



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2022

Please Note:

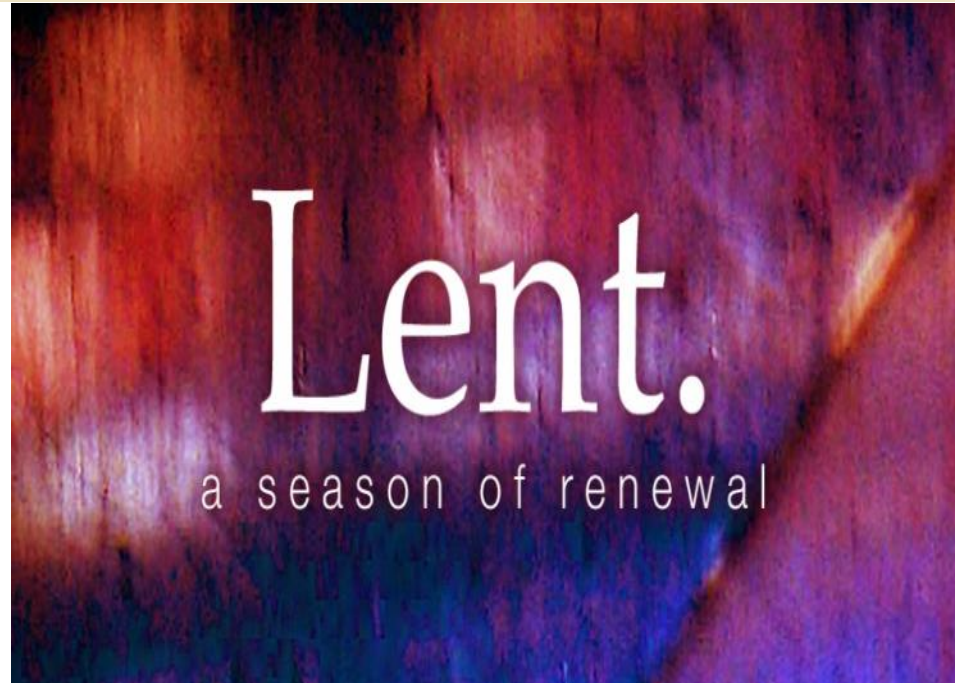
Upcoming events, dates, and times are as of the end of January/ beginning of February.

Due to the pandemic, these may change.

Watch the E-Voice, Sunday Bulletins, and our website for updates and changes or for more information call the church office.

Inside this issue:

- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 Lenten Wednesdays: *Always Being Made New*
- 6 Building Personal Care Kits
- 7 Courageous Conversations for Spring
- 8 3rd and 4th Grade CAT Retreat
- 8 Summer Camp for Grades 2-5
- 9 Wednesday Confirmation and High School Youth Group
- 10 Registration for Youth Summer Trips is Now Open
- 11 HearYe, Hear Ye, Newcomers to St. John's Community
- 12 Easter Garden Orders for 2022
- 13 Pub Theology
- 14 Thrivent Choice Dollars



Lent Begins March 2 with Ash Wednesday

Lent, our springtime period of renewal and focus on repentance and life in Christ, begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, with worship and the imposition of ashes at noon and 6:15 p.m.

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

Mid-week worship begins the following week, March 9, at 6:15 p.m. and continues March 16, March 23, March 30, and April 6.

WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays
LIVESTREAM
8:30 a.m. Sundays
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

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

TV BROADCASTS
NTV Channel 187
7:30 p.m. Mon. / 7:00 p.m. Fri.
12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays
2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays

Livestream

8:30 a.m. Sundays
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org



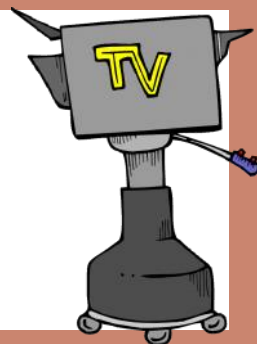
Radio Broadcasts

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



TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays
12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays
2:00 p.m. Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

WELCOME STATEMENT

St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.

While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

"Take something if in need; leave something when blessed."



