



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 57, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2017

We are *thankful* to be...  
*Together again*

**Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service**  
**November 22nd - Worship - 6:30 p.m.**  
**& after the service ... fellowship ...**



St. John's

+



St. Dominic's

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Can you bring a pie, setup, serve, do dishes, or clean up? Sign up on the bulletin board by the office.

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## Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service at St. John's

St. John's will be gathering in worship together with our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters on Thanksgiving Eve.

We will gather at St. John's at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22, for worship with hymns, homily and prayers, and then gather in St. John's Hall for pie and ice cream. Our offering for the evening will benefit the Community Action Center of Northfield's food shelf.

St. John's is providing the pie for the festivities! Please sign up to contribute to the refreshments. You can sign up in the Commons starting Sunday, November 5 or online thru CCB or by contacting Mary Kelvie at 507-645-4429 or [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

**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

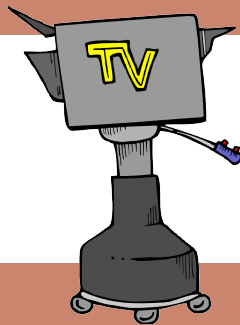


### TV Broadcasts

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:

One of the themes of Reformation theology you often hear referenced is the “priesthood of all believers.” It’s a phrase that can easily be misunderstood. Was Luther saying that everyone can do the duties of a priest? Was he saying there should be no pastors?

The short answer is “no,” if by ‘priesthood’ he meant celebrating the sacraments or preaching from the pulpit. Luther, along with many other Reformers, still thought it made sense to have some people set apart to lead the church in Word and Sacrament. Our Confessions call it a matter of “good order” – not that anyone is in their essence more holy than anyone else.

What Luther meant by “priesthood,” is the ability of **any** Christian to represent Christ. All the baptized are called to be workers in the kingdom of God. All of us are called to live out in our daily lives the death to self and resurrection to God’s life that shows Christ to the world. *How* this works out in our daily lives is highly individual, according to the gifts God gives us and the needs around us.

It has been a time of much change at St. John’s this fall – some of it planned, some unexpected. In the midst of it all, we as your pastors have seen you living out this “priesthood of all believers.”

- Stephen Ministers have gathered with divorced men in our congregation for weekly learning and reflection on grief, forgiveness, and healing.
- The Faith & Health Board has gathered those who’ve experienced loss for sharing and mutual comfort.
- Your Benevolence Board has taken the lead in reaching out to Northfield non-profits as we plan our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Dozens of adults have stepped up to organize events, meet with confirmation and youth small groups, and help us plan for the next stage of youth ministry.
- Our Parish Nurse Melissa Berthelsen is visiting and praying with our homebound members and offering support to caregivers in our congregation.
- Our Wednesday Night Meal team has been feeding more than 200 people a week, including many non-members who are neighbors, residents of group homes, or people in temporary housing.

These are just a few of the things we see. We know that some of the most meaningful ministry happens spontaneously, under the radar, as you respond to your particular opportunities to serve.

On a talk about the Reformation, one religion professor said recently that when she invites her Sociology of Religion classes to invent their own religion, none of them ever invent clergy. It’s a good reminder to us as pastors that we are helpful, but not essential. We are thankful for all the ways you are that essential witness to God’s love, in organized and spontaneous ways. We pray that our leadership in Word and Sacrament will inspire and strengthen you – but never replace your work as the priesthood of all believers.

## 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."*

November 13, 2016  
Allen Hanson

## Stephen Ministry: The Naming of the Saints

November begins with a quiet but profound holy day in the church year: All Saints' Day on November 1, observed the first Sunday in the month. On this Sunday at St. John's the name of each member of the congregation who has died during the past year is read aloud, followed by the tolling of the bell. It is a time for all of us to remember with gratitude these saints who "from their labors rest" as well as others dear to us who are no longer living.

It is a time also to be reminded that we, the living who trust in Christ's promises of forgiveness and mercy, are also saints, sanctified by that forgiveness freely given, something we can't possibly earn. We are made saints and at the same time we can't keep ourselves from sinning.

The Apostle Paul learned that members of the church he had planted in Thessalonica were not only grieving the death of some of their number, but were also fearful that these believers would be excluded from the life of the resurrection, since they would not be present when Christ returned, an event they expected soon. Paul reassures them "so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope."

