



The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FEBRUARY 2019



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## St. John's Annual Quilt Sunday February 17, 2019

The third Sunday in February our congregation will get to worship amongst our home grown quilts. Under the able leadership of Sue Sharrow, a dedicated bunch of 15-20 people (men and women) not only make quilts for Lutheran World Relief but also for "Operation Joy" at Christmas. LWR quilts are sent all over the world. St. John's completes well over a hundred quilts each year!

Some of the work is done at home by several who wash and iron fabric, cut quilt squares, or sew quilt tops, and many people assist in sourcing backing fabric.

A team works together (downstairs in the Fellowship Hall) on the third Thursday of each month, and the Monday preceding, from 8:30 a.m.-noon.

See page 10 on how you can be part of this vibrant and necessary ministry.

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

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

**TV BROADCASTS**  
NTV Channel 180  
7:30 p.m. Mondays  
7:00 p.m. Fridays

## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

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

### Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

### Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September - May

### Live Broadcasts

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

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

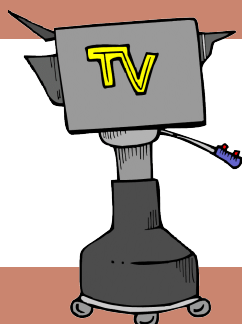


### TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 180



[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](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,

A pointless people.

Sometime in the 1980's, an English professor at Luther College wrote a little parable about Genesis 1. In it, she describes God as creating a world intended for enjoyment and relationship. Human beings, though, quickly decided that it would be more "fun" to live for points. Soon they became obsessed with living for accumulation of points, and then the sheer joy of life and relationships began to die.

God's response is to try to form a community that would not live this way, a "point-less people."

This little story was captured and illustrated by Pastor Dan Erlander, and has continued to be a touchstone for me about what it means to live by grace, rather than the law. Whether you consider yourself religious or not, most of us have an unspoken system of "points" of some kind that shapes whether we think we are measuring up or not. It turns out that it's extremely difficult to hold onto a "pointless" philosophy of life, especially in our hyper-competitive culture.

Now, I'm not against sports. Healthy competition can be fun, building community rather than tearing it down. But when our worth - whether as teams or individuals or institutions - is wrapped up in our competitive advantage, we are inevitably on a path to loss.

The "pointless people" has come up for me again as our family has enjoyed the philosophical sit-com, "The Good Place," which begins with the premise that your entry to the afterlife is determined by the points you've accumulated in this life. The show explores the ways in which a point system can be inherently unfair, not to mention joy-robbing, even for people of the best intentions.

It turns out, over and over again, that our own efforts are never enough to save us. True relationship with each other and with God begins with the knowledge that we are saved by grace, that God's original blessing to us in Christ cannot be taken away by our faults or shortcomings.

This month we are starting a unit on "ethics" with our confirmation students, which is a tricky thing since we are constantly reminding our students that we are not trying to "be good" in order to gain God's favor. Yet our world constantly gives us difficult choices about how to live, and in pondering those choices we learn how to consider our neighbor's well-being as well as our own. Only when we stop worrying about our own "points" can we really pay attention to others' needs.

As we continue in this year of Grace Overflowing, how might you remind yourself that it all begins and ends with grace, with God's promise to you that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus? What about being pointless might free you to serve?

Pastor Pam

## From Our Pastors



**Pastor Pam Fickenscher**



**Pastor Jonathan Davis**



## Prayer and Care Ministry

### Prayer Chain:

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

### Grief Care Resource:

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

### Grief Booklets:

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



*The following St. John's members died in this month last year. We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."*

February 13, 2018  
Larry Severson

## Stephen Ministry: Sharing Love on Valentine's Day

Special celebrations are associated with months of the year. For February, one of the special celebrations is Valentine's Day. Originally this day marked a celebration of two early saints. Valentine of Rome faced imprisonment for marrying soldiers who were forbidden to marry and ministering to Christians who were persecuted under the Roman Empire. Valentine of Teri was persecuted and martyred. Valentine is listed on the Lutheran Calendar of Saints for February 14.

