



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2018

## 150th Anniversary Project: Laura Baker Services - St. John's Creative Arts Group

DRUMMING GROUP,  
THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF  
CREATIVE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

6:15 - 7:00 P.M.

UNDERCROFT



All ages invited! Come make friends and a joyful noise!

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Event

### Laura Baker Services - St. John's Creative Arts Group

**Wednesday, April 11, 6:15-7:00 p.m., Undercroft**

Something new is beginning this spring: a creative arts group with members of Laura Baker Services. The first activity is a drumming group that will be led by Jenny Solar, a music therapist. Monthly meetings to be scheduled.

The goal is to develop friendships with LBS members. This is the first of the 150th Anniversary Benevolence Projects. It is the most relationship oriented. It invites us to try something new, and make a new friend. You are encouraged to reach out, crack the shy Lutheran shell, and at the same time have fun with music.

Interested in volunteering to assist with setting up/moving equipment. Contact Jenny Solar at [jenny@laurabaker.org](mailto:jenny@laurabaker.org), or by phoning Laura Baker and leaving a message: 507-645-8866, ext. 144.

WORSHIP SERVICES  
8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays  
FELLOWSHIP  
9:30 a.m. Sundays

LIVE BROADCASTS  
8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays  
KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM  
[kymnradio.net](http://kymnradio.net)

TV BROADCASTS  
NTV Channel 187  
7:30 p.m. Mondays  
7:00 p.m. Fridays

## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays

### Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

### Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September - May

### Live Broadcasts

8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

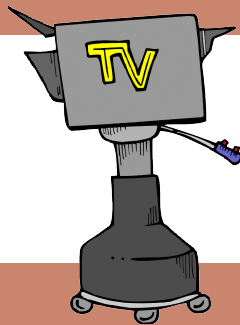


### TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### WELCOME STATEMENT

*St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace, and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.*

*While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.*

*We warmly welcome you here.*

### Blessing Box at St. John's

"Take something if in need;  
leave something when blessed."



St. John's Sunday school children are supporting a new mission at St. John's this year: "Blessing Box". It is similar to the Little Libraries found around town except the Blessing box is filled with donated non-perishable food and personal hygiene products. The idea is that anyone walking by who may be struggling can use the goods to make ends meet. The community is welcome to donate to the box being mindful of Minnesota's temperature changes. Donation Ideas: canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar, coffee, crackers, soap, mittens, toothbrush, baby items, such as diapers, pacifiers. The box is located in the drive-up on the north side of St. John's.

## Dear Friends in Christ:

In January, I shared in a sermon that Northfield has approximately 24 homeless teenagers on any given night. This reality is difficult to see because many are sleeping on couches at a friend's house. I also shared how The Key, the substance-free youth center in town, is trying to do something about this - The Key has received a grant to start a program where members from the Northfield community will be invited to open their doors to these youth as host homes.

Since then, I have heard from many of you who were very compassionate toward and concerned about these youth, and how we, the Church, can support them. Some of you have considered if your homes would be the right fit for welcoming in a homeless teen, while others of you have generously donated money to The Key in support of this program.

First off, thank you. Thank you for continuing to talk about and pray for and think about "the 24" and how our community can support this troubling situation.

Second, I want you to know about what has blossomed as a result of these conversations. Through more conversations with Scott Wopata, the Executive Director of the Key, we learned that students at the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) in Longfellow (the school directly across the street from St. John's) are having declining attendance and graduation rates. In light of this, Scott, along with the ALC, wanted to pilot a breakfast program, housed out of St. John's. This program consisted of making breakfast on Monday and Friday mornings for a handful of students from the ALC, connecting them with caring adults, and making sure they get to school.

Feeling like the Holy Spirit was moving in our neighborhood and was at work in the collaboration of The Key, the ALC, and St. John's, we said yes! We are currently on our third week of offering breakfasts on Monday and Friday mornings. In order to help this program thrive, St. John's members Mary Kelvie, Jim Sharrow, Dennis Rinehart, and Melissa Berthelsen have been volunteers to acquaint us with the kitchen, help make breakfast, and connect with the youth.

