



The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## St. Olaf Choir Sings at St. John's on Sunday, January 14

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 14.

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!

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

**LIVESTREAM**  
8:30 a.m.

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

**RADIO BROADCASTS**  
8:30 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 a.m. & 10:45 a.m., Sundays

### Livestream

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



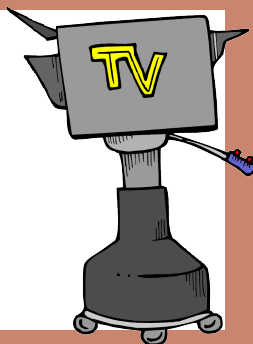
### Radio Broadcasts

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



### TV Broadcasts

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



[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](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 people of St. John's,

As I write this, I'm looking forward to Christmas Day.

Yes, as a pastor, I do look forward to Christmas Day as a bit of a finish line – the last big worship service of the busy fall and winter seasons.

But here at St. John's, I look forward so much to the **community** that gathers on Christmas Day for dinner in St. John's Hall. When I came to Northfield ten years ago, I was astonished that St. John's could pull this off – a meal for 200 or so people, served by volunteers taking time out from their own family celebrations, with every bit of food donated by individuals. *People still do that?!*

In the middle of 2020, we wondered whether this beautiful tradition could come back. We weren't sure, after a pandemic hiatus and with some of the first leaders of the tradition less involved, that there would be will and resources to do it again.

But here we are, three years later, and every volunteer slot is filled. Families have planned their holiday around taking this time together in community. Community members from beyond St. John's tell me they look forward to joining us that day.

Yes, there are people who join us for Christmas dinner because they might not get a good meal at home otherwise. But more than that, many come because *community* is something they genuinely long for. Some will talk to strangers; some will mostly sit with their families; some will sit in a corner and just be glad to enjoy the buzz of human beings and the light in the Hall windows around them.

As we enter 2024, I hold this day as a reminder that the hard work of community building is important; in fact, it can be life-saving.

Church community – through meals, programs, worship, small groups, choirs, Stephen minsters, and social times – is one of the few places left in our society where we see our obligations to each other as more than a transaction. Church is also one of the few places where – if we are willing – we can share the whole of our lives, across generations. While we don't always have all the data to prove our worth, or brand-building to shout from the rooftops, the hard work of community is one of the most unique witnesses we can give to God's desire for a mended world.

Thank you for being part of this vital witness! Happy New Year!

*Pastor Pam*

## 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.



### Deaths

November 28, 2023  
*Judith Stoutland*

December 25, 2023  
*Rev. Van Miller*



### Prayer Buddies During Lent

Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and continuing through the Lenten season, our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Catechism kids are paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their "Prayer Buddy". We ask the adult to pray for their buddy during the Lenten season. 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 would like to continue being the Buddy please contact Julie Brehmer, 507-645-4429 or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Thank you!



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

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



## St. John's Forum in January 9:45-10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

January 7

*ISAIAH and Faith-Based Organizing*



Kathryn Lozada has been the Southern Minnesota Regional Organizer with ISAIAH for six years, organizing people of faith and shared values towards racial, economic, and climate justice in Minnesota. Join her and St. John's leaders to learn how ISAIAH has been working for years on the state and local level and finally won significant victories this state legislative session! We also hope to hear from you how

these policy wins could impact you and your loved ones, what our communities still need to thrive, and how we could put our faith in action and potentially have more collective impact by partnering with other faith communities.

## The Adult Ministry & Education Board Encourages You to Save the Evening of Tuesday, January 9 to hear Amy Jill Levine's 2024 Fretheim Lecture at Luther Seminary



Amy Jill is the author of the books we are reading for the Advent and Lenten Book reads (*Light of the World*; *The Misunderstood Jew*).

We will organize carpooling for those who want to attend in person, and live-streaming at St. John's who prefer this option. Send an email to [rob.quanbeck@gmail.com](mailto:rob.quanbeck@gmail.com) if you are interested in either option. More details to come!

## Life and Growth

### Radio Broadcasts in December

**December 3, 2023**

Given by the family of Marilyn McRae Raadt in honor of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and to celebrate her 70<sup>th</sup> year as a member of St. John's.

**December 10, 2023**

Given in memory of Gertrude Ann Brosz by Wil Brosz and family.

**December 17, 2023**

Given in memory of Ken Peterson and Loren Mathre by Rachel Peterson.

