



The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2018

# Lent.

a season of renewal

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## Lent Begins February 14 with Ash Wednesday

Lent, our springtime period of renewal and focus on repentance and life in Christ, begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, with worship and the imposition of ashes at noon and 6:30 p.m.

The ashes we receive on our foreheads remind us that we, along with all of creation, are dependent on God's grace.

Mid-week worship begins the following week, February 21, at 6:30 p.m.

**Soup Suppers** precede each midweek service (*including* Ash Wednesday), serving from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

**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

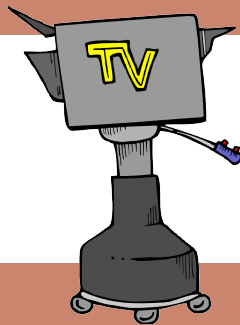


### TV Broadcasts

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:

As you all know, in early September, our Directory of Youth & Family Ministry, Mike Skunes, left St. John's for a new position at a church in Wisconsin. Since then, many of you have been wondering, "What's next? When will we be hiring a new youth director?"

Notice that I used the word "wondering" in that previous sentence. I have been surprised that in the past few months I have not been explicitly *hearing* that question very often. When I do hear it, it is asked more with curiosity, rather than panic or fear. This tells me two things. First, Mike Skunes did a great job of building a youth ministry at St. John's that is knit into the fabric of this congregation. He helped us to see youth as part of the whole congregation and youth ministry as the congregation's ministry, not the ministry of one individual. Because of this, youth ministry has continued on this fall through the caring relationships already built up and the numerous volunteers committed to our youth programs. Second, our interim Youth Ministry Support Staff, Angie Gehring and Rebekah Thomas, are also doing great work in helping us to not only maintain but also grow this ministry in this time of transition. In the past few months, a high school youth group has begun to meet on Wednesday evenings, Peggy Hanson has hosted numerous high school youth events, and we have added a Middle School Mission Trip to our plans for this next summer. With strong interest in both the High School Mission Trip (to Houston) and Middle School Mission Trip (to Milwaukee), the staff and faithful parent volunteers are committed to making these trips happen regardless of where we are in the hiring process.

All of these pieces have helped to continue a strong ministry of the congregation and keep anxiety down about what the future looks like for this ministry and position of Director of Youth & Family Ministry.

With that said, we *are* looking at and planning for the future. Recently, I, along with a number of other adults, have been reading a book called *Sustainable Youth Ministry* by Mark Devries. Throughout this book, one message is clear to churches that are looking for a new youth director: don't hurry. Slow down, slow down, slow down. Devries says that the critical error that most churches make when a youth director leaves is they hire a new one too quickly. Too often, churches want a new youth director to help design the youth program, which regularly leads to a youth ministry centered around one person, rather than embraced by and knit into the entire congregation.

To quote a St. John's member, Bill Carlson, we are in an "unfrozen" moment, where we can really take the time to reflect on where youth ministry has been in our congregation, where we are now, and where we would like to be going. As we are thinking about doing this, it is becoming clear that even broader questions are starting to surface. What is our vision and hope for children's ministry that leads into youth ministry? What is our vision and hope for our ministry with those beyond high school, our young adults, and parents?

To do this, Jenny Nystrom and I have put together a transition team of sorts to help us think about what the road ahead looks like and how we want to get there. Many thanks to Michele Knutson, Barry Becker,

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."*

February 9, 2017  
**Chuck Jacobson**

February 12, 2017  
**Nancy Gatton**

February 15, 2017  
**Olaf Millert**

## Stephen Ministry: February's Colors

After singing about "the bleak midwinter" in December and shivering through a bitter January, we now brace ourselves for February - daring to hope for something that will lift our spirits. Although days are getting longer and occasionally warm enough for serious melting, we are Minnesotans who are not fooled into visions of a February spring. However, the 2018 calendar shows an interesting February convergence: Ash Wednesday and Saint Valentine's Day fall on the same day. What does the combination of black and red say about the February of our lives?

