



# The Voice

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OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2175 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET • WHITE BEAR LAKE, MINNESOTA 55110

*Return Service Requested*

[www.stjohnwilderness.org](http://www.stjohnwilderness.org) 651/429-5351

**SUNDAYS**

7:30, 9 & 10:30 am,  
 Nursery Care at 9 & 10:30 am  
 Sunday School & Adult Formation 10 am

**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

7 pm Holy Eucharist  
 Nursery Care at 6 pm

**PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Mark Wm. Kelm	Rector
The Rev. Joanie Delamater	Associate Priest
The Rev. Marilyn Baldwin	Associate Priest
The Rev. Rick Todd	Deacon
The Rev. Debra Welch	Deacon
Maureen Vruno	Parish Administrator
Sheila Foster	Youth & Children's Minister
Dr. David M. Gehrenbeck	Organist/Choirmaster
Helen Gehrenbeck	Youth Choir Director
Bob Cessna	Sexton
Lorna Cessna	Nursery Care
Cheryl Sticha	Nursery Care
Kate Vincent	Kids Hope

**VESTRY**

Chris Hawley	Warden
Ken Paddock	Warden
Margaret Thor	Treasurer
Becky Monson	Clerk of Vestry
June Bennett	2008
Michael Carpenter	2008
Tom Long	2008
John Fennig	2009
Brent Torgerson	2009
Rich Hovland	2010
Gayle Kasmani	2010
Tim Schmuck	2010
Krista Sullivan	2010

People of the Parish

The Ministers



January  
 2008

Volume 50  
 Issue 1

*Gathering in Love to Serve*

The "Voice" is published as a monthly newsletter of The Episcopal Church of St. John in the Wilderness



## IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

"For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. **For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

*Romans 8:31-39. Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.*

In the bleak days of a Minnesota January, it can be tough to keep your spirits up when the temperature is so far down and we have so few hours of sun light. It is in these dark days that I like to curl up with *the Good Book* and open myself to the amazing message of God's radical love for all of us. God showed His love for us in the manger of Bethlehem, which eventually led to the cross of Calvary.

While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us showing us that God is in love with us and seeks a personal relationship with each one of us through Jesus. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the working of the Holy Spirit. Scripture clearly shows us that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. So then, where is the joy even in these dark days?

This love does not originate in our heart, but is a gift from God. It is Christ who lives in us. We, then, are called to walk in love as Christ loved us. As we drive on the wintery roads, shovel mountains of snow, and deal with uncertain economic futures, do the people surrounding us know that we are Christians by our love? Can those who still are in the dark see that there is nothing that can separate us from God's love once we have experienced it in the Risen Lord? If you are unsure what I am talking about, be like the Wise Men and search. . . If you know what I am talking about, let your faith shine like the star that led the Magi to the Christ Child.

Wherever you are on your faith journey...St. John's welcomes you.

## ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR JANUARY

*All Are Welcome!*

**Sunday Mornings, 10 am in the Parlor** (except 1/20 due to Annual Parish Meeting)

David Monyak leads a new series based on the book *Quarks, Chaos & Christianity* by John Polkinghorne. If you are interested in purchasing this book (approximate cost is \$10) please sign the sheet in the Parish Hall and we will reserve one for you.

**Wednesday Evenings**

**5:30 pm** Light Supper in the Parish Hall

**6 pm in the Parlor** We continue our series, *Called to be Disciples*, in which we explore and discuss the various ways God calls us to follow.

**Are you interested in a Sunday morning Bible study?** Several people have expressed interest in a lay-led Bible study during coffee hour (10-10:30 am). If you feel called to participate in this ministry, please sign the list in the Parish Hall and we will begin as soon as we have "two or three to gather in his name." Contact Rev. Marilyn, 651/429-5351 ext. 16.

**Are you looking for a deeper spiritual experience?** An Episcopal Cursillo weekend will be held on January 23 (pm) through January 27 at St. John the Evangelist Church in St. Paul. All adults are welcome, and couples are encouraged to participate together. For more information go to [www.mncursillo.org](http://www.mncursillo.org), check the Adult Formation board, or see any clergy person.