Now, Valentine's Day is thought of in terms of romance and love. Cards, flowers, candy, and other gifts are given to loved ones. But for some, Valentine's Day is not a time of celebration.

For those who have lost loved ones, Valentine's Day can be a time of regret, loneliness, and remembering. For those who have experienced divorce, Valentine's Day can be a day of hurt and pain. For some who do not have someone special in their lives, Valentine's Day is a time of sadness and longing. For many who do not feel loved, this is just another day to get through.

If this day about love is viewed more broadly, God and Christianity have a place in this celebration since it is our calling to share God's love with everyone.

If you or someone you know is experiencing loss or loneliness, consider connecting with a St. John's Stephen Minister. For more information contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

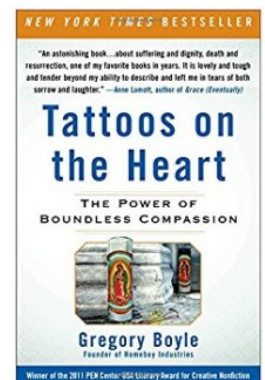
## Lenten Book Read - *Tattoos on the Heart:* *The Power of Boundless Compassion,* by Father Greg Boyle

This year's Lenten Book read selection is *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, by Father Greg Boyle, a Jesuit Priest working with gang members in Los Angeles.

For twenty years, Greg Boyle has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In this book, he turns stories of his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith.

One reviewer said, "(This is) an astonishing book . . . about suffering and dignity, death and resurrection, one of my favorite books in years. It is lovely and tough and tender beyond my ability to describe and left me in tears of both sorrow and laughter."

Look for signs up starting February 3, and each following Sunday in February.





## St. John's Forums in January

### February 3

#### **St. John's Anniversary Benevolence Project: TORCH** - Sanctuary

In honor of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, St. John's has given a benevolence grant to TORCH and the Northfield Community Collage Collaborative. Marnie Thompson, Assistant Principal of Northfield High School, will share with us an update on the launch of this project.

### February 10

#### **Climate Action in MN Government with Howard White** - St. John's Hall

Howard White will be with us at our adult forum to talk about the impact that pricing carbon can have on our environment as we address the challenges of climate change and global warming. A bill was introduced in the House of Representatives in late November. It is called the "Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018." By the time of our February 10 adult forum, it may have been re-introduced in the new congressional session. Howard is a retired ELCA pastor and is the co-group leader of the Northfield Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. This organization, more than 100,000 strong, has worked diligently to get a carbon pricing bill introduced in congress. Howard will have a presentation that will include a time for your questions and your sharing of your opinions.

### February 17

#### **TedxStJohns: Katherine Norrie** - Sanctuary

In a new forum series we are calling "TEDxStJohns", a St. John's member will give a TED Talk style presentation on ideas or stories that are worth sharing. In this first one, St. John's member Katherine Norrie will share her remarkable adoption story that she just discovered this past summer.

### February 24

#### **St. John's Anniversary Benevolence Project: Northfield Free Clinic** - Sanctuary

In honor of our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, St. John's has given a benevolence grant to the Immigration Law Center to provide regular legal aid in Northfield for low-income people needing legal advice on immigration matters. In partnership with the Community Action Center and the Volunteer Legal Network, this clinic opened in December 2018! Join us to hear an update on this project.

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

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

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

January 10, 2019

Chuck Muckey

January 15, 2019

Donna Kallestad

January 17, 2019

Lillian Anderson



### Radio Broadcasts

**January 6, 2019**

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

**January 13, 2019**

Given in honor of  
Nathan Proctor, St. Olaf alumnus,  
on his 35<sup>th</sup> birthday weekend  
by Mark & Erin Goettsch,  
Nathan, Anneliese, and Charlotte.

**January 20, 2019**

Given in memory of  
Omar and Margery Otterness  
by the Otterness Children.

**January 27, 2019**

Given by  
Anthony Becker and Rebecca Judge.