*Through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. (Thessalonians 4:13-18)*

The naming of the dead and tolling of the bell at St. John's can strike a raw nerve in those who are newly bereaved or in those who have grieved for years, perhaps because of accounts unsettled. Stephen Ministers are trained to walk with those who are grieving, to listen and to offer comfort, confidentially, and without judging. If you are grieving a loss, call a pastor (507-645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (507-645-8445) to discuss whether this is the time for you to have a Stephen Minister.

## Veterans Day 2017

IN HONOR OF VETERANS DAY, St. John's is offering the ELCA Book of Prayer for the Armed Services for members and family members in active military service.

If you or a family member would like a prayer book, please contact one of the pastors or Leah Garlie before November 12.



## November 5 is All Saints Sunday

This is the day the church particularly gives thanks for those who have gone before us in faith. St. John's will remember by name those members who have died in the past year, ringing the bell, and lighting candles in memory of each of them. Between services there will be a time for prayer at 10:00 a.m. by the St. John's Columbarium in the courtyard (weather permitting).



## St. John's Forums in November

### November 5 - All Saints' Day Columbarium Service

On November 5, all are invited to gather in the courtyard at 10:00 a.m. for a short Columbarium service. The Columbarium is a dedicated set of niches where the ashes of the cremated (also called "cremains") are kept. A number of our loved ones have been laid to rest there this past year. In recognition of this sacred space at St. John's, we gather to surround it with our prayers and God's eternal blessing through word and prayer.

### November 12 - Business and the Pace of Our Lives: Sleep

We live in a dizzying and busy culture that struggles to slow down. What impact does this have on our sleep? St. John's member and sleep specialist Dr. Bryan Hoff will lead us in talking about what normal sleep looks like throughout the ages of life, but especially in the teenage and family years. There will also be an opportunity for questions and answers at the end. Parents and grandparents of school-aged children are encouraged to attend!

### November 19 - Benevolence Partners for St. John's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

For description, please see page 11.

### November 26 - Introduction to the Gospel of Mark

Each liturgical year, St. John's uses the Revised Common Lectionary (a set of assigned readings for each Sunday) in worship. This is a three-year cycle of readings, with each year focusing on one of the Gospels. The past two years, Pastors Pam and Jonathan have given an introduction to the upcoming gospel. This new liturgical year (beginning in December) focuses on the Gospel of Mark. There are important questions to ask when reading the Gospel of Mark: Who is the audience? When was it written? What are the major themes and message? Why is there no story of Jesus' birth? Join us for an introduction to the Gospel of Mark.

## Life and Growth

### Baptisms

October 1, 2017  
Alice Jayne Langford  
Daughter of Natalie and Jake Langford

### Deaths

October 23, 2017  
Grace Madson

October 29, 2017  
James Scott



## Radio Broadcasts

### October 1, 2017

Given in memory of  
Marilyn and Ralph Haugen  
by the Haugen and Gaffey Families.

### October 8, 2017

Given in loving memory of  
Teddy Miller by Van Miller.

### October 15, 2017

Given in loving memory of  
Norman Hope from his family.

### October 22, 2017

Given by Elsie Nelsen  
in memory of Arne Nelsen.

### October 29, 2017

Given by Elsie Nelsen  
in memory of Arne Nelsen.

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.

November 5	Sunday School (Daylight Savings Time)
November 12	Sunday School
November 19	Sunday School
November 26	No Sunday School (Thanksgiving Break)

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

November 1	
November 8	
November 15	
November 22	No Programs (Thanksgiving Break)
November 29	

#### CATechism - Grades 4 & 5

4:00-4:15 p.m.

November 1

#### Youth Blast - Grades 3-5

November 3-4 Good Earth Village

#### Breakfast, PJs, and Movie Morning

Monday, November 6 (No School Day)

9:00-11:00 a.m., St. John's Theater

#### 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

## 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, November 6  
**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!

## Blessings and Congratulations to our 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders who received their Spark Bibles in October!

Anna Bash, Joshua Faust, Hunter Heath-Williams, Genevieve Knutson, Dyson McBroom, Will McLaughlin, Isabelle Paulson, Selius Price, John Tracy, Noah Tracy, and Braden Van Sickle.

The Bibles are purchased using money from the Johnson Bible fund.



