



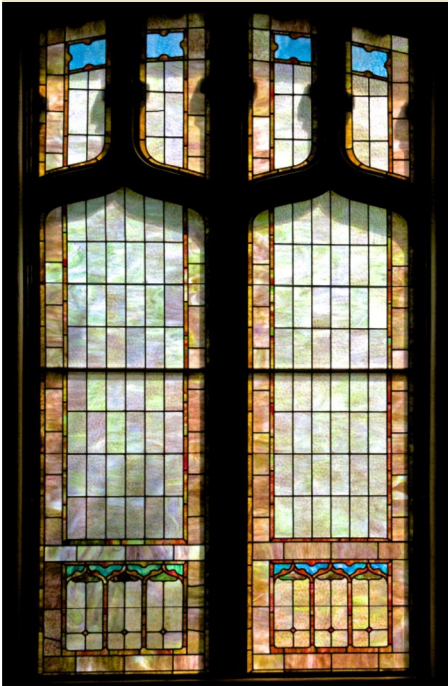
The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2018



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### ***Palm Sunday, March 25***

Procession with Palms and Holy Communion  
8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

### ***Maundy Thursday, March 29***

Holy Communion  
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

### ***Good Friday, March 30***

Liturgy of Good Friday  
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

### ***Holy Saturday, March 31***

The Great Vigil of Easter  
7:00 p.m.  
Beginning in the St. John's Courtyard  
Service with candlelight and Holy Communion

### ***Celebration of the Resurrection***

#### ***Easter Sunday, April 1***

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.  
Holy Communion at all Services  
Easter Breakfast from 8:30-11:00 a.m.  
9:30 a.m. service broadcast on KYMN 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

**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

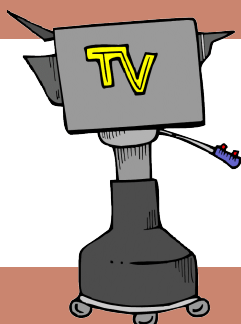


### TV Broadcasts

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:

So that we may die and rise again.

I had an interesting conversation recently with a St. John's member who admitted freely that she is not a fan of the season of Lent. I think her experience of the season in the past was that it was a rather dismal time, designed to make us feel bad about ourselves. She also felt that it was a rather "Catholic" thing - not something we Lutherans needed to imitate. Why do we have such a tradition, she asked? Why don't we just focus on Easter and the joy of the resurrection?

While I don't think St. John's approach to Lent is especially dismal, her questions are worth considering:

**1. Why have seasons?** What's the point of setting aside particular times of the year to focus on one part of the faith or another?

If a season were just about a mood or a feeling, it would be a pretty silly thing to say "Well we are in Lent, so we will feel sad now." We all know how oppressive it can feel when someone says you *have* to be joyous now because it's Christmas. But seasons are not about feeling so much as practice. Most of us are not capable of maintaining an intense focus on anything for an unlimited time, so we break up time into seasons - you train for a 5 kilometer race just for a set of weeks; you celebrate your marriage especially on an anniversary; you decorate the house just for December.

Lent was originally the season in which those who were preparing for baptism would especially be trained in the basics of the faith, and a time when all the faithful would return to practices that might have fallen away for a while. It is a human practice, not a required biblical one; but it is highly practical because as humans we do better when we practice things together, and just for a while.

**2. Why the focus on death, and especially Jesus' death?**

Ash Wednesday's reminder that we are dust is probably the most objectively truthful day in the church year. No one can dispute the reminder that we are mortal. Life can make us more conscious of this in natural ways, but for many of us it's far too easy to ignore the fact that we will not go on forever. Would you live differently if you knew your life would end in the next year? Probably. Ash Wednesday gives us a quick reminder of that truth.

The focus on Jesus' death has rightfully been critiqued as dismal. Certainly there were times in Christian history where the focus on the crucifixion went to extremes. But it's also true that the Gospels all spend a lot of time dwelling on the final week of Jesus' life. The story of his resurrection simply has no power if we don't face up to the betrayal, suffering, humiliation and lies around the cross. Only when we've seen that Jesus *really* died can we appreciate the proclamation that Christ is risen. Only when we hear how he was betrayed and abandoned does his returning with peace on his lips have real healing.

