



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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DECEMBER 2017



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Advent and Christmas Worship & Events

Advent Fair

Wednesday, November 29, from 5:15-7:15 p.m.

Sunday, December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Advent Vespers

Wednesdays, December 6 and 13, at 6:30 p.m.

Contemplative Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship at 10:45 a.m.
(see page 6 for additional information)

Sunday, December 17 - Third Sunday of Advent

Service of Lessons and Carols at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Services

Intergenerational Event: Christmas Dinner Workshop - Between Services
(see page 5 for additional information)

Sunday, December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve - Sunday, December 24

Christmas Vespers at 3:00 p.m. (especially for families and children)

Christmas Vespers with Candlelight at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Candlelight and Holy Communion at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Monday, December 25

Christmas Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Dinner for All from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 31

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

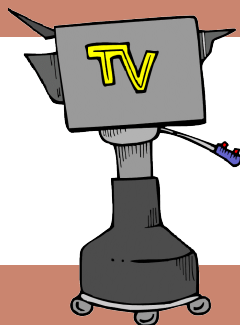


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

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:

It is the time of Advent and Christmas. As the darkness settles over each day earlier and earlier, this is a time when moments with hot chocolate, candles, fireplaces, and loved ones have the power to warm our hearts and feed our spirits. Know that I am grateful for you this Christmas season and look forward to celebrating the beautiful and hope-filled story of Jesus' birth with you all.

What a hard year this has been. I guess that could be said every year - but this year in particular. What a year. I could list all the reasons why, but I suspect you know them. You probably have your own list.

One of my new favorite books of prayer is *Guerillas of Grace*, by Ted Loder. The prayer for Christmas begins like this:

Lord God, in the deepest night there rises the star of morning, of birth, the herald of a new day you are making, a day of great joy dawning in yet faint shafts of light and love.

I hear whispers of peace in the stillness, fresh breezes of promise stirring, winter sparrows, chirping of life, a baby's cry of need and hope - Christmas!

The promise of Christmas is God's ongoing presence in the midst of hard times. It is God's commitment to be near us and with us and for us. A commitment that arrives in the least likely place - in the ordinary peasant child born to unwed parents in an animal's barn. Behold! Look! See! Light shining in the darkness. And the darkness cannot overcome it.

God is faithful to us and promises to show up in ordinary places.

So, in the midst of a difficult year, I have seen light breaking through the darkness within our community: a child danced with joy at the moment of receiving communion for the first time. Spouses poured out love to each other in their dying days. Hearts shattered with grief and this community bound them back together with love. An 80-year old mother drove two-hours just to watch her children become members of St. John's.

All of which happened in one week in November. In many ways, what a beautiful year it has been too.

Meister Eckhart, a 14th Century mystic, once said, "What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God, and I do not also give birth to the Son of God in my time and in my culture?...God is always needing to be born."

As we enter into Advent and await the celebration of Christmas, thank you for all the ways you are reflections of God's light in this world today. Praise God for the opportunities this season for all of us to give birth to God's love in the world!

With peace and love,

Pastor Jonathan

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenschner



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 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."

December 2, 2016
Forrest Brown

Stephen Ministry: A Gift of Time and a Listening Ear...

This is the time for gift giving and joy. But all too often this season, in all its frenzy, can also bring high stress and even depression, especially for those who are going through difficult times. The Mayo Clinic, in the article that follows, offers a number of suggestions for taking control of the holidays and preventing stress and depression. Our wish for you is a season filled with peace and joy.