**December 24, 2023**

Given by Marie Benson and family in memory of Duane Benson and Pastor Paul Wolff.

**December 25, 2023**

Given by in memory of Elizabeth and Doug Trangsrud by Julian Trangsrud.

**December 31, 2023**

Given by Cindy Clauson in memory of Merle, Idella, and Michael Clauson.

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 and Youth to Remember

#### Sunday School Schedule

January 7, 14, 21 & 28  
January 14: Toddler Time

#### Wednesday After School Schedule

January 10, 17, 24 & 31  
*No Wednesday Program on January 3*

#### Bowling for Grades 2-5

Monday, February 19 (*No School Day*)  
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
(See Article)

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Catechism Retreat on Holy Communion

Saturday, January 27  
9:00–11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall



### Third Grade Catechism Retreat Saturday, January 27

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion, Saturday, January 27, 9:00–11:00 a.m. at St. John's.

If you are unable to attend, please email Julie Brehmer at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, February 19, is a NO SCHOOL DAY so we're heading to the bowling alley!

#### Who:

Grades 2-5, Friends are always welcome!

#### Where:

Flaherty's Northfield Lanes

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

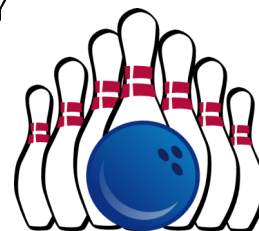
**Cost** \$11.00

(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!



### Service Trip to Second Harvest Heartland January 23, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (Grades 6-12)

There is no school on Tuesday, January 23, so we will gather to volunteer at the Second Harvest Food Bank in Brooklyn Park.

Watch the weekly emails and the website for sign-ups soon.



### Mentor & Mentee Meetings

Working one-on-one with youth is a meaningful experience that we take seriously. The first Sunday of each month is designated as a Mentor/Mentee Sunday. If necessary, mentoring pairs can make arrangements that fit their 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.

Mentor/Mentee Sundays Coming Up: January 7, February 4, and March 3.

***Why do we do this?***  
***"To care for each other as we learn to  
live Christian lives together"***  
**Wednesday Night Programming**  
**Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m.**

**January**

**Middle School Confirmation J-Term**

(Grades 6-8)

January 3, 10, 17, and 24 (31 held as a snow day)

In collaboration with St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Bethel Lutheran Church, the Northfield ELCA churches will once again hold a collaborative J-Term. The month of January will be a chance for Lutheran youth in Northfield to come together and explore a variety of topics through the lens of faith.

**High School Youth Group**

(Grades 9-12)

January 3 Faith of a Child: Veggie Tales

January 10 Faith of a Child: Mr. Rogers & Daniel Tiger

January 17 Finals Self-Care Center

January 24 Faith of a Child: Sponge Bob

January 31 Wild Bible Stories: Jael, In the Tent, With the Metal Stake

**February**

**OWL**

See page 12 for more information.

**Middle School Confirmation and High School Youth Group**

(Grades 6-12)

Like in the season of Advent, throughout Lent the middle school and high school youth will attend the Holden Vespers services together and then gather downstairs in the Fellowship Hall to learn and share together and in small groups. This pattern will hold through spring break in March.

**Sunday Morning Youth Group**  
**(Grades 6-12)**  
**9:45-10:30 a.m., Youth Room**

On Sunday mornings during the school year, all youth are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 a.m. for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion. Each week we get a little practice using our Bibles and practice telling our shared story as a community of God's children.

**Children and Youth**



**Summer 2024  
Youth Summer Trips**

This summer's trip will be canoeing and camping at Amnicon. Four groups of eight youth and two chaperones will adventure up north July 7-12.

Sign-ups are coming soon!  
Watch the weekly emails and the website for details.

**Northfield Week  
at Good Earth Village  
along with Bethel and  
St. Peter's Churches  
June 23-28**

Good Earth Village offers camps for grades 2-7 with 2 or 5 night options (depending on grade).

Use code NORTHFIELD24 for an additional \$100 off a full week or \$50 off a half week as a "campership" from St. John's.

Visit  
<https://goodearthvillage.org/northfield>  
for details or contact Julie or Kristin with questions.



