



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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JANUARY 2026



## Inside this issue:

- 2 St. John's YouTube Channel
- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 Stephen Ministry - New Beginnings
- 7 Children and Youth Summer Camp/Trip
- 9 Next Courageous Conversations Book Read
- 10 Accompany Spring Session 2026 for Newcomers
- 11 Advent and Christmas 2025
- 12 Join the Lifting Voices Choir

## St. Olaf Choir Scheduled to Sing at St. John's on Sunday, January 18

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 18.

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.

Prior to first service, breakfast for the choir will be served in St. John's Hall. For ways to help with the breakfast, please see page 10.

**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
*Sundays*

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

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

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

## 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 a.m. Sunday  
KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM  
[kymnradio.net](http://kymnradio.net)



### Video

St. John's YouTube Channel  
[www.youtube.com/@StJohnsNorthfield](http://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsNorthfield)



[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,

In the last couple of years, our Church Council devotions have been centering around a common book read. In 2025, we selected Martin Luther King Jr's collection of sermons *Strength to Love*.

Over and over again, we were struck by how these words from over 50 years ago still ring as prophetic words for us today. King's truth-telling to the church about what it means to witness to Christ's love in the face of unjust powers was in constant conversation with Scripture. His language is occasionally dated, but much of what he says about the forces that were at work to sustain segregation still rings true now. One of the reasons for that is that – unlike so many “church books” written today – *Strength to Love* is sermons, focused on interpreting Scripture.

This year, we are turning to another book that is decades old, yet still eerily accurate at describing the shape of our world: Walter Brueggemann's *The Prophetic Imagination*, first published in 1978. Brueggemann died last year and is remembered as one of the most formative scholars of the Old Testament of his generation, taking the dry historical approaches of the previous generation to a broader audience by understanding the varied voices of the Old Testament as diverse testimonies to God's work.

Brueggemann's work was instrumental in the theology of the late Dan Erlander, the Lutheran pastor whose illustrated Bible overview *Manna and Mercy* is our textbook for teaching catechism and confirmation students about the story of God.

In turn, Dan Erlander's work was instrumental in bringing the Rev. Alan Storey, a South African Methodist pastor, to teach in the United States. Northfield will be one stop in Alan Storey's visit to the U.S. this April. He brings his personal experience from the struggle against apartheid and ongoing work for reconciliation in South Africa to his passionate preaching and biblical teaching.

We are woven into a grand tradition of people who have sought to understand what it means to read the Bible in *our* time. As this new year begins, we invite you to read, to discuss, and, as Karl Barth said, to take the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. In so doing, we keep trying to understand what Jesus meant when he said:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set free those who are oppressed,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

*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 or 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 last year in this month.*

**January 1, 2025**  
Joan Halvorson

**January 5, 2025**  
John Ferguson

**January 22, 2025**  
Donna James

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



## Prayer Buddies During Lent

Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 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 a Buddy please contact Julie Brehmer, 507-645-4429 or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Thank you!

## Make a Difference, Save a Life.

St. John's has hosted many American Red Cross blood drives in the past few years, 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 12, from 12:00-6:00 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.





## Stephen Ministry: New Beginnings

January is the month of new beginnings and a fresh start. Many choose this time of year to develop New Year's resolutions as they look at the year ahead. These resolutions are similar to "I will lose weight" or "I will exercise more." The problem with resolutions is that they are often not achieved. As we go about living daily, they are put aside for another day.

Another approach is that the New Year gives us an opportunity to thoughtfully consider our hopes and aspirations for the New Year beyond simple resolutions. Centering these aspirations and hopes in our faith, here are a few examples to consider:

- I will honor, respect, and nurture my relationships with family and friends.
- I will reach out and care for others in need.
- I will love God's creation, and do all I can to promote caring for the planet Earth.
- I will develop a deeper relationship with God through prayer, study, and involvement at St. John's.
- I will work to become an instrument of peace in my home, locally, nationally, and globally.

These aspirations, grounded in love, focus on what God calls each of us to commit to in our interactions with others and the world we live in. Anticipating 2025, will you embrace God's promise of grace and imagine a new beginning as you grow in faith?

If you or someone you know is ready for a faith-filled new beginning, please call a pastor (507-645-4429) to discuss whether a Stephen Minister would be of help.