## 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.

## 2018 High School Mission Trip Info Meeting on November 12 at Noon



St. John's High School Youth are headed to Houston, Texas for a mission trip! The tentative trip dates are June 16-24. If you

have a desire to serve, meet new people, and see another part of the country, we hope you will consider joining us on this mission trip.

An information session for those curious or interested in the trip will be held in the Fireside Room on Sunday, November 12 at 12:00 p.m. Pizza will be served for lunch!

## 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.

Children who would like to perform either a solo or be part of an ensemble for the pre-service music, can contact Julie Brehmer at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429. In the past, children have played instruments and sung solos, usually with a Christmas theme.



## High School Youth Group Wednesdays



**When:** Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Youth Room (Lower Level)

**Who:** 10-12th grades (9th graders also welcome during non-meeting days for Confirmation)

**What:** A casual time to connect with each other and explore the future possibilities of this newly formed group!

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Youth to Remember!

#### Sunday Life Group Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

November 5	Life Group (Daylight Savings Time)
November 12	Life Group
November 19	Life Group
November 26	No Life Group (Thanksgiving Break)

#### Confirmation (Grades 6-9)

6:15-7:30 p.m.

November 1	
November 8	
November 15	
November 22	No Confirmation (Thanksgiving Break)
November 29	

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

6:15-7:30 p.m.

November 1	
November 8	
November 15	
November 22	No Youth Group (Thanksgiving Break)
November 29	

## Shared Ministry

### Thoughts Behind Fixing the Hospitality Service Groups to a Particular Month

Our understanding is that the benefit of having groups (in the 80s and 90s) that rotated through a 13-month cycle, was so that every group took a turn with the carrying the extra load of hospitality tasks around Easter and Christmas. We decided to keep the workload for every month the same by having the Shared Ministry office coordinate volunteers for the extra services during those months.

We also found that, during the summer months, there are many people gone and/or less eager to commit ahead of time to serving on a particular Sunday. We had already created 9 groups, and it made sense to assign each group to a particular month during the 9-month academic year. It is easier to remember that I am serving in the November group, for example, rather than "Group 7" and to plan ahead accordingly.

If you find you are going to be out of town during the month you belong to, or, even more exciting, if you feel the desire to step into one of the hospitality roles during another month -- please do so!! No one will think you're being selfish by taking the monthly service group openings in your off-month!

If you have questions about Hospitality Groups, please don't hesitate to ask Christy Hall-Holt or Mary Kelvie in the church office at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429.

## How do those Communion cups get filled anyway?... A Sunday Hospitality Primer

Is taking communion every Sunday from those little cups important to you? If so, let me open the world of Communion Preparation to you!

It is the most essential part of Sunday hospitality at St. John's -- a tangible way we are all invited to share in remembering the gift of Jesus' love shown on the cross.

What about the bread? Is it important to you to receive the nourishment we are assured when we come to table at Christ's invitation? Did you know that the bread we receive is baked specially for us at the Brick Oven Bakery in Northfield? And what about those gluten free wafers? Well, they're made from potato flour and come from Augsburg Fortress.

Come! Be part of the blessing. If you haven't yet prepared or washed up the communion dishes, consider this your invitation. Experienced trainers are ready to walk you through the steps!

Every week a volunteer (or two) from the current month's hospitality group set up the communion elements for the first and second services. Then after the communion of the second service, two different volunteers take all those little cups into St. John's Hall Kitchen, carefully turn them all over into a rack, and run them through the dishwasher.

*"Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Re-*



*membering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty."*

Holy Communion,  
LBW Setting Two



## St. John's Advent Fair Wednesday, November 29

Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, November 29 in St. John's Hall. Come enjoy our Wednesday Night Meal and Advent activities for all ages. We encourage you to bring friends. The more the merrier!



### Time:

5:15-6:15 p.m.: Wednesday Night Meal

5:45-7:00 p.m.: Advent Fair Activities

### Can you help with Advent Fair?

- Dinner - set-up, serve or clean-up
- Help with crafts/shops
- Food demonstration – show how to make your favorite Christmas treats

Fair trade sales of coffee, tea, and chocolate will be available.

Contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions at 507-645-4429 or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## THANK YOU from John Quam



Thank you to all of you who helped make my Retirement Party a great event!

Thanks to Pastors, Staff Members, Council Members, and Members of the Congregation and also those who brought the desserts for Apple Sunday!

Thanks for the cards and gifts. The beautiful wooden box you gave is now filled with your cards.