First the black. Whether you see blinding white or dull brown as you glance out a window, note the black tangle of leafless trees that appears. Keep looking up and you may spot a nest safely hidden most of the year. Black branches and nests are signs of new life to come. And black ash is also a hopeful sign of new life.

Then the red. Paper hearts of red and pink tucked in little envelopes for children and bouquets of red and pink sent to adults all promise love. Of course such human love comes with giggles and timid kisses, not the bloody, sacrificial love of God that erupts on Good Friday. Is new life actually messy?

Each of us lives with the messiness of both black and red: sadness and joy, regret and forgiveness, death and new life. Red and black may well capture the February of our lives, but what other colors are defining your February? Is Lent's purple pointing the way to hope? (And remember that the emptiness of snow's white is actually all colors.)

Is someone you love struggling to live hopefully with winter's colors? Are you? Time with a Stephen Minister may offer hope. Contact a pastor (507-645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (507-645-8445) for more information.

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

Karen Fossum, Will Schroeer, and Katherine Norrie for their willingness to invest in this process and help our congregation vision for the ongoing ministry with children, youth, and families at St. John's. This group began meeting in late January and we will keep you updated along the way. Not only that, we will seek your voice in this process too.

But for now, I am both encouraged by and excited about the ministry I see happening on Sundays and Wednesdays, and the days in between.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to care for and support the children and youth of our congregation!

Pastor Jonathan

## Lenten Wednesdays: Confessions from the Pew

*Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.*  
Hebrews 10:23

Confession. We all often hear this word and think of other words like “sin”, “repentance”, and “forgiveness”. But that kind of confession, revealing to God our deepest regrets, is just one type of confession. We also confess our faith, our hopes, our experiences. Like planting our feet on the ground with a sturdy pair boots, confession can be taking a stance on our deepest convictions.

During this post-modern time, when everything and nothing can be proven factual, in his book *Confessing Jesus Christ*, David Lose says, “Christianity exists solely by confession, the conviction, and assertion of truth.” Or as another author has said, “To confess something is to own, avow, declare, reveal, or disclose what in the depths of the soul one considers truly to be the case.” Our faith rests not on empirical proof but on a living confession of what we have seen and heard and experienced to be true in our lives.

What are the deepest convictions of your faith? What have you witnessed in this life that has solidified those convictions? What can you confess about your life of faith that gives you hope?

If Christianity exists solely by confession, it is not simply the confessions of the pastors but rather the confessions of the people. While many Christians are uncomfortable talking about their faith, personal experience of God’s work in our lives is the core of faith. Our own faith is strengthened when someone we know well experiences God’s grace and healing.

This year, five St. John’s members have been invited to share their “confessions of faith”, that is, their story of God at work in their life. We are so grateful to these individuals for their courage in sharing their story with us, and we are excited to see how their example helps all of us think more deeply about our experience of Jesus.

Lenten Vespers - taken from Holden Evening Prayer liturgy - will take place each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. from February 21 through March 21.

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

January 1, 2018  
*Margaret Nokleberg*

January 3, 2018  
*LouAnn Huemoeller*

January 5, 2018  
*Pam Schwandt*

January 18, 2018  
*Vera Haugen*

January 20, 2018  
*Arlene Graham*



### Radio Broadcasts

**January 7, 2018**  
Given in memory of  
Elmer & Cora Schultz and Ken Struss  
by Marie Struss and family.

**January 14, 2018**  
Given in honor of  
Nathan Proctor  
by Mark & Erin Goettsch,  
Nathan, Anneliese, and Charlotte.

**January 21, 2018**  
Given in memory of  
Milo Quinnell  
by his family.

**January 28, 2018**  
Given in memory of  
Thelma Nitz Lee and in honor of Walt Lee  
by Thelma’s children on the 15th anniversary  
of Thelma and Walt’s wedding.

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).

## 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:

**February 5**  
**February 19**

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.