Tips to prevent holiday stress and depression:

1. Acknowledge your feelings. If someone close to you has recently died or you can't be with loved ones, realize that it's normal to feel sadness and grief. It's OK to take time to cry or express your feelings.
2. Reach out. If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out community, religious or other social events for support and companionship. Volunteering your time to help others also is a good way to lift your spirits and broaden your friendships.
3. Be realistic. The holidays don't have to be perfect. As families change and grow, traditions and rituals often change as well. Choose a few to hold on to, and be open to creating new ones.
4. Set aside differences. Try to accept family members and friends as they are. Set aside grievances, and be understanding if others get upset or distressed.
5. Stick to a budget. Before shopping for gifts or food, decide how much money you can afford to spend. Don't try to buy happiness. Try these alternatives:
 - Donate to a charity in someone's name.
 - Give homemade gifts.
 - Draw names to start a family gift exchange.
6. Take a breather. Make some time for yourself. Find something that reduces stress by clearing your mind, slowing your breathing and restoring inner calm. Some options may include:
 - Taking a walk at night and stargazing.
 - Listening to soothing music.
 - Getting a massage.
 - Reading a book.

Additionally, if you or someone you know might benefit from talking with someone who will listen without judging, consider the gift of a St. John's Stephen Minister. Our Stephen Ministers have received more than 50 hours of training. It's free. It's confidential. And it could make a difference. Please call one of the pastors (507-645-4429) or Pam Schwandt (507-645-6120).

St. John's Forums in December

December 3:

Surviving the Holidays - A Community Conversation

In *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, Ellen Griswold famously said, "I don't know what to say except that it's Christmas and we're all in misery." While many of us know Jesus is the reason for the season, too often all the holiday cheer can get clouded over with 5 different family Christmases across the state, painful family dynamics, crushing credit card bills, and more. Does it have to be this way? Will it every stop? Misery loves company, as they say, so let's get together and chat about it. On December 3, the St. John's Forum will be a community conversation around surviving the holidays. Together, we will talk about what weighs down the holiday season and how we might help it bring life instead.

December 10:

Luther On Christmas with Guest Presenter Dr. Anthony Bateza

As we remember the 500th year of the Reformation, what were Martin Luther's thoughts on Christmas and celebrating the birth of Christ? What contributions did he make to this holiday in the Church? Join us on December 10, as we welcome Luther Scholar and St. Olaf Professor of Religion, Dr. Anthony Bateza as he teaches about Martin Luther and Christmas.

Divorce Support Group for Women

This past summer, St. John's Stephen Ministry started a divorce support group for men. It was very successful in supporting people during an extremely difficult and isolating time of life. At this time, we are considering piloting another group for women living through divorce. If you or someone you know would benefit from and be interested in this, please contact Pastor Jonathan at 507-645-4429 or jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Mark your calendars for an Intergenerational Event! Christmas Dinner Workshop Sunday, December 17, 9:45-10:30 a.m.



Elves of all ages are needed to decorate placemats, make table decorations and roll napkins for our St. John's Community Christmas Day Dinner.

Come join in the Christmas spirit of helping others while enjoying some carols, cookies and camaraderie.

Life and Growth

Baptisms

November 12, 2017

Quinn Irene Erickson

Daughter of Lynnette and Nicholas Erickson

November 22, 2017

Jason Andrew Jackson, Jr.

Son of Ann and Jason Jackson

Deaths

November 3, 2017

Wesley "Wes" Pearson

November 18, 2017

Jessie Lindberg



Radio Broadcasts

November 5, 2017

Given by Bruce and Audrey Moe
in memory of their parents.

November 12, 2017

Given by
Tony Becker and Rebecca Judge.

November 19, 2017

Given in memory of
Milo Quinnell by his family.

November 26, 2017

Given in memory of
Dot and Cully Swanson
by the Haugen and Gaffey families.

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.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

December 3	Sunday School
December 10	Sunday School
December 17	Intergenerational Event
December 24	No Sunday School (Christmas Eve)
December 31	No Sunday School (New Year's Eve)

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

December 6	
December 13	
December 20	No Programs (Christmas Break)
December 27	No Programs (Christmas Break)

Advent Fair!

Wednesday, November 29, St. John's Hall
5:15-7:00 p.m.