**Save the date!** On Sunday afternoon, February 24, we will sponsor a dynamic local speaker, author, and forensic pathologist, Dr. Janis Amatuzio, to speak about after-death experiences and how they help us overcome our grief and understand our own spiritual experiences. You won't want to miss this event. Call Rev. Marilyn, 651/429-5351 ext. 16, with questions or to volunteer to help make this happen.

## WELCOMING & EVANGELISM NEWS

**Are you new to St. John's within the past year?** On January 13 during the 10:30 service we will officially welcome and bless all who have joined us recently. Please sign up in the Parish Hall so we may officially recognize you as a new member of our congregation. (Do you need a nametag? There is a signup sheet for that too!) Contact Rev. Marilyn, 651/429-5351 ext. 16, with your questions.

**How can we become a more welcoming church,** and why should we? Our call is to proclaim the Good News far and wide, and to do it within our community as well. We do a good job of extending a welcome to newcomers, but we can always do better! A few ways to begin:

1. **Wear your nametag!** It helps us all to remember each others' names, and to distinguish newcomers so we can reach out to them.
2. **Help us create our own photo directory** so we may add new people on a regular basis without the expense of a major directory. Send your digital family photos to Rev. Marilyn, [baldwinme@aol.com](mailto:baldwinme@aol.com). (Please identify family members.)
3. If you like photography, call Rev. Marilyn, 651/429-5351 ext. 16, and **volunteer to take photos** on Sunday mornings for the directory.
4. **Join the Welcoming team!** We love new ideas and are always looking for creative people to join us. Contact Randy Johnson, 651/484-9215, or see Rev. Marilyn.

## PASSAGES

### BAPTISMS

Bryn Anne McVay 11/4/2007

Lawson Grant Rainer 12/23/2007

Emma LaVelle Zarbok 12/23/2007

Kathryn Jean Penna 12/23/2007

### BURIALS

Eugene Thomas Napiwoski

12/10/2007

Betty Jane Murphy 12/17/2007

## THANK YOU

### PARISHIONER HOUSEHOLDS

### FOR YOUR RECENT PLEDGES TO THE 2008 GENERAL FUND

Jim Bartley

Bruce Betker

Bert Larson

Eva Jane Larson

Priscilla Moody

Burnett Sullivan

Zachary Tabor

Elizabeth Whillock

## DEO GRACIAS!

The climactic conclusion of Michael Djupstrom's premiered "Adam lay ybounden" sums it all up: "Deo gracias, Deo gracias!": "Thanks be to God!"

Thanks be to God, indeed! We were thrilled by the response to Lessons and Carols--in the chancel, the nave, and balcony, too. The choirs--singing and ringing--gave their all, as did many others, too many to cite in this short but heartfelt note. And what a wonderful reception in the Parish Hall!

And suddenly Easter is less than three months hence (March 23). Which suggests it is none too early to be thinking about an Easter Choir! Happy New Year!

--Helen and David Gehrenbeck

## December Vestry Hilites

1. Margaret presented the proposed 2008 Financial Plan (with short-falls) 3 main areas of concentration: Outreach, Children's Ministry & Youth Ministry. We didn't use any Capital funds in 2006, but will transfer approx. \$100,000 for 2007 & \$85,000 in 2008.

2. White Bear Lake Library Discussion: this is the time of year that the board considers upgrading area libraries; WBL & Shoreview are their targets.

3. Fr. Mark notified The Boy Scouts & the AA group who meet in our building that their fees would increase from \$15/week to \$45. He distributed letters from both parties declining the increase. They will each look for a different meeting location.

4. The Vestry approved each clergy member's housing allowance.

5. Our Sexton has walking pneumonia, and we need help in keeping up his duties while he is out. Brent (Property Committee Chair) will research the cost of backup service.

6. **All Parish Financial Meeting, 10 am January 13; Vestry Meeting, January 15; Annual Parish Meeting, 9 am January 20**

## Kids Hope Update

**Kids Hope USA** made an entry in St. John's History book! Three of the mentors have begun meeting with their students. Reports from both volunteers and the school indicate the experience is everything we have prayed and worked so hard for over the past several months. Thanks and praise be to God!

*Thank you* to the parishioners who have contributed funds to begin this Outreach Ministry, who believed in our vision for the Kids Hope USA program, and our wonderful faith community who volunteer as Mentors, Prayer Partners and Substitute Mentors. Let us not forget those who serve on the Leadership Team who labor and plan to ensure stability & growth of this new ministry that serves our community and demonstrates Christ's love to all whom it reaches.

