



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 2

APRIL / MAY 2022

Please Note:

Upcoming events, dates, and times are as of the middle/end of March.

Due to the pandemic, these may change.

Watch the E-Voice, Sunday Bulletins, and our website for updates and changes or for more information call the church office.

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Palm Sunday, April 10

Procession with Palms and Holy Communion
8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 14

Holy Communion
12 noon and 6:15 p.m.

Good Friday, April 15

Liturgy of Good Friday
12 noon and 6:15 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 16

The Great Vigil of Easter
8:00 p.m.
Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College

Celebration of the Resurrection

Easter Sunday, April 17

Holy Communion
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
(8:30 a.m. service will be livestream and radio broadcast on KYMN 1080 AM / 95.1 FM)

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

8:30 a.m. Sundays

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

RADIO BROADCASTS

8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays
KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM
kymnradio.net

TV BROADCASTS

NTV Channel 187
7:30 p.m. Mon. / 7:00 p.m. Fri.
12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays
2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Livestream

8:30 a.m. Sundays
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org



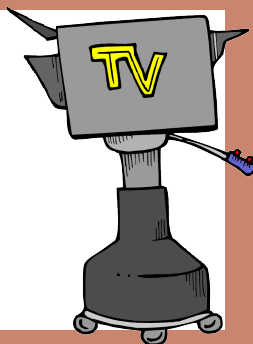
Radio Broadcasts

8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays
KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM
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

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

Remembering the Cross without Blaming the Jews

This March, the Lutheran Center for Faith and Community at St. Olaf welcomed Pastor Heidi Neumark, to talk about her book *Hidden Inheritance*, the story of her discovery that her grandparents were German Jews who died in the Holocaust. She explores how this knowledge changed her own sense of Christian identity, and how it renewed her determination to help the church grapple with its legacy of anti-Semitism and other forms of racial hatred.

At the same time this spring, New Testament scholar Amy Jill Levine called upon the ecumenical lectionary committee to stop assigning the Gospel of John as the perpetual text for Good Friday. Levine acknowledges that many efforts have been made to soften or alter John's language that seems to imply that "the Jews" were responsible for Jesus' death - even though Jesus clearly was a Jew. But Levine argues that we need to acknowledge that these efforts have failed. Good Friday centered around John still makes us sit uncomfortably with a representation of Jesus as somehow *different* from his own Jewish people. Levine says we can still keep reading John in Bible study, on other Sundays and in other contexts, but she argues meaningfully that when it comes to the day we focus on Jesus' death, John's Gospel continues to perpetuate a narrative that blames the Jews for Jesus' death. John is not our only option; we have three other Gospels that tell the story of Jesus' passion.

Swayed by these conversations, we have decided that this year's Palm Sunday and Good Friday gatherings will follow the Gospel of Luke, which is the Gospel we've been following since Advent in this lectionary year. If you don't regularly attend Good Friday services, you might not notice the difference; but we hope that this change will allow us to focus on the center of our faith in ways that don't continue to harm our spiritual siblings who are also children of Abraham.

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 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 these months last year.

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

April 11, 2021
Marlene Engstrom

April 30, 2021
Pauline Fagre

Stephen Ministry: How Do You Pray These Days?

Do you pray for good health anxiously as you put on a fresh mask? Do you pray for peace, cringing as horrific images flood your mind? Do you pray for those you love with questions you never expected to ask or hear? Do you pray with a sense that more losses than joys may be ahead?

You are not alone. Fretful nights and frightening realities help shape what has become the new normal for all of us. Layer on the usual human stresses and life can feel overwhelming. But really, you are not alone. God is with you. And if you or someone you know needs a reminder of that gift of divine presence, consider asking for a Stephen Minister.

This spring, a newly trained group of Stephen Ministers will be commissioned at St. John's: Ruth Smestad Anglin, Barry Becker, Carol Breimhorst, Erik Holleque, and Mary Holleque. Nita Kramer and Pastor Carol Sinykin were part of the group as well; they are members of Our Savior's in Faribault and will be commissioned there. All of them join current care givers available to meet regularly, one-on-one, with adults who could benefit from time with someone prepared to listen, pray together, and simply be present. Contact a pastor at 507-645-4429 to learn more.

