



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2019



Inside this issue:

- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 St. John's Forums in January
- 7 Youth...Get Involved in Worship!
- 8 St. John's 150th Anniversary Celebration Events
- 11 Reflection on the Pay It Forward Event
- 13 Visit from Members of Iambi Lutheran
- 16 Annual Meeting and Potluck

St. John's Kicks Off 150th Anniversary with the St. Olaf Choir

As we begin a year of celebrating Grace Overflowing since 1869, St. John's welcomes the St. Olaf Choir and director Anton Armstrong as they sing in worship on Sunday, January 13.

This beloved tradition of welcoming this nationally-recognized choir will mark the first of four key anniversary events in 2019 (for the schedule of events please see page 8).

Between services we will have a program on the special connection between the Choir and St. John's congregation, led by historian Joe Shaw. Special treats will be served in St. John's Hall and all are invited to get their own anniversary calendars for 2019.

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 180
7:30 p.m. Mondays
7:00 p.m. Fridays

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September - May

Live Broadcasts

8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

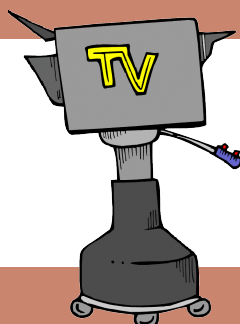


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 180



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 walking by who may be struggling can use the goods to make ends meet. The community is welcome to donate to the box being mindful of Minnesota's temperature changes. Donation Ideas (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...

Dear friends in Christ,

“The history of a congregation, a church, is a history of people touched by eternity, but it is also a history of people touched by space and time, by a *particular* space and a *particular* time, by space and time that inevitably change.” So begins the Foreword to Edna Hong’s *The Book of a Century*, the history of the first 100 years of St. John’s Lutheran Church.

This particular moment in time - as the end of 2018 brushes shoulders with the beginning of 2019 - is significant for me. You see, on December 30, 2018, Trinity Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie - a church adorning the country side of rural Minnesota for 144 years and one of the first churches I had the honor of serving as pastor, will close its doors. It is both sad and necessary. There is so much ministry and life that was born out of that congregation. Trinity served its particular time and particular space, for which I can only give thanks. I think of the tiny Christmas tree covered in mittens and hats each year given to warm the bodies of those enduring a cold winter in the community. I think of the annual *Aebleskiver* fundraising dinners that gave back to the community and kept this church’s ministry alive a little longer. I think of the 10 people of God, trucking through the snow, to Ella Benson’s house on Christmas morning, to sing carols to this 94-year-old who couldn’t make it to church. To have served a small part of Trinity’s long history is one of the greatest gifts.

But then on January 1, 2019, St. John’s will turn the corner into our 150th Anniversary year of ministry. What an exciting time for us! To be part of a church that is celebrating 150 years is humbling. I think of all that has come before us, leading to this moment. I think of all that will come after us, and how we are playing a small, yet significant, part of a future moment that will be. I am eager for the four unique ways we will be marking and celebrating this milestone throughout the year and the ways our five benevolence projects will send us out into the community in new ways. I give thanks for the strong pulse of St. John’s congregation and the ways you all bring abundant life and ministry and care to this place, and I cannot wait to see what we can do together, with the Spirit of God, in the years ahead.

It is a strange intersection to watch a church look back on its long and faithful history and close its doors, while at the same time watch another church look back on its long and faithful history and to be opening doors to new opportunities for ministry in the years ahead.

Churches are, indeed, a living organism that serve God in a particular place at particular time, and they too expire into the good care of God, trusting that God will do a new thing. Let us not forget that many of the churches to whom the Apostle Paul wrote have also closed their doors, yet the people of God have carried on.

Dear people of St. John’s, we are part of something much bigger than ourselves. We are part of the body of Christ, the universal Church. It began before us and it will last beyond us. For this particular moment in time, we are called to carry on.

Continued on page 5

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 this month last year.

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

January 1, 2018
Margaret Nokleberg

January 3, 2018
LouAnn Huemoeller

January 5, 2018
Pam Schwandt

January 18, 2018
Vera Haugen

January 20, 2018
Arlene Graham

January 30, 2018
Douglas Trangsrud

Stephen Ministry: Loneliness, January Blues, and Digital Detox

"But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..." *John 1:7*

Loneliness is sometimes described as the soul feeling isolated from meaningful human connections. Psychologists define loneliness as a subjective, unpleasant experience that occurs when the desired level of meaningful social contact is less than what is available. It is sobering to realize that even though we live in a time when we can connect to just about anyone, anywhere, we are lonelier than ever. The prevalence of loneliness is increasing and the association between loneliness and ill health is now clear.