So far, this pilot program has been beautiful and...clunky. Beautiful in that seeing strangers come together to support and care for one another is glimpse of the kingdom of God. But it has also been clunky because we never know who will show up each time. One time, we had 1 youth show, but then when she texted a picture of the pile of waffles to her friends, 4 more youth showed up. One time, 10 people showed up 45 minutes early.

To be honest, at the time of printing this newsletter, I am not sure if the breakfast will still be happening because of some other complications. It might turn into a lunchtime meal, or it might turn into....we don't know right now. You see, it is clunky. But innovation is clunky. Did you know that Thomas Edison had 1,000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb? One reporter ask him, "How did it feel to fail 1,000 times?" Edison replied, "I didn't fail 1,000 times. The light bulb was an invention with 1,000 steps."

Continued on page 4

## From Our Pastors



**Pastor Pam Fickenscher**



**Pastor Jonathan Davis**

## Prayer and Care Ministry

### Prayer Chain:

Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included in Sunday morning prayers unless specifically requested. Contact Mary Cisar with a prayer request or to become a prayer chain volunteer: [macisar@gmail.com](mailto:macisar@gmail.com) or 507-663-1097.

### Grief Care Resource:

Care Notes are one of the grief support resources at St. John's. Stop by the Commons to pick one up for yourself or for a loved one.

### Grief Booklets:

"Journeying through Grief" is a resource for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.



*The following St. John's members died in this month last year.*

*We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."*

April 11, 2017  
**Omar Otterness**

April 22, 2017  
**Kenneth Madole**

## Stephen Ministry: Decluttering Effects of Exercise - Time to Get Moving!

Spring has finally arrived, and for many that means it's time to tackle Spring Cleaning, or decluttering. In fact, later this month, St. John's Women are hosting a retreat around the theme of "Decluttering Home and Heart!" Decluttering often acts as a gateway to taking better care of many other aspects of life.

But it's not unusual to find clutter overwhelming. And for those who are experiencing chronic pain, depression, grief, or trauma, tackling a buildup of clutter can feel like an insurmountable task. When the motivation to get moving is blocked, one can experience mental clutter in the form of stress, low self confidence, and discouragement. This can then give way to brain and body clutter in the form of headaches, increased blood sugar levels, weight gain or loss, and disease.

What to do if you are stuck in this clutter cycle? Take baby steps. Declutter experts say to take 15 minutes each day to clean out one drawer or one shelf. New research on the mind and body connection claims that just 7-10 minutes of exercise can actually change the structure and function of the brain, easing depression, increasing memory, and preventing or delaying Alzheimer's. Another baby step can be as simple as asking for help.

If you, or someone you know, is feeling stuck or in need of a listening ear, contact a pastor (507-645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (507-645-8445) and request a St. John's Stephen Minister.

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

Innovation is clunky. Living into the kingdom of God that is here and now is clunky. But I tell you, we know more about the needs of our neighbors now than we did 3 months ago. And God has called us to love our neighbors just as God has loved us. We hope and pray that our partnership with The Key and the ALC can continue to grow and change to do just that – love our neighbors.

Thank you for being workers in the kingdom of God with us, as we seek to care for those who are most vulnerable and in need of love in our community.

Peace,  
Pastor Jonathan

## St. John's Forums in April

### April 8:

#### ***Honoring Dr. King: Reading and Reflecting on the Letter from Birmingham Jail (St. John's Hall)***

Fifty years ago, on April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. In recognition of this devastating event for our country and the Civil Rights Movement, and as we continue to need greater discussions around race and racism still today, we will gather in St. John's Hall to hear and reflect on portions of Dr. King's *Letter from Birmingham Jail*.