Two Special St. John's Forums: Emotional Health - Tending to the Effects of the Pandemic

As we all try to find our way in this next phase and season of COVID, it is more and more clear that we, as a church and a community, are still living with the effects of the pandemic. Two years of chronic stress, periods of fearfulness, losses large and small, and the grind of perpetual change have taken a toll on all of us in different ways. How do we process and tend to these experiences? We can start by connecting and talking about them together. With the help of two local therapists, Erin Barnett and Elaine Nesbit, we will spend some intentional time thinking and sharing about the impact the pandemic has on us as individuals and as a community. We will also look forward and talk about what we are noticing in ourselves as Omicron winds down locally and more COVID restrictions are relaxed.

We hope you will join us for this two-part series in St. John's Hall and via Zoom at 9:45 a.m. on April 3 and May 1.

Radio Broadcasts

February 6

Given in memory of Charles Jacobson by Marilyn Jacobson.

February 13

Given in loving memory of Karen Swenson
by her husband Curt and her family.

February 20

Given in loving memory of Jim Bierman by Patsy & John Ophaug.

February 27

Given in memory of Dr. Bob Scholz.

March 6

Given in memory of Charles Jacobson by Marilyn Jacobson.

March 13

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

March 20

Given in memory of Duane Benson by family and friends.

March 27

Given in memory of Rev. Sylvan R. and Lucille Moe by
Rick and Nancy Moe.

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.

Meal Sharing During Lent

Lenten Vespers + Give to the Food Shelf + Soup To Go!

When:

Wednesday, April 6

What:

Modified Lenten Soup Supper with a Focus on Sharing Food

How:

“Share” a food item or monetary donation for the food shelf/CAC.
“Share” a To-Go Soup Meal from St. John's for you to take home.

Life and Growth

Births

March 21, 2022

Olive Mae Barvir

daughter of Amy Kraushaar & Scott Barvir

Baptisms

February 6, 2022

Sigrid Wanken

daughter of Bridget Draxler & Matthew Wanken

Deaths

December 10, 2021

David Gangsei

February 10, 2022

Howard Thorsheim

March 5, 2022

Tina Elg

March 11, 2022

Sigrid Johnson



Summer Worship Schedule Changes Begin May 29

Beginning Memorial Day weekend,
services will be at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

This schedule will continue
through September 11,
EXCEPT for the month of July,
when we will again have ONE service at
9:30 a.m. for that month.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

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

April 3	Sunday School
April 10	Sunday School
April 17	No Sunday School (Easter)
April 24	No Sunday School - 5k Run/Walk
May 1	Sunday School
May 8	Sunday School

Sunday Youth Group (9:45-10:30 a.m.)

April 3	Sunday Youth Group
April 10	Sunday Youth Group
April 17	No Youth Group (Easter)
April 24	No Youth Group (5k Run/Walk)

Wednesday Afterschool Programming

April 6	Programming
April 13	Programming
April 20	Programming
April 27	Programming
May 4	Programming
May 11	Programming

Wednesday Programs 6:15-7:30 p.m.)

April 6	MS & HS meet / OWL
April 13	No Programming (Holy Week)
April 20	Confirmation / HS Youth Group
April 27	Confirmation / HS Youth Group

Third and Fourth Grade Communion Retreat

Saturday, April 30
9:00-11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16
9:30 a.m., St. John's

Third Grade Baptism Retreat

Watch for Information about the 3rd Grade retreat in May

Summer Adventures for Ages 3-5th Grades

Summer is just around the corner and with summer comes great outdoor experiences! This year, kids are invited to participate in these Summer experiences:

Family VBS on Wednesdays, June 15 and 22 at Bethel Lutheran Church, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

St. John's, along with Bethel, Emmaus and St. Peter's Churches, offer this event. Register online on the St. John's website.

Summer Camp for Grades 2-5

St. John's is offering a summer camp option for kids in grades 2-5 at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN. Sign up today!

Grades 2-4: Settler's Camp, August 3 - August 5

Three exciting days and two fun nights make for a perfect camp experience for younger campers. This camp introduces campers to GEV's week-long camp. Campers stay in Log Lodge.

Grades 3-5: Pathfinders Camp, July 31 - August 5

Campers meet new friends, serve others, and learn more about God's Creation through hikes in the woods, and spending time with GEV's on-site naturalist. Campers stay in the Hilltop Cabins.

