

# Saint John Lutheran Church, ELCA

## Newsletter

June 2018

Dear Friends,

The theme of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering is *This Changes Everything*. But to what does “this” point? Well, grace, of course. It is grace that changes everything. And it is important to flesh “grace” out, else it remains just another vague religious idea that doesn’t really communicate anything like the Bible’s daring claims. The major purpose of the Youth Gathering is to help young people deepen their sense of what it looks like to flesh grace out in their lives. And not just any old free pass or morally vacuous religious conception, but the costly grace of God embodied in Jesus.

Preachers and teachers will explore a key word from Ephesians with the Gathering: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” (Eph. 2:8) This summer might be a great time to study Ephesians for at least a couple of reasons. First, reading through the entire epistle fleshes out the context of Ephesians 2:8. And second, listening for the Spirit’s voice in Ephesians will link us to the experience of the kids at the Youth Gathering. Fortunately, the second lesson in the Sunday service from July 15 through August 26 – most of the summer – is taken from Ephesians. So we’ll take up the epistle in preaching and during the Thursday morning Bible study.

The Youth Gathering will also flesh out the theme by the use of daily themes. You might want to reflect on the same texts along with the kids beginning on June 27. Here’s a description:

### Daily Themes

Each day of the Gathering, all programming will reflect a daily theme, and how that changes everything. The daily themes of the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering are as follows:

#### Wednesday

God's call  
changes  
everything



Exodus 3:1-16;  
Moses and the  
Burning Bush

#### Thursday

God's love  
changes  
everything



John 4:1-42;  
Woman at the  
Well

#### Friday

God's grace  
changes  
everything



Acts 8:26-40;  
Phillip and the  
Eunuch

#### Saturday

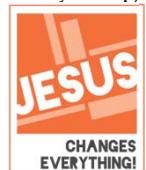
God's hope  
changes  
everything



Luke 24:13-  
25; Road to  
Emmaus

#### Sunday

Jesus changes  
everything



Mark 5:21-42;  
Hemorrhaging  
Woman/Raising  
of the Little Girl

May you taste the goodness of God’s grace this summer in Word, Sacrament, prayer and study!

Peace,  
Don

*“For it is by God’s grace that you have been saved through faith.”*

*Ephesians 2:8*

***Youth Sunday June 3<sup>rd</sup> : “This Changes Everything”***



Join us as the youth of the congregation lead us in celebration of God’s unending LOVE! Examples of how love can change everything, from the Old Testament readings, the Gospel of Mark, a story of refilling our “buckets”, and a few surprises! Also the theme of this year’s Youth Gathering in Houston, “This Changes Everything” reminds us that love knows no boundaries. As Jillian Carr reflects with the church on her time in Ghana earlier this year and we support Bryn Koskinen as she readies to embark on a yearlong journey to Madagascar, these young women evoke change, worldwide!

Our recent projects for Comfort Cases and Household Goods bring about positive change for all involved as we lovingly serve Christ.

For our Sunday school teachers, who instill the love of God through, Word, act, and deed; Thank you for all you do! As a wise woman once told me, every moment is a teachable one, take advantage.

To our Adult Forum leaders and speakers: Thank you! It is never too late to learn something new!

**JUNE DATES**

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>** - Youth Sunday (Singers arrive at 8AM and all other Sunday school participants arrive at 8:15AM)  
Adult Forum: Jill Carr reflects about her time in Ghana  
Lunch conversation about a St. John Mission Trip to Guatemala

June 10<sup>th</sup> : Sudbury Race Amity Day  
Stay tuned for ways to celebrate positive race relations  
For more info go to:  
[www.facebook.com/Sudbury-Race-Amity-Day](http://www.facebook.com/Sudbury-Race-Amity-Day)

June 17<sup>th</sup> : Happy Father’s Day to All!  
Summer Worship schedule begins at 9:30AM

