



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Honoring Pastor John Quam's Ministry

Pastor John Quam is retiring after 20 years as our Visitation Pastor on September 30.

On Sunday, September 24, Pastor Quam will preach at our Sunday services. Between services, we will celebrate in St. John's Hall with a reception and program for John and Louise.

We welcome your words, cards, and stories of John's ministry. A collection of cards will be taken up on September 24. If you cannot be there in person, you can send them to the church office to be gathered with the others.

We hope that many will make a special effort to attend that day, and the planning team is hoping to make this feasible for those who can travel to church that day. If you would like help arranging transportation please contact Jane Rinehart at 612-840-6450 or at janesrinehart@gmail.com.

See pages 3 and 5 for John's reflections on 20 years.

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

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

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

Worship Services

8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sunday, September 3

8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Starting Sunday, September 10

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

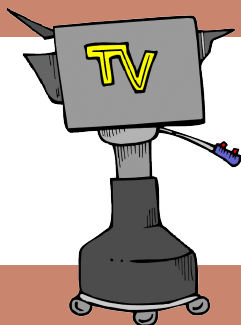


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



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.

Accompany - Fall 2017

Are you new to St. Johns?
Or have you been here awhile and would you like to get to know other people in a small group setting?

If so, we invite you to be part of the
Accompany gatherings this Fall.

Spend time connecting with each other
and with God over coffee and treats,
and *lectio divina* (contemplative reading)
from the Gospel of the day.

Gatherings will be held between services (9:45 a.m. start)
in the Undercroft (lower level)
from September 17 through
the Welcome Lunch on November 19.

Accompany Sample Session September 10, 9:45 a.m., Fireside Room

Open to anyone curious.
We will explain the purpose and process,
and give you a chance to try "dwelling in the Word."

Dear Friends in Christ:

As we honor and give thanks for Pastor John Quam's 20 years of ministry here at St. John's, we asked him to reflect on his long history of ministry with the Church.

Tell us how you got into ministry?

Good question. I grew up in Randall, Iowa. In 1943, I was 12 years old and my dad had just joined the Red Cross for military service. During that same year, we got a new pastor at our church, Albert Bringle. He had a reputation for building Bible camps and one of his goals was to build a Bible camp near Randall. So, he found a place on the Skunk River, a farmer donated the land, and we started building Riverside Bible Camp in cooperation with several congregations. Monday was Bible Camp building day. It was located about 2.5 miles out of town and I would bike out to help. Through this time of helping to build the camp, I got to know the neighboring pastors, and learned that they liked to play ball like I did! As a result, I got to know and appreciate some of them.

As a junior in high school, we moved to Minneapolis, as my dad became the administrator at Ebenezer Home for the Aged. I went from a high school class of 17 students to Minneapolis Central High School, which was much bigger. As a senior, we were assigned a project on what we wanted to do with our career. I wrote that I wanted to be a teacher and a coach – both my parents had been teachers. But the summer after graduation, there was the Luther League convention in Canada. One of the sessions at the convention was directed by a missionary, and by the time I got done with that, I had the feeling that God was calling me to be a pastor. Incidentally, I was in charge of organizing the trip alongside our associate pastor – Roy Harrisville Jr. Getting to know him was part of my calling too. After that summer, I came to St. Olaf thinking I was pre-seminary. While at school, I took Greek, majored in history, and minored in Norwegian. I frequently worshipped at St. John's during my time at St. Olaf, since there was no student congregation until my senior year. Also during my senior year, I met Louise, who was a freshman, and we started dating.

After St. Olaf, I went to Luther Seminary, and Louise and I got engaged. In 1956, we married right after she graduated from St. Olaf. I had my internship in Mankato under Pastor Jennings Feroe, who became a powerful mentor. After seminary, I was called to a three-point parish in Henning, MN. After a wonderful three-years of pastoral ministry and making good friends, I applied to Yale Graduate School. I graduated with a PhD in Church History with a dissertation on the Reformation in Norway. Believing that the parish is the laboratory of the theologian, I put my name out for call again and was called to St. Stephen Lutheran in Marshall, MN. This was a mission start congregation that was only three years old. The task of that call, of course, was growing that mission, which we did from 1963-1988. My time in Marshall also included helping to build the campus ministry at Southwest State University.

Finally, I was called to First Lutheran in Manchester, Iowa until 1996, at which time I retired and we moved to Northfield. I did not retire to get out of ministry but more to get away from the administrator role as a senior pastor. A role that included supervising 17 interns over the years.