## St. John's Forums in February

### February 4:

#### ***Busyness and the Pace of Life – Social Media and Youth (St. John's Hall)***

A recent *New York Times* article asked this question: Is your child a phone 'addict'? The article stated that 72% of teens feel pressure to immediately respond to texts, notifications, and social media messaging, and 24% said that they were online "almost constantly." In this busy and dizzying culture, what impact is technology and social media having on us, especially our youth. Join us for a conversation in St. John's Hall led by Marnie Thompson (Northfield High School Assistant Principal) and Carrie Duba (School Psychologist). Parents and grandparents of school-aged children are encouraged to attend!

### February 11:

#### ***Joint Religious Leaders Coalition***

Anne Krisnik, Executive Director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, will present JRLC's 2018 Legislative agenda. She will also give a progress report on the ambitious effort to end hunger in Minnesota by 2020. JRLC is the largest and most inclusive interfaith public interest group in Minnesota, applying the common moral teachings of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities to legislation that determines how we as a society care for one another.

### February 18:

#### ***How to Talk to Your Children About Death and Dying***

Almost every single parent eventually finds themselves asking this question: how do I talk to my child about death? Whether it is because of a recent event in the news, or a family member, or a beloved pet, every family is confronted with the reality about death and wonder how to care for the youngest among us at such a time. Do I take my child to the funeral? Do I let him/her see grandpa's body? Is heaven a helpful concept for children? Naomi Mandsager Bartley, a local counselor and grief specialist, will present on this topic and help us think about these important questions.

### February 25:

#### ***How to Talk to Your Parents About Death and Dying***

For as much as we struggle with how to talk about death with children and youth, it can be just as hard for adults to talk about and face the reality of death. How do I talk to Mom about needing nursing home care? Have my parents talked about their plans for when they die? Would Dad want to be resuscitated at this age? What are my preferences for medical care if I cannot speak for myself? In Minnesota, an end-of-life planning project called *The Convenings* has started. These are opportunities for people to think about and discuss their choices for living and dying well. Join us for this forum, where Susan Lohman, Advance Care Planning Coordinator at the Northfield Hospital, will help us think about how to navigate these crucial conversations.

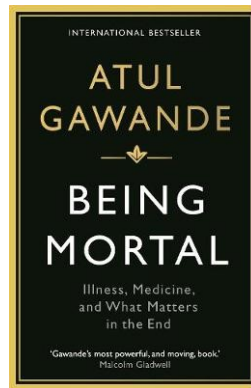
## Lenten Book Read: Let's Talk about Death

Death might be an even more taboo subject than sex or politics in these times. When we do talk about it, we like to imagine that it's something that happens to other people. It's astonishing how much we avoid talking about it, since death is the most universal reality there is.

Throughout Minnesota this year, there have been events designed to get communities talking about death and the choices we make at the end of life. On Thursday, February 8, Northfield will host its second Convenings event at the Northfield High School, featuring Cathy Wurzer hosting conversations among local residents about how we plan for and face our final days. And throughout town there will be opportunities for "Death over Dinner" events and times to learn about Advanced Care Planning.

This year our Lenten book read and several forums will also focus on end of life. You'll have two choices for the book read:

- Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal*, which focuses both on matters of policy and personal choices when we face aging of ourselves and our loved ones.



- Paul Kalanithi's *When Breath Becomes Air*, the posthumously published memoir of a surgeon who faced terminal lung cancer as a patient.

Both books have been bestsellers with abundant commentary and interviews for you to peruse, but our hope is that by gathering around these books as people of faith, we can bring our faith to bear on the practical choices we make as we face our mortality.

You'll have several opportunities to discuss these books during the Lenten season. Watch for sign-ups for different times and places. Join us in considering how our faith allows us to face death with both clear-eyed realism and hope.

## News and Updates

### St. John's Wednesday Night Meals and Lenten Soup Suppers

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, February 7**  
Jambalaya  
Chicken Nuggets

**Wednesday, February 14**  
Zuppa Toscana  
Cheese Tortellini

**Wednesday, February 21**  
Wild Rice with Chicken  
Minestrone

**Wednesday, February 28**  
Cheeseburger Potato  
Scandinavian Vegetable Stew



# the **WOMEN'S** page



## February Gatherings

Abigail/Rebecca Circle  
and  
Martha/Claudia Circle  
Thursday, February 8, 9:30a  
Parkview West Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle  
Thursday, February 8, 1:30p  
Barbara Walter's Home  
1204 Woodland Tr.