June 24<sup>th</sup>: Congregational Meeting Day

## LET'S HELP GET BRYN KOSKINEN TO MADAGASCAR!



*The Youth, Family, and Education Ministry Team will be “selling” donation cards to help Bryn reach her goal of \$10,000 over the month of June. For further information, please see Bryn’s letter on page 7 of the newsletter.*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: SAVE THE DATES

VBS goes rogue this summer! Join us for an Intergenerational/family evening event over 3 consecutive weeks. July 18, 25, and August 1<sup>st</sup>. Come to all or even just one! We will gather from 6-8:00 PM with a potluck meal, fun activities for kids and adults, and yes, even some Bible stories. There will also be a book fair with faith-filled children’s books. Watch for more details.

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES 2018

### High School

**Charlotte Hatcher** is graduating from Nashoba Regional High School and going to attend Assumption College in Worcester to study Elementary Education.

**Johannes Thorarensen** is graduating from Nashoba Regional High School and has decided to attend the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth this coming fall. He’ll be a Biology Major and play on the men’s soccer team.

**Will Brindisi** will graduate cum laude from Lincoln-Sudbury High School on June 4. He will attend Hamilton College in the fall where he will be a member of the varsity swim team.

### College

**Erin Cromwell** is graduating Magna Cum Laude from University of Richmond with a major in Accounting, and a minor in Leadership Studies. She will be working for KPMG in Washington DC as an auditor.

**Linnea Hjerpe** will be graduating from Denison University with a BA in Communications and a minor in Classics. She plans to return to the Boston area for a new job.

**Alexandra Brindisi** will graduate on May 19 from the Tulane University Freeman School of Business with a triple major in Legal Studies, Marketing and Management. She was a four year student-athlete on Tulane University Swim Team.

**Molly Bankuti** is graduating from Lehigh University on May 21. Her majors are accounting and finance.

**Madelyn Memoli** is graduating Magna Cum Laude from University of Connecticut.

# Senior Ministry News

## ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR JUNE

On June 19, 2018, we will discuss “Still Life: A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel (A Chief Inspector Gamache Mystery Book 1)” by **Louise Penny**.

Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surêté du Québec and his team of investigators are called in to the scene of a suspicious death in a rural village south of Montreal. Jane Neal, a local fixture in the tiny hamlet of Three Pines, just north of the U.S. border, has been found dead in the woods. The locals are certain it's a tragic hunting accident and nothing more, but Gamache smells something foul in these remote woods, and is soon certain that Jane Neal died at the hands of someone much more sinister than a careless bowhunter. *Still Life* introduces not only an engaging series hero in Inspector Gamache, who commands his forces--- and this series---with integrity and quiet courage, but also a winning and talented new writer of traditional mysteries in the person of Louise Penny.

Join us at the church at 11:00 AM on June 19, 2018 to socialize and stimulate your brain cells. All St. John seniors and their guests are welcome whether you are committed or just curious. No need to register in advance, but it is suggested that you read the book before you attend. Please contact Jan Nielsen at [jrnielsen@charter.net](mailto:jrnielsen@charter.net) or 978-549-3044 if you have any questions. On July 17, 2018, the St. John Seniors on the Go Book Club will discuss “Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II” by Liza Mundy.