3rd and 4th Grade Catechism Retreat

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited on Saturday, April 30, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion at in St. John's Hall.

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



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.

More updates will be sent weekly.

Register for Youth Summer Trips

This year our High School youth will go on a Mountaineers backpacking trip at Christikon Camp in Montana from July 9-15, and the Middle School youth will go to Amnicon Camp in Wisconsin for River Heroes Service Adventure to canoe in the Namekagon/St. Croix Scenic Riverway from June 19-24. Register online by following the following instructions:

**For students in High School during the 21-22 school year:
(Christikon Trip - July 9-15)**

(Complete the following online form)

1. <https://christikon.org/registration-individual/>
2. Choose "Mountaineers 1" trip (July 9-15).
3. If you need a **Physical** this year, begin to make an appointment with your doctor.
4. The cost for the trip is **\$400**. (you won't have to pay anything to sign up). Send your check to St. John's by summer (If the cost would otherwise deter you from coming, full and partial scholarships are available).

For students in Middle School during the 21-22 school year (Amnicon trip- June 19-24)

(Complete the following online form)

1. www.amnicon.org/sign-up
2. Click the button to "Join a Group"
3. Enter the Group ID Code: STJNRH221
4. If you need a **Physical** this year, begin to make an appointment with your doctor.
5. The cost for the trip is **\$300**. (You won't have to pay anything to sign up). Send your check to St. John's by Summer. (If the cost would otherwise deter you from coming, full and partial scholarships are available).

Wednesday Confirmation

Youth (grades 6-8) are encouraged to attend on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:30 p.m. as part of our Confirmation program. We are investing in community, belonging and integration, exploring aspects of **UBUNTU** - an African worldview centered around the interconnectedness of humanity, nature, and God. These gatherings will be led by Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Pastor Jonathan Davis, and Emmanuel Kaghondi.

Large group teaching of the story of scripture followed by guided smaller group discussion time.

High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group will continue to meet on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:15 p.m. to connect with each other and explore what it means to live a life rooted in Christ. Each week's activities will alternate between interest-driven faith discussions, BIG questions, service projects, and casual hangout times to foster community-ship with one another in the guidance of adults and supporting parent volunteers.

Children and Youth



9th grade

Mentor and Mentee Meetings

Working one-on-one with youth is a very meaningful experience that we take seriously. The first Sunday of each month is normally designated as a M & M Sunday but otherwise, you can make an arrangement that fits your schedule.

Service Project Events are also meant to put our faith into action and to enhance the Mentor/Mentee relationship. Opportunities for community events will be in the E-Voice, The Voice, and on the St. John's website.

Tentative Calendar

April 3 and May 1



Upcoming Events

April (Date TBD)
Sky Zone

April-May (Date TBD)
Ministry with The Key
(Meal Packaging)

April-May (Date TBD)
Outdoor Events

May (Date TBD)
Scavenger Hunt

the WOMEN'S page

April Gatherings

Baby Boomers
Saturday, Apr. 2, 4:30-6:00
Jane Rinehart's home
1001 Freedom Ct.

Breakfast Women's Group
Saturday, Apr. 9, 9:00a
St. John's Library

Elizabeth Circle
Thursday, Apr 14, 1:30p
St. John's Library

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

Mary Circle
Friday, Apr. 8, 1:00p
St. John's Fireside Rm

Ruth Circle
Thursday, Apr 14, 9:30a
Parkview West Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)
2nd & 4th Thursday
10:00a Room 19

Knitters (World Vision)
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 10am
Kathy Vang 645-4849

Quilters
Thursdays
8:30a - noon, Fellowship Hall



COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS

TORCH



**&
NORTHFIELD
Community College
Collaborative**

Past, Present, & Future

April 7, 2022 7:00pm via Zoom



**Sarah Lee
NCCC Director**



**Tessa Kiesow
TORCH Director**

Register now: www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/courageous



ANTI-RACISM
BUILDING the BELOVED COMMUNITY

THANK YOU
for another
great year of
Courageous
Conversations!
Stay tuned for
our 2022-2023
programs.