You made it a wonderful day for Louise and me! And thank you for the kind greetings in church these recent Sundays.

Thank you so much,  
Pastor John Quam

## Northfield Schools Referendum Info Session Wednesday, November 1 6:15 p.m., St. John's Theater

St. John's welcomes Superintendent Matt Hillmann to speak about what the upcoming school referendum means for our community. Please join us on Wednesday, November 1, at 6:15 p.m. in the St. John's theater on the 2nd floor (handicap access available through the elevator) for a presentation followed by a question and answer session. The nursery will be open for families with children that would like to attend.

## 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, November 1  
Nacho Boats

Wednesday, November 8  
Zuppa and Wild Rice Soup

Wednesday, November 15  
Chili Mac

Wednesday, November 22  
No Meal - Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 29  
Pulled Pork Sandwiches



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

## News and Updates

### Pub Theology Continues this Fall

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.

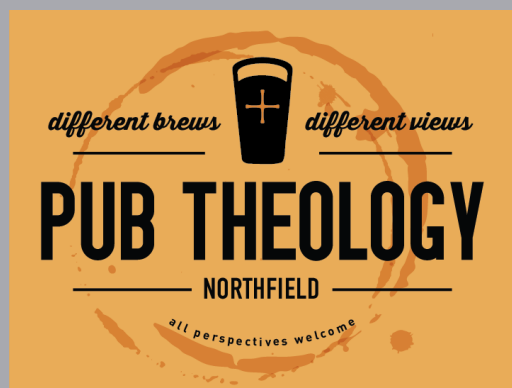
No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet on the following Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Froggy Bottoms.  
**November 13**  
**November 27**  
**December 11**

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 Faith and Health Board: Caregiving Around the Clock

November is National Caregivers Month, a tradition that started in 1997 as National Family Caregivers Week. The importance and increase in family caregivers has grown over the years to the awareness it now receives for the whole month. Currently there are reportedly over 90 million caregivers in the United States. "Caregiving Around the Clock" is the theme for this year.

Caregiving is often a 24 hour a day/7 days a week job, whether caring for a loved one with a chronic condition or declining health or children with special needs. Providing this special care becomes a balancing act of meeting loved ones needs and meeting your own personal needs. Caregiving is physically, emotionally and financially demanding.

The Caregiver Action Network ([www.caregiveraction.org](http://www.caregiveraction.org)) emphasizes 10 tips that are helpful for family caregivers.

1. Seek support from other caregivers. You are not alone!
2. Take care of your own health so that you can be strong enough to take care of your loved one.
3. Accept offers of help and suggest specific things people can do to help you.
4. Learn how to communicate effectively with doctors.
5. Caregiving is hard work so take respite breaks often.
6. Watch out for signs of depression and don't delay getting professional help when you need it.
7. Be open to new technologies that can help you care for your loved one.
8. Organize medical information so it's up to date and easy to find.
9. Make sure legal documents are in order.
10. Give yourself credit for doing the best you can in one of the toughest jobs there is!

The Caregiver Action Network website is a valuable website ([www.caregiveraction.org](http://www.caregiveraction.org)) with resources for the caregiver. Links will bring you to the Family Caregiver Toolbox for example with information on nutrition, advance directives as well as topics on housing, transportation, and finances. Topics are also covered on specific health conditions such as Alzheimers, COPD, and Parkinsons.

St. John's can lend support needed for you as a caregiver. A Stephen Minister can be a support person for you as a caring, confidential friend you can talk to about the stresses and demands that are a part of your life. The Called to Care Ministry is also a group at St. John's that may be able to offer assistance as well as the Parish Nurse. Reach out to your church community for the help that you may need as you "care around the clock".

## Grace Overflowing to the Northfield Community

St. John's is launching the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fund Appeal in celebration of 150 years as a congregation. The benevolence portion of the appeal will be presented at a forum on Sunday, November 19, between worship services (9:45-10:30 a.m.).



The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board invited community organizations

to submit grant requests. The four grant recipients selected by the board and the church council are:

- TORCH, Tackling Obstacles, Raising College Hopes, a program with Northfield High School
- Community Building through Music, Arts & Technology, a program with Laura Baker Services Association
- Community Action Center, support for building Homeless Emergency Housing
- Rice County Habitat for Humanity, support for a Faith Build House

At the November 19 forum, the four grant recipients will each give a presentation to inform the congregation about their project.