## MAY SENIOR LUNCHEON

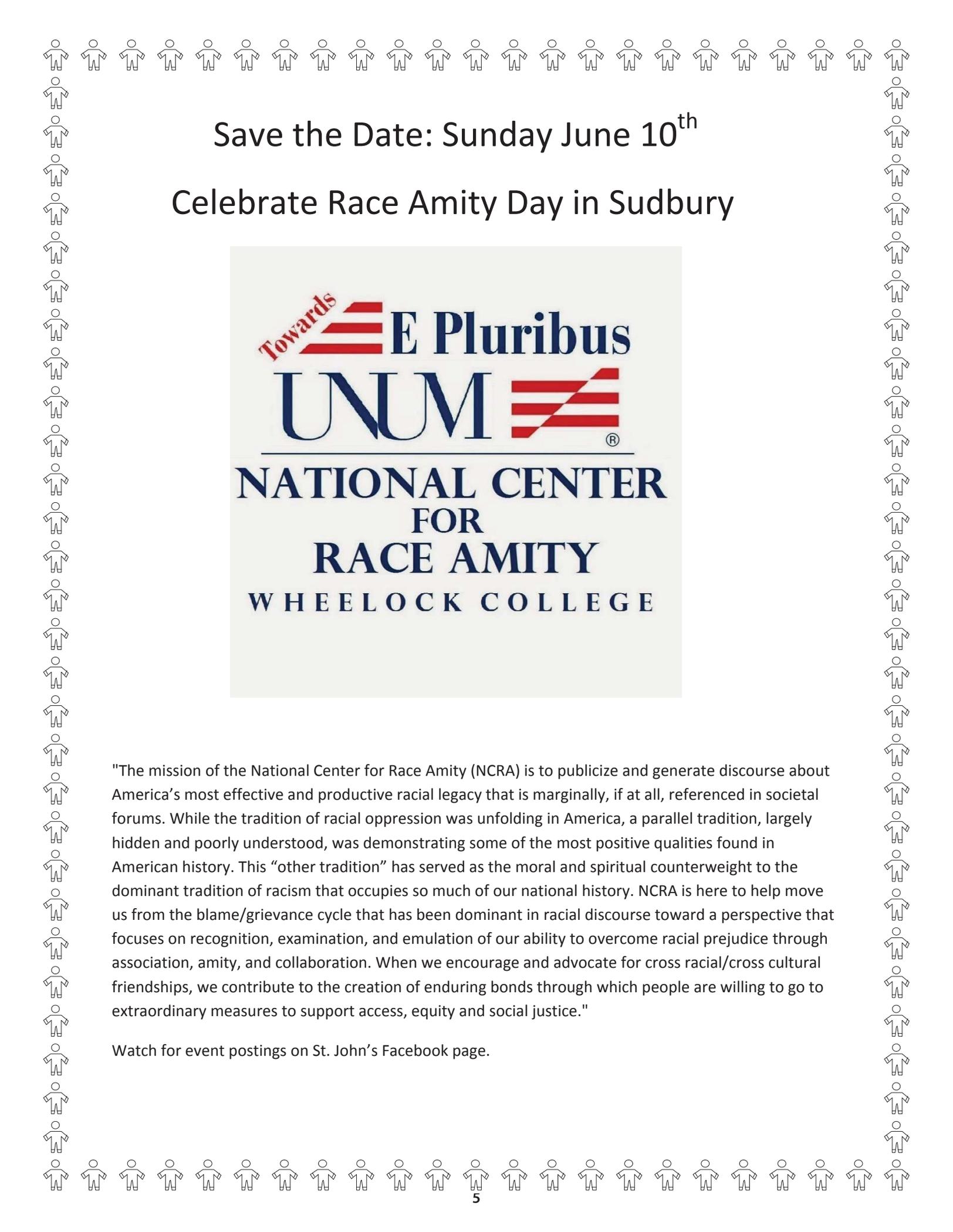
Fifty-eight Seniors gathered on May 8 to enjoy a lunch of meatloaf, mashed potato with gravy, a vegetable medley, tossed salad and a delicious desert of chocolate cake. The cakes were prepared by Betsy Major of St. John. Loraine Connors provided centerpieces for each table. The entertainment was provided by Nancy Day who kept us entertained with her singing, piano playing and creation of her own songs. As has been her tradition, she created and sang a song about spring, weaving in spring themes shouted out by our guests. A faithful crew of volunteers set the tables, served the food, cleaned the dishes and packaged left over food for those who wished to purchase a take-home meal.

