



The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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JANUARY 2020



## Inside this issue:

- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 St. John's Forums in January
- 7 J-Term Confirmation Classes for Middle School Youth
- 8 Children's Ministry Appreciation Brunch
- 9 Lent Begins February 26 with Ash Wednesday
- 10 The Women's Page
- 12 Lenten Book Read
- 14 Pub Theology
- 16 Annual Meeting Information

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

## St. Olaf Choir Sings at St. John's on Sunday, January 12

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 12.

They will lead us in worship and sing anthems at several places in our worship services.

This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and as we are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music.

A reception in honor of the choir will be held between services in St. John's Hall. Please take the opportunity to welcome the St. Olaf Choir back to St. John's!

**LIVE BROADCASTS**  
8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays  
KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM  
[kymnradio.net](http://kymnradio.net)

**TV BROADCASTS**  
NTV Channel 187  
7:30 p.m. 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  
(ASL Interpreter available at the second worship services on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month)

### Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

### Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays  
All Ages from September - May

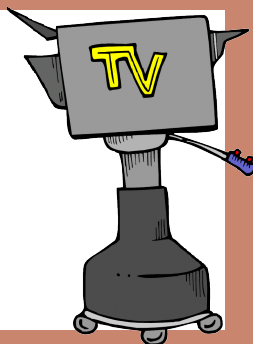
### Live Broadcasts

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### TV Broadcasts

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12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays  
1:00 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...

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the joys of this fall season has been getting to spend a little more time with our high school youth. For Confirmation this fall, Pastor Pam, Emmanuel, and I have been rotating around which groups we get spend time with on Wednesday evenings. As a result, I got to spend 4 weeks in a row with some of our high schoolers (and 4 more in January!).

During one of our youth group gatherings, I asked, “What does it mean to belong?”

“It means to feel like you can be yourself and you don’t have to worry about what others think of you,” one of our high schoolers replied.

“Is there a place in your life where you feel like you belong these days?” I asked.

“Here. At church.” Other youth were nodding in agreement.

My heart swelled with joy. But I’ll admit, I was a little surprised. In a day and age when a record number of teens and young adults are foregoing any kind of organized religion, researchers are wondering where they will find meaning and connection and belonging in their life. Knowing that these youth are in the prime demographic of those who are choosing not to go to church, to hear that they feel like St. John’s is a place where they belong is no small thing.

Author of *Searching For Sunday*, the late Rachel Held Evans has said that in an age of abundant information, people are not going to church for more information. We have all the information we need at our finger tips. Rather, people are looking for a place where we are reminded that we belong to God and we belong to each other. A place where we can be ourselves. The beauty of the Church, and other religious communities, is that it creates community out of people we would not normally choose to be with in community. Where else can you find four generations spending time together in the same space?

I am not naïve enough to think that everyone feels like they belong here. Belonging is a tricky thing at times. Tribes and subgroups can form in any community, and can isolate and ostracize people.

But the work of the church is to imitate Christ by tearing down the barriers and repairing the breaches between us. Being the body of Christ is making sure there is room at the table for the person standing at the door. From my vantage point, I see that culture of belonging growing at St. John’s and my heart swells with joy.

I hope that you feel like you belong here, because you do. In the name of Christ, you belong here. I hope that in this new year, you might consider stepping out and taking a risk to see that it’s true. In doing so, maybe you’ll discover that you help to create a belonging community too. Introduce yourself to a new person at least once a month. Attend the Monday Manna and Mercy Bible Study at noon. Join a Lenten Book Read group in February, where we will be reading *Searching For Sunday*, by Rachel Held Evans. Volunteer on a month you are not

Continued on page 4

## From Our Pastors



**Pastor Pam Fickenschner**



**Pastor Jonathan Davis**



## Prayer and Care Ministry

### Prayer Chain:

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

### Grief Care Resource:

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

### Grief Booklets:

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



*The following St. John's members died in this month last year.*

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

January 10, 2019  
**Chuck Muckey**

January 15, 2019  
**Donna Kallestad**

January 17, 2019  
**Lillian Anderson**

## Stephen Ministry: May Your 2020 Be Joyful!

As the numbers switched over from 2019 to 2020 you might have raised a glass, exchanged a kiss, or simply taken a deep breath. Perhaps you shed a tear - of excitement or of dread, anticipating what the next months will bring. How different does 2020 look from 2019? Will something be clearer in 2020 - a path, a challenge, an obstacle, a relationship? Will you recognize the significance (or insignificance) of a past event or injury? Will the future open up or close down for you or someone you love? Where might joy surprise you?