**3. Do we have to pretend that Jesus isn't risen?**

Of course not. Holy Week is not a spectator's drama, a play we watch

Continued on page 4

## 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](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.

## Music and Stephen Ministry

When there are no words, sometimes music speaks. When events are challenging and emotions run high, a hymn or song may be heard with fresh, new meaning that calms and reassures. Stephen Ministers are trained to be active listeners, and in that role they recognize times when music may provide familiarity and comfort. Some Stephen Ministers use their own musical gifts to strengthen their connections with care receivers.

A Stephen Minister's use of music reflects her or his commitment to being a truly *Christian* caregiver. Like prayer, music of faith expresses love and care in a natural and simple way especially when care receivers feel alone in difficult situations. Imagine the comfort communicated in the words of hymns like these:

### "When Pain of the World Surrounds Us" #704

When pain of the world surrounds us with darkness and despair,  
when searching just confounds us with false hopes ev'rywhere,  
when lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare,  
we are called to follow Jesus and let God's healing flow through us.

### "When Long before Time" #861

To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise,  
to you, Song Incarnate, we give all our praise,  
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,  
be glory forever, through life and through death.

Time with a Stephen Minister who listens and cares may offer just the comfort you or someone you know needs. Contact a pastor (507-645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (507-645-8445) for more information.

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

over and over again as if we don't already know how it ends. It's an opportunity to *enter into* Jesus' death and resurrection, as we did when we were baptized. We say at baptism that we *die with Christ to be raised again*. Holy Week lets us walk *with* Jesus and connect our own betrayals, our own suffering, our own mortality to Jesus. And at Easter we hear that because Christ lives, we live also.

One liturgical geek note of interest: technically speaking we celebrate the resurrection every single Sunday. In the past, Sundays in Lent were less Lenten, because the assumption was that people were marking Lent Monday through Saturday. Since fewer people attend worship any other day of the week, the Sundays *in* Lent (not Sundays *of* Lent) have become more about the season by default.

Our prayer for you is that whatever *life* is bringing your way this Lent, you might find in our worship and seasonal celebrations a reminder that we live and die *with Christ*. You're invited not to *watch* a drama, but to enter into the drama that shapes all our Christian lives – we die to sin and death so that we might rise again in the resurrection.

Pastor Pam



## 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.

Upcoming speakers are:

- March 7 - David Kelvie
- March 14 - Leif Knecht
- March 21 - Kristin Partlo

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 March 7 through March 21.

## Life and Growth

### Baptisms

February 11, 2018  
*Isaac Willis Roberts Loy*  
*Son of Arielle and Adam Loy*

### Deaths

January 30, 2018  
*Douglas Trangsrud*

February 13, 2018  
*Larry Severson*



### Radio Broadcasts

**February 4, 2018**  
Given in memory of  
Joyce Schrader  
by family and friends.

**February 11, 2018**  
Given in memory of  
Orwin Marks  
by family and friends.

**February 18, 2018**  
Given by  
Anthony Becker and Rebecca Judge.

**February 25, 2018**  
Given in memory of  
Loretta Siler  
by family and friends.

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.

March 4	Sunday School
March 11	Sunday School (Daylight Savings) Toddler Time
March 18	Sunday School
March 25	No Sunday School (Spring Break)
April 1	No Sunday School (Easter)

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

March 7	
March 14	
March 21	
March 28	No Programming (Spring Break)

#### Catechism for Grades 4 and 5

February 28
March 7
March 14
March 21

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 31, 9:30 a.m. at St. John's

#### Prayer Buddy Get Together

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



### 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 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 During Lent

During this Lenten season, 19 of our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Catechism kids are paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their "Prayer Buddy". Prayer Buddies pray for a child through the Lenten season, from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

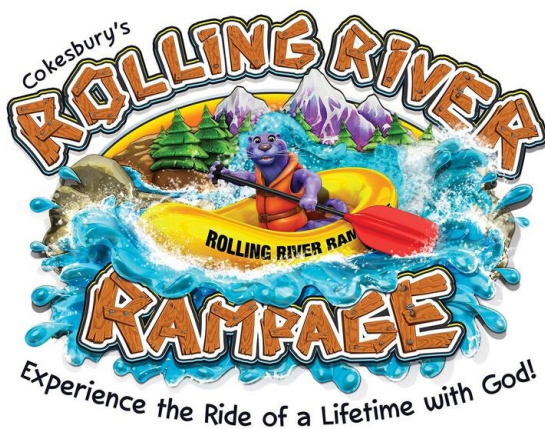
Thank you to our Prayer Buddy volunteers for being a part of this faith sharing experience: Barry Becker, Phil Eaves, Brian Evenson, Dan Franklin, Dave Hagen, Kristy Harms, Andrea Hoff, Nancy Ordahl Kmoch, Ruth Legvold, Arielle Loy, Lydia Moe, Nick Neeb, Kristin Partlo, Jenny Pelletier, Jane Rinehart, David Quarberg, Scott Swanson, Julie Thorsheim, Grit Youngquist.