Christmas Worship Service with Our Sunday School Kids

Sunday, December 10
10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary



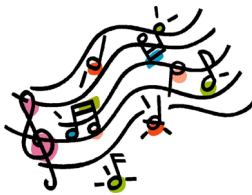
Children's Communion Instruction Available

Holy Communion is the meal of all the baptized children of God.

If your baptized child has expressed an interest in receiving Holy Communion please contact a pastor.

Kids! Would you like to be part of the Sunday School Christmas Program Prelude Music?

Sunday school children are welcome to participate in the prelude music for the Sunday School Christmas program on December 10.



We welcome solos or ensembles, short instrumental or vocal pieces. The prelude begins at 10:30 a.m. before the 10:45 a.m. Sunday school program.

Please sign-up in the Commons or contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you are interested in participating.

St. John's Sunday School Classes Lead Worship Sunday, December 10

Mark your calendars! St. John's children lead our 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 10, in St. John Sanctuary.

The program, "The Light Before Christmas", a musical written by Joseph Martin, is performed by children in preschool-grade 5. Pre-service music by children in K-grade 5 begins at 10:30 a.m.

If your child is unable to participate please notify his/her teacher or contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429.



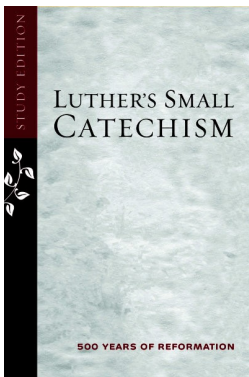
Toddler Time Continues

Children who are 2 year olds (by 9/1/17) and Preschool 1, 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.

Here is our schedule for the year: Dec. 10, Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11, Apr. 8, and May 13.



Catechism for 4th and 5th graders will resume in January

CAT classes meet downstairs, 4th grade in Room 19 and 5th grade in the Undercroft, from 4:15-4:45 p.m. Let Julie know if your child would like to ride the Wednesday after-school bus to CAT!

Remember to bring your CAT book!

Christmas Books Available

St. John's Library has many wonderful Christmas and Advent books and are available for parents and children to check out - some will be on display in the library and others will be downstairs by the Nursery.

Nursery Thank You!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers who offer their time on Sunday morning to care for children in the Nursery during worship services!

Special thank to Amy McBroom for preparing the schedule of volunteers and to our St Olaf student, Hannah Wenzel. It is truly appreciated!

Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, January 15, is a NO SCHOOL DAY so we're heading to the bowling alley!

Who:

Grades 2-8, Friends are always welcome!

Where:

Jesse James Lanes
Hwy 3, Northfield

Time:

12:30-2:00 p.m.

Cost:

\$10.00
(2 games & shoe rental)



Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Nursery. Parents: Please drop off and pick up your child (ren) at the bowling alley. If they need a ride or financial assistance to participate, give Julie a call at 507-645-4429 or email at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Parent or high school chaperones are needed!

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Youth to Remember!

Sunday Life Group Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

December 3	Life Group
December 10	Life Group
December 17	Life Group
December 24	No Life Group (Christmas Eve)
December 31	No Life Group (New Year's Eve)

Confirmation (Grades 6-9)

6:15-7:30 p.m.

December 6	Advent Vespers
December 13	Advent Vespers
December 20	No Confirmation (Christmas Break)
December 27	No Confirmation (Christmas Break)

High School Youth Group (Grades 10-12)

6:15-7:30 p.m.

December 6	Advent Vespers
December 13	Advent Vespers
December 20	No Youth Group (Christmas Break)
December 27	No Youth Group (Christmas Break)

Shared Ministry

Welcome New Members

We welcomed the following
new members this fall.

They were recognized during the
10:45 a.m. worship service
on Sunday, November 19,
followed by a luncheon with St. John's Staff.