### April 15:

#### ***How Much Do We Need to Know About Jesus? – With Dr. Charlie Wilson (Sanctuary)***

What can we know historically about Jesus? How does historical knowledge of Jesus relate to faith and theology? During this forum, St. Olaf Professor and St. John's member, Charlie Wilson will present on samplings of contemporary historians' views of the historical Jesus. Charlie just recently published his book titled *Inventing Christic Jesuses*.

### April 22:

#### ***Transforming: The Bible and Transgender Christians, with Austen Hartke (Sanctuary)***

Austen Hartke, who grew up at St. John's, is an Old Testament scholar and the author of his new book, *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*. Austen's work has centered about understanding, interpreting, and sharing parts of the Bible that relate to gender identity and the lives of transgender individuals. Join us in the Sanctuary for a conversation with Austen at 9:45 a.m.

### April 29:

#### ***The Key and the Northfield Union of Youth, with Scott Wopata and Northfield Youth (Sanctuary)***

The Northfield Union of Youth (NUY) has a mission to provide power and voice to area youth and to create a caring and enriching community. One part of this mission is The Key, a substance-free, youth-run, youth center supported with leadership and resources by NUY. It is a safe place for youth to feel welcome, encouraged, and an opportunity to get connected with adults and the Northfield community. Join us for a conversation in the Sanctuary, presented by Scott Wopata, the Director of The Key, and other Northfield Youth.

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

March 18, 2018  
*Elaine Kringen*



### Radio Broadcasts

#### **March 4, 2018**

Given by Kathy Vang  
in memory of Lucille, Louis, and Harold Vang  
and in honor of Kathy's 75th birthday.

#### **March 11, 2018**

Given in memory of  
Ken Struss and Elmer & Cora Schultz  
by Marie Struss and family.

#### **March 18, 2018**

Given in memory of  
Corrine Heiberg  
by family and friends.

#### **March 25, 2018**

Given by the Garlie Family  
in loving memory of  
Sawyer Garlie whose birthday was March 24,  
and in celebration of his cousin,  
Rhett Garlie, whose birthday was March 23,  
and his brother  
Brody Garlie's birthday on March 30.

If you would like to  
sponsor a broadcast (\$160),  
please contact the church office  
by phone at 507-645-4429 or email at  
[office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children to Remember!

#### Sunday School Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

April 1	No Sunday School (Easter)
April 8	Sunday School Toddler Time
April 15	Sunday School
April 22	Sunday School
April 29	Sunday School

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

April 4  
April 11  
April 18  
April 25

#### Prayer Buddy Get Together

Wednesday, April 4, 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

#### Third Grade CAT Retreat

Wednesday, May 2, 5:30-6:45 p.m., Undercroft



### Toddler Time Continues

Children who are 2 year olds (by 9/1/17) and Preschool Sunday School class, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler Time. We meet the second Sunday of each month at 9:45 a.m. in Room 14 (lower level).

Toddler Time includes songs, movement, Bible stories, games, and art for our little ones.



### Andy's Gang, Shores of St. Andrews Bible Camp, June 24-29

Kids in 2<sup>nd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grades! We'd love to have you join us at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp this summer in New London, MN. Feel free to invite a friend!

St. John's will be attending the week of **June 24-29**.

To find out more info about camp or to register online, go to <http://www.gllm.org/>. Everyone receives money from St. John's towards their registration fee, so please pay only the deposit of \$125. Register early to reserve your spot at camp.

If you are in need of a scholarship, please feel free to talk with Julie Brehmer. We want everyone have the opportunity to attend.



### Prayer Buddies Get-Together

During the Lenten season, 4th and 5th grade Catechism kids had an adult member of the congregation as their "Prayer Buddy". Prayer Buddies pray for their child through the Lenten season, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Thank you for being a caring adult in the life of a child.

**On Wednesday, April 4**, our Prayer Buddy Get-Together is in the Fireside Room starting at 5:30 p.m. for Prayer Buddies and their child/family to share their experience. The Wednesday meal will be served in the Fireside Room.