Many of us can relate to seasons of loneliness, and January is often pegged as the loneliest month of the year. In fact "Blue Monday" (which this year falls on January 14, also the namesake of our local coffee shop), is known as the loneliest day of the year. The magic of Christmas disappears as the decorations come down and family and friends scatter and return to their daily routines. The days can be dark, cold, and dreary, and we may be forced to spend more time indoors, isolated from others.

If you are feeling especially lonely you are not alone. Research has shown that the greatest antidote to loneliness is reaching out to others: volunteering, joining a book study, inviting someone to coffee (at Blue Monday, perhaps?), finding a sense of meaning with some kind of self-transcending goal. If you sense that your digital devices are causing greater loneliness, here are some suggestions:

8 Ways to Ease Your Use of Digital Devices

1. Create a time log. Use it to help you be aware of how much time you spend looking at your devices and how many times a day you look.
2. Be aware of how you feel when you are talking to another person who answers her phone during your conversation.
3. Recognize how conditioned you are to check for updates. Is the Facebook, What's App, Instagram, or other update you are receiving really giving you news?
4. Consider your multitasking habits. Observe yourself multitasking between a task and your device. Notice how you get distracted. Are you as effective?
5. Force yourself to focus. Explore for yourself how much more work you can get done if you are unavailable by phone, email, or text between 9-11 a.m. Notice how much more productive you are.
6. Unplug for one day. Try an experiment with your family where you go an entire day without any digital devices. How lost do you feel without them? Turn your phone off.
7. Give yourself unstructured time.
8. Do not allow digital devices to become babysitters. Kids who spend more time with digital devices have higher levels of Attention Deficit Disorder.

Finally, St. John's Stephen Ministers are here to lend a listening ear to anyone seeking connection. If you would like to learn more about this free service, contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

St. John's Forums in January

January 6

Re-Membering: Connecting Through Our Stories - St. John's Hall

Calling all adults! The past couple of years we have held a forum we jokingly referred to as, "Mingling for Shy Lutherans." To our surprise, many of you said it was your favorite forum of the year! Some of you even found a babysitter for your kids. So, we thought we would do it again. As we turn the corner into a new year and a new season, it is good for us to spend some time getting to know each other. On Sunday, January 6, we will re-member and re-connect with new people and old friends. Pastors Pam and Jonathan will lead us through some questions that will help cultivate discussion in St. John's Hall.

January 13

150th Anniversary Forum: Reception for the St. Olaf Choir - St. John's Hall

January 20

St. John's Anniversary Benevolence Project: Affordable Housing and the Community Action Center - Sanctuary

In honor of our 150th Anniversary, St. John's has given a benevolence grant to the Community Action Center (CAC) as a lead gift for new affordable housing in Northfield. During this forum, Scott Wopata, director of the CAC, will share with us the new and exciting developments with this project.

January 27

Joint Religious Leaders Coalition - Sanctuary

Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins and News Blasts.

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

As I sit down to write this, we have just entered the third week of Advent. We have been living in the season of waiting. It has been a particularly cloudy season, so a lot of us have been waiting for the sunshine to cut through and brighten our streets. Today it is finally here! But as people of faith, we live by a different light too. Each week, as we have gathered in worship, we light more and more candles around the Advent wreath. These flames offer "a glimmer of a future" as we await the light of Christ that breaks through the shadows of fear, doubt, and despair.

May the light of Christ shine upon us and through us in this year ahead.

Happy Anniversary, St. John's!

With love,
Pastor Jonathan

Life and Growth

Baptisms

December 23, 2018

Tegan Gavia O'Boyle
daughter of Dita and Micheal O'Boyle

Deaths

December 8, 2018

Mary Gasho

December 9, 2018

Bette Quinnell

December 18, 2018

Clifford Gilomen



Radio Broadcasts

December 2, 2018

Given in memory of Gert Brosz
by Wil Brosz.

December 9, 2018

Given in loving memory of Gert Brosz
by Marie and Duane Benson.

December 16, 2018

Given by Bob and Marilyn Matta
in celebration of
their 62nd wedding anniversary.

December 23, 2018

Given in memory of
Rev. Lowell Smestad and Helene Anglin
by their families.

