



September 2020 Newsletter

From Our Pastors

What did you learn during your summer (vacation)?

We've just finished the strangest summer ever: no Defeat Days, no State Fair, no band concerts on Bridge Square. For many people, the summer was more about what it was NOT, than what it was.

But at the same time, I keep hearing about new discoveries made and new things tried in this year. People who pulled out their sewing machines in March have expanded their repertoires. Pastor Jonathan learned how to lay a brick walk in his yard, and I took up (online) piano lessons again. Our two summer Bible studies were, I dare say, far better attended than they might have been in person.

By the same token, the school year ahead may not have some of the usual opportunities, but there are still things that this extended time of virus-caution can teach us: how the telephone is a wondrous invention, how the rhythm of Sunday worship can ground us when other schedules are disrupted, and how God's grace is new every. Single. Morning.

As a staff we are planning this fall knowing that there is no one-size-fits-all solution to connecting our community. Some children are returning to classrooms; others are not. Some are seeking out ways to safely connect in person; others have said, "we are waiting until there is a reliable vaccine." We are one community with many different needs, and as staff we continue to think about how not to let this COVID season divide our community even further.

We hope you learned something new this summer, and also that you will look ahead to what can be learned this fall. Try an online coffee hour; check out an outdoor service; crack open the Bible again; congratulate a confirmand via phone or mail. God's grace will be new for us again and again. - Pastor Pam Fickenscher

Events Happening in Our Church Over the Summer of 2020

St. John's Blood Drive

We hosted our second successful blood drive this year on Friday, September 11 collecting 31 units of blood, which exceeded the goal for the drive. A big thank you to our volunteers: Erik Lindell, Andrea Hoff, Connie Menssen, and St. Olaf student Peyton Keech. Looking ahead, we will be partnering with Carleton to host two more days of blood drives at St. John's October 28 and 29. All blood donations are by appointment only due to COVID precautions, and these drives have been filling up fast. We are grateful to be able to offer our large space of St. John's Hall to help the American Red Cross with this important work!

- Sally Lindell, Parish Nurse

Donation Drop-Offs in St. John's Parking Lot

Organized collections for masks and care packages have provided a safe opportunity for giving to those in need.

Outdoor Worship Events

On August 2 and September 13, St. John's enjoyed outdoor worship opportunities on the beautiful grounds of Goodtree Farmstead, just northwest of town, hosted by the Welbaum family. Both events were blessed with ideal weather and were well attended by members wearing masks and observing social distancing. It was a wonderful way for those able to come to share in the joy of worship together! Donations were also collected for the CAC in John Ophaug's vintage red truck. The next outdoor worship is scheduled for October 11.



Virtual Connection Over Zoom

St. John's has connected virtually over the summer using Zoom for a variety of Bible studies, board meetings, discussion groups like Manna & Mercy and Pub Theology, special events featuring guest speakers, virtual communion, and casual check-ins such as coffee breaks and small group gatherings. This fall we continue to provide these virtual opportunities. Look for them on the church website calendar and in the E-Voices.

Children's Ministry

We had a great week at Virtual Vacation Bible School in June. Kindergarten through 3rd graders gathered on Zoom with the theme "We Are The Church, Together and Apart". Fourth graders gathered together in September for a retreat on the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Five children received communion for the first time at the outdoor service on September 13. We are looking forward to fall's Virtual Sunday School program starting on Sunday, September 20. Email Julie Brehmer if you would like more information at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org
- Julie Brehmer, Director of Children's Ministry

Youth Ministry

Over the summer, a variety of youth ministry events went off without a hitch! Emmanuel invited small groups of youth out for ice cream. On a couple of occasions, St. John's partnered with Bethel and St. Peter's for a scavenger hunt around Northfield, and also for a service project of building bed frames for kids in need. Finally, with the help of the Youth Board, several youth went canoeing down the Cannon River. Virtual Youth Group and outdoor bonfire gatherings will take place during the fall. - Pastor Jonathan Davis



Properties and Grounds Update

Despite the church building being closed this summer, we have been busy with a number of projects. New carpet and a Hearing Loop were installed in St. John's Hall. Thank you to Andrea Hoff and Nathan Knutson for the expertise in deciding on the pattern, etc. The lower windows around the Sanctuary have been scraped, sanded, and updated with a fresh coat of paint. Thank you to Doug Child for handling that project. Outside, the City of Northfield has been "over-laying" 3rd St. We now have a new entrance at Poplar and 3rd, adorned with a new garden and trees. - Tim Byers, Facility Manager



Church Library Update

Over the summer the Library Committee has been entering all of the library books into a new database and relabeling each spine to make finding books easier. A few books were weeded out in this process. New shelving will be added for the children's books. Donations of books or of money for purchasing new books are welcome! If you have a donation for the church library please contact Merilyn Calcutt at merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com or Anita Hellie at ahellie@charter.net - The Library Committee

Baptisms



Genevieve Alice Timmer; July 12, 2020



Wesley Isaac Barvir; July 19, 2020



Paige Marie Kuehn; August 9, 2020



Aksel Montgomery Roberts Loy; August 16, 2020

Deaths

June 13, 2020
Duane Olson

August 4, 2020
Thomas Sorenson

August 13, 2020
Susan Rezac

August 17, 2020
Elsie Nelsen

Radio, TV, and Online Worship Continues

Radio broadcast of worship can be heard on KYMN at 95.1 FM and 1080 AM at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The stream can also be heard live online at www.kymnradio.net. Services can be viewed on Northfield TV cable channel 187. Worship from previous Sundays are linked at the top of the St. John's website home page www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Live streaming of St. John's worship is coming soon!