



The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2023

## Lent.

a season of renewal

### Inside this issue:

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#### WORSHIP SERVICES

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#### LIVESTREAM

8:30 a.m. Sundays

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

### Lent Begins February 22 with Ash Wednesday

Lent, our springtime period of renewal and focus on repentance and life in Christ, begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 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 1, at 6:15 p.m. and continues March 8, March 15, March 22, and March 29.

Soup Suppers precede midweek services (including Ash Wednesday) serving from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Please note, there will not be a soup supper on Wednesday, March 29, due to Northfield Public Schools' spring break.

#### RADIO 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. Mon. / 7:00 p.m. Fri.

12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays

2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

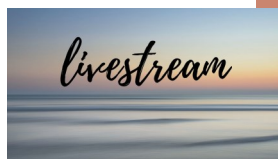
## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

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

### Livestream

8:30 a.m. Sundays  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)



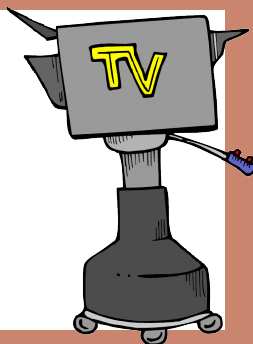
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12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays  
2:00 p.m. Wednesdays  
7:00 p.m. Fridays  
NTV Channel 187



[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](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."*



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

Pastor Pam's devotion from the annual meeting:

*"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind - <sup>6</sup>just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you - <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ."* – 1 Corinthians 1:4-7

The newest edition of the NRSV – called the NRSV-UE – includes some small changes in translation. Most of them are not earth-shaking, but they do give food for thought.

In 1 Corinthians 1:7, the NRSV said "spiritual gifts," but the updated edition simplifies that one word in Greek to a one word in English: "gifts."

So often when we talk about gifts in our culture, it is in an individual context. We give gifts at holidays, and we celebrate the gifts – that is the talents – of people whose abilities we admire. Gifts are best shared, but we still think of them as belonging to **one** person or another.

But in Corinthians, Paul is addressing a whole community, the new church he founded in that city. The community is experiencing division and disagreements, but before he gets to talking about their problems, he makes this bold statement: "You are not lacking in *any* gift."

It is so easy for the church to believe that we will be well, or successful, when we have just a little more than we already have now. Not a day goes by that there isn't some social media post about the decline of the church in our time. But the story of decline assumes that the numbers – be they of membership or attendance or offerings – tell the story of God's work. And Paul insists that the story of God's mission is not a story of scarcity.

You are not lacking in any gift. Since we the church are still waiting for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, these words are for us as well. We have already received what we need.

So, the question is not "do we have enough?" The question is, "who are all these gifts for?"

It's a question we must each ask ourselves individually as stewards of God's grace. I believe that when each one of us faithfully answers the call to share the gifts we have been given, we will discover that collectively, as God's people together, we do indeed have everything we need.

## 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.



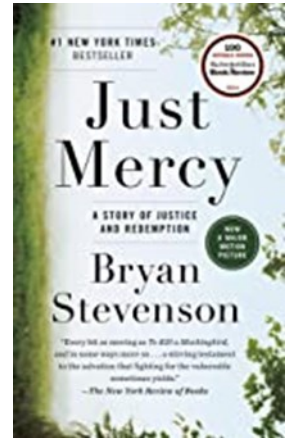
If you are stressed or are going through a difficult time, you may benefit from a caring listening ear.

St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to offer this kind of support.

Please call one of the pastors (507-645-4429) to request a Stephen Minister if you feel this could make a difference for you.

## Lenten Book Read 2023

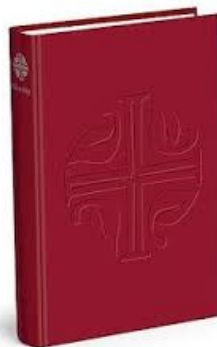
Plan to join other members of St. John's in reading and discussing the book "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson. Just Mercy tells the story of Bryan Stevenson, a young lawyer who founded the Equal Justice Initiative, a legal practice dedicated to defending those most desperate and in need: the poor, the wrongly condemned, and women and children trapped in the farthest reaches of our criminal justice system.