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).

## From Our Parish Nurse

### Melissa Berthelsen, RN

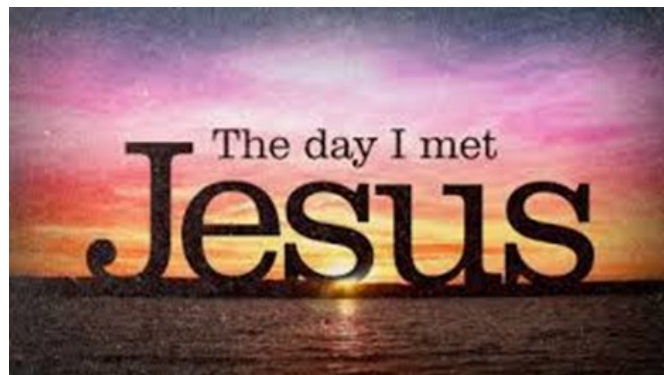
*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40 NIV)*

Recently, I offered shelter, warmth, and safe passage to a stranger. At a distance, loving one's neighbor is safe, even easy, but this stranger and I shared the narrow proximity of my front seat in the blustery darkness of evening. Perhaps she felt as much concern about getting into a stranger's car as I felt by inviting her out of the cold. This individual was delivered safely home in the midst of a storm, but I was the one who was rescued.

I didn't know where we were headed. It was much farther than I expected. Just one more street after one more corner. I needed to trust the stranger to lead me safely to the destination, just as she needed me to shield her from the raw exposure of time and distance in the chilling storm. It was an act of faith for each of us.

The stranger reminded me that we are called to look for the eyes of Christ in every face we meet. But we shouldn't just look, a verb that carries no accountability. We must seek those eyes. Search for them. Recognize them. Judgements fall away when we recognize each person as a cherished child of God. You are. I am. The stranger is. We are loved and cherished. The stranger reminded me of this.

Go in peace. Care for one another as you would care for Christ. Thanks be to God!



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I just met Jesus, and his name is Carolyn.

I left the hospital at 8:45 p.m. on a Wednesday and re-introduced myself to the snow-covered car and to winter. I hadn't looked out a window for a full sweep of the clock and I was quite surprised to see the change of season.

It had been a solid 13-hour day with meetings and tasks and letters and negotiating - all for the benefit of those who will never need to know how much time and effort went into making a clinic and hospital experience just a bit fairer and informative and human.

I turned off North Ave onto Cedar and headed past Bethel toward home. Mike had just texted me that his 4-hour commute had just ended and he was home. The snow was blowing from the east and south - swirling and irritating to the face. Near the west border of the NRC in contrast to the blustery glow of oncoming headlights, I caught sight of a shadowed form walking into the wind along the opposite shoulder. My breath caught audibly with the realization that there is no room for pedestrians along Cedar Ave. on a clear, summer day, and so much less so on a dark, snowy night when roads are slick.

I slowed and moved to the right while the first of three north-bound cars moved around the figure bent into the blowing snow. By now, I had nearly stopped to allow room for the on-coming cars to swerve around the bundled pedestrian, but the third car did not swerve. I felt panicked! I was sure I would find that the pedestrian had been struck by the third car. I carefully drove forward until my headlights revealed the upright form. I rolled down the window and shouted desperately into the wind, "You need to get off the road! Can I give you a ride?" The car behind me waited patiently for the person to make her way around the car to the passenger door and land inside, out of the winter weather.

*"Thank you, Ma'am. Yes, Ma'am."*

I wanted to tell her not to call me ma'am, but it seemed that saying something would draw more attention to her courtesy, than saying nothing. I wanted to diminish the space between us.

*"I was at my friend's and he wouldn't give me a ride. Keep going on Greenvale. Keep going straight."*

"I was worried for you back there on the road. I thought one of those cars would hit you. I'm so glad that you are okay!"