## Sunday Evening Gatherings 5:00-5:30 p.m., First UCC

Please join us on Sunday evenings for a time of singing, candle lighting, contemplation, and Communion.

**JOIN US FOR THE  
EVENING  
GATHERING**

*All are welcome!*

The Evening Gathering is facilitated by lay people in Northfield. Come for a time of connection, community, and quiet grounding to prepare for the coming week.

Questions can be emailed to [theeveninggathering@gmail.com](mailto:theeveninggathering@gmail.com).

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

**December 28, 2025**

*Lila Prehall*



### Radio Broadcasts

**December 7, 2025**

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

**December 14, 2025**

Given by friends of St. John's.

**December 21, 2025**

Given by friends of St. John's.

**December 24, 2025**

Given by Marie Benson and family.

**December 25, 2025**

Given in memory of  
Ruth Legvold's father, Gustav Odegaard,  
on the anniversary of his birthday.

**December 28, 2025**

Given by friends of St. John's.

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

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children to Remember

#### Sunday School Schedule

January 4, 11, 18,  
*No Sunday School on January 25*

#### Wednesday After School Schedule

January 7, 14, 21, and 28

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

Sunday, January 11, Noon-2:00 p.m.  
St. John's Hall

#### Pajama and Movie Morning During Sunday School

Sunday, January 18

#### Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, February 16, NO SCHOOL  
Grades 2-5  
Flaherty's Northfield Lanes



**Sunday, January 18**

**Pajama and Movie  
Morning during  
Sunday School!**

**Watch for more  
information!**

## Third Grade Catechism Retreat Sunday, January 11

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion.

When: Sunday, January 11

When: Noon—2:00 pm, St. John's Hall

If you are unable to attend, please contact Julie at 507-645-4429 or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## 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 telling our shared story as a community of God's children.

Youth Group will meet on Sundays, January 4, 11, and 18. No Youth Group on January 25.

## Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, February 16 is a NO SCHOOL DAY so we're heading to the bowling alley!

**Who:** Grades 2-5

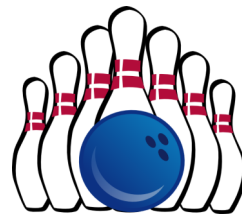
**When:** 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Meet at Flaherty's Northfield Lanes

**Cost:** \$11.00 (Games + Shoes + Snacks)

Scholarships available. Please pay with cash, or if by check, make it payable to Flaherty Northfield Lanes.

Parent or High School Chaperones are appreciated!





## Good Earth Village Summer Camp Registrations are Now Open

Good Earth Village, located in Spring Valley, has opened the 2026 summer registration site online.

**Northfield Week at GEV is June 21 – 26 for children in grades 2-6.**

Here are the camp options:

Discover Camp for kids in Grades 2-4, June 24-26

Seekers Camp for kids in Grades 3-4, June 21-26

Stargazers Camp for kids in Grades 5-6, June 21-26

**For Northfield Week use sponsorship codes:**

**NORTHFIELD26FULL** for Seekers and Stargazer Camps, sponsorship of \$100

**NORTHFIELD26HALF** for Discover Camp, sponsorship of \$50

**You may also use GEV Discount Codes:**

**SUPEREARLY2026**-use if you register by January 25, 2026, 20% off

**SIBLING2026**-use if more than one sibling is attending. 25% off

The discount and sponsorship codes will be entered on the 'My Cart' page. If you need to use more than one code, enter them separately.

Good Earth Village website: [goodearthvillage.org/summer-programs/](http://goodearthvillage.org/summer-programs/)

### Why do we do this?

*"To care for each other as we learn to live Christian lives together"*

### Wednesday Night Programming

January - Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Middle School Confirmation J-Term**

(Grades 6-8)

January 7, 14, 21, and 28 (February 4 held as a Snow Day)

This month, St. John's middle school youth from Bethel and St. Peter's for a chance to have confirmation with other Lutherans in town.



Scan Me

In classes like wooden-spoon making, world religions, art, and K Pop Demon Hunters (a popular movie), they will explore faith and make new connections in their lives.

**High School Youth Group**

(Grades 9-12)

High school meets with Pastor Jonathan during the month of January in the Youth Room.

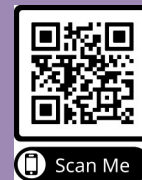
## Children and Youth

### 2026 Summer Trip

This summer, we are going on a service/mission trip to Milwaukee.