Charles and Shirley Anderson

Melissa Berger

*Tamara and Demian Jackman
& Quinn, Imogen, Frances*

Tom Kaiser

Tracy Kochendorfer

Wanda and Rick Koehler

Arielle and Adam Loy & Anders and Isaac

Janet Monson

Julie Monson,

David and Sue Schorr

Joyce Stofft

Bruce Blomberg & Ben and Jackson

Inger and Dan Hanson & Sylvi, Mari, Thea

Brent and Melissa Pellinen & Edie and Iris

Wally and Roberta Wegner



Wednesday Meals Are For Everyone! Could You Be For Wednesday Meals?

Did you know Wednesday Meals are prepared and served exclusively by **volunteers**? This team has grown to enjoy working with each other - they even got together for a dinner during the summer because they missed seeing each other!

Wednesday Meal CLEAN UP is also in need of dedicated people. Our dishwasher dynamic duo, Ken and Jamie, need someone to **bus dishes** in the dining room and to **put away clean dishes**. **Wiping down dining tables, putting away the napkin/salt & pepper baskets, sweeping the kitchen and serving area, breaking down the beverage table, and washing pots and pans** are the other essential parts of clean up. Can you see yourself taking 15-25 minutes once a month to take care of one of these roles? Let Christy or one of the kitchen crew know - either ahead of time, or on the spur of the moment!

Wednesday Meals are sustained by the free will offerings of people who enjoy the weekly time together. THANK YOU! Our diners are still made up primarily of St. John's people, however, the word is getting out and we are welcoming more and more people from the greater Northfield community. Please keep your free will donations coming so we can provide for those who need it, especially at this time of year.

2018

...loading...

Join us New Year's Eve 10 a.m.

Can you help with greeting, communion prep or cleanup?
Sign up on CCB, through sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org or in the Commons.

Advent Vespers December 6 and 13: What are you waiting for?

Waiting - it can be an annoyance or an anguish; an opportunity or an obstacle. As we enter the season of Advent we're invited to consider waiting as a spiritual practice. Whether we choose to wait or are thrust into a situation where waiting is inevitable, living in the place in between now and not yet can help us ask deeper questions about our lives.

For two Wednesdays this Advent we will gather at 6:30 p.m. for a brief service of song and prayer, listening to Scripture's admonition to "wait on the Lord" and praying for each other in the various waiting spaces where we find ourselves. Join us!



Christmas Services

DEC. 24TH
10 A.M.
3:00 P.M.
5:00 P.M.
11:00 P.M.

DEC. 25TH
10 A.M.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO
SPREAD THE CHEER BY
GREETING OR DOING
COMMUNION PREP /
CLEAN UP AT ONE OF
THESE SERVICES.

Thank You for Your 2018 Intent to Give!

We are about halfway to our goal of 300 households pledging gifts for our ministry next year. Your pledge helps us plan ministry and mission for the year ahead. This year one goal is to alleviate the need for additional children and youth fundraising by supporting our programs and camps through regular giving.

You can submit your intent card to the church office at any time, or by emailing our Finance Manager at finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Thanks!

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, December 6
Tater Tot Pot Pie

Wednesday, December 13
Scalloped Potatoes with Ham

Wednesday, December 20
No Meal - Christmas Break

Wednesday, December 27
No Meal - Christmas Break



Wednesday Night
MEALS

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

News and Updates

Christmas with Copper Street Brass



There is no better time for brass
than the holidays!

Minneapolis-based
Copper Street Brass (CSB) represents a
new direction in brass chamber music.
Combining classical music with jazz, pop
and rock music, the CSB brings their
popular holiday concert
“Christmas on Copper Street”
to St. John’s
on Friday, December 8, at 7:30 p.m.

They will play music from traditional carols
to funk and rock holiday tunes.
This year’s concert features music of
favorite movies and TV specials
The Nutcracker, *The Snowman*,
A Charlie Brown Christmas, and *The Grinch*.

Tickets are on sale now- \$20 or \$25 at the
door and \$10 for students.

For more information go to
www.copperstreetbrass.org



St. Olaf Christmas Festival

Do you love the St. Olaf Christmas Festival but can’t attend this year due to mobility reasons or sensitivities to big crowds? Are you curious about what the concert is like but haven’t been before? Do you already have a ticket but want to take it in one more time?