We still need more mentors and prayer partners! Could *you* be the one to make a difference in the life of one of these young people, one hour, one day a week?

Contact Kate Vincent or pick up an information packet from the communication board in the Parish Hall.

The Kids Hope USA Ministry wishes a blessed New Year to all!



## Bible Readings

January 6

The Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6,9

Psalms 72:1-7,10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

January 13

First Sunday

after the Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

January 20

Second Sunday

after the Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalms 40:1-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

January 27

Third Sunday

after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalms 27:1, 5-13

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

*Underlined verses  
are read by the Lector  
during the family-friendly  
9:00 liturgy.*

# St John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church-January 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Every Sunday</p> <p>7:30 am Eucharist (no music) 9 am Family-friendly Eucharist 10 am Christian Education 10:30 am Choral Eucharist Nursery care available 9 &amp; 10:30 11:30 am Handbell Choir (St. Cecilia's Room)</p>		<p>1 New Year's Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>No choir or youth events this evening</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline 6:30 pm Welcoming &amp; Evangelism Committee Meeting (Caribou Coffee, hwy 96 &amp; Centerville Rd) All are welcome! 6:30 pm Bead Workshop</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Noon Youth Scavenger Hunt (from Parish Hall) 1 pm Children's Treasure Hunt (from Parish Hall) 2 pm Potluck (Parish Hall)</p>
<p>6 The Epiphany</p> <p><i>Remove home ornaments</i> 10 am Sr. High Youth Group (St. Bernard's Room) 10:30 am Holy Baptism 10:30 am Healer Commissioning</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7 pm Outreach Committee Meeting (parlor) All are welcome!</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall) 6:30 pm Altar Guild Meeting (Parlor)</p>	<p>9</p> <p>See Every Wednesday below 2 pm Staff Reviews until 5:30 pm 6 pm Lay Reader Training (Church Nave) 7 pm Jr. High Epiphany Party (St. Bernard's Room)</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Adopt a Platoon 10 am Church Financial Forum (Parish Hall) All are welcome! 11 am Children's Ministry Meeting 10:30 am New Member Welcome 11:45 Executive Committee Meeting</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>February Voice deadline 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall) 6:30 pm Vestry Meeting (Parlor)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>See Every Wednesday below 10:15 am St. Andrew's Village Communion 1 pm Staff IKON Training</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>4 pm Sr. High Youth Overnight</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9 am Annual Parish Meeting All are welcome! No Adult Forum today, Ann'l Mtg 11:45 am BeFrienders (Parlor)</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall) 1:30 pm Memorials &amp; Gifts Committee Meeting (Parlor)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>See Every Wednesday below</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Out to Lunch (Parish Hall) Jr. High Youth Overnight (St. Mark's Cathedral)</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10 am Sr. High Youth Group (St. Bernard's Room)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Every Tuesday 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group (Parish Hall)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>See Every Wednesday right</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline</p>	<p>Every Wednesday</p> <p>1:00 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Light Supper 6:00 pm Nursery Care, Youth Choir, &amp; Adult Education 6:15 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Jr. High Youth Group 7:15 pm Chancel Choir</p>	