Cannon River Conference Spring Gathering "Cherish All Children"

Date:

Saturday, April 23, 2022

Place:

First Evangelical Lutheran, Kenyon

Time:

8:00-noon. Registration, Coffee, and Displays 8-9. Program - 9:00. Cost: \$12.00 Lunch included. Pre-Registration (for lunch count) preferred.

Presenter:

Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children/Lutheran Social Services

Registration: forms are at the Women's bulletin board in the Commons. Or contact Marilyn Calcutt

Phone: 507-645-2814 Email: merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com



May Gatherings

Baby Boomers

1st Saturday, 4:30-6:00
TBD

Breakfast Women's Group

Saturday, May 14, 9:00a
St. John's Library

Elizabeth Circle

2nd Thursday, 1:30p
St. John's Library

Lydia Circle

2nd Wednesday, 9:00a
Coffee and Conversation
10:00 Bible Study
St. John's Hall

Mary Circle

Friday, May 13, 1:00p
St. John's Fireside Rm

Ruth Circle

2nd Thursday, 9:30a
Parkview West Fireside Rm

BABY CARE KITS for LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Our next project! You are invited to help gather items that make up those kits.

- ✓ T-shirts, light weight (6-24 mos). No onesies
- ✓ Sleepers or sleep sets without feet (18-24 mos.)
- ✓ Hand towels – must be new. Dark colors preferred
- ✓ Diapers – must be new. Flat-fold preferred

Items can be left in baby care kit basket under the bulletin board in the Commons where there is also a full list of items needed. Our goal is to assemble at least 50 kits at the end of April or early May.

For questions or more information
contact Barb Eaves,
pbeaves@hotmail.com



THANK YOU! Because of your generosity, on March 15th we delivered 105 Personal Care Kits to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in St. Paul.



**WOMEN'S DAY
at Good Earth Village**

**Save the date!
Saturday, June 25, 2022**



News and Updates

Prayer Buddies During Lent

Ten of St. John's 4th or 5th graders are participating our Prayer Buddy ministry this year.

Prayer Buddies pray for their child during the Lenten season, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 2 until Easter Sunday, April 17.

Participating this year:

Otto Bash
with Prayer Buddy, Erik Lindell

Elliot Davis
with Prayer Buddy, Brian Evenson

Eleanor Godfrey
with Prayer Buddy, Kristin Partlo

Jude Hassanally
with Prayer Buddy, Jeff McLaughlin

Marin McBroom
with Prayer Buddy, Kristy Harms

Luke Nelson
with Prayer Buddy, Scott Swanson

Edie Pellinen
with Prayer Buddy, Betsy McLaughlin

Izzy Rudser
with Prayer Buddy, Arielle Loy

Edie Taggart
with Prayer Buddy, Jenny Nystrom

Luke Thorsheim
with Prayer Buddy, Barry Becker



Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 16

Children, up to grade 5, are invited to St. John's for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 16, at 9:30 a.m. Remember to bring a basket or bag for collecting eggs!



Can you help? We need individually wrapped candy and small items to fill the eggs. A donation basket will be in the upper Commons.

If you can volunteer to help the day of the hunt, please contact Julie at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thanks so much!

Meet the Author

Did you know we have a frequently published author at St. John's? Many of you do, but the chance to meet him and learn from him is coming soon. On Sunday, May 15, between services we will have the opportunity to listen to and learn from our very own Dr. Joseph Shaw.

Dr. Shaw was a professor of Religion at St. Olaf from 1957 to 1991. He has not slowed down in his retirement! He has published several theology books-about Christian Humanism among other things, but has published many works on the history of St. Olaf, its leaders and its organizations. This should be of interest to all of us whether we are Oles or not, because in the early years of both St. John's and St. Olaf the two were very closely united. The St. Olaf Choir began as the St. John's church choir. The presidents of St. Olaf were very involved in St. John's growth and development.



No one knows more about this than Joe Shaw and he knows how to make the stories interesting. We have these books in our library - an opportunity for us all.

The St. Olaf Center for college history is named the Shaw-Olson center for a good reason-because of Joe Shaw's many years of hard work, but also because of the work of Joan Olson, a long time St. John's member and president of the congregation.

This is an opportunity for all of us to grow in knowledge of our identity. Please join us on May 15 and meet the author!