The congregation of St. John's continues to support the "Blessing Box", a mission that started in the fall of 2017. 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 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 (please check expiration dates): canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar, coffee, crackers, soap, mittens, toothbrush, baby items, such as diapers and pacifiers. The box is located in the drive-up on the north side of St. John's.

From Our Pastors

Lent: An Unfrozen Moment

Lent, the six weeks as we prepare to celebrate Easter, literally comes from the word for “lengthen,” referring to the lengthening of days of spring in the northern hemisphere. Theologically, Lent is all about being renewed in the promises of baptism as we remember Jesus’ death and resurrection. As we follow Jesus to the cross we ask, “what inside of me needs to die so that I may follow Jesus?” As spring comes, we see the earth around us thaw out, and flowing waters all around us can remind us of our baptism.

This spring especially, I’m feeling the need for things to flow again. Rather than the paralysis of our politics, the start-and-stop of pandemic precautions, and extreme decision fatigue, I look forward to renewed patterns and habits that will be a flowing source of life.

Maybe the end of Pandemic Season 2 will also offer us a moment to “unfreeze” some habits have been too entrenched. It’s a good time to ask questions about how our life’s gifts might flow more easily to each other and to the world.

- Has staying home become more habit than decision? Might there be a new habit of entering into the world you could cultivate?
- Do your earth care habits need a refresh? Is it time to use fewer disposable plastics for the sake of the world’s waters? Check out the ELCA Youth’s challenge Give up Plastics for Lent: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2019/03/these-elca-congregations-gave-up-plastic-for-lent/>.
- Do you need to lengthen and stretch your vision of how prayer can enter your life? Try a new devotional or podcast. I enjoy BBC 4’s Thought for the Day, a daily 3-minute nugget by various faith leaders.
- Do you need to unfreeze your vision of who God is? Check out the lengthy list of names and images for God in the back of *All Creation Sings* (pages 269-271).

I write this as Groundhog Day, the halfway point to spring, approaches. I’ll not be with you during the first days of Lent this year in order to take a mini-sabbatical (postponed from 2020). Some of that time will involve some snow play for me, so I am not hoping for an *early* meteorological spring, but I am looking to unthaw what’s gotten frozen and stuck in my own heart and spirit over the past two years. There will be theological conversations, time with colleagues and friends, some long-put-off writing, and a real spring break with my family. I look forward to coming home mid-March stretched out, rested up, and ready to see what gifts can flow in and through us to God’s world this year. Thank you for being a congregation I’ll be delighted to come back to.

Pastor Pam

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 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 these months last year.

We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."

February 9, 2021
L. Gordon Smith

February 21, 2021
Bob Scholz

Radio Broadcasts

January 2

Given in celebration of Herb Fick's 85th birthday on January 4th from all of his children.

January 9

Given in loving memory of Elmer & Cora Schultz and Ken Struss by Marie Struss and family.

January 16

Given by Ruth Smestad Anglin in honor of Nathan Proctor's birthday and with thanks to the St. Olaf Choir for leading us in worship today.

January 23

Given in memory of Mary Beth Bremer by her family.

January 30

Given in loving memory of Elmer & Cora Schultz and Ken Struss by Marie Struss and family.

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.

St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to walk with those who are facing a challenge in life, whether it be of mind, body, or spirit.

If you know of someone who could benefit from a Stephen Minister, call one of the pastors 507-645-4429 or Jo Franklin (720-281-5107).

Lenten Wednesdays: *Always Being Made New*

“And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” – Revelation 21:5

As we cross the 2-year mark of COVID being part of our everyday lives, we are invited to reflect on what we have been learning about ourselves during this time. Have you discovered anything new about yourself? What new way of life is God calling us into as individuals and as the Church? St. John’s is not the same congregation as it was in 2020 – we have new members who have found us and joined the church during this time of COVID (a number of whom are also now serving on boards!), we have a broader worshipping community with people from all over the country joining in, and we have rhythms and new relationships within our Church life together.

Scripture promises us that God is always at work doing a new thing within us and among us for the sake of the world. A shoot grows out of the stump of Jesse, a pathway is made in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. How are you being made new in this season, by the grace of God?