Lydia Circle  
and  
Sarah Circle  
Wednesday, February 7  
9:00 Coffee  
10:00 Bible Study  
St. John's Hall

Mary Circle  
Friday, February 9, 1:00p  
Cora Scholz' home  
704 St. Olaf Ave.

Bold Cafe  
Thursday, February 15, 7:30p  
@ the Hideaway  
Sunday, February 18, 9:45  
Fireside Room

Baby Boomers  
Saturday, February 3, 4:30p  
Jean Wakely's Home  
419 Division St. S. Suite 202

Saturday Breakfast Club  
Saturday, February 10, 8:30a  
St. John's Fireside Rm



### FEBRUARY PROGRAM:

**BEN CASPER SANCHEZ**

"IMMIGRATION LAW & NORTHFIELD"  
February 1, 7:00pm St. John's Hall

### In need of **CUTTERS** for Quilters!

At home, or with the Quilters  
9 1/2 in. X 9 1/2 in. squares for quilt tops  
Rotary cutters provided  
Contact Sue Sharrow [sue\\_sharrow@msn.com](mailto:sue_sharrow@msn.com)



### PERSONAL CARE KITS for LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Begin collecting supplies for our next Intergenerational Event in March



- Bar of Soap (4 to 5 oz., any brand in original wrapping)
- Bath Towels (light-weight, max. 52" x 27", dark color)
- Toothbrushes (adult size, in original packaging)
- Wide Tooth Comb
- Nail Clippers (metal, attached file optional)

Watch for dates and details in the March Voice

### SAVE THE DATE

St. John's Women's Spring Retreat

### DE-CLUTTER!

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Does the clutter in your home, head  
and heart scream at you?

Do you have trouble finding your counter? or your closet floor?

Do you have trouble hearing the still, quiet voice of the Spirit?

Watch for more information in the upcoming weeks. In the  
mean time, set aside April 21st for an all-day de-clutter!



Visit our web page:

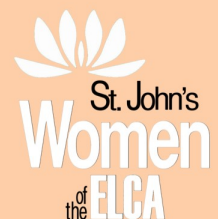
<https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/women/>



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





## February... By Mary Kelvie

February is known as the month of love. Did you know the word “love” appears over 550 times in the NIV translation of the Bible? Wow! The Lord really wants us to pay attention to what love is if it is talked about so much in the Bible, right? What is love to you? How do you show love? How do you receive love?

Author Gary Chapman wrote a book called “The 5 Love Languages.” Have you heard of it? If you have not, I highly recommend it. You might learn something new about yourself and others to help in your relationships. According to Chapman, the five languages of love are acts of service, physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time and receiving gifts. Do you know your love language(s)? For some people, spending time with them is the greatest way you can show them love. Others like to have people who will do something for them, or who will encourage them with a note or chat. Do you like to give or receive hugs, or can a simple touch on your arm, make you feel special? If someone gives you a present out of the blue, does that touch your heart? These are all example of love languages.

Within a church, we have many different types of people who express their love and need to receive love in many different ways. For example, someone whose primary love language is acts of service, serving on Sunday morning making coffee, filling communion cups, washing the communion cups after services or serving at funerals, would fill up their love tank. For a person whose primary love language is physical touch, serving as a greeter and shaking hands with people as they come to church, could be fulfilling. Are affirming words your love language? You could write notes to people who are homebound or recovering from illnesses. What fills you up? Tell us! We can find a place for you here at St. John's. What are you waiting for? Give us a call or send an email. We would love to hear from you!



BLESS THOSE GRIEVING  
LOVED ONES...

CAN YOU HELP?