*"Yes, Ma'am. Thank you, ma'am."*

*"Where do you need to go? I'll drive you there."*

*"I'll show you. Keep going straight. I'll show you where to turn. Keep going straight. But this weather, this is cold!"*

*"Sure is! Do you have any gloves?"*

*"No, I don't."*

*"Here, take these."*

*"Oh, thank you, ma'am."*

*"It always seems colder in the beginning of winter while we are getting used to it. We don't have snakes and tropical bugs, so I guess the cold is a trade-off!"*

We both laughed at this point, as we realized that perhaps the snakes have something on us for staying in more temperate climates. I kept driving, trusting that she would instruct me for the turns ahead. She lived farther from that section of Cedar Avenue than I had expected.

*"You would have had a long walk!"*

*"Yes [laughing]! I'm going to have to call my friend when I get home. He'll be surprised that I am home already! Turn here by the clinic. Keep going straight. I like this part of town. It's pretty."*

*"There are Christmas lights up already."*

*"Lots of lights! These big trees along here used to be covered in Christmas lights, but they don't decorate them anymore. I don't know why."*

*"Hmm. Maybe the owner grew old or moved."*

*"Yes, I wonder...I always like to walk this way in the summer. Keep going straight."*

*"It's very pretty here."*

*"Yes, it is, isn't it? I'll tell you when to turn. Turn at that next one...turn here. Follow around."*

*"Looks like they are building something here..."*

*"Yes, they are putting up another house. Follow around here to the end. That last one. That's my house."*

*"Oh, very nice. My name is Melissa."*

*"Melissa, my name is Carolyn."*

We shook hands. Her hand was warm now. She stepped out of the car onto the sidewalk and turned back to the car.

*"So nice to meet you, Carolyn. Happy Thanksgiving to you!"*

*"Happy Thanksgiving to you, and Merry Christmas, too, Melissa!"*

*"Merry Christmas to you, Carolyn. See you again!"*

*"Thank you. See you again, Melissa."*

I waited at the curb until someone met her at the front door and let her in. I waived, but Carolyn was inside and didn't turn. I turned right at the corner and headed toward home.

*"I just met Jesus, and his name is Carolyn", I said out loud to myself.*





## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children to Remember!

#### Sunday School Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

February 3	Sunday School (Teacher Appreciation Brunch)
February 10	Sunday School Toddler Time
February 17	Sunday School
February 24	Sunday School

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

February 6	ROCK
February 13	ROCK
February 20	ROCK
February 27	ROCK

#### Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Sunday, February 3  
9:45 a.m., Fireside Room

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

Sunday, February 10  
9:45-10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall  
The Sacrament of Baptism - Parents Invited!



### Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/18) and our preschool Sunday school class, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler Time.

Jenny Nystrom leads the children in song, games, crafts, and story time. Toddler Time meets at 9:50 a.m. in Room 14 (lower level).

Here is the schedule for the remainder of the year: February 10, March 10, April 14, and May 5.

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

## It's Kid's Night Out at St. John's!

Games, pizza, along with more games, crafts and a movie!

**When:** Friday, February 15

**Who:** K-5<sup>th</sup> graders

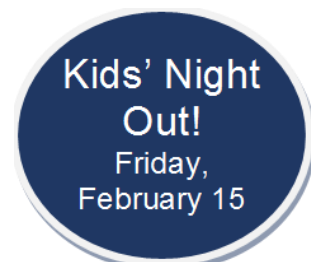
**Time:** 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Meet in St. John's Hall

**What to Bring:** A snack to share with the group

**Friends are welcome!**

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or across from the Nursery by February 10 so we can plan the event. Call Julie Brehmer if you have questions at 507-645-4429.



## Summer Camp for Ages 3 - 5<sup>th</sup> 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:

- **June 10-13: VBS is at St. John's!**

- Ages 3-Grade 2 (completed)**

- Blast off with the first VBS to land on the moon! *To Mars and Beyond* will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. More info along with registration will be coming soon!