It was not long after moving to Northfield that Pastor Les Svendsen asked me to be a referee on his football crew. And not long after that, he asked if

Continued on page 5

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenschner



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

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

Grief Care Resource:

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

Grief Booklets:

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



The following St. John's members died in this month last year. We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."

September 9, 2016
Annalee Larson

September 14, 2016
David Skaar

Stephen Ministry: Ministering to Those Experiencing Divorce

Divorce is an everyday reality in our society. There are very few who have not experienced the sting of divorce, whether it is in their immediate family or close friends or relatives. Divorce is an enormously painful experience, and those who are living with this reality rarely receive the kind of care that is available to people who suffer other major losses, such as the death of a loved one. In response to this ongoing and growing need, St. John's Stephen Ministry has successfully initiated a pilot Divorce Support Group for Men. This is a model that we hope to use for future groups as the need arises.

Additionally, we would like to extend an open invitation to anyone who has been touched by divorce, or has an interest in learning more, to come to our upcoming Continuing Education:

How to Support Someone Going Through Divorce

Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 p.m., St. John's Hall

Dan Dimick, Licensed Psychologist and Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, will lead a discussion on the following topics:

- the emotional experience of divorce
- the six steps to support someone going through divorce
- divorce and congregational life

As always, if you, or someone you know, is going through a time of change or difficulty, call on one of our pastors at 507-645-4429 or Joan Halvorson at 507-645-8445 or 507-334-4274 to discuss the possibility of receiving the care of a Stephen Minister.

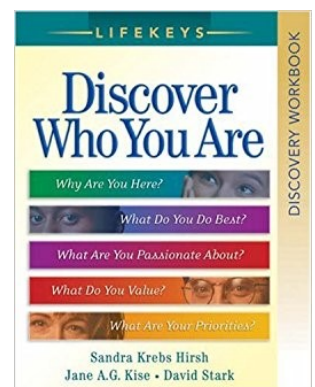
Discover Who You Are Book Study At The Hideaway, Downtown Northfield Saturdays, September 16-December 2 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Book Title: *LifeKeys - Discover Who You Are*
by J. Kise, David Stark, Sandra Krebs Hirsh.

Christy Hall-Holt will be leading a book study group this fall. One of the purposes of this is to prepare for holding a class at St. John's called LifeKeys that uses the material in the book. This study is open to anyone who would like to take a closer look at your uniqueness and where you can use your strengths and gifting.

All are welcome!

(Meet at 7:30 a.m. in St. John's parking lot if you want to walk together to The Hideaway.)



From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

I would apply to be visitation pastor at St. John's, after Pastor Jennings Feroe retired. So, that's the story of how I came to be here and I have loved the ministry here at St. John's.

What have been some joys of ministry over the years?

Confirmation. My first-year teaching 8th grade, I taught right out of the book. But after that year and with the help of my students, I learned early to find a better way of doing confirmation. Eventually, I found a program that enabled the youth to do some learning on their own, which allowed me to ask a lot of questions about what they were learning. It got the kids to really think. And that was one of the greatest joys - to see some of these kids really get it. To really start to understand the Gospel.

I also have always enjoyed preaching. Both at funerals and on Sundays. It is often a time when I feel the Holy Spirit working in me. Each time I get down from the pulpit, I think, "God, you did it again!" In my 40 years of parish ministry, I preached at 200 funerals. In the 20 years here at St. Johns, about 300 hundred more. The joy is finding ways to bring God's Word to the people.

Another joy of ministry has been seeing how refereeing has had a positive effect on my ministry and my relationship with the people.

Of course, one of the biggest joys has been to bring the caring spirit of the St. John's Congregation to the members who are ill and grieving and can no longer get to church.

What have been some challenges of ministry over the years?

Campus ministry at Southwest State University. There was so much we had to do. Part of the task was working with an ecumenical group, which stretched me and made me more open as a pastor. Getting this ministry going was one of the greatest challenges – but, in the end, it really worked!

It was also a challenge to build that congregation in Marshall – as a relatively new pastor, it was hard to find help with such an important endeavor. But overall, it was a fun place to be and fun to see it grow.

Any closing thoughts?

I am grateful for these years. For the support I've received from members, pastors, and staff at St. John's. And for the joy of getting to know these people. It's given me an opportunity to continue my ministry.