- Team Lead
- buy groceries
- make sandwiches
- bring in baked goods
- serve the meal
- make coffee / lemonade
- run the dishwasher
- clean up tables
- launder table clothes

See Mary Kelvie to volunteer

## Shared Ministry

### Introducing Georgene Johnson and Wednesday Meal Clean-Up Crews!

Have you been attending Wednesday Meals for a while? Have you wondered how you be a part of this vital part of community at St. John's? NOW is a great time to ask that question!

**Georgene Johnson** has coordinated volunteers for the Northfield Hospital and is taking the initiative to help create and coordinate clean up crews for Wednesday Meals. **How do I find out more?** Contact Georgene and let her know you're interested (507-663-1933 or email [gmj1933@gmail.com](mailto:gmj1933@gmail.com)).

Georgene will schedule a time with you for training in (e.g. collecting dishes from the dining room to be washed, putting away clean dishes after they've been washed, washing pots and pans, sweeping and wiping down surfaces in kitchen and dining room).

Decide if you want to be part of a team that cleans up once a month, or be put on a list of people to be called when a substitute is needed.

**YOU** are invited -- Wednesday Meals are for everyone. More and more people are making these delicious home-cooked meals a regular part of their weekly schedule. **Be part of a crew that helps make it possible to feed people in Northfield.**

## News and Updates

### “Grace Overflowing”

As we prepare for St. John’s sesquicentennial in 2019, we are tending to the present needs of our Northfield community and the future of our congregation in a number of ways.

The St. John’s members working on the Grace Overflowing Campaign have already been astonished at the generosity of St. John’s, and we are eager to share our plans for worship, welcome, and generosity with you.

There will be four opportunities in the next month to gather to learn more about our campaign, to talk with our community grant recipients, and to get answers to any questions you may have:

**Wednesday, January 31, 6:00 p.m.**

Fireside Room at St. John’s  
(following our 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Meal)

**Saturday, February 3, 2:00 p.m.**

Jo & Dan Franklin’s Home  
1001 Freedom Ct.

**Thursday, February 8, 7:00 p.m.**

Carrie & John Duba’s Home  
5525 Endwood Tr.

**Sunday, February 11, 9:45 a.m.**

Fireside Room at St. John’s

We invite you to choose the time and place that best suits your needs then sign up in the Commons, online at [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org), or by contacting the church office at 507-645-4429.



## From the Adult Ministry & Education Board: Book Review

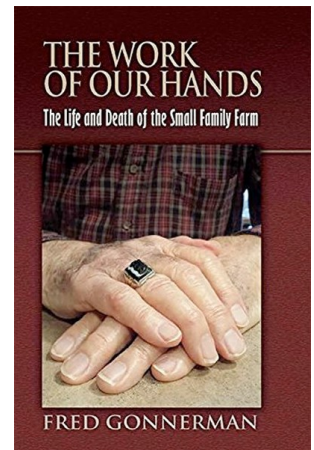
By Genevieve Quarberg

Review of a recent new book in St. John’s Library, *The Work of Our Hands, The Life and Death of the Small Family Farm*, by Fred Gonnerman.

Having grown up in a small Minnesota town and later lived in another small town in northern Illinois, I felt a great kinship with Fred Gonnerman’s memoir. I knew that place, I knew those people. Gonnerman begins with the story of his mother and father whose ‘work’ was so dependent on the other. He grew up in a family deeply involved in the work his parents did, whose ‘workplace’ was his home. He is very aware that his parents deliberately, and by their own disciplined lives, taught him “ - - sensitivity and acceptance and creativity and independence and gratefulness and faith - -.”

Gonnerman’s chapters on growing up on the farm, with detailed descriptions of how machinery for farming evolved. are most telling for me about the death of the small family farm. You can imagine that farmers themselves came up with the ideas that might make their hard daily work a little easier, a little more productive. That worked until the huge, expensive combines, and other farm equipment, required large bank loans and made it financially impossible for many farmers to continue farming, or to purchase increasingly expensive land on which to use that huge equipment.

This book makes me ask the question, “Is it possible for progressive technological developments to reach a tipping point where it is no longer creative, but destructive?”