High school and middle school youth will travel with youth from First UCC and St. Peter's.

Register by January 15!



Scan Me



### 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 4  
February 1



# the WOMEN'S page



## January Gatherings

### Baby Boomers

Saturday, Jan 3rd, 11:00 →  
WELCA Christmas Luncheon

### Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Jan. 8th, 1:30pm  
St. John's Library

### Lydia & Paul Circle

Wednesday, Jan. 14th,  
9:30 Coffee 10:00am Study  
St. John's Library

### Mary Circle

Friday, Jan. 9th, 1:00pm  
Fireside Room

### Wellspring

(GenXers & Millennials)

Tuesday Jan. 6th, 6:30-8:00pm  
St. John's Fireside Room

### Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Jan. 10th, 9-10:30  
Fireside Room

### Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursdays, Jan. 8th & 22nd  
10:00am St. John's Library

### Evening Knitters

Wednesday, Jan. 7th  
6:00pm, St. John's Library

### Wellspring Craft & Conversation

Wednesday, Jan. 21st  
5:30-7:30pm  
Fireside Room

### Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays  
9:00am - noon  
Fellowship Hall



## ANNUAL WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON!

¡Feliz Navidad!

Saturday  
January 3, 2026  
11:00am-1:00pm

\$15 prior; \$20 @ the door

Contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli for last-minute  
signups: ladylynneg@gmail.com

"South-of-the-Border"

## THANK OFFERINGS

At the annual WELCA Christmas Carol lunch on January 3, we encourage women to make a Thankoffering gift. Thankofferings support all aspects of the national WELCA organization including the ongoing ministries of WELCA, communication channels with congregations, justice and advocacy work, and administration of grants and scholarship programs.



**Register now** for the Women of the ELCA Triennial, this summer in Des Moines, IA. July 16-19, 2026.

Join thousands of women from across the country for great speakers, worship, music, and inspiration. Register before January 5th!

"The plenary guest speakers were phenomenal and delivered messages that were inspiring and thought-

provoking!" –Pam Groves-Gaggioli

"The theme of the triennial was "Just Love", and both love and justice streamed through all the speakers. I have thought of it so often, especially during these turbulent times."

–Alison Kavanaugh

"In addition to the plenary sessions, there were excellent workshops on a wide variety of topics, from Bible studies to social justice to missions and more. There is something of value for everyone." –Jane Rinehart

"The experience of gathering with other Lutheran women from all over the country, as well as having a chance to bond with women from St. John's was also a personal blessing!" –Jo Franklin

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



**February 5, 2026 7:00pm** **COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS**

**FREE SPEECH AND HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER TRUMP 2.0**



**- Amna Khalid,**

Associate Professor of History, Carleton College, will share her insights and expertise on issues relating to censorship and free expression.



**SALT**

The church-wide **WELCA** fundraising team has launched a new appeal to close last year's \$250,000 funding gap. The appeal's name comes from Leviticus:

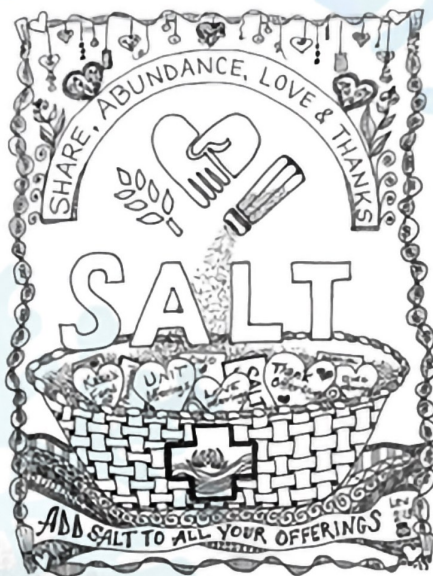
*"Add salt to all your offerings." Leviticus 2:13*

We are not just called to give our "first fruits" but to offer them with seasoning. We will be collecting a free will offering for SALT at the Christmas Carols luncheon.

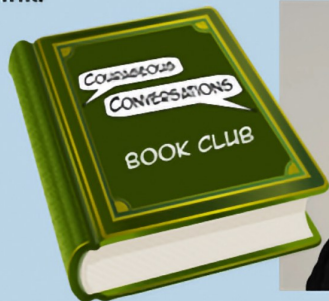
One basket will be for SALT & one basket will be for the annual Thank Offering.