We hope you will join us on Sunday, September 24, as we celebrate and give thanks for Pastor John Quam's 20 years of ministry at St. John's.

With love and gratitude for John,

Pastors Pam and Jonathan

Life and Growth

Baptisms

August 20, 2017
John Michael England
son of Kristin and William England

Deaths

August 15, 2017
Myron Solid



Radio Broadcasts

August 6, 2017

Given by Judy Swanson
in memory of Stephen Swanson and
his immediate family Dot, Cully, and Merilyn.

August 13, 2017

Given in honor of George Posfay
by Eva Posfay, Pepe Kryzda,
and Cecilia Kryzda.

August 20, 2017

Given with thanks for God's many gifts
by Bob and Marilyn Matta.

August 27, 2017

Given in memory of Gene Schrader
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.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

Wednesday, September 6

- CAT and Wednesday Program Orientation for grades K-5 (5:30-6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall)
- Confirmation Orientation (6:15-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, September 13

- “ROCK”, *Reaching Out to Christ's Kids*, Wednesday Programming for Grades K-5 Begins
- Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School (6:00 p.m., Room 15)
- Confirmation for Grades 6-9 Begins (6:15-7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, September 17

- Sunday School and Life Groups Begin! (9:45-10:30 a.m.)
- Blessing of the Backpacks (8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Worship Services)
- Installation of SS Teachers (10:45 a.m. Worship Service)

Sunday, September 24

- 4th Grade Receives Their Catechism Books (10:45 a.m. Worship Service)

Reaching Out to Christ's Kids Begins Wednesday, September 13

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K-5. Wednesday programs, for all grade levels, consists of an after-school snack, recreation, CATechism, “DOG”, Kid's Club, music opportunities (Alleluia and Jubilate Choir), art, and service projects!



St. John's provides an afterschool bus to pick up kids from Greenvale, Bridgewater, and Sibley schools, and from the Middle school for Prairie Creek students who register to attend Wednesday programs. Make sure to indicate on the registration form if your child would like to ride!

Orientation for Wednesday Programming and CAT Wednesday, September 6

Orientation for kids participating in Wednesday afterschool programs, including CATechism, is on Wednesday, September 6, in Fellowship Hall. We invite parents, along with their K-5th graders, to attend from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Catechism classes begin October 4 for our 4th and 5th graders.

Confirmation Orientation Wednesday, September 6

Orientation for youth participating in Confirmation is on Wednesday, September 6, in Fellowship Hall. We invite parents, along with their 6-9th graders, to attend from 6:15-7:00 p.m.

Orientation will include information regarding confirmation, expectations, calendars, and important changes from the prior year will be explained.



10th Grade Confirmation Retreat

When: Saturday, September 23, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Gustavus Adolphus College
(Meet at St. John's parking lot at 8:00 a.m.)

What: A final retreat for those preparing to be confirmed.

Questions? Please contact the church at 507-645-4429 or email youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Open House for Preschool 1 Sunday School!



All preschool children who are 3 by 9-1-17 are invited to attend our Preschool 1 Sunday School class this fall. St. John's Preschool Open House is September 13 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 15 (lower level).

This is a great chance to meet the teachers and help your little one feel more comfortable before the first day of Sunday School. Registration forms are available in the Commons or online at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Sunday School and Life Groups Begin September 17

We invite all children and youth to attend beginning Sunday, September 17, from 9:45-10:30 a.m. Sunday School classes are for children who are age 3 (by 9-1-17) through grade 5. Life Groups are for youth in grades 6-9 and Life Group Guides are for youth in grades 10-12.

For questions regarding Sunday School contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org. For questions regarding Life Groups contact Angie Gehring at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Both can also be reached by calling the church at 507-645-4429.

Get involved with Children's and Youth Ministry at St. John's!



For children and youth to feel connected to their church, it's important for them to build relationships with at least 5 adults, other than their parents.

Please consider volunteering with programming this fall on a Sunday Morning or Wednesday afternoon/evening. We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities. Please talk with [Julie Brehmer](mailto:JulieBrehmer) at 507-645-4429 or check out the volunteer opportunities in the registration packet.

P.S.: High School students - talk with Julie how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Children and Youth

Youth Blast!

Who:
Kids in grades 3-6

When:
Friday-Saturday, November 3-4

Where:
Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN

Cost:
\$55 (\$25 deposit reserves a spot)
(Scholarships available;
no charge for chaperones)

Youth Blast invites kids in grades 3-6 for an overnight adventure at Good Earth Village. The 24-hour camp experience is filled with games, hikes, great food, and worship. This is a wonderful introduction to what a weeklong summer camp is like.