What actually is new about a new year other than those numbers? Minnesota's January weather is pretty much like December's weather, though the days are getting longer again rather than shorter. And there's no chance you'll find a seed catalog in your mailbox before January! Will St. John's year 151 feel different from 150? There will be deaths and births to mark and celebrate, many forms of care to be offered and received. Events will be remembered and forgotten, floors and windows washed, greenery dug up and planted. Promises made, regrets acknowledged, sins forgiven, and songs sung.

May this new year, new decade, and each new day bring you moments of genuine joy and grace-filled hope. However, if you or someone in your life is anxious about what is ahead and might benefit from time with a Stephen Ministry friend, contact one of the pastors.

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

assigned to, and meet new people. Come to Pub Theology. Or, if nothing else, invite Pastor Pam or me out for coffee. We'd be delighted to get to know you better.

Whatever this new year brings for St. John's, I look forward to spending it with you. Blessings to you and happy new year! Peace and courage,

Pastor Jonathan Davis

## From Our Congregation President: Plan to Join Us!!!

Please mark your calendars for January 26 and plan to attend our Annual Meeting. I promise not to drone on and on and on and on. We need to have you present because we need strong representation of our congregation, and it is good to know what is going on in your congregation. Please plan to join us for a potluck lunch after the second service on the 26<sup>th</sup>, and then for our annual meeting immediately following our meal together.

Thank you,  
Ruthie Neuger



## St. John's Forums in January

### January 5:

#### ***When the End is Near - Choices May/Will be Limited (Sanctuary)***

At a time when there may be or is no time to be on a long waiting list, what they can and can't do and insight into the dying process. Led by Belinda Peterson (retired Director of Social Services at the Northfield Retirement Community), Sue Warring (Social Worker with Northfield Hospice), Celeste Smith (working as a Death Doula), and moderator Kathleen Hanson (Senior Ministry person on the Adult Ministry & Education Board). Our journey to heaven may have many curves and bumps in the road and here we will look at help in this final journey. From the viewpoint of a CCC i.e. a continuing care community, hospice, and one to one help by a death doula. Who are the people experienced and educated to help in the final months or days of our life on earth? As caregivers what can we do when we hit burnout before our loved one dies? Also, we will touch on the actual physical process of dying.

### January 12:

#### ***Reception for the St. Olaf Choir (St. John's Hall)***

For more information please see the front page.

### January 19:

#### ***Creation Care Forum: The Real Dirt (Sanctuary)***

Ben Doherty of Open Hands Farm and Dave Legvold of Legvold Farms will present their view of what each farming operation holds as its responsibility to the earth and to the community. Open Hands Farm is a Community Supported Agriculture endeavor that provides organically grown produce to a large variety of customers. Legvold Farms is a commodity production operation that works to build soil through practices that preserve soil nutrients, enhance biological systems, and assure clean water. Both farms serve as research and education centers. Open Hands Farm is regarded as an exemplary, environmentally friendly supplier of wholesome foods to the community. Legvold Farms is a Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certified farm as awarded by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Both Ben and Dave believe that though they have very different farming operations, they share many of the same creation care goals. Both farmers enjoy the opportunity to share the joys of farming, share equipment, and appreciate each other as good neighbors.

### January 26:

#### ***Annual Meeting Budget Preview (Sanctuary)***

St. John's Forum will be a preview of the St. John's 2020 Annual Budget prior to the Annual Meeting and Congregational Potluck at 12:00 p.m.