Our theme for Lenten Wednesdays this year is *Always Being Made New*. This year five St. John’s members (both new and long-time members) have been invited to share their story: how they found their way to St. John’s and how God has been making all things new in their life. We are so grateful to these individuals for their courage in sharing their story with us, and we are excited to see how their example helps all of us think more deeply about how we all are being made new in this season.

Two Meal Sharing Events During Lent Lenten Vespers + Give to the Food Shelf + Soup To Go!

When:

Ash Wednesday, March 2, and Wednesday, April 6

What:

Modified Lenten Soup Supper with a Focus on Sharing Food

How:

- “Share” the Lenten Vespers Service on these 2 Wednesdays.
 - “Share” a food item or monetary donation for the food shelf/CAC.
 - “Share” a To-Go Soup Meal from St. John’s for you to take home.
- Soups planned are Zuppa Toscana and Vegetarian Chili.

Life and Growth

Baptisms

November 14, 2021
Leo Dale Kuehn
son of Levi and Jordan Kuehn

January 16, 2022
Luke Joseph Thorsheim
son of Kristoffer and Melissa Thorsheim



Deaths

October 29, 2021
Helen Radtke

October 29, 2021
Jim Thompson

October 30, 2021
Paul Raadt

October 31, 2021
Eldora Seitz

November 1, 2021
Rae Pearson

November 12, 2021
Jane Koskovich

November 17, 2021
Marland Madson

November 23, 2021
Carolyn Moe Buzza

December 1, 2021
Duane Benson

December 19, 2021
Mary Ingbritsen

December 30, 2021
Virley Brown

January 6, 2022
Beverly Mahachek

January 15, 2022
James Bierman



WE HAD A BUSY 2021

During the pandemic, St. John's Women created or compiled these gifts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Global Health Ministries (GHM), World Vision, St. John's Congregation, TORCH, and the Community Action Center (CAC)

- 199 Quilts for LWR, CAC's Operation Joy, and GHM
- 108 Baby care kits for LWR
- 20 TORCH gift boxes
- 26 Prayer shawls given for St. John's members
- 3 Baptismal blankets given for St. John's babies
- 28 Fabric kits for LWR
- 220 School Backpack kits for LWR
- 48 Hospice kits for LWR
- 200 Rolled bandages for GHM
- 8 Baby blankets for GHM
- 40 Knit sweaters and 2 caps for World Vision



Three St. Olaf students are recipients of the ELCA's International Women Leaders

Program, supporting (with scholarships) and empowering Lutheran international women leaders. They are: Nakunda Cecilia Mshana-Tanzania (Senior), Asi Sijinjak-Indonesia/Singapore (Junior), Hanzina Frederick-Namibia (freshman). If you want to encourage them, email us and we will connect you.



We need your help to build Personal Care Kits

Every kit you make will be cherished by the person who receives it in their time of need.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ✓ ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- ✓ TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ✓ ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*
- ✓ ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ✓ ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

- Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap
- Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size.
- Please give new items only.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name.
- Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.
- All items should be new and in good condition.

How to pack your kit:

Place the rest of the items at one end of the towel, fold sides in thirds over the items, and roll so nothing falls out, and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubberbands.

Bring your Personal Care Kit, rolled up in the towel, to church, and place in the box labeled, "Personal Care Kits" under the St. John's Women bulletin board in the Commons.

**Deadline for kits is
March 15th**

for more information:
[https://lwr.org/kits/
personal-care-kits/
instructions](https://lwr.org/kits/personal-care-kits/instructions)

Visit our web pages: www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women



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

Friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns

(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Correspondence: women.stjohns500@gmail.com

February ~ March



MONTHLY GATHERINGS

Due to covid restrictions, several of our monthly groups are meeting online. Below are our small groups and circle gatherings. To get connected and receive Zoom links, contact leaders via email, or write to:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com

Baby Boomers via Zoom
1st Saturday of the month, 4:30pm
julie.zdenek@gmail.com

Breakfast Women's Group
via Zoom
2nd Saturday of the month,
9:30am
janessrinehart@gmail.com

Lydia & Paul Circles via Zoom
2nd Wednesday of the month,
10am
Bible Study lead by Luther Peterson
merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com