We will carpool from St. John's on Friday leaving at 5:15 p.m. and arrive back on Saturday around 5:30 p.m. Feel free to bring a friend and join us for Youth Blast!

Register early; space may be limited!

Parents – we need drivers, chaperones.
Thanks!

Register by going online at <http://goodearthvillage.org/youth-blast/>

Feel free to call or email Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you have questions.



Shared Ministry

Meals on Wheels



St. John's is responsible for distributing Meals on Wheels from Sunday, September 17, through Saturday, October 14.

Many volunteers are needed. You can sign up for this important ministry of care for elderly and disabled members of our community on Sundays in the Commons.

For further information contact Christy Hall-Holt at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org or Nancy Kluver at 507-581-0896 or mkluver@gmail.com.



Notes of Thanks

Thank you...
Myron Dack

for serving as an usher since 1960.

Thank you...
Herb Fick

for repairing the railing outside and the repair of two banquet tables.

Thank you...
Alex Dell and Friends

for choosing to complete your Eagle Scout project at St John's by painting the lower level.

Goodbye Summer - Hello Fall! From Mary Kelvie and Christy Hall-Holt

It has been a great summer of serving here at St. John's. In addition to our weekly Summer Sunday service possibilities, there have been a total of 54 extra opportunities to serve our community with Rhubarb Sunday, Strawberry Sunday, Red, White & Blue Sunday, and Night to Unite. It is a tremendous blessing to be a part of a community which gives of their time and talents so freely.

Now that Summer is drawing to a close, it doesn't mean our opportunities to serve are over. Fall kicks off with a bang as September is an extra busy month. Not only does September require more help each week with our Sunday hospitality needs, school starts up again, which means our delicious Wednesday Night Meals are back. As an extra added bonus in September, we have our last fruit Sunday of the year coming up on September 24 - Apple Sunday! Apple Sunday is an extra special fruit Sunday as we are celebrating the incredible Pastor John Quam and his years of service here at St. John's. Won't you please consider signing up to help with this wonderful celebration?

Thank you, St. John's community for all of your help. Please keep helping! We need you!

Shared Ministry: Mary? Christy? Who Do I Ask About . . .

We want to communicate with you as we progress in discerning Christy Hall-Holt's and Mary Kelvie's roles and responsibilities. Here is a brief description and further information that will make it easier to know **who** to go to, for **what**, and **when**!

Christy - Connect, Facilitate, Train

- Primary Contact for:
 - ♦ Wednesday Night Meals
 - ♦ Newcomer Welcome / Accompany
 - ♦ Lifting up service opportunities and equipping for service.
- Hours:
 - ♦ Sunday 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 - ♦ Monday 9:00-11:00 a.m.
 - ♦ Tuesday 9:00-11:00 a.m.
 - ♦ Wednesday 2:00-7:00 p.m.

Mary - Plan, Schedule, Communicate

- Primary Contact for:
 - ♦ Sunday Hospitality
 - ♦ Shared Ministry Event Planning and Scheduling
 - ♦ Creating sign-ups for bulletin boards and online.
- Hours:
 - ♦ Sunday 8:00-11:00 a.m.
 - ♦ Monday 9:00-11:00 a.m.
 - ♦ Tuesday 10:00-12:00 a.m.
 - ♦ Thursday 9:00-11:00 a.m.
 - ♦ Friday 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Holden Village Sojourn, July 2017



From July 23-30, a group of 32 people from St. John's, including some extended family members, visited Holden Village in the North Cascades of Washington State. Holden Village is a Lutheran retreat center dedicated to welcoming all people into the wilderness to

experience rhythms of work and worship, study, prayer, and recreation. Remotely located in National Forest land accessible only by boat up Lake Chelan then a bus ride up the mountain, Holden provides a truly unique experience away from everyday life.

Holden was gifted to the Lutheran church in the 1960's from the company that formerly operated a copper mine on the site. It is truly a "village" - with its own utilities, landfill, and even a bowling alley — where some staff live year-round and thousands of others come for a week or two at a time each summer. For the past 5 years it has also been the site of a major water quality remediation project, which meant limited retreat operations. Now in the summer of 2017, Holden is again welcoming hundreds of people each week to experience its rhythms.