# the WOMEN'S page

2024

## January Gatherings

### Baby Boomers

Saturday, Jan. 6, 11:30-1:00  
Holiday Luncheon @ Ruth's on  
Stafford

### Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Jan. 13 9:00am  
St. John's Fireside Rm

### Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Jan. 11, 1:30pm  
St. John's Library

### Lydia & Paul Circle

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

### Mary Circle

Friday, Jan. 12, 1:00pm  
St. John's Fireside Room

### Wellspring

(for 30-50 somethings)  
Monday Jan. 8  
6:30-8:00 pm  
Fireside Room

### Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

2nd & 4th Thursday  
10:00a St. John's Library

### Knitters (World Vision)

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 10am  
Kathy Vang's home  
414 Waterwheel Dr. Dundas

### Night Knitters!

1st & 3rd Wednesday  
6:00pm, St. John's Library

### Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays, 9:00a - noon,  
Fellowship Hall



Reminder: Make your reservation for our

## Annual Christmas Carol Luncheon

at Ruth's on Stafford 410 Stafford Ln South, Dundas

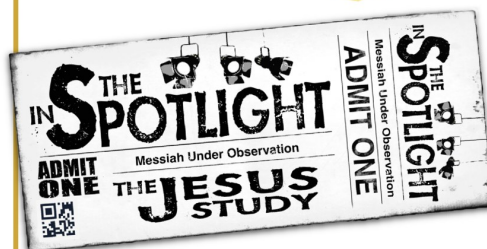
Saturday, January 6 (Epiphany!)  
11:30-1:00

All women of St. John's are welcome. Reservations are taken between services in the Commons and online: [women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com). Tickets are \$25 (paid in advance, non-refundable) can be purchased at the sign up table, cash of check, or via PayPal: [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/women](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/women).

## TRIENNIAL MUSINGS by Alison Kavanaugh

"Justice is what love looks like in public" -Rev. Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy

I was fortunate to receive a scholarship from the St. John's WELCA group to attend the Triennial Convention in Phoenix, AZ in September. I quickly realized that the theme, "Just Love" was not merely a call to love one another, but it was also a call to work for justice as a way of showing our love as Christians. I went to Phoenix fairly weighted down by the heaviness of the world. Although the problems of the world certainly continued after the event, I felt filled with hope after meeting and hearing so many women who are courageously speaking out and working tirelessly for justice as women in all corners of the world. I thank God for all of them. Being able to share these experiences and conversations with other women from our church and synod solidified the experience for me as one I will never forget.



## NEW BIBLE STUDY

Start the new year with this study, which holds a spotlight on Jesus and his ministry, following the Gospel of Mark. Weekly, through Spring 2024

### Wednesday Evenings

5:30 pm-6:30'ish  
St. John's lower level, Rm 19

Your choice of times

or

### Thursday Mornings

9:00 am-10:00'ish  
Zdenek's, 2121 Ontario Ln.

Zoom is available for both times/venues

Contact [women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com) for links and instructions



## ST. JOHN'S WOMEN 2023 a Year in Review

**Our Education/Justice Committee** welcomed the Northfield community to be enlightened by local, state and national speakers and experts on a variety of current justice issues: *Courageous Conversations*. Our topics:

Immigrants at our southern border  
Christian Nationalism  
Sustainable farming for immigrants and low-income farmers  
Finding Common Cause Across Religious Differences  
Sexual & Gender Minorities: Justice & the Importance of Family Support  
Stories of Hope & Resilience in Occupied Palestine  
Continuing *Courageous Conversations* Book Club

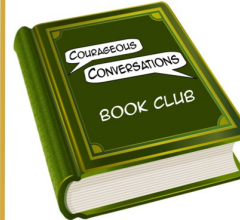
**Our Stewardship Committee** brought us "Mission Morning" with 60 women in attendance. Our crafters support Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Global Health Ministries (GHM), Community Action Center (CAC) Habitat for Humanity, and St. John's. We sent financial support to MN synod, National WELCA, Bright Stars of Bethlehem, JRLC, Growing Katie's Fund, International Women's Leadership Fund, Lutheran Mideast Development, MIGIZI, and Operation Joy. A third knitting group began this fall. Our crafting circles made and distributed:

276 quilts  
31 knitted prayer shawls & 3 baby baptismal blankets  
22 baby blankets  
38 children's sweaters,  
7 children's hats  
103 Baby kits  
75 Personal Care kits  
60 Hospice kits  
201 School backpack kits  
9 sheets & 28 pillowcases  
15 fabric kits