The title of our anniversary celebration is Grace Overflowing. As the the campaign brochure states: "In 2019, we will celebrate 150 years of gratitude for God's sustaining grace and will look to the future with joyful expectation." The benevolence portion will seek to "increase our capacity to serve our neighbors through gifts to several of our Northfield community partners." Each of the organizations selected offer important services to the community. As St. John's Lutheran Church moves ahead, we can do so with gratitude and be energized by extending God's love to our neighbors.

## Thursday's Table Community Meal: St. John's Volunteers Needed



Would you be interested in volunteering on November 9 to help set up, set tables, or clean up for Thursday's Table at the Northfield Community Resource Center?

When you serve at Thursday's Table, you may also enjoy the fruits of your labor and a tasty meal with people from all over Northfield.

Please sign up on the Volunteer's Bulletin Board outside of the church office, contact Mary Kelvie at 507-645-4429 or sign up online thru CCB.

Note:

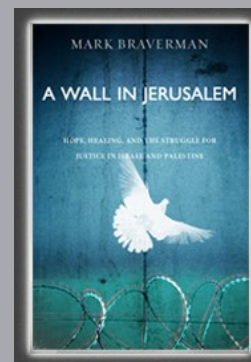
*Volunteers must be at least 18 years old.*

## News and Updates

### Perspectives on Palestine

**Saturday, November 4  
8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.  
St. John's Hall**

After 50 years of Occupation it is time for Americans to learn of the Palestinian side. Come to St. John's Hall on Saturday, November 4, for a day-long seminar. The leading speaker is Dr. Mark Braverman. An American Jew hearing about the wonders of Israel, he felt compelled to see for himself. While visiting he realized the humanitarian crises taking shape and has devoted the rest of his life to making a difference. For more information on this conference visit [info@njpmn.org](mailto:info@njpmn.org).



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

Learn the true nature and shocking 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



## November Gatherings

**Abigail/Rebecca Circle**  
Thursday, November 9, 9:30am  
Parkview West Library  
Northfield Retirement Community

**Elizabeth Circle**  
Thursday, November 9, 1:30pm  
Gretchen Hardgrove's home  
117 Orchard Street South

**Lydia Circle**  
Wednesday, November 8, 9:00am  
St. John's Hall

**Martha/Claudia Circle**  
Thursday, November 9, 9:30am  
Parkview West Library  
Northfield Retirement Community

**Mary Circle**  
Friday, November 10, 1:00pm  
Genevieve Quarberg's home  
1604 Cannon Valley Drive

**Sarah Circle**  
Wednesday, November 8, 9:00am  
St. John's Hall

**Bold Cafe**  
Thursday, November 16, 7:30pm  
The Hideaway  
Sunday, November 19, 9:45am  
St. John's Fireside Room

**Baby Boomers**  
Saturday, November 4, 4:30pm  
Grit Youngquist's home  
1311 Cannon Valley Dr.

**Breakfast Group**  
Saturday, November 11, 8:30am  
St. John's Fireside Rm

Transportation for St. John's Women's events:  
Merilyn Calcutt 645-2814



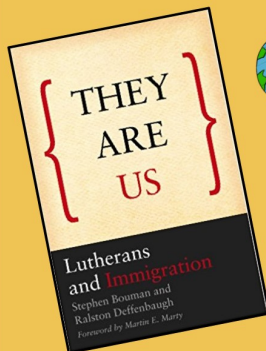
## WALKING WITH SOUTH SUDAN



**Clark Cary**  
Chair, SE MN Synod Hunger Task Force  
Thursday, Nov. 2, 7:00 pm



"Thankofferings" have been part of our Lutheran tradition, grounded in our celebration of community since the early 1900s. We gather as faithful women joyfully giving thanks and praise for what God has given to us. The offering will be collected at this November program. This is a once a year offering to support the total outreach of the churchwide women's organization. Go to [women.elca@elca.org](mailto:women.elca@elca.org) for more details.



## Immigration: Cultivating Diversity, Equity and Justice

### BOOK DISCUSSION "THEY ARE US - Lutherans and Immigration"

Authors: Stephen Bouman & Ralston Deffenbaugh  
- Foreword by Martin Marty  
Wednesday, January 18, 2018, 6:00pm  
- led by Shirley Keltto

Available for purchase from Content Books, Northfield and Amazon.com



**LWR School Backpacks:**  
St. John's packed 240 school kits last month!  
**LWR Quilters** shipped out 56 quilts in September! Before October is over, they will have made 16 more! Thank you!

