choir rehearses music appropriate to the occasion... scripture for the day is considered in the selection process.
- ✠ The adult choir learns and prepares for changes in the liturgical setting in order to better assist the congregation during the learning process.
- ✠ Specialty music is provided for such days as Christmas Eve, Holy Week and Easter. Other special events may also require a choir such as installations, ordinations or anniversaries.
- ✠ **Reading music is not necessary**; welcome all who love to sing.

**MEETINGS:** Rehearsals are usually held on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. On occasion, rehearsals follow the 11:00 a.m. Sunday worship service. The triple classroom in the Educational building is used. Rehearsals are not held during the summer worship schedule (late June – Labor Day)

**CONTACT PERSON:** Nick Kempski @675-3472  
Karen Rothenberger, Music Librarian @ 675-9467

## **YOUTH MINISTRY/YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MISSION:** The mission of youth ministry is:

- ☺ to help improve the discipleship of young people
- ☺ to integrate youth representation into all ministries at St. John's
- ☺ to encourage Christian growth in the promises of Baptism

### **HOW IS THIS DONE?**

- ☺ In the Youth Group there are five Youth Officer Positions including President, Treasurer, Social Chair, Service Chair and Publicity.
- ☺ The Youth Advisory Committee plans and assists in identifying the needs and wants of the youth at St. John's and also to identify the needs of the youth in our community and create means to better serve those needs.
- ☺ Youth Ministry promotes travel to ELCA youth gatherings and has sent representatives to work on disaster relief in New Orleans.
- ☺ Programs and activities include discussion groups, Bible study, service projects, fund raising events and fellowship.

**MEETINGS:** The Youth Officers meet every first Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m. The Youth Advisory Committee meets every first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

**CONTACT PERSONS:** Advisor - Jason Yelder @ 208-9704 or [Yelder713@yahoo.com](mailto:Yelder713@yahoo.com)  
Youth - Nick Doucette @ 826-0879  
[JesusBoy24777@aol.com](mailto:JesusBoy24777@aol.com)

† Caring for Others

Providing and displaying an assortment of “Care Notes” and reaching out to members when attendance patterns change.

† Lenten Devotional

An annual, cooperative effort among St. John’s and other area churches featuring a provocative theme and volunteer writers and talented illustrators.

† Education

Committee members provide a leadership role in Adult Forum scheduling, Intergenerational Events and the annual Adult Retreat.

**MEETINGS:**

DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month  
(September – June)

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Fellowship Room

**CONTACT PERSON:** Janet Hender @ 822-0952  
New members ALWAYS welcome!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**MISSION:** To provide children from St. John’s, First Presbyterian, St. David’s and the community with an opportunity to learn about God’s love while enjoying the arts, music and each other.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?**

- † A Vacation Bible School program is planned each summer as a cooperative effort with First Presbyterian Church and St. David’s Episcopal Church. It generally meets from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon for a week (Monday –Friday)
- † Children from ages 3-11 enjoy music, Bible stories, games, crafts and snacks.
- † Registration is free and all are welcome!
- † Parents and grandparents are also welcome to volunteer.

**MEETINGS:** A committee representing all three churches meets starting about 5 months prior to the Vacation Bible School scheduled date. Summer 2007, VBS will be held July 23-27.

**CONTACT PERSONS:** Mary Cox @ 681-3680  
Jill Wolf @ 668-8531

**DEACON MINISTRY**

**MISSION:** The mission of Deacon Ministry is to assist the ministry of the congregation through pastoral visitation, worship leadership, preaching and teaching.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?**

- † Deacons of St. John's lead worship once a month at the Saturday service and occasionally preach on Sundays.
- † Some are trained to lead worship and do so regularly as assisting ministers.
- † Some deacons provide pastoral visitation to homebound members and some visit members who are hospitalized.

**MEETINGS:** Deacons meet on a quarterly basis for networking with Pastor John and sharing insights and challenges for the ministry of the congregation.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Pastor John @ 668-2152

Anyone is a confirmed member of St. John's is welcome to speak to Pastor John about their interest in participating in this ministry.

**GATEKEEPERS**

**MISSION:** As the Saturday service is less formal than the Sunday services, there are no ushers, acolytes or assisting ministers. The goal/mission of the gatekeepers is to assist the Pastor by performing some of these functions.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?**

- † On Saturday the Gatekeepers arrive early and unlock the doors, take the flowers for the altar up to the church, place them in the vases and put them on the altar.
- † They put the small table in the middle aisle and place the bulletins on it.
- † They set up the altar with the communion items and assist the Pastor at communion time by serving the wine.
- † They light the candles before service and extinguish them afterwards. They also take the offering at the appropriate time.
- † After worship they put away the communion items, make sure all doors and windows are closed and locked and all lights are off.