## Third Grade CAT Retreat

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend our last Catechism retreat of the year on Wednesday, May 2, from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Undercroft. Our topic is the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Please RSVP to Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or if you are unable to attend.



### VBS is Coming June 11-14

**For Age 3 (by 9/1/18) – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (completed)**

**9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Experience the ride of a lifetime with God!**

Experience the ride of a lifetime with God!

Along the river, children discover that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything.

St. John's, Bethel, Emmaus and St. Peter's Churches come together to provide this fun-filled summer camp experience.

This year's VBS is at Emmaus Church.

The cost is \$15.00 per child with a \$30.00 family limit.  
(Scholarships available)

Registration forms will be available in the lower and upper Commons and online at St. John's website, [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org).

**We need many volunteers for Rolling River Rampage!**

- Small Group Helpers - lead a small group of children to various stations
- Station Leaders and Assistants – lead music, crafts, games, Bible storytelling, snacks
- Decorating and Prep – prior to VBS
- Help with Registration on Monday, June 11
- Nursery Care

If you are willing to help please call Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or email at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet if you are willing to help.

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Youth to Remember!

#### Sunday Life Group Schedule

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

April 1	No Sunday Life Group (Easter)
April 8	Sunday Life Group
April 15	Sunday Life Group
April 22	Sunday Life Group
April 29	Sunday Life Group

#### Confirmation (Grades 6-9)

**6:15-7:30 p.m.**

April 4
April 11
April 18
April 25

#### High School Youth Group (Grades 10-12)

**6:15-7:30 p.m.**

April 4
April 11
April 18
April 25

## News and Updates

### Grace Overflowing Projects Begin

The first visible signs of your gifts to St. John's 150 Anniversary Campaign will appear in the month of April.

A new air handler has been ordered and will be installed along with new thermostats throughout the building beginning after Easter.

This may be somewhat noisy work, as it requires new ductwork in the building, but it will be well worth it when warm weather arrives.

At 60 years old, the previous air handler had long outlived its life expectancy.

Work will also begin soon on the Good Shepherd window – the original stained glass window on the south end of our Sanctuary.

The wood framing of this window has deteriorated and specialized work is required to prevent damage to the glass.

You can expect to see scaffolding on the steps on that side in April, and the south entrance to the Sanctuary will be closed off for a time.



## New Opportunity with Laura Baker Services: Community Building with Art, Music, and Technology

Laura Baker Services is one of the four grant recipients of the Grace Overflowing 150th Anniversary. Laura Baker Services has been a part of the Northfield community since 1898, and provides housing, educational, and support services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their mission is to respect the life choices and dreams of people with developmental disabilities and help them reach their goals. (See more about LBSA at <https://www.laurabaker.org/>).

The project with Laura Baker Services is the most relationship oriented of the four Grace Overflowing projects. The goal is for St. John's members to have the opportunity to get acquainted with and build relationships with members of the Laura Baker community. One of the greatest needs of the Laura Baker members is to find ways to participate with people who are willing to befriend them. Rather than being isolated because of disability, they and their families want to be part of the Northfield community. We at St. John's want them to be an integral part of our community, grounded in the love of Christ.

To begin, three avenues are offered to foster these relationships.

1. Table conversations at Wednesday Night Meals. Perhaps you have already noticed the table tents in the middle of the table with a question and an affirmation for discussion. Use these to talk with the people at your table, and make it a goal to speak with someone you don't know very well, or have never met. Perhaps a Laura Baker resident will be sitting at your table one night. This is an opportunity to begin a conversation and a relationship. Some Laura Baker members live in the community and might need a ride to come to the meal more often. As the relationship develops over time, consider whether you could offer transportation. See where the relationship takes you.
2. Many of us have never talked to a person with a disability, and we feel awkward and don't know what to say. That's why the table tents can help us get started. However, if you'd like to know more, you are invited to attend a small group to discuss how to build these relationships. Three small group sessions on relationship building will be held between services on April 15, 22, and 29.
3. A fun way to connect is through music and art activities. Jenny Solar, the Laura Baker music therapist, will lead a Drumming Group on Wednesday, April 11, from 6:15-7:00 p.m. in the Undercroft. Drumming is a fun way anyone can make music. No music background is required, just come and make a joyful noise. Future music activities may include an integrated choir, and jam/music share nights. Jenny will need help setting up equipment in the Undercroft. If you would like to volunteer to help, you can contact her at [Jenny@laurabaker.org](mailto:Jenny@laurabaker.org), or by phoning Laura Baker and leaving a message: 507-645-8866, ext. 144.