December 24, 2018

Given in memory of Don McRae
by Marilyn McRae Raadt and family.

December 25, 2018

Given in memory of Steve Swanson
by family and friends.

December 30, 2018

Given in memory of Milo Quinnell
by his wife and children.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

January 6	Sunday School
January 13	Sunday School
	Toddler Time
January 20	Sunday School
January 27	Sunday School
February 3	Sunday School
	(Teacher Appreciation)

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

January 2	ROCK
January 9	ROCK
January 16	ROCK
January 23	ROCK
January 30	ROCK

4th and 5th Grade CAT Resumes

Wednesday, January 2

4:00-4:45 p.m.

Bowling for 2nd-8th Grades

Monday, January 21 (No School Day)

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Jesse James Lanes in Northfield

3rd Grade CAT Retreat

Sunday, February 10

9:45-10:30 a.m. (Meeting Place TBD)

The Sacrament of Baptism

Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Sunday, February 3

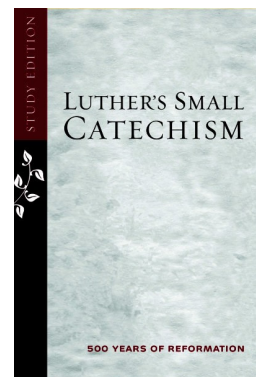
9:45 a.m., Fireside Room

Catechism for 4th and 5th Graders will Resume on January 2

4th and 5th graders resume Catechism classes starting on Wednesday, January 2.

CAT classes meet in the lower level of St. John's; 4th grade in the Undercroft and 5th grade in Room 20 from 4:00-4:45 p.m. on the following Wednesdays in January: 2, 9, 16, 23.

Remember to bring your CAT book!



3rd Grade Catechism Retreat



Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited on Sunday, February 10, 9:30-10:45 a.m. for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism. Meeting place to be determined.

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

Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, January 21, is a NO SCHOOL DAY so we're heading to the bowling alley! For more information see the sidebar on page 10.

Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/18) 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 (lower level).



Here is the schedule for the remainder of the year:

January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, and May 5.

Please feel free to give Julie Brehmer a call if you have questions, 507-645-4429.

Get Involved in Worship!

St. John's always encourages middle school and high school youth to assist with worship service in a variety of ways (singing or playing music, reading scripture or prayers, serving communion, greeting, ushering, designing art for the bulletin cover, etc.). We love to have a mix of generations involved in our services. Just let us know anytime what you would like to do!

Middle School Youth Group

All Middle School Youth (6th-8th grade) are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion! Discussions are lead by St. Olaf College student, Emerson Clay (our Interim Youth Support Staff). This month's topics are:

- January 6: *Mindfulness on the Go*
- January 13: *Why Should I Pray When God Doesn't Answer All of My Prayers?*
- January 20: *Open Prayer*
- January 27: *Barn Board Games*

Also, don't miss out on this fun gathering!
Sunday, January 6, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Middle School Youth are warmly invited to Peggy Hanson's house (205 Elm Street) for fun and treats! Friends are welcome! Please come! Questions? Contact Peggy at peggyjhanson@gmail.com.

Confirmation for Grades 6-8 and High School Youth Group

All youth meet on Wednesday evenings, January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 6:15-7:30 p.m.

- **6th Grade:** This month you will explore topics from the Manna and Mercy curriculum.
- **7th and 8th Grade:** Large group discussion exploring Faith & Human Sexuality on January 2 and continuing on January 9 with a Question & Answer session (Parent Night). Each evening will conclude with small group time doing highs and lows.
- **High School Youth Group:** Gather for hot drinks, discussion topics, time with a pastor, and a service project.

Watch for weekly emails from Angie Gehring regarding each evenings topic. For additional information contact Angie at 507-645-4429 or youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Children and Youth



9th grade Mentor and Mentee Meeting

**Sunday, January 6
9:45 - 10:30 a.m.**

Find each other between services
for faith discussion time.

Save the Date! January 21, MLK Day (No school)

High School youth are invited on a field trip to Augsburg College to hear a speaker to commemorate the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr., followed by a fun trip to an escape room!

High school youth and chaperones will carpool to Augsburg to have lunch on campus and hear a speaker commemorate the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Afterwards we will have some fun and go to "Trapped", an escape room in St. Paul, with plans to do Harry Potter and Spy vs. Spy themed rooms. We will arrive back at St. John's sometime in the early evening.