- **June 23-28: Good Earth Village Pathfinders**  
**Grades 3-5 (completed)**

- Campers blaze new trails in their faith as they explore what it means to follow Christ, meet new friends, serve others, and learn more about God's creation through hikes in the woods and spending time with their on-site naturalist. Campers stay in the Hilltop Cabins.

- **June 26-28: Settlers**  
**Grades 2-4 (completed)**

- Three exciting days and two fun nights make for the perfect camp experience for younger campers. Your child will make new friends and grow in faith through fun, action-packed days. This camp also introduces campers to elements of our week-long camp such as Cabin devotion time, Canteen, and campfire worship. Campers stay in Log Lodge.

For more information and registration go to [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) and click on Summer!

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



Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited on Sunday, February 10, 9:30-10:45 a.m. for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism. We will meet in Fellowship Hall.

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

## Middle School Youth Group

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

This month the inspiring story of a man named "Ed" who was diagnosed with ALS and given 2 to 5 years to live, will be covered incrementally each Sunday, February 3 through March 17. His message focuses on "what it means to live well amid the questions, suffering, and hopes we each face". And, that "while we can't choose our story, we can choose how we live it".

## Confirmation for Grades 6-8 and High School Youth Group

All youth meet on Wednesday evenings, February 6, 13, 20 & 27 from 6:15-7:30 p.m.

- **6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** This month continues through the Manna and Mercy book, focusing on chapters 11-14. Meet in the Undercroft.
- **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** February 6 concludes the faith unit on "Ethics" with Parent Night, in which parents are invited to attend class with their child. February 13, 20 & 27 will delve into the topic of "Death and Dying". Meet in Fellowship Hall.
- **High School Youth Group:** Gather for hot drinks, discussion topics, time with a pastor, and a service project. This month:
  - \* February 6: *Questions with a Pastor*
  - \* February 13: *Free Time (with Activity Options)*
  - \* February 20: *Service Project (TBD)*
  - \* February 27: *Topic Discussion - "Why do bad things happen to good people?"*

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

## Children and Youth



### 9<sup>th</sup> grade Mentor and Mentee Meeting

**Sunday, February 3  
9:45 - 10:30 a.m.**

Find each other between services  
for faith discussion time.



### Middle School Romans & Christians

**Friday, February 1  
7:00-10:00 p.m. at St. John's**

Don't miss out on this very popular  
game of Hide 'N Go Seek  
with a Biblical twist.

The cost of \$5 covers pizza and pop.

Please sign up by Thursday, January 31.  
Sign up in the Commons,  
outside the Youth Room,  
or email Angie Gehring at  
[youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

# St. John's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Creative Arts Group

The next Creative Arts group will celebrate Valentine's Day on Wednesday, February 13, from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the St. John's Library.

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

We will create valentine-inspired art and listen to our favorite songs about love and friendship!

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



## St. John's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Events

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

**Sunday, April 28**

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

**Sunday, July 14**

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

**October 26-28**

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

## Composting Beginning at St. John's!

For the last couple of years, a new local business has offered curbside compost pickup in Northfield. This locally run business collects food waste from residents and delivers it to a large compost site in Shakopee, where Mother Nature transforms it back to nutrients for the soil.

This fall St. John's was approached with a proposal for mutual benefit: St. John's would provide a site for some of their West-side collection to gather until they truck it up to Shakopee, and our own food waste, particularly from Wednesday Night Meals, would have a place to go. Most Northfield schools already compost and many of you in your own households compost your food waste - but now we have a way to handle the volume of waste our growing meal program produces.

**What can be composted?** All food scraps, including meat and bones; paper napkins; compostable plates and bowls (which we already use); paper towels; other food soiled cardboard and paper products. In short nearly all our waste from Wednesday Night Meals, with the exception of plastic wrappers and towels with chemical cleaners on them.

We hope you'll help us in sorting your waste, and thank your kitchen crew for helping us adjust to this new process. The result is less waste in the landfill, and more of God's goodness going back to the earth!