A poster displaying Laura Baker art and other activities will be featured in St. John's Hall. In the upcoming months, other opportunities for connecting through art, music and technology will be rolled out. Stay tuned. And be prayerful that God will guide and encourage us in forming loving bonds that will nurture us all.



**April 7, 2018 ❖ 7:00 pm ❖ St. John's Hall**



What really happens to all the kits and quilts that are sent out from our church? Get acquainted with the most effective relief aid to the world.

Speaker: Michael Johnson, Regional Representative and Philanthropic Advisor

sponsored by St. John's Women and St. John's Adult Ministry Board

## **Ecumenical Field Trip: Orthodox Good Friday**

Each year as part of our confirmation program, students have an inter-faith or ecumenical experience to help them understand their neighbor's faith as well as their own. In 2016 we visited a synagogue; in 2017 we spent a day learning about our Muslim neighbors; this year we will visit St. George's Orthodox Church in St. Paul as they celebrate their Good Friday.

The Orthodox calendar does not always align with ours. In 2018 Orthodox Holy Week and Easter fall one week after we celebrate Easter. We will carpool from Northfield on Friday evening April 6 to experience the Orthodox Good Friday liturgy - a sensory liturgical experience quite different from our own. Members of all ages are welcome to come along, but middle school students and their parents are especially invited to come.

Contact one of the pastors if you plan to come with us. We will gather at St. John's at 5:45 p.m. and return around 10:00 p.m.

## **Save the Date!**

Bishop Alex from the Central Diocese of Tanzania is scheduled to visit St. John's on Wednesday evening May 2 during our regular meal and programming. Watch for additional information in Sunday bulletins, news blasts, and the May edition of the Voice.

## **News and Updates**

### **St. John's Wednesday Night Meals**

Let's get together for Dinner -  
Come, share a meal!

All are welcome, it's a fantastic time for  
fellowship for ALL ages!

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

Free will offering appreciated!

**Wednesday, April 4**  
Lasagna

**Wednesday, April 11**  
Scalloped Potatoes with Ham

**Wednesday, April 18**  
Pizza Burgers

**Wednesday, April 25**  
Chicken Alfredo

**Wednesday Night**



Served from 5:15 - 6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall

All are welcome!

## News and Updates

### Registration Time at Open Door Preschool

Open Door Preschool has openings for the 2018-19 school year.

Open Door offers 2 and 3 day morning and afternoon sessions. Combinations and extended day options are also available.

Visit their website at: [www.opendoorpreschoolnorthfield.org](http://www.opendoorpreschoolnorthfield.org) or contact Barb Howe or Sue Anderson at 507-645-8532 for further information.

Scholarships are available.

Open Door is proud to be a 4 star Parent Aware rated program.



## From the Adult Ministry & Education Board: Book Review By Genevieve Quarberg

Two books in the Library at St. Johns that can be read after Easter, as you ponder the resurrected life.

*Holy Masquerade* by Olov Hartman is a record of the thoughts and feelings of Klara who is married to Albert, a pastor in a rural parish in Sweden in the 1960s during a Lenten season. You could call it a mystery, but you would wonder where to attach the words “suspect,” “betrayed,” or “criminal.”