**November Quilting dates:**  
Mon. 13th and Thu. 16th 8:30am - church basement

**Needs:** Colored/printed sheets, full size or larger (drop in bins by our bulletin board in the commons), and tie-rs, cutters and sewers.

Info: Sue Sharrow (507) 301-3083



**Prayer Shawl Knitters:**  
Nov. 9th  
10:00am  
Fireside Room

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)

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

## From the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board...

### ***World Hunger: Share the Harvest***

**By John Gorder**

It's autumn in southern Minnesota. The combines and corn pickers are working late into the night. It's marvelous to behold. Lying beyond the big machines and ripe fields are processing plants that turn the produce into cereals and cooking oil, feed for livestock, and fuel for automobiles. If a farmer is thoughtful, ample grain will be left in the fields for wild game to glean during the long winter months.

Most of us seldom give thought to how the earth FEEDS us. We have an unlimited variety of food in local stores and big-box warehouses. *Hunger* isn't part of our vocabulary. When I'm hungry, it might be because the apples are ripe, so I feel hungry for a Honey Crisp or a piece of fresh pie. Or I might be hungry for a steak on the grill, a fresh salad from the garden, or an end-of-day dish of ice cream. The understanding of real hunger, for most of us, is pretty remote.

But there are families in our community whose hunger is profound and threatening. The statistics are available. The food shelf is a lifesaver for those who are hungry and do not have the luxury of abundance. We need to expand our understanding of hunger to include the whole community.

A few years ago, I had an opportunity to teach a group of Christian leaders in the small village of Koro, located at the eastern border of Mali in West Africa. My hosts prepared a meal of millet garnished with chicken seasoned in peanut sauce.

That evening, as we sat around a small fire, I noticed an enormous pile of millet stalks piled on a high rack at the side of the house. "Why are those dry stalks piled up there?" I asked.

"It is fodder for our one donkey," answered my host. "We've had five years of terrible drought and there is absolutely no grass or brush for the animals to eat. Without those stalks, our donkey will die. And we will also perish because we need the donkey to pull the plow so we can plant our last sack of peanuts in our fields. If there are no rains this year, we will face starvation and be forced to leave our home and our land. Starvation is that close to us."

Hunger is real. It menaces the homeless, the poor, those caught in civil wars, and those affected by global warming and drought. It is important that we SHARE from our abundance.

Our church is one of the trustworthy vehicles reaching out to places and people who need what we have to give. There will be an envelope in the St. John's packet for World Hunger, and we encourage people to make that donation in November. For those who use the on-line donation system, there is a specific account named ELCA World Hunger. St. John's normally raises at least \$10,000. Be generous. It is important.

## News and Updates

### **The Christmas Sharing Tree Nov. 13 – Dec. 3**

Our annual "Christmas Sharing Tree", a program sponsored by the Northfield Community Action Center, will be displayed in St. John's Commons from **November 13 -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!



## News and Updates

### Holiday Alert!

Christmas is coming but not soon, even though many stores have erected tree forests and filled their aisles with decorations!

When it does, however, St. John's will again host the community Christmas dinner as in past years.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, this dinner is St. John's gift to the community and is open to anyone who comes at no cost.

Immediately after Thanksgiving, we will be recruiting donations of food and labor from members of the Congregation.

Many workers are needed for various 1.5-2 hour shifts on December 24 and 25 and donations of food including salads, desserts, and potato bakes are also needed.

We will welcome your contribution.



## From Bread for the World: Million Meal Feast

David Miner, 64, a long-time Bread leader in Indiana, fasted for 16 days, from September 20 through October 5, to raise awareness about hunger and proposed federal budget cuts to vital programs that help end hunger.

Immoral and inhuman is what Miner calls the House budget resolution that would cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) by 150 billion dollars over 10 years. In Indiana a cut of this magnitude would translate into 50 million meals lost to vulnerable Hoosiers. "I decided to try to make people aware of this by giving up one meal for every meal that would be lost to Hoosier kids, veterans and seniors," Miner told an Indianapolis news reporter.