## Children’s Ministry Appreciation Brunch!

Sunday School teachers, assistants, and Wednesday afterschool volunteers are invited to brunch on Sunday, February 4, at 9:50 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The brunch is an annual event to thank all the volunteers who help keep children’s ministries thriving!

## LEGACY OF A ST. JOHN'S WOMAN

By Shirley Keltto

It seems fitting now, coming upon St. John's 150th anniversary, to focus on women who have quietly worked, ministering to needs locally and internationally. The St. John's Women's Board is acknowledging such women. Kathy Vang is featured in this issue.



Kathy Vang

Kathy has a lifetime of memories, literally, at St. John's. In her words, "I am a 'lifer' here." She was born and raised in Waterford, a town north of Northfield, where she lived for 45 years, and she now resides in Northfield.

In her home, in a place of honor, she keeps a wedding photo of her older sister with the wedding party at St. John's, of which Kathy is a bridesmaid, taken in front of the altar in 1960.

Kathy retired in 2011 after working as a nurse in medical, surgical, and cardiac-(step-down telemetry) areas. Upon retirement, she became involved in knitting and quilting. Not only has she spent time in putting quilts together at St. John's, she has created many beautiful quilts for her loved ones. She completed a "Crazy Quilt" which her mother had started years ago – but never finished.

She leads a group of women who meet in her home to knit tops for small children called "Baby Tee Tops." These tops are knit in colorful yarns and then sent to World Vision for distribution. The ultimate goal in their group is for each person to knit 12 tops a year. The group hopes that other women take on the Tee Tops project so the ministry will continue. She estimates that the group averages about 75 knit tops a year.

Her home conveys warmth and friendliness aided by her two cats, Prince and Bogo, who greet visitors at the door. And while Kathy sat knitting when she was being interviewed, Prince was at her feet, eager to pull at the yarn...

Kathy reminisced upon her life, baptized at St. John's, and upon her family's history - her dad of Danish heritage who was a blacksmith in Castle Rock. Upon noting the family surname Vang, she smiled, "Yes, others think that it is Hmong, but we are Danish."

She is a regular church attender at St. John's, but closed off the conversation saying, "But I always sit in the back."

## BEN CASPER SANCHEZ



### IMMIGRATION LAW & NORTHFIELD

February 1, 7:00pm  
St. John's Hall

*Northfield resident, Professor Benjamin Casper Sanchez, is U of M's Director of the James H. Binger Center for New Americans and teaches the Federal Immigration Litigation Clinic, which engages students in strategic impact litigation on behalf of immigrants and refugees. He litigates cases before immigration courts, the Board of Immigration Appeals, U.S. District Courts, U.S. Courts of Appeal, and the U.S. Supreme Court.*

*2008 to 2013, he was Director of the Pro Bono Litigation Project at the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota. He served as an adjunct clinical professor of immigration law at the University of Minnesota, William Mitchell College of Law, and the University of St. Thomas School of Law. 1997 to 2001, he was an attorney for the nonprofit immigration law office Centro Legal, focusing on deportation defense.*

*Since 2011, Professor Casper Sanchez has served on the amicus curiae committee of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. He writes and lectures on immigration law topics for both local and national audiences.*

*Open to the public.*

*Sponsored by St. John's Women and the Adult Education Board*  
**ImMigration:**  
*Cultivating Diversity, Equity and Justice*

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children to Remember!

#### Sunday School Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

February 4	Sunday School (Teacher Appreciation)
February 11	Sunday School Toddler Time
February 18	Sunday School
February 25	Sunday School

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

February 7  
February 14  
February 21  
February 28

#### Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Sunday, February 4  
9:45 a.m., Fireside Room

#### Prayer Buddies Get-Together

Wednesday, February 7  
5:35-6:15 p.m., Fireside Room

#### Breakfast, PJs, and Movie Morning

Monday, February 19 (No School Day)  
9:00-11:00 a.m.

#### 4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes

Wednesday, February 28  
4:00-4:45 p.m.