The second book is one that several people at St. John’s read during Lent, *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. It, too, is a record, but a record of a life lived with great passion. Paul Kalanithi was a young neurosurgeon who was diagnosed with lung cancer. To read the book he wrote is to experience some of his drive, his intelligence, his search for a meaningful life.

## Synod Assembly: May 4 and 5

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod will gather for its annual assembly on Friday, May 4, and Saturday, May 5, in Mankato. The theme of this year’s assembly is accompanying our global partners, and guests from the synod’s global partners in Colombia, Tanzania and South Sudan will all be present for this assembly.

At its annual meeting in January, St. John’s elected voting members for the assembly. In addition to Pastors Fickenscher and Davis, St. John’s will send Kristin Partlo, Martin Thorsheim, and Tarkel Price.

Synod assemblies include worship, workshops, Bible study, and reports from all the working tables of the synod. Resolutions brought forward from the conferences are considered, and members of synod council and committees are elected. This year will also include election of voting members to the Churchwide Assembly in 2019.

The 2019 synod assembly will include the election of a new bishop. Bishop Steven Delzer has announced he will not seek another term, and none of the current synod staff are seeking election either. Bishop Delzer has invited the whole synod into a time of discernment in the year ahead as we prepare to identify a new bishop.

## Spring Women's Retreat: Decluttering Home and Heart

The Japanese call it “tidying up,” the Swedish call it “death cleaning,” and we call it decluttering. As women of St. John's, you are invited to a spring retreat, “Decluttering Home and Heart” on Saturday, April 21, from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We are delighted to have speakers guide us as we delve into decluttering both physically and spiritually. Kate Buckmeier, a specialist in home declutter and redesign, will lead the morning session (see more on her website: [www.katebuckmeier.com](http://www.katebuckmeier.com)). In the afternoon, Pastor Pam will guide us in clearing space in our hearts to listen to God and deepen our spiritual journey.

There will also be time to connect socially with participants, as we discuss our goals and struggles in small groups, visit over a salad lunch, and during an afternoon break.

Come ready to jumpstart your list of decluttering projects and create more space in your life for the things that matter the most to you. **Bring an item that you used to treasure, but now are ready to part with.** You will start your decluttering by leaving this item at the retreat (it will be donated to Used A Bit Shop).

Registration will continue on Sundays in April between worship services, and at the Wednesday Night Meals from 4:50-5:50 p.m. Cost is \$25 (waivers are available on request). Registration is limited to 60.

The retreat will be held at Ruth's on Stafford in Dundas (410 Stafford Lane South, behind Gleason Company on Highway 3). Rides will be provided to those who request, leaving St. John's at 8:30 a.m.

## Crack the Shy Lutheran Shell: Introduction to Community Building with Laura Baker Services

**What:** Discussion groups to introduce this new relationship building project.

**Leader:** Sandi Gerdes, Director of Laura Baker Services Association

**When:** Between services (9:45-10:30 a.m.) on Sundays April 15, 22 & 29.

**Where:** Fireside Room

## News and Updates

### St. John's Youth Participate in JRLC Day on the Hill

On March 13, Jane Rinehart accompanied St. John's youth Katie Schroeer, Viveka Hall-Holt, and Dylan Gehring to the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) Day on the Hill, at the Capitol in St. Paul.

There, they attended a session on homelessness, and then met with our state legislators to discuss important social justice issues that our faith calls us to address.



# the **WOMEN'S** page



## April Gatherings

**Abigail/Rebecca Circle and Martha/Claudia Circle**  
Thursday, April 12, 9:30a  
Parkview West Fireside Rm

**Elizabeth Circle**  
Thursday, April 12, 1:30p  
Darlene Hand  
1109 Farehaven Court

**Lydia Circle and Sarah Circle**  
Wednesday, April 11  
9:00 Coffee  
10:00 Bible Study  
lead by Pastor Stephanie Frey  
former Assistant to the Bishop  
of the SW MN Synod  
St. John's Hall