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS



St. Nicholas Celebration

The Pageant



# IN THE WILDERNESS...



Christmas caroling at the care center



Christmas Eve



The Nativity Tableau



Lessons and Carols

# St John's Lay Liturgical Ministry-January 2008

LAY READER	LECTOR	LEM	ACOLYTES	HEALER	USHERS	GREETER	ALTAR GUILD	VERGER
6 7:30 Joe Afryl 10:30 Lee Wilson	7:30 Sherri Afryl 9:00 Lisa Brock 10:30 Jim Delamater	Wed 2, 7 pm Joe Afryl 7:30 Mary Whitney 9:00 June Bennett Janet Waller 10:30 Bob Peck	9:00 E. Mahoney Moertels 10:30 K. Larson L. McCarthy R. Monyak	9:00 Cathryn 10:30 Sherri	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 Cossalters 10:30 Johnsons	9:00 Holtzes 10:30 Krista Sullivan	Gayle Kasmani June Hochbrunn Alice McClaren Bette Smeed	Dennis Thoemke
13 7:30 Bob Peck 10:30 Joyce Anderson	7:30 Allan Fagley 9:00 John Fennig 10:30 Dorothy Haas	Wed 9, 7 pm June Bennett 7:30 June Bennett 9:00 Chilltons 10:30 Greg Schmit	9:00 Thors 10:30 L. DuFresne S. Bartley	9:00 Cathryn 10:30 Cathryn	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 Canterbury 10:30 Jim Hartmeister Mike Gerlach	9:00 Max Stevenson 10:30 Anne Herron	Anne Johnson Alice Fagley Judy Kroesch Jane Kyle	Margaret Thor
20 7:30 June Bennett 10:30 Ken Paddock	7:30 Marge Polanek 9:00 Annual Meeting 10:30 Randy Johnson	Wed 16, 7 pm Ken Paddock 7:30 Mary Whitney 9:00 Susie Mahoney Barb VanSteen 10:30 Pris Campbell	9:00 Longs Whillocks 10:30 K. Paddock Mariers	9:00 Dianne 10:30 Sherri	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Graders 10:30 Mark Hosfield Jim Marier	9:00 Kobinskis 10:30 Longs	Lynn Gadbois Cyndi Domin Peggy Holper Pat Pickering	John Brunner
27 7:30 Bob Peck 10:30 Jim Petersen	7:30 David Gadbois 9:00 Kim Severson 10:30 Pat Petersen	Wed 23, 7 pm Bob Peck 7:30 Jane Kyle 9:00 Chilltons 10:30 Joe Afryl Wed 30, 7 pm Colleen Johnson	9:00 T. Young Karps 10:30 Todds	9:00 Dianne 10:30 Sherri	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 Linda Carpenter Domins 10:30 DeSmets	9:00 DeSmets 10:30 Anne Herron	Keiko Farrar Pris Campbell Barb Merrill Janet Waller	Bryan DeSmet

## USHERS NOTE

Linda Carpenter has taken over usher-scheduling duties. If you have a scheduling conflict, please contact Linda, lthompson@kennedy-graven.com, or 651/773-5548.

Linda will do her best to work out conflicts, but those brought to her attention at least three weeks in advance have the best chance of rescheduling. Thank you Chris Hawley for all of the hard work with the ushers over the past several months!

## REMEMBERING...

Last year on Christmas Eve, I had the opportunity to serve at All Saints' in Northfield, MN. As the children gathered around the nativity scene, the priest asked them to talk about the characters. One young lady, about 3 years old, talked about baby Jesus. She told the congregation that the baby was sleeping because he was sick. When asked to say more, she was quick to remind us that, 'he's just been born and isn't feeling too good.'

I've noticed every nativity scene, that I've seen, has the shepherds, the animals and the three Wise Men. I had a friend whose family tradition was to *not* put the Wise Men out on Christmas. Instead, their tradition was to move the Wise Men around the house for the 12 days of Christmas (December 25 - January 6). The children of the household were to seek out the Wise Men each day to remember their journey and to see how close they were getting to the manger. Then on January 6, the Feast of Epiphany, the Wise Men would arrive at the manger to present their gifts.

Maybe we have things turned around. Maybe we should not be giving gifts until January 6, when the Magi gave their gifts to Jesus. I'm thinking it's too late to change the tradition established in our culture, but it something to think about.

The time around Christmas can be a time when we are full of joy. During this time it may be difficult to remember that there are people who are struggling with the holidays and 'aren't feeling too good.' Perhaps they have experienced a death of a family member or a friend over the past year or around this time in years past. Perhaps it is because they can't be with their loved-ones who live in another state or are in the military and can't come home. For whatever reason, the holidays can be stressful, depressing and generally not joyful.

As we think about the joy of Christmas and our family's traditions, let's remember one of the gifts that the Magi gave that is rarely, if ever, mentioned – and one that we too can give. That is the gift of presence. Let's reach out to support others not only during the 12 days of Christmas but during the whole season after Epiphany.

O God, whose fatherly care reaches to the uttermost parts of the earth: We humbly beseech you graciously to behold and bless those whom we love, now absent from us. Defend them from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that both they and we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of the Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP page 830)

Rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, Debra

## LAY READERS & LECTORS

### NOTE

An informational meeting for Lay Readers & Lectors will be at 6 pm Wednesday, January 9 in the Church Nave.