Time:

Meet at St. John's at 11:00 a.m. and return sometime around 6 or 7 p.m.

Cost:

\$25 per person

Sign up by emailing Angie Gehring youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

St. John's 150th Anniversary

Creative Arts Group

The next Creative Arts group will be a Music Game Night on Wednesday, January 9, from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the St. John's Library.

The group will be led by both LBSA's Art Specialist, Bridget Novak and Music Therapist, Jenny Solar.

We will have a variety of music games available to play together as a group including variations on well-known favorites!

For questions or to volunteer, please email Bridget (Bridget.Novak@laurabaker.org) or Jenny (jenny@laurabaker.org) or call and leave a message at 507-645-8866 x144.

**150th Anniversary Project:
Laura Baker Services-
St. John's Creative Arts Group**



Music Game Night

Led by LBSA's Music Therapist Jenny Solar & Art Specialist, Bridget Novak

Wednesday, January 9
6:00-6:45 p.m.

St. John's Library

All ages invited!



St. John's 150th Anniversary Celebration Events

We invite you to **mark your calendars now** for these special anniversary events:

Sunday, January 13

We will welcome the St. Olaf Choir in worship and celebrate the historic and ongoing relationship between St. John's and the St. Olaf Choir with a special forum and reception between services.

Sunday, April 28

We will continue our Easter celebrations with a special focus on local composers and local visual artists.

Sunday, July 14

We will get outdoors together and celebrate with a family friendly social event.

October 26-28

Our **Capstone Event** will include something for everyone... kids, neighbors, history buffs, and people who just love to get together, share food, and celebrate.

***New* Bible Study... Manna and Mercy Text Study**

On Mondays, from 12:00-1:00 p.m., the Manna and Mercy group that gathers in the Fireside Room will now become a weekly text study for the upcoming Scripture readings in worship. This is a great opportunity to read through and discuss the Bible texts before they are read and preached on Sunday morning. It is also a great opportunity to meet other people and grow in faith. We hope you will consider joining us!

Prayer Buddies During Lent

Starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing through the Lenten season, our 4th and 5th grade Catechism kids will be paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their "Prayer Buddy".



We ask the adult to pray for their buddy and to acknowledge them when they see their child in church. 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 or continue being a Prayer Buddy for a child, please contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429.

We're looking for about 25 adult members from St. John's congregation.

Thank you!

Children's Ministry Appreciation Brunch!



Children's ministry volunteers are invited to brunch on Sunday, February 3, at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. More information will be coming your way!

Please contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429 if you can help with the brunch by serving, bringing an egg bake or bake treats (muffins, rolls, breads...)

Thanks in advance!

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, January 2
Scalloped Potatoes

Wednesday, January 9
Fajita Boats

Wednesday, January 16
Hot Dogs with Mac 'n Cheese

Wednesday, January 23
Hot Turkey Commercials

Wednesday, January 30
Enchilada Casserole



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

News and Updates

Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, January 21, is a NO SCHOOL DAY so we're heading to the bowling alley!

Who:

Grades 2-8
Friends are always welcome!

Where:

Jesse James Lanes
Hwy 3, Northfield

Time:

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Cost:

\$10.00
(2 games & shoe rental)

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Nursery.

Parents:

Please drop off and pick up your child(ren) at the bowling alley. If they need a ride or financial assistance to participate, give Julie a call at 507-645-4429 or email at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Parent or high school chaperones are needed!



The Library at St. John's From the Adult Ministry & Education Board By Genevieve Quarberg

If you look for the Bible in our library, you will find many copies, many versions (translations), most of which will look like very long, forbidding books. You could find many reasons not to even open one ... its size, the unpronounceable words, the long, boring, repetitious or dull parts, even the familiar parts. In *Wishful thinking, A Theological ABC*, Frederick Buechner has this to say about the Bible: (excerpts)

"In short, one way to describe the Bible, written by many different men over a period of three thousand years and more, would be to say that it is a disorderly collection of sixty-odd books which are often tedious, barbaric, obscure, and teem with contradictions and inconsistencies. It is a swarming compost of a book, an Irish stew of poetry and propaganda, law and legalism, myth and murk, history and hysteria. Over the centuries it has become hopelessly associated with tub-thumping evangelism and dreary piety, with superannuated superstition and blue-nosed moralizing with ecclesiastical authoritarianism and crippling literalism.

And yet...