Your generosity toward our national WELCA supports the day-to-day operations (salaries, insurance, postage, technology, rent) and allows us to continue our women's ministries, anti-racist efforts, Bold Café, Gather magazine, scholarships, grants, and so much more!

Please encourage those you know to SALT their offerings to Women of the ELCA too. Make your special SALT donation today!



**Next Courageous Conversation** book read will be "Giving Up is Unforgivable" by Joyce Vance. Discussions will be on zoom Thursdays 1/29, 2/12 and 2/26 from 4-5:30. Anyone interested in joining can email [dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com) for the reading plan and zoom link.



**Giving Up Is Unforgivable**

A MANUAL FOR  
KEEPING  
A DEMOCRACY

**Joyce Vance**

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
ETHICS: A DISCIPLINED REBELLION

**A Busy & Productive 2025!**

With the help of all our crafters, quilters, knitters, and Mission Morning volunteers, St. John's Women have produced and sent the following this year:

**QUILTS:**

**237** quilts made and sent – to Lutheran World Relief, Global Health Ministries, Three Links Care Center, Community Action Center's Operation Joy, and Wallflower House - for youth in Northfield

**3** quilts auctioned; two to Runway Revival and one to Laura Baker - flannel gala

**LWR:**

**120** Personal Care Kits  
**250** School Backpack Kits  
**108** Baby Care Kits  
**16** Fabric Kits

**GHM:**

**148** Newborn Kits  
**7** Knit baby blankets  
**14** Knit hats  
**140** Hospice kits  
**1071** Rolled Bandages  
**40** Twin Flat Sheets  
**25** Pillowcases  
**3** Suitcases

**St. John's Members**

**27** Prayer Shawls  
**3** Baby Baptismal Blankets

**World Vision**

**62** Knit sweaters

**Sara's House & Ruth's House**

**3** Boxes of supplies



**Like us & Friend us on Facebook:**  
"Women of St. Johns" @ Kvinner St. Johns

**Web**

**pages:** [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women)

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

## 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 7**  
Tamale Pie

**Wednesday, January 14**  
Scalloped Potatoes w/ Ham

**Wednesday, January 21**  
Mostaccioli

**Wednesday, January 28**  
Chicken Stuffing Casserole

**WEDNESDAY**  
*Night Meals*  
**Come share a meal!**  
**Wednesdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m.**  
**St. John's Hall**

## Food Donations Needed for St. Olaf Choir Breakfast

For many years the talented St. Olaf Choir begins their musical winter tour by blessing us with the sound of their angelic voices for both worship services on a Sunday in January.

To thank them and show our appreciation, we serve them a hot breakfast before they sing. **In order to make this breakfast possible, we need food donations, which include the following:** egg bakes (use a recipe of your own choosing), muffins, fruit, and juice. The egg bakes must be brought to our church kitchen fully cooked, warm and ready to eat by 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 18. Muffins, fruit, and juice can be dropped off either that morning by 7:00 a.m., or anytime 2-3 days earlier during office hours (9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.). A few helpers are also needed for the serving and clean-up. **Whatever you can do or bring will be greatly appreciated!**

Look for a sign-up sheet in the Commons, sign up online thru CCB or email Angie Gehring at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Thank you!

## Accompany Spring Session 2026 for Newcomers!

Are you new to our church community and interested in learning more about St. John's? Are you considering St. John's as your possible new church home? Are you thinking about becoming a member? This late winter/early spring our program for newcomers called "Accompany" will be offered to anyone pondering these questions!

Accompany meets on Sundays during the coffee fellowship hour for approximately 6 weeks. While this program is not a big time commitment, it provides a space to build connections with other newcomers and long-time members alike, while learning about the many opportunities we have here for active involvement and spiritual nourishment. Meetings are led by a facilitator and will provide guest speakers from various staff, boards, or other St. John's groups. If you are interested in receiving more information about the Accompany program and what dates it will be offered, contact Angie Gehring at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org), who looks forward to hearing from you!