2nd Sunday of Easter

ELCA Alleluia 5k Fun Run/Walk

April 24, 10:00 a.m.

The ELCA congregations of Northfield (St. Peter's, St. John's, and Bethel) are partnering on the 2nd Sunday of Easter to offer a unique worship service – a Fun Run/Walk! There will be a full 5k route as well as a half-distance option.

St. John's will offer its usual 8:30 a.m. service that morning including livestream and radio broadcast. The 10:45 a.m. service will not take place that day.

The gospels describe the first witnesses of the resurrection running to tell the good news – to share what is now the Easter greeting: *Alleluia! Christ is risen!* Believing those words was an embodied experience adrenaline helping them accept the joy and exhilaration. This year, we too will move our bodies, experiencing and sharing the familiar words in a new way, letting our bodies lead our believing.

The run/walk will formally begin at St. Peter's at 10:00 a.m. with song, prayer, scripture, and an introduction to the purpose of the day. Runners and walkers will then carry the Easter greeting to St. John's, where half-distance participants may join the procession onto Bethel.

You don't have to be a walker or a runner to participate! We need folks at each church to return the Easter greeting and to cheer as runners and walkers come by. Each congregation also hopes to offer musical encouragement. There is also a mass choir hymn. At 10:45 a.m., we will gather in the Bethel Sanctuary for communion and the conclusion of the service. You are then invited to a fish taco fellowship (in honor of Jesus' resurrection appearance at the beach). If you're not a fish person, other fixings will be available too.

While registration is free (website details to come soon), we will take a free-will offering for Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service (LIRS) - a well-respected non-profit that advocates and provides assistance to those who have to run for their lives.

All walkers and runners are invited to carpool and park at Bethel Lutheran Church. There will be a bus shuttle at 9:40 a.m. to bring you to St. Peter's or to St. John's (for the half-distance start). The run will begin at St. Peter's at 10:00 a.m. Reflective clothing is encouraged. Volunteers will be at major turns and intersections to guide and cheer you on your way. This is a great outreach event - bring a friend!

News and Updates



A New Picture Directory for St. John's is in the Works!

Do you ever see people and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with a name? Are you a new member and wish you had something to help you put names with faces?

Help is on the way!

We are producing a new pictorial directory!

We are partnering with Universal Church Directories for this important project. They are providing the directory at no cost to our church. Each participating family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory and have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family & friends.

Watch for additional information this fall. Please participate! Our directory won't be complete without YOU!

Photography Dates:

Monday, October 17 - Friday, October 21

Tuesday, Nov. 8 - Saturday, Nov. 12

Hours of Photography:

2:00-9:00 p.m. weekdays

and 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturday

News and Updates

Plans for St. John's to Join the Summer Church Softball League

The summer church softball league has a long tradition of fellowship and friendly competition in Northfield.

St. John's has not fielded a team in recent years, but the Adult Ministry & Education Board has plans to change that for Summer 2022.

Twelve St. John's members (baseball disciples?) have already indicated interest - a strong start! Teams are mixed gender, for players high-school age and older. Games are played on Sunday evenings (start date TBD).

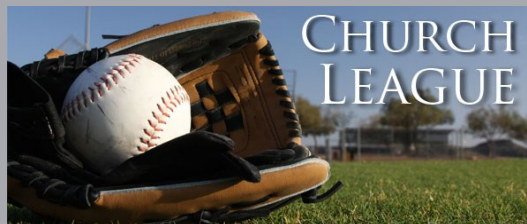
Interested?

There are several ways you can participate.

- Consider the role of team manager (first managers' meeting is April 4)
- Register your interest to play or cheer on the team on the CCB form
- Encourage other St. John's members to participate

Questions?

Contact Rob Quanbeck at 507-301-3625.



Easter Garden Orders for 2022

If you would like to order an Easter lily in memory or honor of a loved one or in celebration of Easter, please contact Leah Garlie at 507-645-4429 or office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



The cost is \$20 and please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

The flowers may be taken home after the last service Easter morning.

Sunday Hospitality

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

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



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

Please Join an Usher Team

Ushers are part of a team that serves one Sunday per month at either the first or second worship time. (For example, one could serve as an usher every 1st Sunday of the month at the 2nd service time.) Ushers also serve at three or four "special" services throughout the year, such as Lenten Vespers or Good Friday.