And yet just because it is a book about both the sublime and the unspeakable, it is a book also about life the way it really is. It is a book about people who at one and the same time can be both believing and unbelieving, innocent and guilty, crusaders and crooks, full of hope and full of despair. In other words it is a book about us.

And it is also a book about God. If it is not about the God we believe in, then it is about the God we do not believe in. One way or another the story we find in the bible is our own story.

What follows are some practical suggestion how to read the Bible without tears. Or maybe with them.

1. Don't start at the beginning and try to plow your way straight through to the end.
2. ...try a Bible commentary which gives the date and historical background of each book, explains the special circumstances which it was written to meet, and verse by verse tries to illumine the meaning of the difficult section.
3. ...try an unfamiliar English version...or one in a familiar foreign language

The Word of God speaks out of the depths of an almost unimaginable past into the depths of ourselves."

Bibles, dictionaries, commentaries are resources that can be found in the shelves in the alcove at the entrance into the Narthex. Use in the library, please.

Reflecting on the Pay It Forward Event

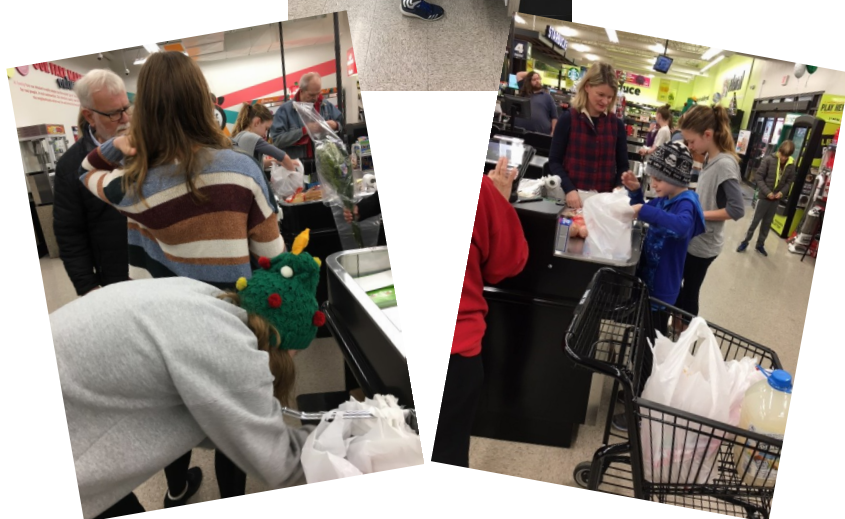


On Saturday morning, December 8, during the Pay It Forward Event, St. John's youth Natalie DeGrego, Will Becker, Edy McLaughlin, Will McLaughlin, Ainsley Nutt, and Jeanette Pelletier helped bag groceries and passed out \$5 bills attached to cards explaining the pay-it-forward concept and featuring St. John's services and community dinners to as many as 200 customers going through the check-out lanes at Family Fare. All \$1,000 was successfully given away within the 2 1/2 hour time slot we were given.

The participating youth and accompanying adults enjoyed receiving countless positive and pleasantly-surprised reactions from the various people they encountered. One encounter led a visitor to Northfield to check out our Sunday early service on the radio the very next day. She was so impressed with what she heard, that she decided to drive to St. John's that same morning to attend the late service, which ended up being the children's Christmas program. She loved her experience here, and says she will be coming back to St. John's for future services!

Another encounter was a woman who said she was very touched by our generous spirit of giving, as her husband had just lost his job the day before. One more story is a family who had just moved to Northfield, saw what we were doing, and right away said they viewed our community as different and positive.

It is during times of service like these that we can feel the goodness of spreading Christ's love to those all around us!



News and Updates

Thank You Isabelle!

Fourth Grader, Isabelle Paulson, asked her birthday party guests to bring donations for St. John's Blessing Box instead of giving her birthday presents. They donated 5 bags of groceries and a \$50 Cub Gift Card!



Thank You to Everyone Who Participated in the Children's Christmas Program!

Your children did such a great job! Thank you to the teachers and assistants, to the 4th and 5th graders with speaking/nativity roles, and to Jenny Pelletier, Marcia Yernberg, Frances Boehning for leading the music, and Brian Evenson for helping with the set. And, thank you to the children who shared their gifts in solos and ensembles during the offering and the instrumentalists who accompanied songs. It truly warmed our hearts to watch the children share their gifts and tell the Christmas story with the congregation.