Books have been ordered and the Adult Ministry & Education Board will be selling these books for \$8.00 each beginning on Sunday, February 5. Plans are to have discussion groups meet Wednesday afternoon/evening and on Sunday between services as well as a Zoom discussion group. Stop by the Welcome Desk in the Commons on Sundays to pick up a book and sign up for a discussion time that will work for your schedule. You can also sign up online at the following CCB link <https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/51/responses/new> if you wish to participate or be a facilitator for the reading groups.

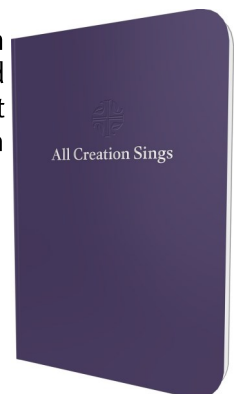
## Hymnals Available to Check Out from the Library

If you know you are going to be worshipping via our livestream or just want to play and sing hymns at home, you can now check out copies of both ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) and ACS (All Creation Sings) from the church library.



This is a great option if you want to sing along with the hymns in worship and prefer to read the words and music from a printed source.

Both hymnals are filled with additional prayers and resources and are excellent for use in personal devotion time.





## Radio Broadcasts

**December 4, 2022**

Given in by Richard and Sharol Nau.

**December 11, 2022**

Given in loving memory of Mary Virginia “Ginny” Shaw  
by Joe Shaw and daughters Nancy, Betsy, Margaret, and Mary.  
Mary Virginia was born December 11, 1932.  
Today would’ve been her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**December 18, 2022**

Given in by Richard and Sharol Nau.

**December 24, 2022**

Given by Barbara Dettle in gratitude for the ministry of St. John’s.

**December 25, 2022**

Given in memory of parents  
Joe & Lillian Nesseth and Marbert & Lillian Sorem  
and sisters Lynn Sletten Walz, Phoebe McNeill, and Carol Sell  
by Mark & Bev Nesseth.

**January 1, 2023**

Given by Shirley Tollefson in memory of Paul Tollefson  
in honor of their 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 29, 1947.

**January 8, 2023**

Given by friends of St. John’s.

**January 15, 2023**

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

**January 22, 2023**

Given in memory of Jim Bierman by family and friends.

**January 29, 2023**

Given by friends of St. John’s.

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).

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

December 12, 2022

*Jerry Bothun*

December 22, 2022

*Gordon Jorgenson*

December 25, 2022

*Ruth Hansen*



*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 1, 2022

**James Gilomen**

February 10, 2022

**Howard Thorsheim**

March 5, 2022

**Tina Elg**

March 11, 2022

**Sigrid Johnson**

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

#### Sunday School Schedule

February 5, 12, 19, 26

March 5, 12, 19

*We take a break from Sunday School on March 26 and April 2 due to Northfield Schools' Spring Break*

#### Wednesday After School Schedule

February 1, 8, 15, 22

March 5, 12, 19

*We take a break from Wednesday Programs on March 29 due to Northfield Schools' Spring Break*

#### Valentine's Party

Sunday, February 12, during Sunday School

#### No School Day - Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, February 20, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

#### Kid's Night Out! (Grades K-5)

Friday, March 3

5:30-8:30 p.m.

St. John's



### Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/22) and our preschool Sunday school class, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler time.

Jenny Nystrom leads the children in song, games, crafts and story time. Toddler Time meets at 9:50 a.m. in Room 14.

**Here is the schedule for the year:**

February 5, March 12, and April 23.

## Valentine's Party, Sunday, February 12 during Sunday School

Our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders are planning a Valentine's Party for the Pre Kindergarten - 2<sup>nd</sup> graders on February 12 during our regular Sunday school time. Enjoy games, treats, and crafts with a Valentine's theme. Parents are welcome to attend too. Hope you'll be part of the fun!



### Prayer Buddies During Lent

What is Prayer Buddy ministry? Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders at St. John's, are paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their "Prayer Buddy". Children and their "Buddy" pray for one another during the Lenten season, starting on Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday. With this program, we hope to create spiritual and caring connections with children and adults in our church community.

If you are interested in being a Prayer Buddy for a child, or your child would like a Buddy, please contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or [Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Thank you!

### Let's Go Bowling! Monday, February 20 is a NO SCHOOL DAY

**so we're heading to the bowling alley!**

**Who:** Grades 2-5, Friends are always welcome!

**Where:** Flaherty Northfield Lanes

**Time:** 12:30-2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$10.00/child (Checks payable to Flaherty or cash)

**Parents:** Please drop off and pick up your child at Flaherty. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Nursery. Adult or high school chaperones are needed – thank you!