We will be showing the live
stream of the Christmas Festival
on Sunday, December 3 from
3:00-5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.



Come enjoy the program in a calm, low-key environment. It’s free!

Christmas Festival 2017 with the National Lutheran Choir

This cherished annual event creates a holy experience for audiences in the awe-inspiring Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. In 2017, the birth of Christ as a refugee story is more poignant and relevant than ever. In this time of unwelcome, discord, and deepening division, is there room for Christ to be born today? Concerts are Friday, December 8, 4:30 & 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 9, 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: Adult \$30 | Senior \$27 | Student \$10 | 17 and under free. For more information go to www.NLCA.com

Art Exhibit in St. John’s Hall

Check out the new art exhibit in St. John’s Hall by artists Chuck Hoffman and Peg Carlson-Hoffman titled *Beneath the Surface: Exploring the Layers*.

Chuck and Peg are currently the directors of Holden Village in Chelan, WA.

The couple made a pilgrimage to Palestine and Israel and the artwork is a spiritual reflection following the trip. The paintings are “memories, reflections, and prayers forged in color, shape, and form.”



The exhibit is on display until the end of January.

Grace Overflowing

A forum on November 19 introduced the following projects. For those of you who could not attend, here is a summary.

"He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." - 2 Corinthians 9:10-12

**In celebration of 150 years of gifts given
Extending God's grace to our community for the next 150 years.**

As we celebrate our sesquicentennial, every generation of St. John's will be invited into this time of thanksgiving for God's grace and extending our mission into the future. You are invited to be part of this ever-flowing stream of God's gifts to us as we work to invite others into our celebration and to help others receive the welcome we have received from God.

God's grace to us is overflowing. In trust that God's abundance continues, we are committing to raising \$750,000 in the next three years to extend the mission and ministry of St. John's for the next 150 years.

Gifts received will support St. John's in the areas of Worship and Welcome, and Generosity.

This month our Overflowing with Grace capital campaign committee is highlighting **how** we will continue our heritage of **generosity** to the community.

We are excited to announce that we have already committed 20% of our funds to four community outreach projects that have been selected through a grant process. Two of these projects address the need for emergency and low-income housing in our community. Two other projects address poverty and isolation through education and collaboration. These exciting new projects will also offer opportunities for us as a congregation to make connections and build relationships with marginalized individuals through mentorships and collaborative projects in the arts.

- We will provide a lead gift for a new home in Northfield through Habitat for Humanity.
- We will fund a new center for recent high school graduates of the TORCH program, supporting Northfield residents who face special challenges to attend college.
- We will build new connections in our community through arts and music projects with Laura Baker Services Association.
- We will provide a lead gift for new emergency housing, in partnership with the Community Action Center at the Manger Inn.
- We will help and support families in financial need as determined by the Benevolence Committee and the Emergency Pastor's Fund.

By prayerfully considering a generous gift to our Grace Overflowing campaign, you will become a part of the fulfillment of this mission as we seek to meet these challenges.

News and Updates

The Christmas Sharing Tree Now - December 3

Our annual "Christmas Sharing Tree", a program sponsored by the Northfield Community Action Center, will be displayed in St. John's Commons thru **December 3**.

The Giving Tree is decorated with paper stars.

Each star has a gift idea, along with the name, age, and gender of a child whose family needs help purchasing Christmas gifts this year.

Purchased gifts should be placed, unwrapped, with the paper star attached, and put under the tree by Sunday, **December 3**.

In addition, we will offer gifts to our Companion Synod, the Central Diocese of Tanzania. The tree will be decorated with envelopes for making donations to the Tanzania Scholarship Fund.

Thank you in advance for your donations!