Miner posted a blog series during his fast. Here are some excerpts:

*I have devoted the last decade of my life to improving the systems to try to assure that no one goes hungry. I know the food assistance systems more than well enough to know for sure that most of the 50 million meals cannot be covered in some other way. Real people, millions of times a year, will go hungry.*

*Jesus fed people who were hungry, all of them. His disciples were instructed not to send the people away hungry. Wishing to do what I can I will fast. Every meal I'll miss for the next 16 days represents roughly a million meals in jeopardy for Hoosier children, seniors and veterans if the drastic cuts being debated in Congress become a reality.*

*I have a plan to fast safely. My decision to miss meals is my own choice, while our most vulnerable neighbors could go hungry through no choice of their own. People of conscience should speak out.*

*All the major traditions of faith call for their adherents to feed the hungry.*

*... hunger is not a partisan issue. Senators George McGovern (D) and Bob Dole (R) worked across party lines, putting partisanship aside for the shared purpose of feeding the most vulnerable members of our global community. The McGovern-Dole food for Education Program has provided school meals to more than 40 million children in some of the world's poorest countries. Senator Dole is still a member of the board of Bread for the World.*

*Another great champion of the hungry has been Indiana's Senator Richard Lugar. In a letter last week, he wrote: "I share in your disappointment over the congressional proposal and I thank you for your continuing efforts to help the millions of food insecure Americans."*

*Brad looked "normal" (if there is such a thing). He had a college degree, and had had a good job as a manager and his own place in Carmel. He'd been doing well until he lost his job.*

*Brad had lost all sense of self-worth. The man he saw in the mirror was not the manager who lived in Carmel, a middle class citizen with a mortgage and late model car. His financial situation had thrown him in with the poor and hungry people for whom, in his former life, he'd felt only disdain.*



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

# From Bread for the World

Continued from page 14

*He believed they were poor because they were lazy or unmotivated. Now the face in the mirror told him a different story. Don't fall for stereotypes, especially stereotypes in which the hungry themselves are blamed for their predicament. People's circumstances can change in a heartbeat through no fault of their own.*

*I urge you to be a voice for those who are struggling, those whose struggles will only worsen if Congress cuts \$150 billion in funding for SNAP. I invite you to join me - pray for our nation, share this concern with others, and let your voice be heard in Washington by contacting your Congressional representatives.*

([jasonlewis.house.gov](http://jasonlewis.house.gov); [klobuchar.senate.gov](http://klobuchar.senate.gov); [franken.senate.gov](http://franken.senate.gov))

Read all of Miner's blogs at [bread.org/activist](http://bread.org/activist). Scroll to "Million Meal Fast." Then scroll to the fourth paragraph from the end and click on highlighted "blog series."

## Human Rights and the Reformation by Curtis Kline (Missionary Supported by St. John's)

As the Human Rights program of IELCO, along with the rest of the world, is gearing up for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Reformation, it's appropriate to reflect on how the Reformation has contributed to the development of human rights. While the term "human



rights" did not exist at the time of the Reformation, we can see many examples of how Luther's thought formed many notions today recognized as human rights, especially social and economic rights. In his interpretation of the fourth petition in the Lord's Prayer (daily bread), Luther states that we are praying for "food and drink, clothing, house and farm,

and a healthy body" for everybody; or what can be found in article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the right to an adequate standard of living. Luther also insisted that "good governance" was essential for the realization of all to have their "daily bread" or the necessities to live.

He even states that a prince's coat of arms should be a loaf of bread, "in order to remind them and their subjects that it is through the prince's office that we enjoy protection and peace". The language of human rights we use today translates this into the government's responsibilities of providing peace and protection to all citizens, from protection against slavery to the protection of the freedom of assembly. The Lutheran tradition would conclude that when we pray for "our daily bread", we are praying for the respect of the human rights of all members of society, we are praying that the governmental structures of society exist to ensure that all have an adequate standard of living, and we are praying against "everything which interferes with the people having daily bread". As we celebrate these 500 years of reforming, we should also be looking at how to continue developing commitment to the protection of "daily bread" for all.

## St. John's Staff

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**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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



# WALKING WITH SOUTH SUDAN

with **Pastor Clark Cary**  
Chair of the SE Minnesota Synod  
Hunger Task Force

Thursday  
November 2  
7:00 pm  
St. John's Hall



Sponsored by:

St. John's  
**Women**  
of the  
**ELCA**  
and the **Adult**  
**Education**  
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**ImMigration:**  
Cultivating Diversity, Equity and Justice