*Blessed beyond measure that  
our  
Blessings are meant to  
Bless others*

**Our Discipleship Committee** hosted coffee chats for new women congregants and participated in St. John's Ministry Fair. We supported three international St. Olaf students, recipients of ELCA's International Women's Leadership Fund award with cards, calls, goodies, and gifts. The Discipleship Committee also supported St. John's five circles, and helped launch a sixth, beginning this January. We also hosted the Great Lutheran Cookie Bake-Off & packed & distributed 72 boxes of Christmas cookies to homebound & assisted-living congregants, ...and... field trips, parties, and conferences:

Hosted Annual Christmas Luncheon & Carols at Ruth's on Stafford  
Field Trip to Hocokato Ti Museum  
Field Trip to "For the People" at the Guthrie  
Cannon River WELCA Conference  
Women's Day at Good Earth Village  
So Mn Synod Women's Convention  
6 women traveled to Phoenix, AZ, for the WELCA Triennial



### Courageous Conversations Book Club

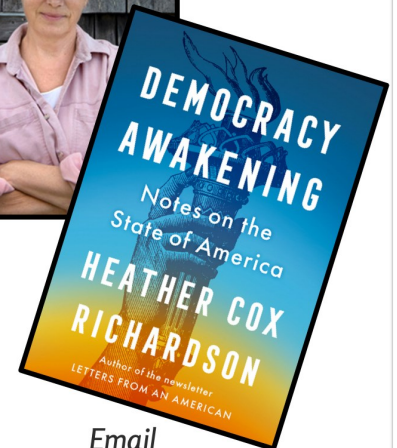
#### DEMOCRACY AWAKENING by Heather Cox Richardson

Available at Content Books,  
on the book group shelf.

Thursdays  
4 - 5:30 p.m.  
on zoom:

January 25  
February 8 & 22  
March 14 & 28

April 11



Email

dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com  
for reading plan and zoom link

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



#### Like us & Friend us on Facebook:

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

#### Correspondence:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com

#### Visit our web pages:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women



## News and Updates

### Pub Theology in January

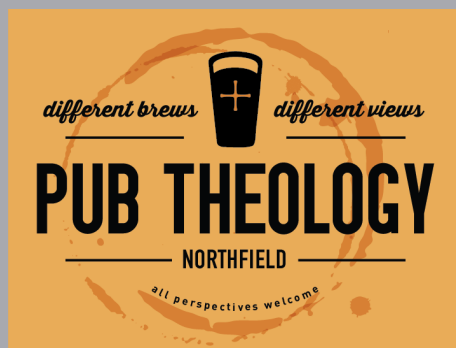
What is Pub Theology?

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 Mondays,  
January 8 and January 29,  
from 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
at The Contented Cow.

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

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



## An Epiphany Invitation

Have you ever thought you might like to write? Many have discovered that writing as a creative outlet can help us understand our past and renew our energy for living the Christian life.

How have our stories transformed us?

You're invited to join us on an Epiphany journey of inspiration and discovery through writing and sharing our stories in a safe place. Whether you want to write for yourself, for others, or to leave a legacy, we welcome you.

Time: Tuesday Mornings, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Dates: January 9, 16, 23 & 30

Place: St. John's Library

Questions? Please feel free to contact Barb or Chris.

Barb Kuhlman, long-time member of St. John's, former therapist  
[bkuhlman47@gmail.com](mailto:bkuhlman47@gmail.com)

Chris Engstrom, Spiritual Director, retired Pastor  
[revchristea@me.com](mailto:revchristea@me.com)

## Lenten Book Read begins on February 18

Our Lenten Book read takes a deep dive into the Jewish context of the New Testaments with Amy-Jill Levine's *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*.

Levine is a widely noted Jewish scholar of the New Testament and the author of *Light of the World*, which we read during Advent. In *The Misunderstood Jew* Levine seeks to undo longstanding Christian misunderstandings of Jesus's relationship to Jews and Judaism in the conviction that this will help strengthen relationships between Jews and Christians today.



Book discussions will be held on Sundays at 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday afternoons at 4:15 p.m. beginning on Sunday, February 18 (continuing Sundays, February 25, March 3, 10; Wednesdays, February 21, 28, March 6, 13). An online discussion is also possible if there is interest or need. Look for sign-up sheets and books for sale in the Commons on Sundays, January 28, February 4, and 11.