## Summer Camp for Grades 2-6

Summer is just around the corner and with summer comes great outdoor experiences!



This year, kids are invited to participate in these Summer experiences at Good Earth Village Bible Camp, Spring Valley, MN.

### June 28-30: Settlers – Grades 2-4 (completed)

Three exciting days and two fun nights make for the perfect camp experience for younger campers. Your child will make new friends and grow in faith through fun, action-packed days. This camp also introduces campers to elements of our week-long camp. Campers stay in Log Lodge.

### June 25-30:

#### Pathfinders – Grades 3-4 (completed)

Campers blaze new trails in their faith as they explore what it means to follow Christ, meet new friends, serve others, and learn more about God's creation through hikes in the woods and spending time with our on-site naturalist. Campers stay in our Hilltop Cabins.

#### Pioneers – Grades 5-6 (completed)

Pioneers experience adventure-filled days and laid-back nights of an Old West style camp. Pioneers sleep in Old Town Village, learn outdoor skills, cook meals over the fire, hike to new locations, play awesome group games, share stories and songs around the campfire, and take care of each other.

### Summer Camp Promotions and Discounts

- Use code **EARLY23** to save 10% on registration fees
- For a limited time, **each camper registered** can receive a free summer theme t-shirt
- Siblings each receive a 25% discount with code **SIBLING23** excludes Intergenerational Family Camp

**DISCOUNTS CANNOT BE COMBINED**

For more information and registration go to [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) and click on Summer!

## Mission Trips June 25-30, 2023

This year, we are working with CSM Mission partner to plan for two missional experiences in Nashville, TN. This Mission Trip is ecumenical; organized by St. John's Lutheran Church in a partnership with St. Peter Lutheran Church and First UCC for both High School (9-12) and Middle School (6-8) youth groups.



We will travel from St. John's as one BIG family. Once we are in Nashville, Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers will go to separate sites for different missional experiences and stay together at night. We will then travel home together.

## Children and Youth

### Sunday Morning Youth Group 9:45-10:30 a.m.

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

Other youth 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.



### Mentor & 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, mentors and mentees 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 5  
March 5





## Children and Youth

### **Confirmation (Grade 6-8) Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30 p.m.**

Large group teaching of the story of scripture using *Manna and Mercy* Bible Curriculum.

M&M curriculum is based on a book by Pastor Dan Erlander. It presents the whole story of salvation with a contemporary lens.

#### Topics:

##### **February 1**

M&M Yahweh Sends Prophets

##### **February 8**

M&M By the Waters of Babylon

##### **February 15**

M&M Home Again

##### **February 22**

Ash Wednesday

##### **Month of March**

Community Project

### **High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12) Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30 p.m.**

High School youth continue to meet 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 communityship with one another in the guidance of adults and supporting parent volunteers.

#### Topics:

##### **Month of February**

Death & Dying

##### **Month of March**

Community Project

## **It's Kid's Night Out at St. John's!**

Games, pizza, along with more games, crafts, and a movie!

**When:** Friday, March 3

**Who:** K-5<sup>th</sup> graders

**Time:** 5:30-8:30 p.m.

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

**Admission:** A snack to share with the group.

**Friends are welcome!**



Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or across from the Nursery by Sunday, February 26. Email Julie if you have questions: [Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## **Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 8**

St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 8 starting at 9:00 a.m. at St. John's. Families with kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade and younger are welcome to hunt. Invite friends and neighbors too!

Can you help? We need individually wrapped candy to fill the eggs. A donation basket will be in the upper and lower Commons starting March 12. Thanks so much!



## **Wednesday Confirmation Youth Groups**

Youth are encouraged to attend on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:30 p.m. as part of Confirmation program. These gatherings will be led by Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Pastor Jonathan Davis, and Emmanuel Kaghondi. We continue to invest in community building among our Youth, exploring aspects of *UBUNTU* - an African worldview centered around the interconnectedness of humanity, nature and God. Our hope is to create a space where youth can grow in faith with friends under the guidance of awesome faithful mentors. We aim to have fun and care for one another while learning to live Christian lives together.

## Wrapping up the St. John's Hall Acoustic Improvement Project

St. John's is bringing to a conclusion the Acoustic Improvement Project for St. John's Hall. It has taken two decades to finally put in place the kind of reverberation control originally planned for the Hall but never installed due to construction budget constraints. For over a year, the Church Council and boards have been reviewing proposals and plans. ESI, an acoustic engineering firm, provided specifications for taming the reverberation. Twin Cities Acoustics did the work. Some adjusting of acoustic panel placement may be needed to obtain optimal results.