## Life and Growth

### **Baptisms**

December 1, 2019

*Willow Francis Rea*

*daughter of Kristin and Patrick Rea*

December 22, 2019

*August Liam Hayek Traaseth*

*son of Stephanie and Nate Traaseth*



### **Radio Broadcasts**

**December 1, 2019**

Given in memory of Gert Brosz  
by Wil Brosz and family.

**December 8, 2019**

Given in memory of Mary Gasho  
by the Gasho family.

**December 15, 2019**

Given in memory of Bob Matta  
by his loving family.

**December 22, 2019**

Given by Shirley Falck  
in loving memory of husband John Falck.

**December 24, 2019**

Given by Duane and Marie Benson.

**December 25, 2019**

Given by  
David and Patricia Halsor.

**December 29, 2019**

Given in celebration of  
the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of  
Wally and Roberta Wegner.

If you would like to  
sponsor a broadcast (\$160),  
please contact the church office  
by phone at 507-645-4429 or email at  
[office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children to Remember!

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

January 5	Sunday School
January 12	Sunday School
	Toddler Time
January 19	Sunday School
January 26	Sunday School

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

January 1	NO Programming (New Year's Day)
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January 8  
January 15  
January 22  
January 29

#### 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade CATechism Resumes

Wednesday, January 8  
Wednesday, January 15  
Wednesday, January 22  
Wednesday, January 29

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade CATechism Retreat

Saturday, January 25

### Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/19) 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 year:

Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 8, April 5, and May 3.

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



## Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, January 27, is a NO SCHOOL DAY so we're heading to the bowling alley!

#### Who:

Grades 2-5, Friends are always welcome!

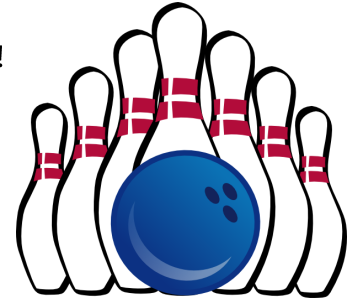
#### Where:

Jesse James Lanes, Hwy 3, Northfield

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

**Cost** \$12.00

(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, contact Julie at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429.

Parent or high school chaperones are needed!

### Catechism for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Graders will Resume on January 8

CAT classes meet downstairs, 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Room 20 and 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the Undercroft, from 4:00-4:45 p.m. Let Julie know if your child would like to ride the Wednesday afterschool bus to CAT!

Remember to bring your CAT book!

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Catechism Retreat

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited on Saturday, January 25 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. to a CATechism retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism. We will be meeting in Fellowship Hall. If you are unable to attend, call Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429.

### High School Youth Group

The high school youth group will continue to meet on Wednesdays 6:15-7:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

Join other youth to explore what it means to live a life rooted in Christ. Each week's activities will alternate between interest-driven faith discussions, burning questions, service projects, and casual hangout times to foster friendships with one another in the guidance of adults and supporting parent volunteers.

Pastor Jonathan Davis will lead the following topics:

- January 8: Prayer - Oriented Toward God
- January 15: Food - Eating with Jesus
- January 22: Money - The Joy of Sharing
- January 29: The Needs Right in front of You

## J-Term Confirmation Classes for Middle School (Grades 6-8)

With the intent of providing a fresh confirmation experience that offers options for varied interests and learning styles as well as a chance to learn with friends from other congregations, our Northfield ELCA churches are partnering to offer a J-Term for Middle School confirmands this January.

Confirmation classes will be held from 6:30–7:30 p.m. on January 8, 15, 22 & 29, at all three churches (St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's). A familiar face from our church will greet you at the entrances of each church site and help you with the location. Plan to arrive at your class location at least 15 minutes prior to its start to be sure you can locate your class and be familiar with the new location.

You should have received the mailing indicating four classes of your choice and the church site where those classes will be offered.