## 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 Arielle Loy for leading music, Marcia Yernberg and Emmett Norrie for accompanying music, Kristy Harms for helping with the speaking roles, and to Brian Evenson and Judy Swanson with set design. And, thank you to the children who shared their musical gifts during the offering. It truly warmed our hearts to watch the children share their gifts and tell the Christmas story with the congregation.



## 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 3**  
*No Meal - Christmas Break*

**Wednesday, January 10**  
Totchos with the Fixings

**Wednesday, January 17**  
Meatball Stroganoff

**Wednesday, January 24**  
Pizza Burgers

**Wednesday, January 31**  
Mac & Cheese w/Hot Dogs



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

## News and Updates



### Make a Difference, Save a Life.

St. John's has hosted several American Red Cross blood drives already during 2023.

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

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

**Upcoming Blood Drive**  
Monday, January 8  
1:00-6:00 p.m.  
in St. John's Hall

You can sign up online  
at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
or by calling 1-800-733-2767.

## Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) Information Session Sunday, January 7, from 10:00 – 10:30 a.m., Undercroft

This winter/spring, St. John's is offering the Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) sexuality program for high schoolers. O.W.L. is a curriculum designed to teach the social, emotional, and spiritual 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 7, in the Undercroft (downstairs) from 10:00-10:30 a.m.

### Important Dates:

January 7 - OWL Information Session  
Feb 4 – Parents Only Session - Required  
Feb 10 – Opening OWL Retreat  
Feb 21 – OWL Session  
Feb 28 – OWL Session  
March 6 – OWL Session  
March 13 – OWL Session  
March 20 – OWL Session  
April 14 – Closing OWL Retreat

If your high schooler is ready to sign up, please email Pastor Jonathan at [jdavis@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@stjohnsnorthfield.org).



## The Northfield ELCA Congregations are Considering a Coordinated Visit to Holden Village in Early August of 2024

Households must still register individually, but a coordinated visit gives us opportunities to share travel plans and wisdom in planning a Holden journey. If you are interested, contact [Pastor Pam](mailto:Pastor Pam) and explore Holden's website at [holdenvillage.org](http://holdenvillage.org). Registration for summer 2024 will open in January.



## Christmas Day Dinner

This year's Christmas Day dinner served approximately **280 people** consisting not only of St. John's members, but also many others from beyond our congregation! It was wonderful to see so many lined up to feast with us that day! Many thanks and appreciation for the gifts of food and beverage from our **67 generous donors**, and for the diligent help of our **64 awesome volunteers** who helped put it all into action, ensuring that everyone who came was welcomed and well-fed. Thanks to our volunteer musicians Marcia Yernberg and Julie Zdenek, we enjoyed beautiful piano music throughout the event, adding to the festive vibe. It was such a pleasure to all work together to provide this service to our community!



## 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, 2024, to direct any remaining 2023 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).





## News and Updates



### Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during  
will be on the following Sunday:  
January 7

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.

## St. Olaf Choir Breakfast: Donations and Clean-up Helpers are Needed!

As a way to thank the choir for blessing us with their beautiful music, we serve them breakfast in St. John's Hall prior to the early service. Thus, we need food donations and a few helpers.

If you can donate an egg bake, muffins, fruit, juice, or a crockpot of oatmeal, or, if you can assist with clean-up in the kitchen and hall following the breakfast at 8:30 a.m., please click this link to sign up in CCB: [St. Olaf Choir Breakfast Food Donations & Help Sign-up](#), or email Angie Gehring at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org), or call the church office. Thank you very much!

## The Solar Panel Project Approved by the Congregation in August 2023 has been Fast-Tracked

We expect installation in spring of 2024. If you would like to donate in 2023 to this capital appeal, please mark your donation "capital projects" or "solar panels."

## Sunday Hospitality

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!

## 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!

### Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (February 2024 Edition):

January 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.

## News and Updates

### 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

Kristin Partlo

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

### Facility Manager

Steve Harner

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

### Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

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

### Music Staff

Green Bouzard - Jubilate Choir

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

Arielle Loy - Children's Music Director and  
Early Childhood Specialist

[arielleloy@gmail.com](mailto:arielleloy@gmail.com)

David Sims and Will Fecko - Directors of  
Rejoice Ringers

### Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

[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

Kathy Shea

[kathleen.louise.shea@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.louise.shea@gmail.com)



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**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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



# ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**