### 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.



### 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 \$125 towards their registration fee, so please pay only the deposit of \$125. We have spots reserved until February 16. After that date, we'll check availability.

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

### Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!

Kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger are invited to come in their pajamas to movie morning at St. John's! Come for breakfast and stay to watch a movie! Feel free to bring friends!

**Where:** The Commons for Breakfast,  
Movie in St. John's Theater

**When:** Monday, February 19  
**NO SCHOOL DAY!**

**Time:** 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Parent help is appreciated!



## Attention High School Juniors and Interested Sophomores!

**What:** College Information Night

**Date:** Wednesday, February 21

**Time:** 7:15 p.m. (following Lenten Mid-Week Service)

**Where:** St. John's Hall

Come and learn more about how to choose and compare colleges, how to gain financial aid and save up to afford them, what deadlines to watch for, what tests are needed, and other ways to prepare for this important time! St. John's member Dan Franklin will be presenting.

## Middle School Mission Trip Milwaukee, WI, Summer 2018!

This is an exciting new opportunity for youth completing 6th - 8th grades to participate in a mission trip experience in one of our nation's poorest cities. Those going on this trip will engage in age-appropriate activities that help those living with hunger and poverty. The trip is coordinated and led by the non-profit, ELCA-based organization called Serve Boldly. We'll leave in vans from St. John's parking lot at the same time as the high school youth who are going on their mission trip to Houston in a fun, celebratory send-off.

**When:** June 16 - 22

**Deposit Cost:** \$100

For more information about either of these mission trips, or to sign up and reserve your spot, please contact Angie Gehring, Youth Support Staff at [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Turn in your deposit money to Leah Garlie in the church office or to Angie. Make checks out to St. John's Lutheran Church.

## High School Mission Trip Houston, TX, Summer 2018!

If you are in high school and would like to experience the joys of serving others in an exciting city with many needs, sign up to go on this year's high school mission trip to Houston, Texas! It will prove to be a fun and meaningful experience! The trip is through CSM, the same organization that led St. John's mission trip to Nashville last summer. We'll leave from St. John's on Sat. June 16th and travel together in vans to Houston. Friends who do not attend St. John's are invited to sign up for this trip, too!

**When:** June 16 - 24

**Deposit Cost:** \$100

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Youth to Remember!

#### Sunday Life Group Schedule

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

February 4 Sunday Life Group

February 11 Sunday Life Group

February 18 Sunday Life Group

February 25 Sunday Life Group

#### Confirmation (Grades 6-9)

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

See below...

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

**7:00-7:30 p.m.**

February 7

February 14

February 21

February 28




### Confirmation in Lent

On these dates in Lent: **February 21, 28, March 7, and 14**, Confirmation will meet from **6:30-7:30 p.m.** Youth will be expected to attend worship with their small groups from 6:30-7:00 p.m. and then discuss what they heard and do their weekly ritual of check-in and prayer from 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Small Groups will not meet on **February 14** (Ash Wednesday) and **March 21** (Holy Week - no service).



# St. John's Summer 2018

Camp	Grade Completed	Dates		Cost	Deposit	Registration deadline
VBS Summer Camp	Age 3-2 <sup>nd</sup> (Age 3 by 9/1/18)	June 11-14	Volunteers come together to provide this fun-filled week. Children enjoy music, crafts, games, Bible stories and friendship building.	\$15 \$30 max /family	No Deposit	Registration coming in Spring
Shores of St. Andrew "Andy's Gang"	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	June 24-29	Spend the week on the beautiful shores of St. Andrews near New London, MN. Create crafts, sing songs, share in Bible devos, play lots of games, kayak and swim! <b>Early Bird Disc. of \$30-register by 2/16</b> <b>Sibling Discount of \$15</b>	\$450	\$125 payable to Green Lake Partial refund 30 days in advance	Early Reg. by 2/16 Balance due by 5/21 Reg. Online (see below)
Chrysalis Crew	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	June 24-29	Chrysalis Crew is located at Green Lake in Spicer, MN. This weeklong camp is awesome, the best of summer camp! Come for a week of faith-filled experiences. <b>Early Bird Disc. of \$30-register by 2/16</b> <b>Sibling Discount of \$15</b>	\$450	\$125 payable to Green Lake Partial refund 30 days in advance	Early Reg. by 2/16 Balance due by 5/21 Reg. Online (see below)
Milwaukee Houston Mission Trip	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	June 16-22 June 16-23	Come serve with us! 6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> serve in Milwaukee and 9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> in Houston Get to know the city while serving the needs of the people there.	Approx. \$225	\$100 Due 1/31	Balance due May 1st