Our group ranged in age from 10 to 80, and each person found their own place to connect with Holden's gifts - whether hiking the trails, listening to challenging speakers around justice issues, singing in the impromptu choirs for worship each night, or weaving in the art studio. Moreover, many members of the group commented on the "village" aspect of Holden, that is, the unique connections and conversations that occur as you meet people from around the country who also happen to be there that week. They also found that there were new connections to be made within our group - people who have seen each other across the church for years but never truly connected.

"Beauty: Clumps of wildflowers, long grasses tipped with feathery heads, an abundance of green, and the sun rising like a star . . . Ah, the beauty of an early morning hike!" -- Louise Lystig Fritchie

"Holden Village provided our family with opportunities to engage in deeper conversations about the meaning of our lives than we typically encounter." -- Olaf Hall-Holt

"Along with the anticipated formal activities and the great trails, I discovered that Holden was filled with interesting people. It didn't take much effort to strike up a conversation. Within a few minutes and a question or two, I learned about connections, talents, places, points of views, and more." -- Nancy Moe

If you're interested in exploring Holden yourself some day, ask any of these folks in the picture about their experience - or talk to Pastor Pam. We'd love to see such a journey happen again!

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, September 13

Pulled Pork Sandwiches
with Coleslaw and Watermelon

Wednesday, September 20

Hot Dogs with Chips and Veggie Trays

Wednesday, September 27

Sloppy Joes with Tator Tots



News and Updates

Reformation Forums

This October, we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. But what is the Reformation and why does it matter?

On Sundays, October 1 and October 8, St. John's Forum hosts a two-part series addressing these questions. Join us!

October 1

What is it? – Reformation Crash Course for Dummies



During this Reformation Crash Course, retired professor of religion and St. John's member Eric Lund will help us to look back in history at what happened 500 years ago with Martin Luther and other reformers that led to the Protestant Reformation.

October 8

Who Cares? – Why the Reformation Matters for Our Children and Grandchildren



The Protestant Reformation happened 500 years ago – but does it still matter today? Gregory Walter, a father of young children and a professor of religion, will help us to consider why the events of the Reformation still matter in how we raise our children and grandchildren in the Christian faith.

From the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board



Lutheran World Relief

This month we are collecting a special offering for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), a nonprofit organization that works with partners around the world to provide lasting solutions to poverty, injustice, and human suffering.

In 2016 Lutheran World Relief reached over 3,467,823 people working with 96 local partners on 118 projects in 32 countries. The majority of their projects focus on agriculture to improve small-scale producer livelihoods and emergency responses to reduce impacts of disasters such as famine, droughts, floods, and earthquakes. In South Sudan, where the United Nations has declared the first famine since 2011, LWR and IMA World Health have set up medical centers to treat children at risk of death from starvation. Other emergency responses include providing relief supplies for families affected by flooding in Peru, and helping communities along the border of Nepal and India cope with destructive flooding. LWR has been a top rated nonprofit by Charity Watch, 4-star Charity Navigator, Better Business Bureau, and others.

Lutheran World Relief has been supporting refugees from the civil war in Syria since 2011. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 13.5 million people need assistance, including both internally displaced persons and those seeking refuge in other countries. LWR has provided livelihood programming and basic needs support for more than 340,000 affected by the crisis in Syria.

In addition to monetary donations to LWR, St. John's has initiated Intergenerational Sunday programs to highlight Lutheran World Relief projects that have been sponsored by the St. John's Women of the ELCA for many years. Our hope is to inspire all generations to continue this mission work by contributing time, talent and/or donations to the quilting, school kits, personal care kits, and baby care kits projects.

Please prayerfully consider a special donation this month to the important work of Lutheran World Relief. For donations by check, please write your check to St. John's Lutheran and indicate LWR on the memo line. You can learn more about their work and other ways to contribute by looking online at LWR.org.

Thank you to all who have contributed to these ongoing projects!

From Mike Skunes...



It was the day before Rachel and I were going to be married when our rehearsal dinner was interrupted with a phone call. When I picked up the phone I heard a voice say, “Hi Mike, this is Andrea Hoff from St. John’s Lutheran Church in Northfield. Would you be willing to come down for an interview next week?” My mind had been so focused on other things such as our wedding, finishing up a crazy week

of leading VBS in Apple Valley, taking the LSATs and applying to law school, and getting ready to move from Columbia Heights to St. Paul that I had almost forgot about having submitted my resume to St. John’s at the encouragement of a friend who grew up here.