Next month's luncheon will be held on June 12 and our planned menu is a traditional boneless bar-B-Q dinner. A favorite entertainer, Gary Lundgren, will be presenting his honkey-tonk piano program. Then we will be taking a two-month summer break and starting back up on September 11. This ministry is only possible with the help of many volunteers, and we always welcome new volunteers. No special training is needed; just let Joan Niemi or Royce Fuller know that you are willing to help.

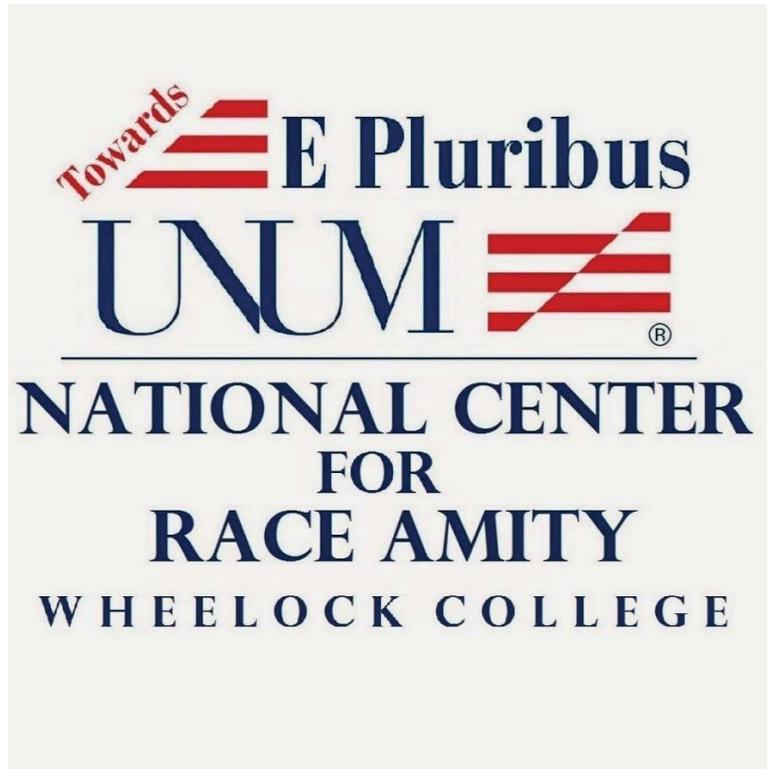
## MUSICAL THEATER PERFORMING “MAME” IN JUNE

St. John Seniors on the Go is sponsoring an afternoon musical theater performance of Mame at the North Shore Music Theater in Beverly, Ma. The singing, dancing and costumes are fantastic in all musical theater performances at the NSMT. The performance is on June 6<sup>th</sup> and will start at 2:00 PM, there is the opportunity to grab a sandwich or salad at the outdoor grill before the performance. Car pooling will be arranged.

Ticket prices (with the member's discount made available by Royce and Susanne Fuller) are \$57.00. Seats are still available, but they will fill up relatively soon, so advance ordering is very important. With the theater in the round set up, all seats are close to the performance. It is recommended that those interested should request reservations in groups (two or more) of people who want to be seated together. Reservations will be made as soon as requests are made and we cannot be sure we will have adjacent seats available for those requesting reservations on a later date. Contact Royce Fuller at 978-897-8397, or [roycefuller@verizon.net](mailto:roycefuller@verizon.net) for questions, or to make a reservation.



Save the Date: Sunday June 10<sup>th</sup>  
Celebrate Race Amity Day in Sudbury



"The mission of the National Center for Race Amity (NCRA) is to publicize and generate discourse about America's most effective and productive racial legacy that is marginally, if at all, referenced in societal forums. While the tradition of racial oppression was unfolding in America, a parallel tradition, largely hidden and poorly understood, was demonstrating some of the most positive qualities found in American history. This "other tradition" has served as the moral and spiritual counterweight to the dominant tradition of racism that occupies so much of our national history. NCRA is here to help move us from the blame/grievance cycle that has been dominant in racial discourse toward a perspective that focuses on recognition, examination, and emulation of our ability to overcome racial prejudice through association, amity, and collaboration. When we encourage and advocate for cross racial/cross cultural friendships, we contribute to the creation of enduring bonds through which people are willing to go to extraordinary measures to support access, equity and social justice."