Thank You to Everyone Who Donated gifts to the Sharing Tree this Year!

Special thanks to our 3rd - 5th grade Wednesday kids for helping with the stars!

the WOMEN'S page



January Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Jan. 5, 4:30
Jean Wakely's home
419 Division St. S. Suite 202

Breakfast Women's Group

Saturday, Jan. 12, 8:30a
St. John's Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Jan 10, 1:30p
Dodie Mickelson's home
1000 Cannon Valley Dr. #105

Lydia Circle

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 9:00a
Coffee and Conversation
10:00 Bible Study
St. John's Hall

Mary Circle

Friday, Jan. 11, 1:00p
Cors Schultz' home
704 St. Olaf Ave.

Ruth Circle

Thursday, Jan. 10, 9:30a
Parkview West Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

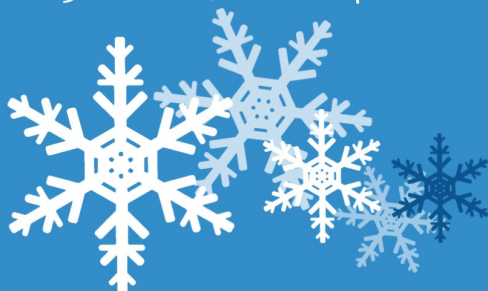
Thursday, Jan. 10 & 24
10:00a Fireside Room

Knitters (World Vision)

Tuesday, Jan 8 & 22, 10am
Kathy Vang 645-4849

Quilters

Mon. Jan.. 14 & Thu. Jan. 17
8:30a - noon, Fellowship Hall



COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS



"Poverty In Northfield" (Panel Discussion)

Saturday, February 2nd, 1:00pm

Sandra Gerdes (Laura Baker), **Dayna Norvold** (Habitat for Humanity) and **Scott Wopota** (CAC) will address topics such as affordable housing, wages, advocacy, government funding for programs and the interconnectedness of all these issues.

St. John's congregation and the Northfield community are invited. Refreshments served.



BOOK STUDIES

January through March

"WAKING UP WHITE" by Debra Irving

"WHITE FRAGILITY" by Robin Diangelo

See ads in this month's VOICE for details

St. John's and Northfield communities are welcome.



Visit our web page:

<https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/women/>



like us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns"
friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns
(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Correspondence:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com

Publicity: Julie Zdenek

St. John's
Women
of the
ELCA

Visit from Members of Iambi Lutheran



Stephen Chima and Baraka Kingu, members of Iambi Lutheran Church in Tanzania, visited our synod for several weeks in December. They are both staff members at Iambi Secondary School in the Central Diocese of Tanzania.

Mr. Kingu teaches IT, computer classes, math, and physics, and Mr. Chima is the school's headmaster and teaches English and history. Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mankato is partnered with Iambi Secondary School, and they facilitated their visit to the United States.



On Wednesday, December 12, they were at St. John's for a lunch and a visit with our pastors and the Mission Partner Team. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and building our bond of friendship. We give thanks for the partnership in ministry we share with Iambi and the Central Diocese of Tanzania. Please hold the 10 teachers, 10 staff

members, and 200 students of Iambi Secondary School in your prayers.

ELCA Advocacy Sends Thank You to Lutherans for Taking Action

By large margins (87-13 in the Senate and 369-47 in the House) Congress passed H.R. 2, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) in December.

For two years, Lutherans from all across the country have called, e-mailed, and met with their senators and representatives to advocate on our common priorities:

- Protect the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Strengthen the farm "safety net"
- Invest in conservation of our natural resources
- Continue our commitment to international food assistance programs

All of our efforts paid off! This Farm Bill represents what is possible when we put our values and our voices to work with hungry people and alongside vulnerable communities. On behalf of ELCA Advocacy, thank you to all who worked so hard and for so long to make this success possible.

News and Updates



Pub Theology Winter Schedule

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 on the following Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. (location TBD).

January 7

January 21

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

Each week, the topic will be different and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the News Blast, 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 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, 2019, to direct any remaining 2018 Choice Dollars.

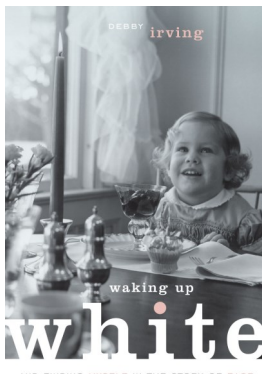
But St. John's Lutheran Church needs your support now - this year. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Don't let Choice Dollars expire.
(Note: Eligibility is based upon premiums and contract values - not all members of Thrivent are eligible).