The following list indicates the overall classes offered and their location. You should have chosen four classes in this list:

### Bethel Lutheran Church:

- *Are they Out to Get Us?* offered by Al Freeland
- *Personal Creation Stories, "Preserving Cultural History Through Our Own Illuminations"* offered by Katherine Norrie
- *What is Racism and Why is It So Hard to Talk About?* offered by Jo Franklin & Jane Burnett
- *When Black & White Turns Gray*, offered by Dr. Jane Runzheimer
- *Yoga: Finding Spirituality Through Body Control*, offered by Patsy Ophaug

### Community Action Center (CAC)

- *Being a Neighbor*, offered by Scott Wopata

### St. John's Lutheran Church

- *The Drumbeat of Community of the African Church*, offered by Emmanuel Kaghondi
- *The Gospel in Children's Books*, offered by Pam Fickenscher
- *Faith & Sport*, offered by Ruthie Neuger
- *Made in the Image of God: Creation, Our Bodies, and SelfWorth* offered by Tamara Jackman

### St. Peter's Lutheran Church

- *Anxiety*, offered by Dr. Christi Bostwick
- *Climate Change – Are We Responsible?* offered by Pastor David Weeks
- *What Fortnite Can Teach Us About Our Faith Life*, offered by TBA

## 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. This month's topics will focus on "Life's Burning Questions about Spirituality".

## Children and Youth



### 9<sup>th</sup> grade Mentor and Mentee Meeting Sunday, January 5 9:45 - 10:30 a.m.

Find each other between services  
for faith discussion time  
or any other time that works for you.  
Continue to look for opportunities to serve  
together in our church  
or out in the community.

## Service Opportunities

St. John's always encourages intergenerational worship leadership. We encourage middle school and high school youth to take part in leading worship services through various opportunities such as singing, reading scripture, prayer, serving communion, greeting, ushering, designing art for the bulletin cover, etc. We would love to have you get involved in the ministry. Just let us know anytime what gift you would like to offer. We also welcome youth to sign up to help with Sunday Hospitality roles. Sign up sheets are located on the bulletin board by the church office.

## Upcoming

Remember to sign up for  
2020 High School and Middle School  
Mission Trips to Denver by January 15.

## Save the Date

**Sandwich Project and Movie** on January 31 for  
both High school and Middle school Youth.  
Look for more details to come  
in weekly updates.



## News and Updates

### Children's Ministry Appreciation Brunch

Children's ministry volunteers  
are invited to brunch on  
Sunday, February 2, at 9:45 a.m.  
in the Fireside Room.

More information will be coming your way!

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

Thanks in advance!



## Winter Book Read January, February, and March

Consider being part of a group reading and discussing a book a month during the winter season. The group will meet on the fourth Thursday in the Library at 1:00 p.m.: January 23, February 27, and March 26.

In January: *Virgil Wander* by Leif Enger. Virgil Wander is a curmudgeon owner of a movie theater in a small town on the north shore of Lake Superior - where a lot of living goes on!

In February: *Dad's Maybe Book* by Tim O'Brien, author of *The Things They Carried* about the Vietnam War. O'Brien, who became a father at 58, writes this nonfiction book to his young sons.

In March: *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger, is a story of four orphan children in an Indian boarding school in northern Minnesota in 1932 who escaped and canoed down the Mississippi River seeking a new home.

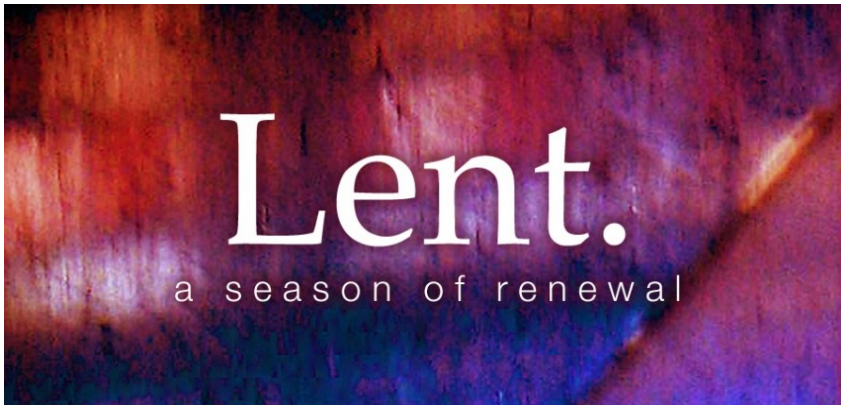
These books should be available in the local Northfield Library as well as at Content Bookstore and online.