Elizabeth Circle via Zoom
2nd Thursday of the month,
1:30pm
gordiedodie@gmail.com

Mary Circle
Contact: Carol Benson
carolbenson@gmail.com

Ruth Circle
Contact: Sharon Bastien
sharonbastian@gmail.com

Quilters & Knitters (Prayer Shawls)
Contact: Sue Sharrow
sue_sharrow@msn.com

Knitters (World Vision)
Contact: Kathy Vang
(507) 645-4849



COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS for Spring

"Saint & Sinner: The Church and Racism"

February 3

Pastor Pam and Pastor Jonathan will offer frank discussion of the church's complicity concerning racism, while acknowledging good work that has been, and is happening, to build the beloved community.



"Anti-Racism Activism Through Community-Engaged Art"

March 3



Cecilia Cornejo, Carleton professor of Cinema and Media Studies, filmmaker and artist, will share her art practice which encourages community members to reflect in order to envision and generate paths towards collective wellbeing.

"TORCH & NCCC: Past, Present, and Future"

April 7

Sarah Lee, Northfield Community College Collaborative (NCCC) Director, TORCH Alumni Support, and Tessa Kiesow, TORCH Director (Northfield High School), will speak on the history of the Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH) program, how it led to the creation of the Northfield Community College Collaborative, what both programs are doing today to help Rice County youth, and the ways in which we hope to grow and continue to build, impact, and nourish community partnerships.



PROGRAMS are on the first Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00pm on Zoom.

To register, go to:

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/courageous



Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember!

Children's Ministry programs took a break from meeting in-person during the month of January due to the COVID case rise. We will continue the in-person break for the first two weeks of February.

Virtual Sunday school for Preschool – grade 5 was held during the month of January and will continue for the first two weeks in February.

It's great to be able to share Zoom time together until we can be in-person again!

Sunday School Schedule (9:45-10:30 a.m.)

Feb. 6	Virtual Sunday School
Feb. 13	Virtual Sunday School
Feb. 20	Sunday School
Feb. 27	Sunday School
Mar. 6	No Sunday School
Mar. 13	No Sunday School
Mar. 20	Sunday School
Mar. 27	Sunday School

Wednesday Afterschool Programming

Feb. 2	No Programming
Feb. 9	No Programming
Feb. 16	Programming
Feb. 23	Programming
Mar. 2	Programming
Mar. 9	No Programming
Mar. 16	Programming
Mar. 23	Programming
Mar. 30	Programming

Third and Fourth Grade CAT Retreat

Saturday, April 30
9:00-11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall

3rd and 4th Grade Catechism Retreat

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited on Saturday, April 30, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion at St. John's.

If you are unable to attend, please contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



Prayer Buddies During Lent

During the Lenten season, 4th and 5th grade Catechism kids are paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their "Prayer Buddy". This program helps to build faith-based, cross-generational relationships between children and adult members in the congregation. Prayer Buddies pray for their buddy during the Lenten season, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2 until Easter Sunday, April 17.



If you are interested in being a buddy for a child, please email Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or call 645-4429. Thank you!

Summer Camp for Grades 2-5

St. John's is offering a summer camp option for kids in grades 2-5 at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. Sign up today!

Grades 2-4: Settler's Camp, August 3- August 5

Three exciting days and two fun nights make for a perfect camp experience for younger campers. This camp introduces campers to GEV's week-long camp. Campers stay in Log Lodge.

Grades 3-5: Pathfinders Camp, July 31 - August 5

Campers meet new friends, serve others, and learn more about God's Creation through hikes in the woods, and spending time with GEV's on-site naturalist. Campers stay in the Hilltop Cabins.

Wednesday Confirmation

Youth (grades 6-8) are encouraged to attend on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:30 p.m. as part of our Confirmation program. We are investing in community building among our Youth this year, exploring aspects of *UBUNTU* - an African worldview centered around the interconnectedness of humanity, nature, and God. These gatherings will be led by Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Pastor Jonathan Davis, and Emmanuel Kaghondi.

Large group teaching of the story of scripture followed by guided smaller group discussion time.