The project cost is \$44,000. Primary project funding is provided by the balance of Grace Overflowing capital funds. Currently, members have donated \$18,000, and we have a goal of current donations providing 50% of the project funding. If you are interested in making a contribution to the project, which is part of the church's overall ministry and commitment to the hearing-impaired you may make a donation to the project between now and the end of February.

As the St. John's Hall Acoustic Improvement project wraps up its work, the Evangelism & Communication Board thanks all those who helped make the project possible, and especially those who served on the Acoustics Upgrade Committee, including Paul Beck of Worship & Arts; Rob Quanbeck from Adult Ministry; Gene Bakko of Property & Grounds; Dennis Rinehart of Faith & Health; and Mark Gleason of Evangelism & Communication, board chair. We also thank David Nitz, who provided acoustical analysis; Maribeth Beck for advice regarding the needs of the hearing impaired; Dave Zdenek for audio-visual support; Nathan Knutson for project process and design; and Jill Enestvedt for production of computer-assisted design documents. Tim Byers provided ongoing assistance, including retrieval of the original St. John's Hall design documents, as developed by Steve Edwins and SMSQ Architects. As always, our pastors provided support and encouragement, and the Church Council made crucial commitments of resources. Our special thanks go out to generous donors who helped to ensure project momentum, and to current donors who are helping make the Hall an important resource for the future.



## News and Updates

### Easter Garden Orders for 2023

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](mailto: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.





# the WOMEN'S page



## Gatherings

### Baby Boomers

Saturday, Feb. 4, 4:30-6:00  
Alison Kavanaugh's home  
428 Ford St E.

Saturday, Mar. 4, 4:30-6:00  
Jo Franklin's home  
1001 Freedom Ct.

**Women's Breakfast Group**  
2nd Saturday, 9:00am  
St. John's Library

**Elizabeth Circle**  
2nd Thursday, 1:30pm  
St. John's Library

**Lydia Circle**  
2nd Wednesday, 9:00am  
Coffee and Conversation  
10:00 Bible Study  
St. John's Hall

**Mary Circle**  
2nd Friday 1:00pm  
St. John's Fireside Rm

**Ruth Circle**  
2nd Thursday  
NRC  
(contact Sharon Bastien)

**Knitters (Prayer Shawls)**  
2nd & 4th Thursday  
10:00a St. John's Library

**Knitters (World Vision)**  
1st & 3rd Wednesday, 10am  
Kathy Vang 645-4849

**Quilters**  
Thursdays  
9:00a - noon, Fellowship Hall

**Courageous Conversations: Entertaining Angels Unawares**  
Thursday, February 2nd, 2023 7:00pm  
St John's Hall (in person & livestream)



Northfield resident, Gina Washburn, retired lawyer, and Chair of First UCC's Immigrant Welcoming Ministry traveled this October to the US/Mexican border with fellow UCC members to "bear witness to the conditions at our border".

Gina will share stories of people and organizations from whom she obtained first-hand knowledge, as well as provide facts about migration at the border and will offer recommendations about how we can contribute to helping our neighbors.

**COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS**



*moving ~ forward ~ together ~*

**Christian Nationalism: What It Is, Why It Matters and How We Can Respond**  
Thursday, March 2nd, 2023 7:00pm  
St John's Hall (in person only)

American Christians have always struggled with the relationship between church and state. But in recent years the alignment between right-wing politics and Christianity has taken on a new intensity in a movement called "Christian Nationalism." This power grab co-opts the language and symbols of Christianity, deceiving many and harming both our faith and democracy. (Christian nationalism strongly influenced the Jan. 6, 2021, riot in Washington, D.C.) Our speakers will present this dangerous development, explaining what "Christian Nationalism" is and why it matters, and exploring who's involved in Christian nationalism, what are its components, and ways we can respond.

Pastor Rolf Olson, retired Lutheran pastor, and Dr. Nancy Koester, Lutheran pastor and Luther Seminary professor, will lead this fascinating, and disturbing, conversation about our national life together.



Due to the sensitive and volatile nature of the subject, this program will not be advertised outside the church. Due to copyright issues the program will not be recorded for future use.