I replied, “Well, that will be kind of hard since I’ll be in Mexico for my honeymoon. But if you’re willing to wait another week, I’d love to come down.” After a slight pause, Andrea replied, “I think we’ll be willing to wait.” And I’m so glad you did, because the rest, as they say, is history. And what an amazing honor and blessing it has been to have been called by God to be here at St. John’s for the last five years.

It’s been a privilege to see high school students graduate and go off to college, little sixth graders get confirmed as six-foot tenth graders, and see the babies I held in my arms when I first arrived getting ready to start kindergarten this year. It’s been a joy to experience God with our high school youth both at the top of mountains and in the midst of the homeless on the streets of Nashville and Philadelphia. Even in the challenging times of staff transitions and the long nights of trying to wrangle one-hundred thirty middle schoolers in the dark to play Romans and Christians, it’s been impossible to ignore the way God has been moving through it all.



But mostly, I want to say thank you on behalf of both Rachel and I. You’ve welcomed us into your homes to share meals. You’ve invited us to share with you in intimate moments of celebration and loss. You’ve encouraged us with kind words. You’ve prayed with us and for us. And not least of all, you’ve always found the time to patiently listen as we’ve talked about how much we love Jesus. God could not have called us to be a part of a better community than this one here at St. John’s and I have no doubt that He will continue to do great things through you all.

Thank you and God Bless,

Mike Skunes
Director of Youth and Family Ministries

News and Updates

Bible Study with Eric Lund

This fall take part in a three session Bible study on the Apostles’ Creed and what we together say we believe.

Retired Professor of Religion, Eric Lund, will lead our exploration of this topic.

The sessions will take place on the following
Wednesdays in the Fireside Room
at 10:00 a.m.:
September 13
October 11
November 8



Coming Sunday, September 3... Farmers Market Coffee from Lutheran World Relief!

Earlier this year LWR ended its coffee project through Equal Exchange. LWR is now marketing coffee from its own group of farmers in Nicaragua.

Cost for 12 oz. bags of caffeinated and Swiss water processed decaf drip grind is \$8 each or 2 for \$15.

We will continue to sell Equal Exchange coffee, chocolate, and tea at St. John’s in addition to the Nicaraguan coffee from LWR.

Contact Dawn Tommerdahl
(dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com)
if you have questions or comments!

the WOMEN'S page



Gatherings

St. John's Women offer several opportunities each month to meet with other women for friendship, dialogue and exploration of God's Word.

Bold Café - invites all women in their 20s, 30s, 40s (or thereabouts) to connect with each other through friendship and prayer. Bold Café meets every third Sunday of the month between services. We share the highs and lows of our hectic lives, read and reflect on a faith topic or article, or discuss things that are important to us. We also meet on the third Thursday of the month for a relaxing social time – from 7:30 – 9 p.m. at the Hideaway in downtown Northfield.

We take our name from Café, an online magazine and podcast for and with young women who identify as Lutheran, or not. In Café women share their stories about faith, relationships, advocacy and more.

Sunday, Sept. 17, Fireside Room

Thursday, Sept 21, Hideaway

www.boldcafe.org

Boomers - is comprised of women of the Baby Boomer age. We meet the first Saturday of every month from 4:30 - 6:00pm for comradeship, laughter, discussion, wine, light snacks and exploration of God's Word. We meet in homes or local pubs.

Saturday, Sept. 2, Julie Zdenek's home: 2121 Ontario Ln. 618.698.4870

Breakfast Group - meets on the 2nd Saturday each month at 8:30 in the Fireside Room. We enjoy fellowship and discussion of topics found in the Gather magazine and... breakfast!

Saturday, Sept. 10, Fireside Rm

2017-2018. New year. New theme.



ÍmMigration:

Cultivating Diversity, Equity & Justice

Our 2017-2018 theme: "ÍmMigration" is taken from the notion that unless we are Native American, we are all immigrants. Even our spiritual roots are founded in stories of the stranger and alien. God seeks to remind us to love the alien because we were aliens. Even Jesus identifies himself as the stranger and mandates us to love and care for the alien in our midst.

"I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me."

—Jesus, Matt 25:43

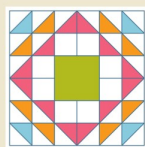
This 2017-2018 season we will explore diversity, equity and justice in the immigration process in our nation, state and communities; and how the process affects our lives in the Northfield community, stirring us to effective service and advocacy for our neighbors.