Topics:

- Manna and Mercy
- Dusty Stories
- Outdoor Activities
- The Gospel According to the Simpsons Series

High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group will continue to meet on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 p.m. to connect with each other and explore what it means to live a life rooted in Christ. Each week's activities will alternate between interest-driven faith discussions, BIG questions, service projects, and casual hangout times to foster community-ship with one another in the guidance of adults and supporting parent volunteers.

Topics:

- Manna and Mercy
- Dusty Stories
- Outdoor Activities
- The Gospel According to the Simpsons Series

Sunday Morning Youth Group

On Sunday mornings, during the school year, all youth (grades 6-12) are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 a.m. for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion!

Other young adults and church members are encouraged to attend for intra and inter-generational connections. These gatherings will be led by Emmanuel Kaghondi and other adults.

More updates will be sent weekly.

Children and Youth



9th grade

Mentor and Mentee Meetings

Working one-on-one with youth is a very meaningful experience that we take seriously. The first Sunday of each month is normally designated as a M & M Sunday but otherwise, you can make an arrangement that fits your schedule.

Service Project Events are also meant to put our faith into action and to enhance the Mentor/Mentee relationship. Opportunities for community events will be in the E-Voice, The Voice, and on the St. John's website.

Tentative Calendar

February 6

M & M Session 3

February (TBD)

Mentors' Check In

March 6

M & M Session 4

Children and Youth

J-Term Confirmation Collaboration Classes

January was a chance for the ELCA youth in Northfield to come together and explore a variety of topics through the lens of faith. J-Term is a collaborative confirmation program offered by three ELCA churches; Bethel Lutheran Church, St. John's Lutheran Church, and St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

This year the following classes were offered:

Classes and Location

Creation Care
St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Faith & Ethics
St. John's Lutheran Church and Online

Drumming & the African Community
St. John's Lutheran Church

Sports & Spirituality
St. John's Lutheran Church and Online

The God We Don't Believe In
Bethel Lutheran Church and Online

*Acting from the Ground Up:
A Mustard Seed Approach to Live Theater*
Bethel Lutheran Church and Online

Exploring Our Faith Through Art
St. John's Lutheran Church

The Book Club
(Book: *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card)
Online

Registration for Youth Summer Trips is Now Open

This year our High School youth will go on a Mountaineers backpacking trip at Christikon Camp in Montana from July 9-15, and the Middle School youth will go to Amnicon Camp in Wisconsin for River Heroes Service Adventure to canoe in the Namekagon/St. Croix Scenic Riverway from June 19-24. Register online by following the following instructions:

For students in High School during the 21-22 school year: (Christikon Trip - July 9-15)

(Complete the following online form)

1. <https://christikon.org/registration-individual/>
2. Choose "Mountaineers 1" trip (July 9-15).
3. If you need a **Physical** this year, begin to make an appointment with your doctor.
4. The cost for the trip is **\$400**. (you won't have to pay anything to sign up). Send your check to St. John's by summer (If the cost would otherwise deter you from coming, full and partial scholarships are available).

For students in Middle School during the 21-22 school year (Amnicon trip- June 19-24)

(Complete the following online form)

1. www.amnicon.org/sign-up
2. Click the button to "Join a Group"
3. Enter the Group ID Code: STJNRH221
4. If you need a **Physical** this year, begin to make an appointment with your doctor.
5. The cost for the trip is **\$300**. (You won't have to pay anything to sign up). Send your check to St. John's by Summer. (If the cost would otherwise deter you from coming, full and partial scholarships are available).



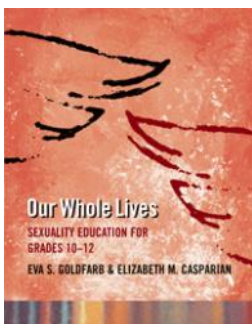
Upcoming Events

February 27
Sky Zone

March (Date TBD)
Ministry with The Key
(Meal Packaging)

Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) Sexuality Program for High Schoolers

This spring, St. John's is offering the Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) sexuality program for high schoolers. O.W.L. is a curriculum designed to teach the social, emotional and spiritual aspect of sexuality. Pastor Jonathan and Tamara Jackman, a Certified Nurse Midwife, will be leading these sessions for high schoolers. We hosted our first OWL with about 12 high school youth in 2019-2020 - it was really well received by the youth and their parents (even when we had to move online due to COVID).