## DISCOVER DAKOTA HISTORY



St. John's Women, along with Mar Valdecantos and the Hispanic community in Northfield are planning a field trip to Hocokata Ti's public exhibit, Mdewakanton: Dwellers of the Spirit Lake. The museum provides visitors with a cultural experience that enhances their knowledge and understanding of the Mdewakanton Dakota people and their history.

March dates are yet to be determined. Watch for details in the eVoice and bulletin.

## ANOTHER BUSY YEAR IN THE BOOKS

St. John's Women's Stewardship Statistics  
From St. John's Women of the ELCA Annual Report 2022:

**204** Quilts given to LWR, Global Health Ministries, Habitat for Humanity. CAC, Three Links, 3 sold to support the quilting ministry.

**370** Kits (school, personal care, baby, and fabric to LWR)

**38** Sweaters, **14** hats, **1** blanket knitted and given to World Vision

**32** knit blankets, **27** sheets, **73** pillowcases, **4** medical coats, and **250** rolled bandages to Global Health Ministries



A NEW ORIGIN STORY

# The 1619 Project



Created by **NIKOLE HANNAH-JONES**  
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize  
& THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

Courageous Conversations Book Club via Zoom  
contact Dawn Tommerdahl for dates and times  
dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com

**St. John's Women**

Visit our web pages: [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women](http://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](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com)

January 5th St. John's Women enjoyed a delicious luncheon at "Ruth's on Stafford," and were treated to a delightful program of songs and poetry performed by Carol Benson, Marcia Yernberg, Ruth Aaseng, Nancy Knoch, and Kristin Partlo.



## News and Updates

### Pub Theology Schedule

What is Pub Theology?

It is weekly 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.

Locations to be determined.

**February 6 and 20**

**March 6 and 20**

Each week, the topic will be different and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the E-Voice, and an email list.

Contact the church office  
([office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org))  
to add your name to the email list.



## Season Two of the St. John's Seraphs Summer Softball Team

The summer of 2022 marked St. John's enthusiastic return to the field for summer softball. The Adult Ministry & Education Board would like to thank everyone who participated as a player or fan in the inaugural season!



Planning for the Summer 2023 season will begin shortly. Will you play for the Seraphs in 2023?

We hope that the Summer 2023 team will be a combination of returning veterans and new talent. Watch for more information about indicating your interest in playing. Steve Taggart and Pastor Jonathan are happy to answer questions.



### Habitat for Humanity Home Builds St. John's Volunteer Day Saturday, February 25

Five homes are being built for families in Faribault and Habitat for Humanity needs our help!

Partner families are selected by three main criteria: a need for housing, the ability to partner with Habitat in sweat equity (building with the volunteers on their own house or the house of another partner family), and the ability to pay an affordable mortgage when the build is complete.

**Saturday, February 25**, is St. John's "volunteer day" for the home build projects. If you can help with **construction** (must be at least 18 years old), **provide lunch**, or be a **site host** volunteer, you can sign up at the Habitat for Humanity website [habitatricecounty.org](http://habitatricecounty.org). At the website you'll also find more details about the partner families and see pictures of the building progress. Beginning February 5 there will be paper sign-ups on Sunday between worship services.

If you have any questions or would like to help with the sign-up table between services contact Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Habitat for Humanity urges that all volunteers and lunch providers sign-up, rather than show up spontaneously, to help keep things organized and running efficiently. Thank you!



## Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign



The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) Minnesota FoodShare Campaign gets underway on February 27 and continues through April 9. 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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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, \$18.5 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.

### **Accompany Program for Newcomers and Sponsors Begins February 26 10:00-10:40 a.m. in the Undercroft**

We invite newer members of St. John's (those who have joined during the last 2 years), their sponsors, and any interested non-member "newcomers" to participate in Accompany - a program created to nurture connections and friendships with each other while learning more about our church and its variety of opportunities for faith growth, service, and fun!

Accompany meets 7 times on the following dates between services: February 26, March 5, 12 & 19, and April 16, 23, & 30. If you would like to participate and can attend all or most of these meetings, contact Angie Gehring at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org), or call the church office.

## 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!



### **Coffee Sales**

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during  
will be on the following Sundays:  
February 5 and March 5.

If you need items other times during the  
month please contact Dawn Tommerdahl at  
[dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com)  
or 701-238-5038.





## News and Updates

### It's Easy! Direct a Holiday 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, 2023, to direct any remaining 2022 Choice Dollars.