**MEETINGS:** We have no meetings. Anyone who attends the Saturday service on a fairly regular basis can volunteer to become a Gatekeeper by contacting Amy Setlock or any of the current Gatekeepers. Training is done at church before the service. We would really like to have a few more volunteers and then you would only serve about once every other month

**CONTACT PERSON:** Amy Setlock @ 651-9603

## USHERS & GREETERS

**MISSION:** Ushers and greeters are part of the worship team helping to share God's good news and that everyone is welcome and important.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** The main task for the ushers and greeters is to relate to the people who come through the doors of our church in a way that demonstrates that we are there for them.

Some of the services provided by the **greeters** are:

- † Practice a hospitality that is grounded in our love for our Lord Jesus.
- † Demonstrate a genuine appreciation for each person.
- † A handshake of greeting, a word of "welcome" or "good morning" accompanied by looking the person in the eye all help to constitute a warm greeting.
- † Be prepared to answer a question or to provide directions and/or assistance.

Some of the services provided by the **ushers** are:

- † Good communication with others on the usher team is important.
- † Good communication with people who arrive for worship is important.
- † Pass out bulletins to adults as well as children.
- † Gather the offering.
- † Provide assistance with communion.

New volunteers for Ushers and Greeters are always welcome and cordially invited.

**MEETINGS:** None scheduled; occasional update with the Pastor.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Roger McGill @ 684-2567.



† **What part does invitation and evangelization play in your Christian life?**

## INVITE

*More than just a practice, the gift of invitation is the very way we live in relationship with others who have yet to hear and believe.*

**HOSPITALITY** - Kindness in welcoming guests or strangers

**MISSION:** The mission of hospitality is to welcome all. Whether it is members of St. John's or visitors of St. John's, we want everyone to feel like they are at home.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** Hospitality makes sure that for a special event drinks, food and desserts are provided.

**MEETINGS:** We do not meet on a regular basis, but when called upon, we step up to provide what is needed.

**CONTACT PERSON:** If you would like to be on a list to be called upon for food or dessert, please contact Renee Then at 674-2344.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

**MISSION:** As disciples of Jesus, to **Welcome – Nurture – Encourage - Reach out** to members of St. John's, visitors and the community.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?**

- † Discovery Classes for new and existing members  
Provide dinner, new member sponsors, integration of new members into active congregational life
- † "News From the Pews"  
Bulletin board updated frequently picturing noteworthy events in the life of our members such as baptisms, weddings, confirmation, congregational activities and members highlighted in the news.

## STEWARDSHIP

**MISSION:** Spiritual Growth, by giving prayerfully through or beyond tithing. Understand stewardship, and the joyful celebration of the mission and ministry of our congregation.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** Coordinate yearly or bi-yearly events that support our goals and mission.

**MEETINGS:** Our group meets usually on a monthly basis, Saturday afternoons at 3:30 PM. Other dates or times can be arranged to suit the schedules of the members.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Ron Wirth @ 674-0308 or 432-1554 (cell)

## CORNERSTONE MISSION FUND

**MISSION:** To allow for faithful giving in response to God's goodness through accumulated, inherited and appreciated resources during life or at death.

**HOW IS THIS DONE?** The Cornerstone Fund of St. John's is an opportunity to exercise Christian stewardship through a perpetual fund from which ordinary income (interest and dividends) are distributed to sponsor ministry at home and around the world, above and beyond the programs supported through regular offerings.

- † The Cornerstone Fund serves as a resource to support three areas of ministry namely building and maintenance, youth scholarships and Mission outreach.
- † Bequests, transfers, CD's and charitable gift annuities shall be some of the means by which the leadership and members of St. John's shall be encouraged to support the Fund.
- † The Cornerstone Mission fund committee shall manage the operation of the fund. Members (total of 6) are nominated by the pastor and council president and approved by a vote at the annual congregational meeting.

**MEETINGS:** Meetings are held about 4 times per year, usually the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the copy room of the education building.

**CONTACT PERSON:** George Kessler @ 674-7950

*"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness." – Matthew 25:23*

## The Call to Discipleship

Jesus says,  
"Follow Me!"



## How do we answer that call?



*Living our Baptism!*

PRAY Frequently

STUDY Scripture

WORSHIP Regularly

INVITE Others Often

SERVE for the Sake of Others

ENCOURAGE – Pass on the Faith

GIVE Freely