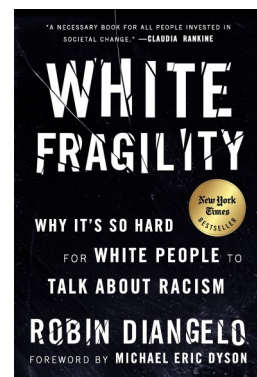
Courageous Conversations Book Studies

"WAKING UP WHITE" by Debra Irving
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
January 10 & 24, February 7 & 21, March 7 & 21
Fireside Room



*St. John's
congregation and
the Northfield
community are
welcome.*

"WHITE FRAGILITY" by Robin Diangelo
Wednesdays, 5:45 - 7:00 p.m.
February 6, 13, 20, & 27
Fireside Room



Hand-in Hand... A New Giving Opportunity to Mission

Over the years, the Southeastern Minnesota Synod has shared deep relationships with our companion synods of IELCO (the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia) and the ELCT-CD (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania – Central Diocese). People of this synod have traveled to walk on their soil and our companions have traveled to walk on ours. We travel hand-in-hand with each other on our journeys of life and faith. In Christ, we are one.

After deep conversation between our synod and mission partners, the Hand-in-Hand initiative was designed. Hand-in-Hand provides an opportunity for congregations of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod to partner in health, education and entrepreneurial ministries in ways that make a significant impact on people's lives.

The synod has published a Hand-in-Hand Brochure that describes 6 projects. In December, St. John's Benevolence & Social Concerns Board sent \$1000 to support 3 of the 6 projects: (1) Dispensary Project in Tanzania, (2) Iambi Agricultural Project in Tanzania, and (3) Family Reunification on the US border. Individuals are also invited to contribute.

The **Hand-in-Hand brochures** are available on the table in the Narthex and on the table in the Commons near the entrance to the Sanctuary. Select the project you want to support and write your check to St. John's with a memo for the project number.

From Bread for the World

Excerpts from a David Beckmann letter to BFW Members...



Bread for the World joins our nation in honoring the life and legacy of President George H.W. Bush.

President Bush negotiated the end of the Cold War, and Bread for the World helped bring the benefits of that shift to the Horn of Africa.

Bread for the World's 1990 Offering of Letters focused on the Horn of Africa Recovery and Food Security Act. Sharon Pauling, Bread for the World Africa policy analyst back then, helped craft the bill and Bread members and churches sent tens of thousands of letters about it to their members of Congress.

The Horn of Africa Recovery and Food Security Act reoriented U.S. policy in the Horn from Cold War purposes to the promotion of development, peace and democracy. President Bush signed the bill into law and his administration followed up.

I visited Addis Ababa in the spring of 1991, just before the end of a civil war in Ethiopia. The country had long been ruled by a harsh military dictatorship. Rebel forces led by Meles Zenawi were camped just 60 kilometers north of Addis. The U.S. State Department helped negotiate a peaceful transition of power and the rebels were able to enter the capital city without violence.

The Horn of Africa Recovery and Food Security Act also allowed USAID to begin assistance to the new Ethiopian government immediately. The Meles government turned out to be exceptionally effective in reducing poverty and they launched the beginnings of democracy at state and local levels - for the very first time in Ethiopia's long history.

On Monday (December 3) I watched from our office window as the hearse carrying the body of the former president made its way to the Capitol. What came to my mind was his leadership in ending the Cold War, and how Bread for the World members and churches helped his administration seize that opportunity to set the stage for dramatic progress against hunger and poverty in Ethiopia.

With gratitude,

Rev. David Beckmann
President, Bread for the World

St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Facility Manager

Tim Byers

facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Financial Manager

Bernie Renander

finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

Carol Benson - Jubilate Choir

caroldbenson@gmail.com

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir

arielleloy@gmail.com

Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers

bells@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Office Manager

Leah H. Garlie

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Parish Nurse

Melissa Berthelsen

parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry

Christy Hall-Holt

connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Mary Kelvie

sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Youth Support Staff

Emerson Clay

Angie Gehring

youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org



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

POTLUCK

Annual
MEETING

**January, 20
12 p.m.
St. John's Hall**

*The Annual Meeting includes elections of church officers
and the approval of the 2019 budget.*