Thank you for considering joining an usher team or becoming an usher sub.



Ready to give it a try? Contact Christy Hall-Holt at 507-645-4429 or by email at connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Words from St. John's Library

From the Adult Ministry & Education Board

By Genevieve Quarberg

Several books have been added to the library. You are encouraged to look them over, check out a book by signing the card inside the back cover, and remember to return the book within two to three weeks.

Perhaps the blessing in *May God Bless You and Keep You*, written by Sarah Raymond Cunningham and illustrated by Lorian Tie, could be a mutual one between a parent reading and a child looking and listening.

I think *Little Tadpoles* is a first for St. John's, a picture book written and illustrated by a St. John's member, Darlene Messner Hand. Thank you, Darlene, for sharing your pond experiences with children.

The Whole Bible Story - Everything that happens in the Bible by William H. Marty with Troy Schmidt is narrative summary of Genesis through the gospels. It is intended for young readers, but many readers could find it enlightening.

How fitting at this time to add to our library the art book about Fritz Eichenberg, *Works of Mercy*, compiled by Jim Forest. Fritz Eichenberg, born in Cologne, Germany in 1901, became an apprentice in a print shop there. He first produced wood engravings and lithographs for novels like Dostoyevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. He came to America early in WWII and worked for Dorothy Day and The Catholic Worker. Forest includes a short summary of Eichenberg's life and more than 50 drawings and engravings from this period. Eichenberg's compassion and intelligent perceptions are evident in each drawing.

The God Who Sees - Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong by Karen Gonzalez is written from her own experiences as an immigrant from Guatemala.

American Dirt, by Jeanine Cummins might more accurately be titled North American Dirt, because it is a refugee novel. It's about violence and truth and love, a vividly written book.

Two books, *White Too Long*, by Robert P. Jones and *This Far by Faith* by, Juan Williams and Quinton Dixie, which chronicles the history of slaves adopting the Christian faith, carrying it to freedom and the Civil Rights Movement, may give grist to your thinking about Blacks in America.

It's not often we get two monumental works in one book, but that is the case of *Jesus Through the Centuries, Mary Through the Centuries* by Jaroslav Pelikan. Both were originally published in 1995, 1996. Although a Lutheran in education and tradition, Pelikan's scholarship reached into theology, doctrine, and culture of East and West.

World Religions, From Ancient History to the Present examines the reli-

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News and Updates

Pub Theology

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 either via Zoom or in person (format is TBD) on the following Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

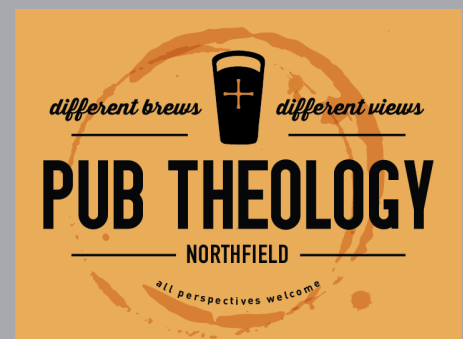
April 4

May 2

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

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

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



News and Updates



Upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drives

St. John's hosted several American Red Cross blood drives during 2021.

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 Drives

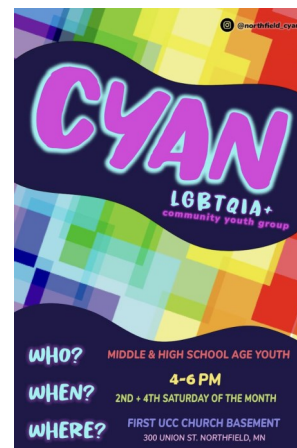
Monday, April 11, 1:00-6:00 p.m.
and

Thursday, June 16, 1:00-6:00 p.m.
in St. John's Hall.

You can sign up online
at www.redcrossblood.org or
by phone: 1-800-733-2767.

CYAN – Queer Youth Group Started in Northfield

In 2021, St. John's, Bethel, and First UCC, and The Key/Northfield Union of Youth teamed up to support 2 Americorps/Lead For MN Fellows to bring a sustainable Queer (LGBTQ+) Youth Program to town. Recent Macalester College graduates, Kieran Cuddy and Rae Hoekstra have returned home to Northfield and have begun a 2-year fellowship to create a Queer Youth Group known as CYAN (Community Youth Activity Network) in Northfield. This program involves financial support from the churches for Kieran, and from The Key for Rae. St. John's Youth Board and Church Council approved support of \$5,000 each year for two years (2021 and 2022). The Youth Board will be leading the effort to raise the funds for this second year - specific donations and support from the congregation are welcomed.