## St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 31

The Annual St. John's Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, March 31. This event invites children up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade, along with parents, to meet in the Commons at 9:30 a.m. for an "eggciting" hunt. Make sure to bring a basket or bag for collecting eggs and feel free to bring friends!



Can you help? We need individually wrapped candy and small items to fill the eggs. A donation basket is in the upper and lower Commons. Thanks so much!



## 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!

St. John's, Bethel, Emmaus, and St. Peter's Churches come together to provide a fun-filled summer camp experience. This year's VBS is at Emmaus Church.

Registration forms will be available soon in the lower and upper Commons and on St. John's website.

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

- Crew Leaders – 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

### Romans & Christians Night!

#### Who:

Middle School Youth  
from several Northfield Churches

#### When:

Friday, March 2

#### Where:

St. John's

#### Time:

7:00-10:00 p.m.

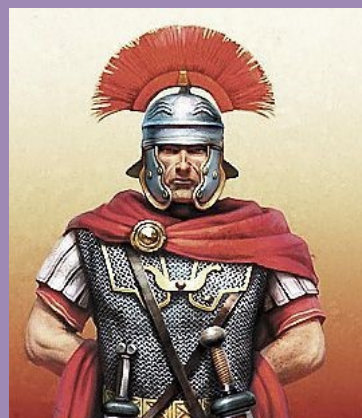
#### Cost:

\$5 for Pizza and Pop

#### Hurry and Sign up!

Look for sign up sheets on the bulletin boards in the Commons and by the Game and Youth Rooms. You can also sign up by emailing Angie at [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

\*Feel free to invite a friend!  
(Please also sign up the friend you will bring)





## News and Updates

### “Grace Overflowing”

The Excitement is building!

Thanks to the generosity of many who have already contributed to our campaign, you will soon see signs of projects underway, renewing our space for worship and welcome and building relationships with the Laura Baker community through music, art, and technology.

Though we are very close to our goal, the significance of each and every additional contribution can not be overstated.

#### ARE YOU IN?

Now is the time to join the growing Grace Overflowing community as we honor our past by extending our mission into the future.

#### How?

Turn in your three year pledge card to the offering plate or the church office (extra cards can be found at the Welcome Desk or the church office).

#### When?

Now is best, but we'd like all pledges in before Easter Sunday (April 1).

Gifts can be made by paying on a weekly, monthly, or annual basis, and can be submitted online or in your offering envelopes. Additionally, gifts can be made from your estate, check with the office for more details.

Every gift, whether large or small, will make a difference.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity!



## St. John's Forums in March: Lenten Book Read Small Groups

During the month of March, St. John's Forum will take a break from March 4 through March 18 to make intentional space for Lenten Book Read small groups to gather.

This year, we are reading *When Breath Becomes Air*, a memoir by Paul Kalanithi, a neurosurgeon who was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer.

If you would like to be part of a small group, please contact Pastor Jonathan Davis at 507-645-4429 or [jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org).



## 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 be on Sundays in March and April between worship services, and at the Wednesday Night Meal 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.

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

Laura Baker Services is one of the four grant recipients with the Grace Overflowing 150th Anniversary. It is the most relationship oriented of the projects, and this month marks the beginning of the project. 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 in an isolated group, 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. Jenny Solar, the Laura Baker music therapist, is starting a Drumming Circle on Wednesday, April 11, from 6:15-7:00 p.m. The circle will meet once a month. Drumming is a fun way anyone can make music. No music background required, just come and make a joyful noise. She will need help setting up drums in the Undercroft. If you would like to volunteer to help Jenny, 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.