WOMEN'S

page

December Gatherings

Abigail/Rebecca Circle
Martha/Claudia Circle
Thursday, December 14, 11:00
King's Room Luncheon
NRC van leaves at 11:00
Bible Study following luncheon

Elizabeth Circle
Thursday, December 14, 10:00
Jo Kleber's home
616 Meldahl Lane

Lydia Circle
Wednesday, December 13, 10:00
Christmas Luncheon
Anita Hellie's home
1129 Heritage Drive

Mary Circle
Friday, December 15, 1:00pm
Jo Olson's home
516 Southbridge Drive

Sarah Circle
Wednesday, December 13
Norma Gilbertson's home
808 East Fifth Street

Bold Cafe
Taking December off
See you in January!

Baby Boomers
Joining the Saturday Breakfast
Club for the December gathering
December 9, 8:30am
St. John's Fireside Rm

Saturday Breakfast Club
Saturday, December 9, 8:30am
St. John's Fireside Rm



NEED COOKIES?

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO FILL YOUR CHRISTMAS COOKIE JAR!

Bring 2 dozen cookies to exchange
Bring 1/2 dozen cookies to sample with coffee

What's your immigration story? Share something of your ancestry. Bring an object, story, or Christmas tradition to share, something passed down through your family.

Thursday ♦ December 7 ♦ 1:00pm ♦ St. John's Hall



**ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
CAROLS
LUNCHEON**
**in the
King's Room,
on The Hill**

Thursday ♦ January 4 ♦ 11:30am

Delightful music and delicious food are always the fare at our annual Christmas luncheon in the King's Room, Buntrock on the St. Olaf campus.

Save a spot for yourself by signing up at the St. John's Women's bulletin board. \$15 per person.

Rides will be available from St. John's parking lot at 11:10.

Stay tuned for interesting and enlightening programming, Spring of 2018. Nationally known speakers, book study, international food tasting, retreat, and more!



I'mMigration:

Cultivating Diversity, Equity and Justice
St. John's Women's 2017-2018 theme

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
Publicity: Julie Zdenek

St. John's
Women
of the
ELCA

St. Johns' Christmas Dinner for the Northfield Community

As we approach Thanksgiving and consider our many blessings we also look forward to our celebration of the birth of our Savior. This celebration includes our gift of a free and open meal for the Northfield community.

St John's will again host the community Christmas dinner on Christmas Day as we have in past years. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, this dinner is St. John's gift to the community and is open at no cost to anyone who comes. This gift has brought special joy to all whether as a contributor of food, as a worker or as a guest at the meal. We all celebrate the birth of Christ on this day.

Immediately after Thanksgiving, we will be recruiting donations of food and labor from members of the Congregation. **Many workers are needed for various 1 1/2 to 2 hour shifts on December 24 and 25. Donations of food including salads, desserts, and potato bakes are needed.** We welcome all the contributions from our members as we celebrate Christmas together.

The Celebration Plan

Immediately after Thanksgiving, there will be opportunities to sign up to provide potato bake dish, dessert or salad to supplement the turkey and meatballs that are purchased. Other (or the same) members will be asked to volunteer 1 1/2 to 2 hours of their time on the 24th or 25th. Set up for the dinner will begin at 12:00 noon on the 24th (note this is Sunday). Christmas Day work shifts will begin at 10:30, 11:00, and 12:30 both in the kitchen and in St. John's Hall. As in the past, volunteers will sign up for a particular task at a particular time. Consequently, each volunteer will know their task for the day before they arrive to work. We do not ask for volunteers to show up in hopes of having something for them to do, but you can always check at the last minute to see if help is needed. The entire dinner, a gift from St. John's, depends upon our members for its success. We warmly welcome your contribution.

Some members and families celebrate their Christmas Dinner by gathering for the meal at St. John's. They celebrate together with the many different people who participate in our Christmas Dinner. Some family groups have volunteered to work together before going to their family dinner either in the hall or at home. Others are represented by one or two members of their family, working their shift. Others who are traveling, are unable to help or have other commitments will provide monetary gifts to cover the cost of purchased turkey and meatballs.