But St. John's Lutheran Church needs your support now - this year. 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).



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FINANCIAL®**  
*Connecting faith & finances for good.*

## Sunday Suppers Return on February 19

Last summer, in July and August, several people gathered together at various homes to enjoy a shared meal and conversation for a Summer Supper. With a bit of a twist on the name, Adult Ministry has decided to try a "Sunday Supper" on February 19. With the long dreary winter days and evenings what could be more enjoyable than gathering with friendly faces for an evening.



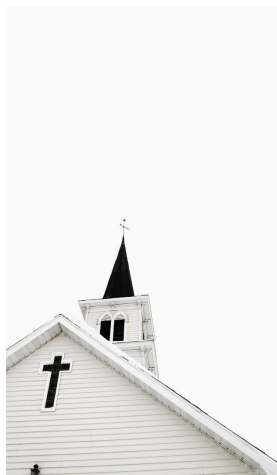
We are looking for hosts, who could have people meet at their home on the evening of February 19 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.; and likewise we need guests to attend these dinners. If you are interested in either hosting or attending a Sunday Supper please sign up in the Commons or online in CCB (information to the link for that connection can be found in the E-Voice). Adult Ministry will organize the groups and give guest information to the hosts and the hosts will be connecting with the guests so that all can share in the meal preparation.

## Sunday Hospitality

Coffee Fellowship time between our worship services is back and hopefully here to stay! Who doesn't enjoy having a treat while visiting with friends, fellow church members, and guests?

If you can share a dozen or so treats, or would like to help with the serving or clean-up on any particular Sunday, you can either sign-up in CCB (a direct sign-up link can be found in the weekly E-Voice) or contact Angie Gehring at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

It's a fun way to help foster connections among people and provide a welcoming atmosphere!



**YOU ARE INVITED TO  
SIGN UP FOR SUNDAY HOSPITALITY!  
GREETING, COFFEE, & COMMUNION  
SERVICE**

SIGN UP ONLINE, IN THE COMMONS,  
OR CONTACT ANGIE GEHRING  
[SHAREDMINISTRY@STJOHNSNORTHFIELD.ORG](mailto:SHAREDMINISTRY@STJOHNSNORTHFIELD.ORG)



The St. John's Library card catalog has now been updated to a computerized card catalog. Look for a computer on the library desk. There will be an instruction card taped to the library desk that will help you to use this new system. Once you sign onto the computer you will be taken directly to the card catalog and can look up books by title, author, or subject.

There are several new books that have been purchased for the library.

- *Book of Joy* by Desmond Tutu and Dalai Lama
- *We Need to Build* by Eboo Patel
- *Sacred Nature* by Karen Armstrong
- *Return to Nature* by Emma Loewe

#### Fiction Books:

- Leah's Garden Series by Lauraine Snelling
  - Seeds of Change
  - A Time to Bloom
  - Fields and Bounty
- Marta's Legacy by Francine Rivers
  - *Her Mother's Hope*
  - *Her Daughter's Dream*

#### Children's Books:

- *When God Made You* by Matthew Paul Turner
- *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands* by Kadir Nelson
- *The Big Umbrella* by Amy June Bates
- *Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen
- *The Beatrice Prophecy* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Should I Share My Ice Cream* by Mo Willems

## Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (April/May 2023 Edition):

March 15

Please send submissions electronically via email to Leah Garlie at [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or the [Announcement Request Form](#) found on our website.

## St. John's Staff

### Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

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

### Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

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

### Director of Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

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

### Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Emmanuel Kaghondi

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

### Facility Manager

Steve Harner

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### Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

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### Music Staff

Green Bouzard - Jubilate Choir

[jubilatechoir@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:jubilatechoir@stjohnsnorthfield.org)

Arielle Loy - Children's Music Director and  
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[arielleloy@gmail.com](mailto:arielleloy@gmail.com)

### Office Manager / Finance Manager

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

### Parish Nurse

Sally Lindell

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

### Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring

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

### Congregation President

Rod Christensen

[chris719@charter.net](mailto:chris719@charter.net)



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**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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



## *Holy Week, Easter Services*

**Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday**

Worship at 8:30 and 10:45

**Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday**

Worship at Noon and 6:15 p.m.

**Friday, April 7 - Good Friday**

Worship at Noon and 6:15 p.m.

**Sunday, April 9 - Easter Sunday**

Worship at 8:30 and 10:45

Worship Services will also be via radio and livestream.

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