Watch for event postings on St. John's Facebook page.

# Miscellaneous News

Sparkhouse Family

## Book Fair

Shop faith-filled children's books at a special discount while free books for St. John



Stop by the lounge from June 3 to August 5 to look at the samples and fill out an order form.



### Thank You For Your Service

Ryan Higgins   Scott Griffin   Tyler Francis  
Derek Yanchewski   Victor Osweiler

### PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Rachel Florey  
Richard  
David Donnelly  
Lauren Rico  
Rhonda Tibbetts  
Dale Cali

Brad Allen  
Philip Mueller  
June Parker  
Rohit Jangi  
Paul Simeone  
Raoul Smith

Brian  
Ruth Fields  
Brian Young  
Fred Ripley  
Trish Sarvela Leiva  
Bill Moldwin

Loretta Golden  
Christopher Miller  
Liisa Colby  
Brennan McGinnis





## SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS ON JUNE, 17TH

We will start worshipping  
in Heritage Hall at 9:30 am  
on Sundays beginning on June 17th.  
Please join us.

Hello St. John!

I hope that you are all having a wonderful start to your summer! Most of you probably know by now that this August I will move to Madagascar to start what will be an indescribable year of service on behalf of the ELCA. At this time, I don't have the exact details of what I'm going to be doing or where exactly I'm going to be living, so I'll tell you what I do know:

- I will be living with a host family and will be the only YAGM volunteer in my community.
- With over 40% of the population being under the age of 14 coupled with my past experience in childcare, there's a good chance I'll be working with kids.
- I will belong to a Lutheran congregation in my community and along with my other job, I will have a responsibility in the church as well. This could be anything from being in the choir, running Sunday School, assisting with services, or helping on the administrative side of things.
- To ensure that us YAGM's are truly practicing accompaniment within our community, I will be entering Madagascar with 1 suitcase, 1 backpack, and no money from the U.S. (I will receive a stipend to match the local living wage which comes to about \$2 a week).

Before I head out, I have to get a Visa, a bunch of shots, a whole lot of sunscreen, and fundraise \$5,000 (a very small portion of the \$15,000 it costs to send a volunteer abroad). I hope we can actually raise an additional \$5,000 to cover the cost of another young person whose congregation is located in an impoverished area. If you are willing and able to make a monetary donation, Karen has made a bulletin board on the animals of Madagascar as a way to donate. Or you can simply write a check made out to St. John and be sure to indicate "Bryn Koskinen" in the memo line. You are also able to donate to me online at: <http://support.elca.org/goto/brynabroad> or send a check to:

**ELCA Gift Processing Center**

**PO Box 1809**

**Merrifield, VA 22116**

And be sure to put **Bryn Koskinen GCS3446** in the memo line. I am also in dire need of prayers not only as I begin my journey, but throughout my year abroad.

Thank you all so much for the enthusiasm and support you have already shown regarding my upcoming mission to Madagascar. Having your support, love, and prayers, means the world to me and makes me that much more excited to share this next year with you all!

**Peace, Bryn Koskinen**

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Our Staff

Donald Larsen, Pastor  
Karen LaCure RN, Parish Nurse  
Director of Youth and Family  
Valerie Ripley, Admin. Assist.  
Corey De Tar, Director of Choirs  
Bart Dahlstrom, Organist  
Ron Hagopian, Sexton

## Join us for the Congregation Meeting

Please join us on June 24th  
immediately following the  
9:30 am Liturgy in Heritage Hall.

You may sign up on the bulletin board  
in the lounge or use Sign Up Genius at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4ea8af23a3f58-congregation>



Visit us on the web! [www.stjohnsudbury.org](http://www.stjohnsudbury.org)