Fr. Mark will preside with information for the coming year.

Your ministry in St. John's is so valued & appreciated!

Have a Blessed Christmas & New Year.

## NOVEMBER OUT TO LUNCH



## ADOPT A FAMILY UPDATE

Thanks to all involved, the St. John in the Wilderness Adopt a Family program was a huge success. This year we were able to adopt 6 families, with a total of 30 recipients. Over 140 gifts were delivered to Episcopal Community Services on December 12<sup>th</sup>! The Outreach Committee wishes to express their appreciation to parishioners for their overwhelming response and support of this annual activity. We can all rest assured that we helped to make the season bright for many deserving people. Thank you again.



## January Birthdays

- 2 Grace Carpenter
- 2 Madalyn Harding
- 3 Jackson Skeie
- 4 John Brunner
- 4 Bonita Peck
- 5 Alice Fagley
- 5 David Gadbois
- 6 Bradford Carpenter
- 8 Susanne Blake
- 9 Anne Johnson
- 9 Peter McBride
- 10 Ashley Gildner
- 10 Samuel Kelm
- 10 Kristen LeFevre
- 13 David Seitz
- 14 Maggie DeSmet
- 15 Lucille Popp
- 16 Rachmat Kasmani
- 19 Lara Delamater
- 25 Carrie Jones
- 28 Joshua Hoover
- 29 Julia Markoe
- 29 Carole Paddock
- 31 Ellen Anthony
- 31 James Johnston

*If you have a birthday this month but are not listed, please e-mail wilderness2@visi.com, or leave a message at 651/429-5351 ext. 10. Records are not always complete. Thank you.*

### Do You Know?

The baptismal font in our church is engraved "E.C.W." Was it a gift from the Episcopal Church Women?

Actually, it was a gift from Mrs. E. C. Williams, in 1887, in memory of her husband. The E. C. Williams family owned a resort hotel on Lake Avenue. Mr. Williams purchased the hotel in 1871 from John B. Murray. It was renamed the Williams' House. In 1885, after enlarging the resort, it could accommodate 250 guests.

### New Coffee Pots

We have new coffee pots in the Parish Hall! Those who've made coffee for St. John's parishioners & visitors have really enjoyed using the new coffee pots.

The Hospitality Committee thanks the Episcopal Church Women, Bev Boyle, Mark Hosfield, Bob Cessna, & all others who worked on or supported this project.

Janet Kelber, Hospitality Chair

### Episcopal Church Women Sponsored Bible Study Program

February 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 am

Topic: Philippians

Speaker: Fr. Mark

Child care is provided.

### Episcopal Church Women Spring Luncheon

This annual event will be at noon on February 14<sup>th</sup> after the Lenten Program, at Rudy's Red Eye Grill (adjacent to the White Bear Country Inn). As in the past, all women & men are invited to the Lenten Program & Luncheon, and you can order from the menu. Celebrate Valentine's Day early! We always have good food and a great time. Please contact Judy Kroesch (651/429-0291) by Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> for reservations. Thank you.

### The Episcopal Church Women Granted Funds

during their November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting as follows:

Millennium Development (MDG's), 0.7% of budget	\$600
Liturgry & Music Committee for vestments	\$500
Yearly kitchen stove cleaning & tune-up	\$350
Church carpet cleaning	up to \$700
Church banner (add to Memorial monies)	<u>up to \$1,500</u>
	Total \$3,650

### Fourth Annual Families Inc. All-Parish Valentine Event

Join us on Sunday, January 13 to decorate and personalize valentines to send to our military troops stationed overseas! Valentines will be available in the Parish Hall after all 3 liturgies. We plan to send 600 valentines, so all hands are needed! A pizza lunch will be served at 11 am, for which the cost is \$3/adult, \$2/child, maximum \$10/family.

Please sign up on the clipboard in the Parish Hall if you plan to eat pizza.

# The Youth Voice

## Treasure Hunt

St. John's *Seventh* Annual Treasure Hunt will be held Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, noon – 3 pm. Jr. High will take on the Sr. High in a lighthearted battle of wits. Please bring food to share for a 2 pm potluck lunch. This event includes transportation and requires a Special Events Permission Form (from the Parish Hall Youth Ministry Board.) If you haven't yet filled out a St. John's Youth Registration Form, you must complete this as well. Sign up for this event on the Parish Hall participation table.