Over the past few months, Kieran and Rae have hosted a number of events to raise awareness around the need for a queer youth program in the Northfield area, and have developed a presence with several organizations (Northfield Public Schools, The Key, above named churches, Northfield Public Library) and are developing others. They have hosted a Concert at The Key, and a Queer Youth Movie Night at the Library, and clothing swap at St. John's.

CYAN now has regular meetings for middle and high school LGBTQ+ youth and allies on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays at First UCC.

If you or someone you know could benefit from CYAN and would like to learn more, please speak to Pastor Jonathan.



Rae Hoekstra and Kieran Cuddy

Life in the Time of COVID

Tell Us Your Story . . .

The New York Times calls COVID-19 “the greatest health catastrophe in a century.” In our community the first infections began in mid-March 2020, and the pandemic remains an ongoing public health crisis. In one way or another we still feel its impact on our lives. The Faith & Health Board invites St. John’s members of all ages to reflect on living in the time of COVID. What have you experienced and felt? What have you lost or gained? How are you coping? How has the pandemic affected work, family, and church? Do you see a hopeful future?

We are looking for stories from 100 to 2500 words in length. Artwork and poetry are also welcome.

Please email your story to: office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. If you are unable to send your story by email, please mail or drop off a paper copy to the St. John’s office.

We are also hoping to hear from our young people in words, art, audio, or video. We ask that submissions by children under 18 be done by their parent or guardian using this link:

https://docs.google.com/formsd/1iopwIwliaAUq_8Og6VoHqZWw9WCadyBaRTCFERkthMY/edit

If you do not want your story to be published in the CCB website or book, please let us know in your email.

Submissions will close May 31, 2022.

Words from St. John’s Library

Continued from page 13

gious convictions of people expressed in social and artistic ways. There are numerous illustrations.

Lutherans Today, American Lutheran Identity in the 21st Century (2003) is written by several people (among whom are Mark Granquist and Dan Hofrening). Waves of immigrants from Germany and Scandinavian countries, who came as Lutherans, found themselves in “an American sea of democratic individualism.” This is an interesting story of change, adaptation, and struggle.

The novel *The Unlikely Yarn of the Dragon Lady* is the story of church women knitting prayer shawls who, at the suggestion of their pastor, took their knitting into public places, and the interesting meetings that resulted from that.

Finally, thoughtful dog owners will appreciate *Merle’s Door, Lessons From a Freethinking Dog*, by Ted Karasote

St. John’s Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenschner

pfickenschner@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Children’s Ministry

Julie Brehmer

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Emmanuel Kaghondi

youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Facility Manager

Tim Byers

facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir

arielleloy@gmail.com

Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers

bells@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Parish Nurse

Sally Lindell

parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring

sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Welcome Ministry Coordinator

Christy Hall-Holt

connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Congregation President

Rod Christensen

chris719@charter.net



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 Third Street West · Northfield MN 55057

PHONE

507-645-4429

EMAIL

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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



Congrats Class of 2022!

On Sunday, May 22, during the 10:45 a.m. service, St. John's will recognize our graduating High School Seniors.

After worship, the seniors and their families, along with the students' confirmation mentors,
will share lunch in St. John's Hall.

As a special gift from St. John's, each senior receives their own beautiful quilt!

Congratulations to the following seniors from St. John's:
*Jackson Blomberg, Lindsey Canedy, Trevor Dell, Elle Hall-Holt, Seth Hansen, Sylvi Hanson,
Oden Hoff, Quinn Jackman, Elena Mikula, Nickolas Mikula, Charlie Neeb, Ainsley Nutt,
Alexander Organ, Jeanette Pelletier, Mary Rizzo, Tate Sand, Bailey Sauve*

God's blessings on your future plans!

St. John's offers a college scholarship available to those attending an ELCA college.
Contact Pastor Jonathan Davis or Emmanuel Kaghondi if you would like more information.