Here is what one youth said, *"Although the conversations can be uncomfortable, I never regretted being a part of them. I grew from my time in OWL and wish I could've spent more of it in person with Jonathan, Tamara, and my friends! Have fun and don't waste this opportunity!"*
- Oden Hoff, high school senior.

Sign-up is now open. Parents will be expected to attend a 2 hour parent session prior to the start of O.W.L. If you would like to sign up, please email Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Tentative Schedule

- Sunday, February 13 - 12:00-2:00 p.m. Parent Orientation Session
- Saturday, February 26 - Morning/Afternoon Retreat
- Wednesday, March 2 - 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 16 - 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 23 - 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 30 - 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 6 - 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday, April 30 - Morning/Afternoon Retreat

If you have questions about O.W.L., please feel free to reach out.

News and Updates

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Newcomers to St. John's Community!

Gather next month for a time in your honor!

**Sunday, March 20,
Between Services from 9:45-10:30 a.m.**

Join staff and St. John's folks who have been around for a while for an informal time of refreshments and getting to know each other.

Watch for another gathering coming up after it warms up a bit more outside!

ALSO, A REQUEST: We would like to learn your names with a picture of your faces. Please send a close up photo electronically (or hard copy) to include in our online directory and in our next picture directory update.

Please submit photos and questions to
Christy Hall-Holt,
Welcome Ministry Coordinator.
Thank you!



News and Updates

Upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drives

St. John's hosted several American Red Cross blood drives during 2021.

Just one unit of blood has the potential to save 3 lives.

There is always an ongoing need, and we invite you to consider making a difference by donating blood.

Upcoming Blood Drives

Monday, April 11, 1:00-6:00 p.m.
and

Thursday, June 16, 1:00-6:00 p.m.
in St. John's Hall.

You can sign up online
at www.redcrossblood.org or
by phone: 1-800-733-2767.



Easter Garden Orders for 2022



If you would like to order an Easter lily in memory or honor of a loved one or in celebration of Easter, please contact Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

The cost is \$20 and please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

The flowers may be taken home after the last service Easter morning.

Sunday Hospitality

When we resume our much missed tradition of coffee fellowship time between worship services (with COVID protocols), we will be needing treat donations and volunteers to help with the serving and clean-up.



It's a great way to be involved in fostering a warm and welcoming atmosphere for fellow members and visitors. Who doesn't enjoy conversing over hot drinks and goodies? Sign up to help make this happen!

Watch for upcoming sign-up opportunities in the weekly E-Voice or contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Ushers Needed

Do you have a desire to serve your church community? We have a need for more ushers, particularly for the 10:45 a.m. service. Ask your friends or family members to join you!

Ushers are part of a team that serves one Sunday per month at either the first or second worship time. (For example, one could serve as an usher every 1st Sunday of the month at the 2nd service time.) Ushers also serve at three or four "special" services throughout the year, such as Lenten Vespers or Good Friday.

Thank you for considering joining an usher team or becoming an usher sub. Ready to give it a try? Contact Christy Hall-Holt at 507-645-4429 or by email at connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



New Missionary Sponsorship

The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board is pleased to announce that St. John's will now be sponsoring Kaitlynn Larson, a peace-building and human rights educator accompanying the Iglesia Evangelica Luterana de Columbia (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia). We share in this commitment to the ELCA Global Mission with the Southeastern Minnesota and South Carolina Synods.

Kaitlynn completed her B.A. in Global Studies and Spanish from Nebraska Wesleyan University before earning her Master of Divinity from Iliff School of Theology (Denver). She now works with congregations in Columbia in the areas of leadership development and community organization. Kaitlynn enjoys reading, running, live music, and dancing.

Missionaries serve terms of two or more years alongside global partners around world. They are called to ministry by the invitation of global companions and the needs of the local community. We can expect to periodically receive news of Kaitlynn's work and, hopefully, host a visit during a "home assignment."

This new sponsorship follows the recent retirement of Rev. Dr. Cynthia Holder Rich and Rev. Dr. Mark Rich from their service to Tanzania.