## **News and Updates**

### **St. John's 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, March 7**  
Swedish Meatball  
Tomato

**Wednesday, March 14**  
Chicken Noodle  
Vegetable Soup

**Wednesday, March 21**  
Corn Chowder with Ham  
Ginger Carrot

**Wednesday, March 28**  
Holy Week - No Meal



**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 is donating surplus bread from the Bakery every week. This home style bread is preservative free and delicious!  
Thanks Brick Oven!

## News and Updates

### It's Easy! Direct a 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.

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://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).



## Book Review:

### ***They are Us - Lutherans and Immigration*** **by Stephen Bouman, Ralston Deffenbaugh,** **Foreword by Martin E. Marty** **Review by Shirley Keltto**

In keeping with the theme, "I'm Migration: Cultivating Diversity, Equity and Justice," which the Women of St. John's has as its programming theme for the September-May year, the book *They Are Us* was selected to be read.

A book discussion was held on January 17 where 14 concerned individuals shared their concerns and issues in the very current topic of today.

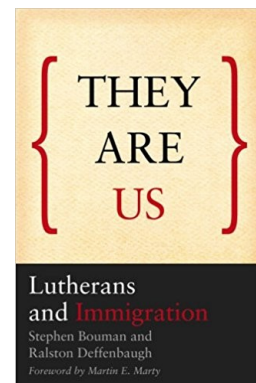
The book itself came out in 2009 where the authors focus the first three chapters on how we are a church of immigrants and a nation of immigrants. Then, they go on to talk about the current immigration debate and the broken system in the United States. We are made aware that the U.S. is now in a time of controversy with an estimate of 12 million people living here without legal status.

The book talks about the Postville, Iowa meat-packing company raid on May 12, 2008, by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and how that raid impacted the community.

One person in the discussion group who first read the book when it was published came to the conclusion that not much has changed from 2009 to 2018. Still problems and challenges...

One of the reviewers of the book, Margaret Payne of the New England Synod of the ELCA, writes,

"It will be better for you not to read this book if you want to be a bystander in the current immigration debate in our country. But if your conscience is nudging you away from the fear and judgment that keeps our system broken and our hearts hardened, then delve into *They Are Us*. It will stir your soul, challenge your faith, remind you about God's longing for radical hospitality, and give you the tools to realize it in your community."





## Call for Volunteers for Holy Week Hospitality

Are you planning on attending any of the special services leading up to Easter Sunday? Please sign up online or in the Common for greeting at the doors, attending the Welcome Desk, preparing, cleaning up, and serving Communion. It's easy to combine the two, and be doubly blessed!

If you can help please contact Christy Hall-Holt or Mary Kelvie at 507-645-4429 or [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Thank you!

## From the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board

Now is the time for the annual Minnesota Food Share Campaign through the Northfield Community Action Center (CAC). During the month of March food shelves across Minnesota seek donations to augment supplies and run their programs for the remainder of the year. Local donations are dispersed by the CAC into the Northfield food programs, such as the Food Shelf. Monetary donations are preferred. The CAC is a non-profit serving the life sustaining needs of people in our area through resources, advocacy and volunteer efforts. Last year the Food Shelf distributed over 580,000 pounds of food and served over 2,500 people.

You may use the St. John's special offering envelope for the CAC Food Shelf. Please write your check to St. John's, and indicate CAC Food Shelf on the memo line. You can also give online through the St. John's website at [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org).

Our goal is to reach at least \$10,000. Thank you for being God's hands to reach out to our neighbors in need.

## Easter Garden Orders

If you would like to order a flowering plant in memory or honor of a loved one, the Chancel Guild will be taking orders on Sundays, March 11 and 18, between services. They will also be taking orders Wednesday nights, March 14 and 21, at the soup supper.

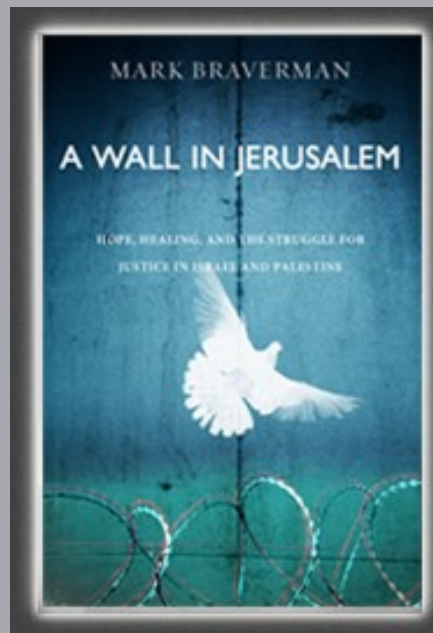


There will be an assortment to choose from with different price ranges.

Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

The flowers will be labeled with your name behind the bow and may

## News and Updates



### Study Group Discussion: **A Wall in Jerusalem** by Mark Braverman **Tuesday, March 6** **7:00 p.m.** **Fireside Room**

Learn the true consequences  
of the conflict between  
Israel and Palestine.

This study group will meet every other  
month and is sponsored by  
Northfielders for Justice and Peace.

For more information  
contact Darlene Hand  
at 507-645-5078.



# the WOMEN'S page

Lent 2018



## March Gatherings

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

**Elizabeth Circle**  
Thursday, March 8, 1:30p  
Jo Kleber's home  
616 Meldahl Lane

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

**Mary Circle**  
Friday, March 9, 1:00p  
Lydia Moe's home  
219 Nevada St.

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

**Baby Boomers**  
Saturday, March 3, 1:00p  
International Food Tasting  
Festival! \$10 RSVP  
St. John's Hall

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



St. John's Women present:

## Decluttering Home & Heart

Spring Retreat

featuring



**Kate Buckmeier**

Decluttering our homes

**Pastor Pam Fickenscher**

Decluttering our hearts



**Saturday, April 21, 2018**  
**8:45am - 4:00pm**

Ruth's on Stafford  
Dundas, MN  
\$25.00

registration deadline: April 11, 2018  
financial waiver available  
contact [women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com)



**Registration:**

Sundays

9:40-10:40am

Wednesdays

4:50-5:50pm

in the Commons

March 4 - April 11

Sign up early

Limited to 60 registrations



**QUILTING DATES:**  
March 12 & 15 ♦ April 16 & 19 ♦ May 14 & 17  
Third Thursday of the month and the preceding Monday  
We are always in need of cotton fabrics and colored flat sheets

**SPRING INTERGENERATIONAL EVENT**  
**PERSONAL CARE KITS**  
APRIL 2018 ♦ Collecting begins mid-March  
Watch for dates



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**



## LEGACY OF A ST. JOHN'S WOMAN

By Shirley Keltto

*This column continues the series where a woman of St. John's is acknowledged for her contributions in ministry. Marlene Engstrom is featured here.*

Marlene was born and raised in McIntosh, South Dakota, where she recalls a happy, carefree childhood shared with her siblings.

After the family lived in SD for 13 years, they moved to Graceville, Minnesota, the move brought about by the drought and depression. Marlene's dad was a successful business man in the farm implement dealership,

A move to Alexandria, MN after Marlene's confirmation, she entered high school and it was here where, in her sophomore year, she and Duane started dating. After Marlene's St. Olaf's graduation, she and Duane were married.

Marlene majored in Christian Education and Spanish which led to her position as secretary at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Minneapolis, a congregation where she and Duane were members for 50 years.

Marlene was a very active member of that congregation while raising their three children and Duane was busy with his medical practice. In time, she served on the congregation council and became its first female president.

Her involvements and service on boards included doing tape transcriptions for 14 years for the Minnesota State Services for the Blind, leading the Girl Scout Troop where their daughter belonged, Lutheran Deaconess Hospital Board, Fairview Hospital Board and Luther Theological Seminary Board of Directors for 14 years. In this capacity she became its first female president. Again, breaking the gender role in leadership.

Over the course of time, after her many years of involvement with the local women's group, the conference and the district women, she was elected the national (churchwide) president for four years. During this time of leadership, her position took her to Mexico, Tanzania, and Ethiopia.

Continuing to serve the church-at-large, she was employed in interim positions with the American Lutheran Church Women in the ALC Offices as Acting Director for Stewardship and later as Interim Director for Education.

Marlene is a model for boldness and served as a trail blazer for the role of women.

When asked if she would have considered the ministry if the timing would have been right for her, she thought for a moment and replied, "No, I never felt I was called."