Contact Genevieve Quarberg at [davidquarberg@hotmail.com](mailto:davidquarberg@hotmail.com) or talk with her or another member of the Library Committee (Anita Hellie or Merilyn Calcutt) to be part of the group.

### Info Session: Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) Sexuality Program for High Schoolers Sunday, January 19 from 10:00-10:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room

This spring, we are 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 aspects of sexuality. Pastor Jonathan and Tamara Jackman, a Certified Nurse Midwife, will be leading these sessions for High Schoolers. For parents and high schoolers looking for more information, Pastor Jonathan and Tamara will be leading an information session on January 19<sup>th</sup>, in the Fireside Room, from 10am-10:30am. Sign-up is now open. If you would like to sign-up, please email Pastor Jonathan at [jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

- February 2: Parent Only Orientation (Required) 12:00-2:00 p.m.
- February 22: Morning/Afternoon Retreat
- February 26: 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- March 4: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- March 11: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- March 18: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- April 1: 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- April 25: Morning/Afternoon Retreat



## Lent Begins February 26 with Ash Wednesday

Lent, our springtime period of renewal and focus on repentance and life in Christ, begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26, with worship and the imposition of ashes at noon and 6:30 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 4, at 6:30 p.m.

**Soup Suppers** precede each midweek service (*including* Ash Wednesday), serving from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

## Read, Talk, Pray: Sunday Psalm Conversation

On four consecutive Sundays, from the end of January into February, there will be an opportunity for meeting in a small group in the library between worship services from 9:45-10:30 a.m.

The purpose is to concentrate on the Psalm for the day, looking at it personally from different aspects. There are only about 45 minutes to read the Psalm, talk about it, then pray. The group will be lay led.

Consider picking up a cookie and a cup of coffee and being part of this group. If this proves to be nurturing and encouraging to you, the Adult Ministry & Education Board will consider setting up such "now and then" opportunities.

## 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 1**  
*No Meal - New Year's Day*

**Wednesday, January 8**  
Lasagna

**Wednesday, January 15**  
Scalloped Potatoes & Ham

**Wednesday, January 22**  
Meatball Stroganoff

**Wednesday, January 29**  
Chicken Pot Pie Casserole



Consider this amazing fact:  
Wednesday Meals are made and served  
completely by people donating  
their time and talents.  
Dessert contributions are always welcome!



# the WOMEN'S page

## January Gatherings

### Baby Boomers

Saturday, Jan 4, 4:30-6:00pm  
Julie Zdenek's home  
2121 Ontario Ln

### Breakfast Women's Group

Saturday, Jan 11, 8:30am  
St. John's Fireside Rm

### Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Jan 16  
Darlene Hand's home  
1109 Farehaven Court

### Lydia & Paul Circles

Wednesday, Jan 8  
Coffee 9:00, Study 10:00  
Leader: Luther Peterson  
St. John's Hall

### Mary Circle

Friday, Jan 10, 1:00pm  
Sharon Flaten's home  
Village on the Canon  
301 7th St. West.

### Ruth Circle

Thursday, Jan 9, 9:30am  
Parkview West Fireside Rm

### Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursday, Jan 9 \*9:30-11:00  
(leave from there to luncheon)  
Thursday, Jan 23 10:00am  
Room 19

### Knitters (World Vision)

Tuesday, Jan 14 & 28, 10am  
Kathy Vang 645-4849

### Quilters

Mon. Jan 13 & Thu. Jan 16  
8:30am-noon Social Hall

## ANNUAL

## CAROLS ON THE CAMPUS LUNCHEON

Thursday, January 9, 11:30am

Buntrock Commons, Valhalla Room

Join us for a delicious lunch at the King's Room and a delightful presentation of carols old and new. Cost is \$15. Reserve your spot before January 3rd by signing up at the St. John's Women bulletin board or call Julie Thorsheim 612.384.4872. Carpool from St. John's parking lot at 11:00. Bus from NRC at 11:00.