**REGISTER EARLY for Andy's Gang and Chrysalis Crew**  
Go to [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org) to register. (Some spaces are reserved)  
If registering after February 16, we will check availability for space.



**Other stuff for middle school'ers...MAGICAL MYSTERY TOURS!**  
**For youth completing 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades.**  
**Join us and other Northfield area churches for mystery events in June, July and August.**  
**More info will be coming your way this summer.**

Questions? Contact Angie Gehring or Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429, or email [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

Every camper receives about \$125 towards the cost of camp/trips. Please feel free to ask about full/partial scholarships too.

## From Bread for the World: At the Close of 2017



### A message from Asma Lateef, Director of Bread for the World Institute (excerpts)

Newly released data showed that for the first time in a decade, 2016 saw a jump in the number of people who suffer from hunger, from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016.

Hunger now affects nearly 11 percent of the world's population. 2017 also brought the first declared famine since 2011 in parts of South Sudan. Near famine conditions caused by conflict and drought put millions more lives at risk in other parts of South Sudan, northeastern Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. Rising inequality is a daunting trend in many parts of the world, including in the United States. It threatens to reverse much of the progress the world has made against hunger and poverty. All these challenges notwithstanding, funding for critical programs that serve low-income families and communities was on the chopping block.

Recognizing that conversations are underway about key issues is perhaps a more positive way of looking back at 2017. Wider attention is now being paid to inequality, the value of U.S. investments in global health and development, how we can marshal a more coordinated and holistic response to humanitarian crises, discrimination based on race and gender and the need for citizen engagement. 2017 also had some other bright spots. There was a slight reduction in U.S. hunger, thanks partly to lower unemployment and a very strong safety net system. Around the world, the number of children stunted from early childhood malnutrition continued to decrease. More national leaders are recognizing the importance of maternal and child nutrition - and the consequence of stunting for their country's economic growth and development.

We know that hunger is a solvable problem. With the right leadership and commitment it is feasible to end hunger by 2030. The deep divisions in our country make it harder to identify and nurture that leadership. But it is till there, and in 2018, the Bread for the World in Institute will do its best to make the case for perseverance. It took years of patient work on the part of countless global stakeholders to bring the world as close as it is to the end of hunger and malnutrition, and it is worth the effort to keep going until we reach the goal. More at [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org).

## St. John's Staff

### Senior Pastor

*Pam Fickenscher*

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

### Associate Pastor

*Jonathan Davis*

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

### Children's Ministry

*Julie Brehmer*

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

### Facility Manager

*Tim Byers*

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

### Financial Manager

*Bernie Renander*

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

### Music Ministry

*Nathan Proctor*

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

### Music Staff

*Carol Benson - Alleluia and Jubilate Choirs*

[carolbenson@gmail.com](mailto:carolbenson@gmail.com)

*Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers*

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

### Office Manager

*Leah H. Garlie*

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

### Shared Ministry

*Christy Hall-Holt / Mary Kelvie*

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

### Youth Support Staff

*Angie Gehring*

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

### Congregation President

*Rob Quanbeck*

[rob.quanbeck@gmail.com](mailto:rob.quanbeck@gmail.com)

### Parish Nurse

*Melissa Berthelsen*

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



**St. John's**  
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**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

**LENTEN MID-WEEK  
WORSHIP SERVICES  
6:30 P.M.**



Feb. 14

Feb. 21

Feb. 28

March 7

March 14

March 21