**Mary Circle**  
Friday, April 13, 1:00p  
Sharon Flaten's home  
Village on the Cannon  
301 7th St W

**Bold Cafe**  
Thursday, April 19, 7:30p  
@ the Hideaway  
Sunday, April 15, 9:45  
Room 19, downstairs

**Baby Boomers**  
Saturday, April 4:30-6:00p  
Julie Zdenek's home  
2121 Ontario Ln

**Saturday Breakfast Club**  
Saturday, April 7, 8:30a  
St. John's Fireside Rm



## APRIL PROGRAM:



**Lutheran World Relief**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

April 7, 2018 ❖ 7:00 pm ❖ St. John's Hall  
Speaker: Michael Johnson, Regional  
Representative and Philanthropic Advisor.



**Retreat:** April 21, 8:45-4:00

*Decluttering Home & Heart*



Register in the Commons Sundays and Wednesdays \$25, deadline April 11

**Northfield  
NECumenical  
EWomen**



Fellowship of the Least Coin offering [www.flc.net.ph](http://www.flc.net.ph)

**May 5, 2018 - 9:30am**

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church, N'fld**

Refreshments & Program: Touching lives  
and improving health with therapy animals.  
R.S.V.P. before April by contacting Shirley  
507-663-6056/ [shirleyshaft@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleyshaft@yahoo.com)

## CANNON RIVER CONFERENCE Saturday, April 14, 8:00-Noon

**Program:** Service Dog Trainer, Sam Daly, who provides skilled service dogs for disabled veterans with the non-profit, "Believet" Canine Service Partners.



\$12 registration includes lunch

PRE-REGISTRATION preferred (to get a lunch count)

Make checks payable to: SEMN SYNOD WELCA

mail to: Cora Lee Monroe, 304 Skogen Lane, Kenyon, MN 55946

Holden Lutheran Church 6949 County 30 Blvd., RuReral Kenyon

Visit our web page:

<https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/women/>



like us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns"  
friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns  
(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Correspondence: [women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com)  
Publicity: Julie Zdenek

St. John's  
**Women**  
of the  
**ELCA**

## Something NEW!

Have you been a little confused on how to contact Christy instead of Mary or vice versa by email? No need to be puzzled anymore! We have a solution.



If you would like to reach Christy directly, you can now email her at [connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org). If you forget and send an email for Christy to the [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org) mailbox, no need to worry, anything sent to the Shared Ministry email for Christy will get forwarded to her.

Christy is working hard with Accompany, Wednesday Night Meals, and recruiting people for the various needs here at St.

John's, she is constantly "connect"-ing people with one another and making "connect"-ions with the perfect service opportunities for each person's comfort level. As you think about all the "connect"ing she does within our congregation, the email change to [connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org) seemed to be a perfect choice.



Mary will still use the [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org) address and will make sure Christy receives any and all emails still coming to this address for Christy. If you have any questions about the email address change or anything else Shared Ministry related, please let either Christy or Mary know, and we will do our best to help you out.

## New Member Luncheon

We invite newcomers to St. John's to a lunch after worship on Sunday, April 22. If you have not already received an invitation but wish to join St. John's, please contact Christy Hall-Holt at 507-645-4429 or [connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Shared Ministry



### Thanks to the Many St. John's Volunteers Who Put on Soup Suppers during Lent!

The St. John's Board members and Executive Committee all took a turn. Setting up, serving, and cleaning up after the meal take a good chunk of time - thank you for your service.

Peggy Dell and Kristy Harms who coordinate everything that goes into making the delicious suppers, including the homemade soups.

### Bread from BOB (Brick Oven Bakery) Donated Every Week for Wednesday Meals

Dean Christensen of Brick Oven heard about the Wednesday Meals at St. John's and donated surplus bread from the Bakery every week.

This home style bread is preservative free and delicious!  
Thanks Brick Oven!

## News and Updates



### Pub Theology

What is Pub Theology?

Led by Pastors Pam and Jonathan, it is a conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture.