## Feb 6, 2020 "NORTHFIELD CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH"

St. John's Hall 7:00pm

Carrie Duba, School Psychologist at Northfield High School, will share insights into the current factors that contribute to anxiety and depression in our students, and how the schools and community are addressing these issues. She will also speak to how we might help students and ourselves maintain good personal mental health.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

**BOLD ACTIONS**

## March 5 "JUSTICE FOR NATIVE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES"

St. John's Hall 7:00pm

The Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs, of St. Paul, is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation. He has degrees in Pastoral Studies and Christian Theology. He is founder/convener of "Healing Minnesota Stories," an initiative dedicated to creating events of dialogue, education, and healing, particularly within faith communities.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING  
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX  
WELCATG.ORG

## Powerful worship/Inspirational speakers

"Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect. We are one body in Christ."

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

Early-bird registration through January 6, 2020, is \$325. After that, registration is \$375.

Questions: Mary Hoff (763) 688-4516

Visit our web page: <https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/women>



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

Correspondence: [women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com)





## Library Words...

### From the Adult Ministry & Education Board

### By Genevieve Quarberg

Picture books aren't only for children; they are also for adults who love to read to children. This month the display wall will show books that speak of people's many ways of thinking about and worshipping God.

*In God's Name*, written by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso and illustrated by Phoebe Stone is a joyful picture of the search for God by many different people. *The Miracle Child* told by Elizabeth Laird with Abba Aregawi Wolde Gabriel is an Ethiopian story of a miracle child who fed the hungry and healed the sick during a great famine in Ethiopia. *Shaker Boy* by Mary Lyn Ray and illustrated by Jeanette Winter is the story of a young boy brought to live with the Shakers where he lived his whole life. There are three books out of the Jewish tradition. *A Picture Book of Jewish Holidays* by David Adler, illustrated by Linda Heller, is a simple telling of holidays we hear of, but don't know. *Passover* by Miriam Nerlove concentrates on one of those holidays. It took fifty years for Isaac Millman to tell his story of being hidden as a "sick" child in a hospital by his mother who was taken away to be killed. *Hidden Child* is a serious book, meant for children who can understand and ask questions. *Celebrating Ramadan* by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith with photographs by Lawrence Migdale follows a family through the month of praying and fasting and through celebrating the Eid al-Fitr the feast that ends Ramadan. *Islam* is an extravagant picture book of the variety and vastness of the Muslim religion.

There are books, not religious, that yearn for what Christians sang at Christmas, "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men". *The Peace Bell* by Margi Preus, illustrated by Hideko Takahashi is the story of the American-Japanese Friendship Bell. *Wangari's Trees of Peace* is the true story of Wangari Maathai, environmentalist and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize by Jeanette Winter.

Our library has books for all ages! And our library is a good place to spend quiet time perusing those books. Enjoy!

## News and Updates

### Tai Chi Chih Practice Being Held at St. John's

Tai Chi Chih is a simpler version of the many forms of Tai Chi.

It is a mix of meditation and movements which are easy to learn and are suited for all ages and physical abilities.

The twenty soft, flowing movements are designed to improve balance, concentration, flexibility, and promote calm.

This practice can be done either standing or seated.

To learn more contact Cynthia Neubecker at 612-327-0169 or [redduncan936@gmail.com](mailto:redduncan936@gmail.com).

Tai Chi Chih is held on Fridays at 1:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. All are welcome.



## 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, 2020**, to direct any remaining 2019 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).



## Lenten Book Read *Searching for Sunday* By Rachel Held Evans

This year's Lenten Book Read selection is *Searching for Sundays* by Rachel Held Evans, who like her millennial peers didn't want to go to church anymore. Despite her feelings of cynicism and misgiving, something kept drawing her back so she began a journey to try to understand church and find her place.