1st Gathering: Thursday, September 7th 1:00pm

Exploring Our Faith:

This fall St. John's Women will look at the Apostle's Creed and what we say we believe.

Lydia and Sarah circles invite the congregation to this study, led by Eric Lund. Wednesdays, St. John's Fireside Room, 10:00am. September 13, October 11, & November. Study from 10:00-11:00, with coffee and fellowship prior.



CHANGE THE WORLD, ONE QUILT AT A TIME.

Can you work a sewing machine? ...or a rotary cutter?

The Quilters are looking for members who can help finish tied quilts at our monthly gatherings, those who can sew quilt tops at home and/or cut quilt squares from donated fabric.

Quilters meet 3rd Thursday of the month and the Monday prior. 8:30am, basement Youth Room.

This month: September 18 & 21

Contact: Sue Sharrow
sue_sharrow@msn.com or 507.301.3083

LOOKING FOR CONNECTION, AND MEANING?

St. John's Women: Changing the world.

Fair Trade Sales and Support

Bold Café sells coffee, tea, hot chocolate, chocolate bars, and bath & body products, between services, in the Commons.

✦ 1st & 2nd Sundays of the month during the school year

✦ 1st Sunday of the month during the Summer

Equal Exchange is a democratically organized worker-owned co-operative dedicated to building a new model of trade based on fairness, environmental sustainability and strong relationships between farmers and consumers. Farmers earn a fair price for their crops, have access to affordable credit, and can invest in education, health care and sustainable agriculture, building a better future for their families.



LWR Farmers Market Coffee is a new line of coffee sourced directly from farmers participating in Lutheran World Relief projects. This coffee from Nicaragua helps transform poor communities that depend on their coffee crop to feed their families. Farmers are given a stable, predictable, and higher price upfront for their beans.



The Community of Magdalene

provides housing, food, medical and dental care, therapy, education and job training free of charge for up to two years to women who have survived lives of prostitution, trafficking and addiction, providing employment for the women of Magdalene. By hand, they create natural bath and body products that are as good for the earth as they are for the body. Magdalene's core belief is that "in the end love is the most powerful force for change."



**NEW
MINISTRY!**

Prayer & Baptism Shawls

Contact: Sue Sharrow 507.301.3083

Calling all knitters! Novice to Master

Beginning September we'll be knitting prayer shawls & baby baptism blankets, as a group, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:15pm and the 4th Thursday of each month at 10:00am in St. John's Fireside Room. Come when you can. Donations of quilting items can be dropped in the bins in the Commons.



SAVE THE DATE!

BACKPACK SUNDAY

St. John's annual Inter-generational Event!

September 17
9:45 am, St. John's Hall

Look for the "Bus" in the Commons and pick up your list of school supplies.



..FIND IT RIGHT HERE WITH ST. JOHN'S WOMEN!

Gatherings

St. John's Women offer traditional "Circles" for all women. We meet monthly for fellowship and Bible Study, using the Gather magazine for our study and discussions.

Abigail/Rebecca Circle

Thursday, Sept. 14, 9:30am
Parkview West Fireside Room
Northfield Retirement Community

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Sept 14, 1:30pm
Darlene Hand's home
1109 Farehaven Ct.

Lydia Circle

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 9:00am
St. John's Hall

Martha/Claudia Circle

Thursday, Sept. 14, 9:30am
Parkview West Fireside Rm
Northfield Retirement Community

Mary Circle

Friday, Sept. 8, 1:00pm
Carol Benson's home
670 Green Meadows Ct.

Sarah Circle

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 9:30am
St. John's Hall

Need more info?

Correspondence:
women.stjohns500@gmail.com

St. John's website/Women of St. John's

St. John's Women's bulletin board

St. John's Women's Handbook



like us on Facebook:
"Women of St. Johns"

friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns
(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Publicity:
Julie Zdenek
618.698.4870

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

News and Updates

From Bread for the World

A statement from Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World: *We thank God for this victory. The Senate has decided against deep cuts to Medicaid and against taking health insurance away from tens of millions of people. Each of the healthcare bills that the Senate considered would have increased hunger, poverty, and disease in our country. We thank all the Bread for the World members who met with their members of Congress or contacted them through calls, personal emails and letters.*

Earlier this summer Rev. Beckmann discussed the negative impact that the President's budget would have on hungry and poor people: He said, "Every religious congregation in the country would need to raise \$714,000 a year for 10 years to offset cuts to programs that aid those in need." He made this remark at a meeting of the Circle of Protection, a coalition of religious leaders from all families of U.S. Christianity.