Marlene Engstrom

## International Food-tasting Festival

featured speaker:

**SAM OUK**

English Language Coordinator for  
Faribault Public Schools  
Director of Faribault Diversity Coalition

**ImMigration:**  
Cultivating Diversity, Equity and Justice

Saturday, March 3, 2018

1:00pm

St. John's Hall

\$10

**BY RESERVATION  
ONLY**

contact Marilyn Calcutt  
507.210.1051



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

*What really happens to all the kits and quilts that are sent out from St. John's? Get acquainted with the most effective relief aid to the world.*

**Thursday, April 5, 2018**

**7:00 pm**

**St. John's Hall**

Speaker:

Michael Johnson,  
Regional Representative  
and Philanthropic Advisor





## 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:

**March 5**

**March 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.

## From the Minnesota Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC)

As advocates, our faith traditions call us to speak out for justice and human dignity. We can inform our representatives at the legislature by sharing data and personal stories. This can be done through face-to-face conversations, sending emails, and making phone calls.

The 2018 JRLC Legislative Agenda is focused on four issues that are of critical importance to the poor and vulnerable: 1) Housing, 2) Fees and Fines, 3) Childcare, 4) Anti-Bias Legislation. JRLC.org is the web site that will provide information on legislation addressing these issues and will offer guidance on effective communication with legislators. Click on "emails" to sign up for legislative updates.

### Northfield Ecumenical Women

The women of St. Peter's Lutheran Church will be hosting the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Northfield Ecumenical Women (NEW) on Saturday, May 5. Light morning refreshments will be served at 9:30 a.m. followed by an informative program about touching lives and improving health through the power of therapy animals. An RSVP is requested no later than April 21 by contacting Shirley at 507-663-6056 or [shirleyshaft@yahoo.com](mailto:shirleyshaft@yahoo.com).

NEW will also be collecting the 'Fellowship of the Least Coin'. The FLC challenges us to act for justice, peace and creation. We are encouraged to set aside the smallest coin for each prayer of reconciliation prayed as a token of our participation.

We hope you will join us!

# From Bread for the World: Unity Declaration on Racism and Poverty from a Diverse Body of Christian Leaders (excerpts)

The integral relationship between poverty and racism unifies us against both. They are both issues to which the gospel of Jesus Christ speaks - which also calls us to love our neighbors, without exceptions. Our unity on these issues is because they are theological issues for us, not merely political or partisan ones. At its root, racism is in conflict with the opening declaration in Genesis 1 that we are all made in the image of God. The failure to defend the lives and dignity of people living in poverty, by individuals or governments, is also a sin against God. Jesus says, in Matthew 25, that how we treat the "least of these" is how we treat Christ himself.

Most of our churches are active in helping people in need, struggling people within their congregations or in their communities. We need to do more, but many of our churches help millions of people every day.

Since the God of the Bible requires social justice and charity, our churches and many of our members also work to influence public policies. Christians have a wide array of political viewpoints. But a majority of the leaders of national church bodies have spoken out repeatedly against cuts to provide help and opportunity to hungry and poor people in our country and around the world.

We are deeply troubled by the budget proposals coming from Congress and the president. They outline more than \$2 trillion of cuts in programs for hungry and poor people in our country and around the world. These cuts would hurt struggling peoples of all races, including millions of low- and middle-income people who need safety-net programs at some time in their lives. We appeal to the president and Congress to work for the common good. We especially call upon political leaders who are also people of faith to protect all people of our country and the world who are struggling with economic deprivation and frustration, hunger, poverty, disability, and disadvantage - and racial bigotry that often contributes to inaction and hard-heartedness.

Conservative and liberal people, and those with differing political philosophies, may disagree on how to live up to our nation's ideals, but our loving God calls all of us to work together for liberty and justice for everyone.

Rev. David Beckmann, President of Bread for the World, and Rev. Amy Reumann, Director of Advocacy for the ELCA are among 85 signatories to this declaration.

More at [bread.org](http://bread.org)

## 2018 Bread for the World Offering of Letters: "For Such a Time as This"

You can advocate for people who are hungry or suffering injustice by joining with fellow St. John's members to send your message to our Representative and Senators at letter-writing tables in **St. John's Hall** between services on **March 4 and 11** and at the **Lenten Soup Supper** on **March 7**.

## 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

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



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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
500 Third Street West · Northfield MN 55057

**PHONE**

507-645-4429

**FAX**

507-645-9633

**EMAIL**

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

**WEBSITE**

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

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