## Save the Date...

### ***Manna and Mercy Retreat with Rev. Alan Storey, April 24-25, 2026***

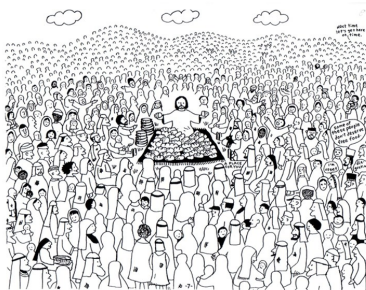
South African pastor Alan Storey is returning to St. John's to lead a *Manna and Mercy Retreat* on Friday evening, April 24, through Saturday, April 25. Alan came to St. John's in the fall of 2016 to lead this retreat, which had a lasting impact for many in our community. Alan is an ordained elder of the United Methodist Church of South Africa and is appointed to the Central Methodist Mission (CMM) in Cape Town.



His commitment to the peacemaking Jesus was tested early in life when he faced conscription into the apartheid regime's military. After spending a year of discernment working in Australia, he returned to South Africa, declaring he would never fight in the apartheid army – or any army. He was arrested and faced trial with a six-year prison sentence as the likely outcome. Alan's trial was abandoned, and he became the last conscientious objector to be tried in apartheid South Africa.

The Bible is meant to be an instrument of God to enable abundant life for God's creation. Sadly, through the ages it has been read and interpreted in such a way that it has been used as an instrument of human domination and death—to cheer on the crusades, support slavery, advocate Apartheid, glorify genocide, sanction sexism, bless war and worship prosperity in the face of the poor, just to name just a few horrors of our human history. During the Manna and Mercy retreat, we will take a fresh look at scripture through the interpretive lens of Jesus' life, death and resurrection and God's overall call for each one of us to partner with God in mending this fractured world. The hope is that after we have done so, our interpretations and use of the scriptures will be truly liberating and life-enabling.

Using Daniel Erlander's book *Manna and Mercy* (a book we use for Confirmation here at St. John's), Alan Storey will take us on a journey from Genesis to Revelation over the course of two days, with sensitivity to the contexts in which the scriptures were written and of our present day. We hope you will join us for this event!



Please **save these dates** and stay tuned for registration details in early 2026!

## 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, 2026, to direct any remaining 2025 Choice Dollars.

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

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





## Advent Fair 2025

Thanks to everyone who attended  
Advent Fair this year!

Many thanks to the Wednesday Meal Team  
and Peggy Dell for the delicious meal.

Thank you to the Advent Fair team,  
Jill Enestvedt and Katherine Norrie and to the many  
volunteers who help with all the activities.

Such a fun event!



*St. John's Youth caroling at 1000 Cannon Valley Drive in December.*



## Thank you to everyone who participated in the Children's Christmas Program.

Your children did such a great job!

Thank you to the children, teachers & assistants,  
the program team,  
Arielle Loy, Sue Brockman and Kristy Harms.  
and the choir directors,  
Arielle Loy, Nathan Proctor, David Sims,  
along with accompanist, Marcia Yernberg.

Special thanks to Eden Kaiser for being our narrator.



## Christmas Day Dinner

It was a great joy to have **served 286 people** at this year's community Christmas Dinner! It was wonderful to see so many beloved familiar faces along with numerous new ones, which included a few international students, as well! Many thanks and appreciation for the gifts of delicious food and beverages from our **74 generous donors**, and for the incredible assistance of **over 62 awesome volunteers** who helped put it all into action, ensuring that everyone who came was properly welcomed and well-fed!

And, thanks to our talented volunteer musicians Julie Zdenek and Rhonda Reece, those in attendance enjoyed continuous beautiful piano music throughout their dinner, adding to the festive joyful vibe! It was such a pleasure to work with everyone to provide this meal to our families and the greater community!

*Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator*



## News and Updates

### Pub Theology in January

What is Pub Theology?

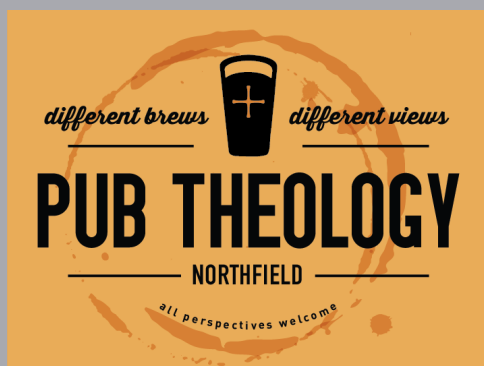
It is a conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture.

No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet Monday,  
from 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
(Watch the Sunday bulletin and E-Voice  
for dates and location.)