This book will take readers through a liturgical year with stories about baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, vocation, and death. These stories are funny, heartbreaking, and sharply honest. This is a memoir about doing and taking risks, about community, and the power of grace.

The Adult Ministry & Education Board will be in the Commons beginning February 2 selling the books and taking sign-ups for the discussion groups. Discussion groups will be held on Sunday and Wednesday evenings beginning on February 23.

## Thank You to Our 2019 Church Council and Board Members!

We would like to those members that gave of their time and talents and served on the church council (pictured below) and on our boards in 2019.



## ELCA Global Mission

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world together.

Seventy million Lutherans do make a difference! As a member of The Lutheran World Federation, the ELCA is one of 142 member churches in 79 countries all over the world. We are called to walk alongside our Lutheran brothers and sisters to grow the church and to do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities everywhere.

The ELCA has deep, longstanding relationships with Lutheran churches and other partners around the world. We respond to our companions and help support the growth of their work - new congregations, urban and youth outreach, theological education, pursuit of justice, and peace and leadership training just to name a few. As we work together with our partners and participate in God's work in the world, we all grow in faith and benefit - we grow stronger as a global church.

The ways in which we live and serve as a global church are as diverse as the people, communities, churches, and countries that we work alongside and support. The ELCA is hard at work with its partners:

- Building up the church in countries around the world. Creating meaningful service opportunities for young adults and adults. Supporting the work of over 240 ELCA missionaries in more than 40 countries.
- Nurturing companion synod relationships with global church partners.
- Providing scholarships, theological education, and training for international leaders.
- Pursuing support for crucial and innovative approaches to participating in God's mission in the world.

This is how we go about working together as a global church to build up Christ's church throughout the world.

During January, we ask you to consider a special gift to ELCA Global Mission to support this important work. You may donate online or by check, noting Global Mission on the memo line. Thank you!

## News and Updates

### Save the Date!

### Children and Youth Pancake Breakfast Fun-Raiser and Valentine's Day Bake Sale!

**Sunday, February 9**

Enjoy breakfast, activities, and the opportunity to purchase delicious donated desserts!

Breakfast will be served  
from 9:00-10:30 a.m.  
by the children and youth.

This event not only helps support our children and youth programs but brings us together for our main goal of "Fun-Raising" or "raising fun" by connecting people of all ages in our church with food and fun!





## News and Updates

### Pub Theology 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. at Froggy Bottoms.

**January 6**

**January 20**

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](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org))  
to add your name to the email list.



## Thank You to our 2019 Community Christmas Day Dinner!

We would like to thank the many volunteers that helped make the  
Christmas Day dinner a success. Some are pictured below.



## From Bread for the World

Bread for the World released the following statement on December 4 in response to the Trump administration's final rule requiring stricter



work requirements and time limits on adults participating in SNAP (attributed to David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World): "This rule will make it more difficult for low-income adults to access the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - a change that could kick hundreds of thousands of people

off the program. Most low-income adults on SNAP who can work do work. The rule also ignores that there are still millions of Americans who face barriers to employment, lack transportation, or live in areas where the economy has not recovered. God teaches us that we are not to withhold nourishment from anyone. We oppose the administration's decision and urge them to immediately withdraw this rule."

More than 50 Christian leaders with the Circle of Protection asked all of the presidential candidates, Republican and Democrat, to send a short video explaining what they would do as president to offer help and opportunity to poor and hungry people in the United States and around the world. As of December 12, the Circle of Protection had received videos from seven candidates. More are expected. By publicizing the videos the Circle of Protection hopes to make poverty and hunger key issues for candidates and voters in the 2020 elections. To view the videos go to [bread.org/pressrelease](https://bread.org/pressrelease) and click on videos.

The Circle of Protection will distribute the videos among their churches and the general public but will not publicly evaluate the proposed policy positions or endorse any candidate.

## St. John's Staff

### Senior Pastor

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**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

**POTLUCK**

*Annual*  
**MEETING**

**January 26**  
**12:00 p.m.**  
**St. John's Hall**