No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet on the following Mondays  
in February from 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
at Froggy Bottoms:  
**April 9**  
**April 23**

Feel free to invite family and friends,  
neighbors, and strangers.

Each time, the topic will be different and will  
be published ahead of time on Facebook,  
the News Blast, and an email list.

Contact Pastor Jonathan  
([jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org))  
to add your name to the email list.

## Books & Scholarships Gala Fundraiser in Support of Girls' Education in Togo, West Africa

You are cordially invited to learn more about College Monfant and enjoy a joyous African-themed evening on Saturday, April 28, 2018, 6:00-9:00 p.m., O'Gara Social Hall, Church of St. Dominic, 104 N Linden Street, Northfield.

College Monfant is a Catholic girls middle and high school located in northern Togo with a Northfield connection. Northfield resident Nalongue Virginie Cogan is a 1984 alumna and founder of Friends of College Monfant, a 501 (c)(3) organization dedicated to raising funds to support scholarships for the neediest students (\$450/year for tuition, room, and board) and special projects at the school.

Learn more on our website, [collegemonfant.org](http://collegemonfant.org). RSVP for the dinner by visiting our website, emailing [collegemonfant@gmail.com](mailto:collegemonfant@gmail.com), or calling Naomi at 612-788-6328. \$20/adult, \$5/child, \$50 maximum/family, pay at the door.

Children's menu and childcare provided. A fun evening for all. Please join us!



# From Bread for the World: Excerpts from a Sermon Delivered Recently at Duke University Chapel by Bread for the World President David Beckmann

*In Jesus Christ, we know that God loves each one of us - and everybody else. God's love includes the people who make us furious, people on the other side of the world, different racial and ethnic groups, and certainly all the people who must struggle just to feed their kids.*

*You can't be connected to God and ignore hungry people.*

*Worldwide, there are about 800 million really hungry people. In these families, many of the children die young, and people don't have enough energy to be fully productive. In our country one in six children lives in a home that sometimes runs out of food. The intermittent and relatively moderate hunger in America cripples young children for life and causes health problems for adults too.*

*I think the most important thing to know about hunger is that the extent of hunger is declining. According to the World Bank, the number of extremely poor people in the world is less than half what it was in 1990. In the United States the number of people in poverty has, roughly, been cut in half since the 1960s. So we have made progress. And more progress is possible.*

*If you believe in God, this is something for which to give thanks. The great liberation from material misery that is underway is like the Biblical Exodus - an experience of our loving God in the world. And God is asking us to be part of it - to help move it forward.*

*Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy movement to end hunger. Bread for the World and our members help hungry people by urging our members of Congress to get our government to do its part. In fact, we can't make dramatic progress against hunger unless we can get the U.S. government to do its part.*

St. John's members joined in the 2018 "Offering of Letters," writing 136 letters to Congress on behalf of hungry people on March 4, 7, and 11. They were offered with our other gifts in worship. Letters can be sent at anytime to Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, and Representative Jason Lewis, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. For more information go to [bread.org/ol](http://bread.org/ol).

## St. John's Staff

### Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

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### Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

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### Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

[children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### Facility Manager

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### Financial Manager

Bernie Renander

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### Music Staff

Carol Benson - Alleluia and Jubilate Choirs  
[caroldbenson@gmail.com](mailto:caroldbenson@gmail.com)

Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers  
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### Office Manager

Leah H. Garlie

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### Parish Nurse

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### Shared Ministry

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Mary Kelvie

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### Youth Support Staff

Angie Gehring

[youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### Congregation President

Rob Quanbeck

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**OFFICE HOURS**

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-Th

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fri

## PERSONAL CARE KITS

Personal Care Kit collection begins after Easter  
Assembly on May 13th



*Thin dark bath towels*  
*Sturdy combs*  
*Nail clippers*  
*Bath bar size soap*  
*(no toothbrushes)*

Items can be deposited in the box under  
the bulletin boards in the commons area  
located outside the office.