## Jr. & Sr. High Epiphany Parties

This year we will celebrate our gifts for Epiphany. Sr. High youth will meet Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am in St. Bernard's Room for a special exchange of *home made* gifts. Please bring a wrapped *home made* gift suitable for either gender. Jr. High youth will resume their Wednesday night, 7 pm gatherings on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The Jr. High youth will also exchange gender-neutral *home made* gifts. If you need ideas please contact Sheila Foster, 651/429-5351 ext. 12 or [fostercreations@gmail.com](mailto:fostercreations@gmail.com).

## Youth Mission Trip Planning

The youth are choosing between Chicago or Seattle mission locations. Trip dates will be approximately June 21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, depending upon location. The youth are also finding ways to offset trip costs via fundraising outside of St. John's. We are planning a dinner and concert for mid-February at the Mason's Lodge, and a youth band concert for April in Minneapolis. A Youth Mission Commitment form will be coming your way soon. We ask the youth to make a commitment to the trip planning process along with their commitment to attend worship and youth meetings. A parents' meeting is being planned.

## Sr. High Youth Meetings

Due to a need for a regular connection of the Sr. High youth, they plan to meet every Sunday morning in St. Bernard's Room (game room) at 10 am. Join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday monthly for Special Events Planning Meetings and the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays for community building games, topics & conversation.

1/6 Epiphany Party *home made* gift exchange

1/13 "Adopt a Platoon" Valentine Making

1/20 TEC Reunion Overnight & Parish Annual Meeting

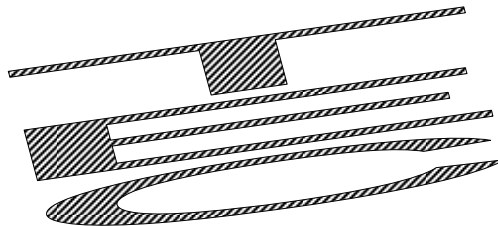
1/27 Community Building Games

## Teens Encounter Christ Reunion

Overnight 4 pm Saturday, 1/19 – noon Sunday, 1/20

All Sr. High Youth Teens Encounter Christ participants will gather in community at St. John in the Wilderness. We are inviting youth from other church communities for an evening of fun, fellowship, worship, and maybe a few surprises. One activity will be baking muffins for St. John's Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday morning at 9 am. A Special Events Permission Form is required for this overnight. An event form for youth outside of St. John's will be available on the Youth Ministry Board and will be e-mailed to Sr. High Youth. For more information please contact Ann Watson or Sheila Foster. We need Safe Church trained adults to help chaperone this event.

Please spread the word. Sign up in the Parish Hall.



Diocesan Jr. High Youth Event

## Saturday 1/26 – Sunday 1/27

Sixth – 8<sup>th</sup> grade youth and their chaperones will gather at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Minneapolis for an awesome overnight. This event will take the place of the annual Acolyte Festival. The event will begin a 3 pm Saturday and be filled with games, food & fun. The event will end with a Renewal of Baptismal vows by the Bishop. Registration forms and \$25 fee are due to the Diocese of MN by January 11<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms can be obtained on line at [www.episcopalmn.org/youth\\_calendar](http://www.episcopalmn.org/youth_calendar). They've made it even easier so that you can register and pay on line. I encourage all Jr. High youth to take advantage of this opportunity. If you decide to attend, please notify Sheila Foster, 651/429-5351 ext. 12 or [fostercreations@gmail.com](mailto:fostercreations@gmail.com) so we can ensure enough St. John's chaperones.

## Jr. High Youth Group Meetings

Jr. High youth (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade) meetings are another opportunity for them to gather and share their Christian experience with each other. Along with the Sunday 10 am Jr. High youth meeting time, our Wednesday night 7-8 pm time is primarily for community building and sometimes for special projects needing more time than Sunday morning. Please consider adding this time to your schedule. The friendships that are gained in this time of life can be very beneficial as youth move into the high school years.

1/9 Epiphany Party *home made* gift exchange

1/16 Our Gifts - Making of a Mosaic

1/23 Gifts of Others - Making of a Mosaic

1/30 Community Building Games

Let all you do be done with God's Love.

~Sheila Foster~