Topics vary and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the E-Voice, and in an email list. If you'd like to be added to the Pub Theology email list, contact Pastor Jonathan.

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



## Sing with us! Join the Lifting Voices Choir!

Become a part of a vibrant, supportive community choir that understands and values your journey.

**Who can join?** People living with dementia and their care partners who join as a "duo" and also individual community volunteer singers. No singing or music reading experience required!

**What is rehearsal like?** Weekly 90 minute rehearsals with warmups, familiar songs, new music, and social time.

**Do we perform?** Yes! Each season ends with a community concert.

Join us weekly on Mondays starting January 19 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Fifty North, 1651 Jefferson Parkway.

Pre registration is available by contacting Michelle Brant at FiftyNorth at 507-664-3707 or email Kristin Kivell or registration forms are available on the Faith & Health Bulletin Board in the Commons. You are welcome to attend the first rehearsal on January 19 to check it out and register at that time as well.

Scholarships available to assist with the suggested \$50 donation/registration per singing duo. Please reach out to Sally Lindell (612-382-5292) or Susan Lohmann (507-271-3005) with questions about registration and/or scholarship.

The St. John's Foundation is contributing to the scholarship fund.

### Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (February 2026 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.

## Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate and Thistle Farms Sales

Fair Trade Coffee and Thistle Farms items are available for purchase during fellowship hour between worship services on Sunday, Oct. 5.

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



# ISAIAH - Working for Justice

Dozens of us were able to attend "A Light in the Storm," the ISAIAH MN event held on December 13, where we gathered with 5000 people from across Minnesota. It was inspiring and invigorating to hear from so many people of faith about why they are joining together right now to work for affordability, dignity and community, and to preserve and protect our democracy. It was motivating to feel the commitment and passion in the room. And it was encouraging to see all the specific opportunities for us to participate in the next few months.

The best way to get involved is to attend the Caucus and Action Training in St. John's Hall on Tuesday, January 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. There you will learn what you need to know about caucuses and the additional opportunities mentioned below. Here is the link to register: <https://secure.ngpvan.com/QxTOMXh-NoaZWbXYBjRaaQ2>. This is how we get organized together! You are welcome to attend instead at First UCC on January 6 or 27, or at Bethel on January 13, if that is better for you. This is how we get organized together!

1. Attend your precinct caucus at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, to help elect delegates, or be elected yourself. Locations will be announced by the state in mid-January.
2. Participate in the Statewide Affordability Action at the State Capitol on Ash Wednesday, February 18, from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
3. Join the group engaging with local government in February/March.
4. Join thousands at our State Capitol (or other event locations) at 3:00 p.m. on Palm Sunday, March 29.
5. Join with tens of thousands of faithful people from across America at a National Prophetic Faith Action in Philadelphia on July 3, the eve of our nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
6. If you would like to help lead in the planning for these events, attend an ISAIAH Advanced Leader Training session:
  - January 17: Southern MN Advanced Leader Training Rochester (location TBD), 12:30 p.m.  
[https://secure.ngpvan.com/Xn4p8mifaE-WrbfTo\\_7dEw2](https://secure.ngpvan.com/Xn4p8mifaE-WrbfTo_7dEw2)
  - January 18: Greater MN Advanced Leader Training, Virtual 12:30p.m.  
[https://secure.ngpvan.com/nccygd5ZooimSRUHPT1\\_og2](https://secure.ngpvan.com/nccygd5ZooimSRUHPT1_og2)
  - January 26: Dakota Co. area Advanced Leader Training, Amazing Grace Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
<https://secure.ngpvan.com/yAoayAQKlkqk8pRdzDS-Hw2>

Everyone is welcome, and needed. Please contact us for more information.

Rod Christensen, Ron Hebensperger, Carrie Dauner, Dan Dauner, Erik Holleque, Elise Helland, Kristi Wermager

## St. John's Staff

### Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

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

### Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

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

### Director of Children's Ministry

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### Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Kristin Partlo

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### Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

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

### Music Staff

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

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir Director and  
Early Childhood Specialist

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

David Sims - Director of Rejoice Ringers

### Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

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### Faith Community Nurse

Sally Lindell

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### Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring

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### Custodian Associate

Arturo Rosas

### Facility Manager

Steve Harner

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

### Congregation President

Michelle Kramer-Prevost

[mmko404@gmail.com](mailto:mmko404@gmail.com)



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**WEBSITE**

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

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

# ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**