Christmas is a joyous time! The Magi celebrated the birth of the Christ child with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. As part of our celebration, we open our doors wide to the community with our gifts of equally precious service, nourishment, and human kindness.

News and Updates

It's Easy! Direct a Holiday Gift to St. John's!

If you are an eligible member of Thrivent Financial, don't forget to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars.®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program is directed to our ministry among youth and to the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2018, to direct any remaining 2017 Choice Dollars.

But St. John's Lutheran Church needs your support now - this year. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Don't let Choice Dollars expire. (Note: Eligibility is based upon premiums and contract values - not all members of Thrivent are eligible).

Poinsettia Orders

The Chancel Guild will be taking orders for poinsettias between services on Sundays, December 3 and 10, and on Wednesday, December 6 during the Wednesday Night Meal.

If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone or in celebration of Christmas, stop in the Commons on the above referenced dates. The order form will also be available in the church office and on the website.

The last day to have your order form in is Wednesday, December 13.

The flowers will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

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 Monday, December 11 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Froggy Bottoms.

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) to add your name to the email list.

Don't Forget Your Year-End Offerings

As always, St. John's relies on your generosity for all of our ministry together.

As we near the end of 2017, we hope you will remember us in your donations, whether pledged or spontaneous.

Offerings can be submitted online until midnight December 31, postmarked by 12/30 by mail, or dropped off in person through noon on January 5.

Thank you!



Mark your calendars...

**St. Olaf Choir
Breakfast**

January 14, 2018

Can you help?

Contact

sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org



THEY ARE US Lutherans and Immigration

authors: Stephen Bouman and Ralston Deffenbaugh, forward by Martin E. Marty

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

6:00pm, St. John's Fireside Room

Led by Shirley Keltto

Everyone welcome

sponsored by St. John's Women and St. John's Adult Education Committee



ImMigration:

Cultivating Diversity, Equity and Justice

books may be purchased from Content Books, N'fld, or from Marilyn Calcutt 645-2814

Can you solve... The Case of the Missing Hearing devices?



From Bread for the World:

The U.S. House and Senate have passed budget resolutions that pave the way for tax cuts that will result in trillions of dollars of cuts to domestic and international programs that serve poor and hungry people. However, the fight to protect these programs is not over. We can have an impact when we tell members of Congress to reject decisions that will cut spending for vital anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs. Here following is a sample message that we can adapt as we see fit to communicate with Representative Lewis and Senators Klobuchar and Franken.



(date)

Dear (Representative or Senator),

As you consider 2018 spending decisions, I ask that you protect funding for critical anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs. I am deeply opposed to a spending bill that, if passed, would increase hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world.

With 1 in 8 U.S. families struggling to put food on the table, and over 815 million people around the world living in hunger, now is not the time to cut funding for programs like WIC, global nutrition, and humanitarian assistance.

Cutting funding to these programs will increase hunger and hardship for millions of people in the U.S. and abroad. As Congress works on the remainder of the fiscal year 2018 spending bills, I urge you to reject cuts to lifesaving programs.

Sincerely,

(Name, Address or Email, City, State, Zip)

Representative Jason Lewis Senator Amy Klobuchar or Al Franken
U.S. House of Representatives U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515 Washington, DC 20510

For email format, google name of Representative or Senator.
Capitol Switch Board 202-224-3121.

For additional information: www.bread.org

PEW PADS AVAILABLE

Need cushioning? Pew pads will be available for your use in the front of the sanctuary, 2nd pew, closest to the Commons doors, and on the two back pews on either side.

Please return them on your way out.



sponsored by: 

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WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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



Early Deadline for the Voice!

With the holiday season upon us and a need to keep communication flowing - the deadline for the January Voice is EARLY!

The deadline for January's Voice is Friday, December 8.

Please get submissions in by the deadline. If articles are not in, they will not appear in the January edition of the Voice.

Thanks for your help and cooperation.

Annual Meeting Reports!

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report - the due date for reports is **Friday, December 15.**

Please get the reports in on time!

Mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 21.