News and Updates

Pub Theology

What is Pub Theology?

It is conversation led by Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan 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.

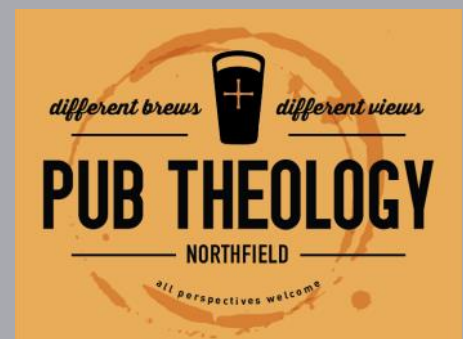
We will meet either via Zoom or in person (format is TBD) on the following Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

February 21
March 21

Feel free to invite family and friends, neighbors, and strangers.

The topic, format, and location will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the E-Voice, and an email list.

Contact Pastor Jonathan (jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org) to add your name to the email list.



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, 2022, to direct any remaining 2021 Choice Dollars.

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



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Connecting faith & finances for good.

Hearing assistance options are available at St. John's worship services!

SO FAITH COMES FROM
HEARING, AND HEARING
THROUGH THE WORD OF
CHRIST.

ROMANS 10:17



Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) Minnesota FoodShare Campaign gets underway on February 28 and continues through April 10. The FoodShare began its work in 1982 with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. Because the effort was so successful and the need so great, the March campaign became a state-wide program and now is in its 41st year.

As the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together various faith communities, businesses and community organizations, to help stock nearly 300 food shelves across the state.

To date, \$18.3 million has been distributed by the GMCC. 100% of donations designated for Minnesota FoodShare during the March Campaign go directly into the FoodFund and are distributed to participating food shelves.

Minnesota FoodShare envisions a future where all Minnesotans have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. The campaign directly addresses these issues. You are invited to join its efforts and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity.

Please consider a donation by check (note MN FoodShare on the memo line) or via online giving.

From Bread for the World



Coming March 20 and 27, the St. John's Peace & Justice group invites you to write letters to our senators and representatives on behalf of Bread for the World, a nonpartisan organization that advocates for adequate food and nutrition programs at home and around the world.

Watch for more information in the E-Voice and Sunday bulletins.

St. John's Peace and Justice Group Encourages Members to Join this Online Book Discussion, Sponsored by the Southeast Minnesota Synod

Abraham and Sarah. Ruth and Naomi. Hagar. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. What do these heroes of faith have in common? They are all migrants that crossed borders and sought refuge from insurmountable challenges within their home communities. In *The God Who Sees: Immigrants, the Bible, and the Journey to Belong*, by Karen Gonzalez provides a foundation for the followers of Jesus to construct an understanding of God's call to welcome the stranger.

Join people throughout the Southeastern Minnesota Synod on Tuesday evenings, February 8, 15, 22, and March 1. from 6:30-7:45 p.m. as we explore immigration through the lens of Scripture in this four-week virtual (Zoom) book study.

To register and for additional information, follow go to:
<https://form.jotform.com/220197129368158>



American Red Cross

BLOOD DRIVE

**MONDAY
APRIL 11
1:00-6:00 P.M.
ST. JOHN'S HALL**

St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher
pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis
jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer
children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Emmanuel Kaghondi
youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Facility Manager

Tim Byers
facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor
music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir
arielleloy@gmail.com
Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers
bells@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie
office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Parish Nurse

Sally Lindell
parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring
shareministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Welcome Ministry Coordinator

Christy Hall-Holt
connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Congregation President

Rod Christensen
rda151@hotmail.com



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 36
NORTHFIELD MN

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

PHONE

507-645-4429

EMAIL

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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



Sunday, April 10 - Palm Sunday

Worship at 8:30 and 10:45

Thursday, April 14 - Maundy Thursday

(Times TBD)

Friday, April 15 - Good Friday

(Times TBD)

Sunday, April 17 - Easter Sunday

(Times TBD)

Worship Services will also be via radio and livestream.

*Please watch the E-Voice and Sunday Bulletins for
confirmation of worship service times.*