Bread for the World asks members to contact senators and representatives urging them to oppose cuts to SNAP (food stamps), Medicaid and international development - critical programs in the effort to end hunger.

Much more information at www.bread.org.



From the Peace & Justice Group

International Day of Peace

Carleton College will host Northfield's annual celebration of the U.N.'s International Day of Peace on Thursday, September 21, from 6:30–9:00 p.m. in the Weitz Center, Room 236. The program, built around this year's international theme "Respect, Safety, Dignity: Together We Can Do It," features building blocks for peace, a review of local peacemaking efforts, and "Arts for Peace" (projects by local children and youth). Audience participation is encouraged during the open mic time. The event is free and open to the public.

The evening includes:

- 6:30 p.m.: Reception and Refreshments. Welcome and commemoration of the day. Veterans for Peace and Arts Peace Award.
- 7:00 p.m.: Program with music performances: Taiko Drumming, Aztec Dancers, Nordic Musicians, poetry and open mic.

Nobel Peace Prize Forum

Augsburg College hosts this year's forum from September 15-16, featuring the 2015 Nobel Peace laureate, Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet. For more information or to register, visit the website: <http://nobelpeaceprizeforum.org>

Save the Date: Moral Citizenship Conversation Trainings

Northfield's local ISAIAH group is hosting two trainings for faith leaders who are interested in hosting small group conversations in churches across southern Minnesota on moral citizenship and the call in this moment to people of faith to act powerfully and collectively to combat the politics of fear and division with a vision of love and community.

This fall ISAIAH plans to engage hundreds of people in southern Minnesota in this conversation in small groups in churches and one on one in our neighborhoods, so that we can expand the conversation about what people need before a big election year when lots of people intend to speak for us rather than listen to us.

Northfield trainings will be on: **Saturday, September 16, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and Tuesday, September 26, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., locations TBD.** Watch for further announcements!

Municipal ID

On August 13, Northfield's Human Rights Coalition forwarded a resolution calling on the Northfield City Council to implement a Municipal ID for all residents of Northfield. In September, look for a marked table during coffee hour where you can learn more about municipal IDs and sign a petition of support that will be forwarded to the City Council.

Continued on page 14

From the Peace & Justice Group

Continued from page 14

But first, you may have some questions about Municipal ID:

- **What is a Municipal ID?**

A Northfield Municipal ID is an identification card issued by the City of Northfield that, at a minimum, displays the cardholder's photo, name, date of birth, address, signature, issuance, and expiration date. The card may also indicate if the cardholder is an organ donor, provide medical information, and provide emergency contact information. The card may also, at the cardholder's option, display the cardholder's self-designated gender.

With the ID come benefits such as discounted items at local pharmacies, discounted YMCA memberships, and Community Education classes, to name just a few examples.

Cities and towns across the country have instituted Municipal IDs, such as Chicago and New York, and cities comparable in size to Northfield, such as Roselle, New Jersey.

- **Who needs a Municipal ID?**

Everyone will find a Municipal ID useful and convenient. An ID is especially useful for anyone who does not have a driver's license: the elderly, immigrants, the disabled, migrants hosted by local families, visiting youth unconnected to local schools, and long-term visitors (summer interns, temporary agricultural workers, etc.).

Those who have a state ID will also find a Municipal ID useful. The Municipal ID establishes residence in the city and comes with a variety of premiums that increases the likelihood of the cardholder's participation in the community.

- **Northfield Municipal ID = Belonging**

All people living in Northfield, working here, going to school here, are part of the Northfield Community. But not all have the requisite identification that documents residence in the community, particularly the more vulnerable. Day to day life can be difficult without an ID: opening bank accounts, getting prescriptions, or securing legal documents such as birth certificates. A Municipal ID will make these tasks easier.

The Northfield Community ID also allows for more inclusive participation in educational and cultural events: concerts, lectures at the college, art classes at the NAG, and health and wellness activities. Cardholders have stronger feelings of belonging, less uncertainty, and greater confidence.

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OFFICE HOURS

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

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

YAY! It's that time of year again!



**St. John's Annual
bagging of the
backpacks**

- This event is for everyone**
- See you in St. John's Hall**
- September 17, during the
Sunday School hour**