## St. John's Annual Quilt Sunday

Continued from page 1

Here's how you can be part of this vibrant, necessary ministry:

### Donations:

- Cloth larger than 10" square (cotton, cotton blends)
- Colored sheets (full, queen or king)
- Money for shipping costs

### Time & Talent:

- Sewing
- Cutting
- Laundering
- Ironing

For information contact Sue Sharrow at 507-301-3083.





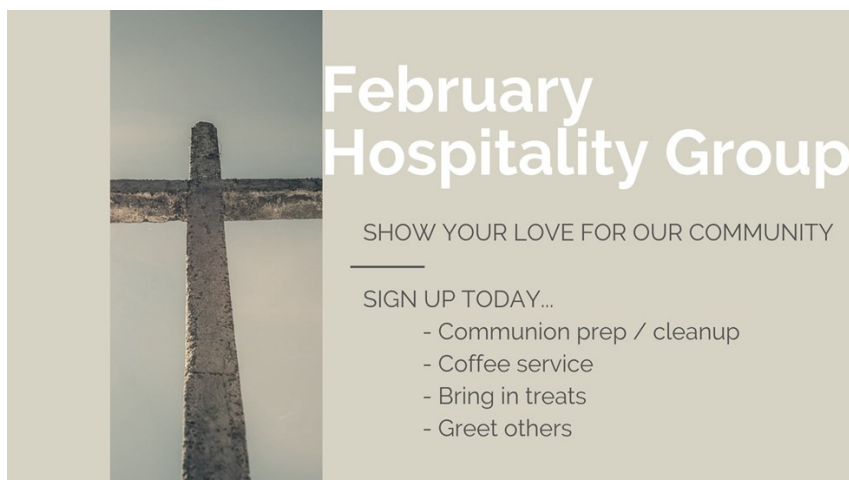
## Prayer Buddies During Lent

During the Lenten season, 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". This program is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year helping to build faith-based, cross-generational relationships between children and adult members in the congregation.



Prayer Buddies pray for their buddy during the Lenten season, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 6, until Easter Sunday, April 21. If you are interested in being a buddy for a child, please email Julie Brehmer at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or call 507-645-4429. Thank you!

On Wednesday, February 27, we will have a brief get-together at 5:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room for Prayer Buddies and their child/family to meet and get to know one another. A meal will be provided.



## Children's Ministry Appreciation Brunch!

Children's ministry volunteers are invited to brunch on Sunday, February 3, at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The brunch is an annual event to thank all the volunteers who help keep Children's Ministries thriving!



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

Thanks in advance!

## News and Updates

### St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Let's get together for Dinner -  
Come, share a meal!

All are welcome, it's a fantastic time for  
fellowship for ALL ages!  
Supper is served from 5:15-6:15 p.m.  
in St. John's Hall.

Free will offering appreciated!

**Wednesday, February 6**  
Enchilada Casserole

**Wednesday, February 13**  
Chicken Cordon Bleu

**Wednesday, February 20**  
Meatball Stroganoff

**Wednesday, February 27**  
Monte Cristo Bake



# the **WOMEN'S** page

## February Gatherings

### **Baby Boomers**

Saturday, Feb 2, 3:00  
Fairfield Inn Bar following  
the 1:00 panel discussion  
at St. John's.

### **Breakfast Women's Group**

Saturday, Feb. 9, 8:30a  
St. John's Fireside Rm

### **Elizabeth Circle**

Thursday, Feb. 14, 1:30p  
Fireside Room

### **Lydia Circle**

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 9:00a  
Coffee and Conversation  
10:00 Bible Study  
St. John's Hall

### **Mary Circle**

Friday, Feb. 8, 1:00p  
Genevieve Quarberg's home  
1604 Cannon Valley Drive

### **Ruth Circle**

Thursday, Feb. 14, 9:30a  
Parkview West Fireside Rm

### **Knitters (Prayer Shawls)**

Thursday, Feb. 14 & 28  
10:00a Fireside Room

### **Knitters (World Vision)**

Tuesday, Feb. 12 & 26, 10am  
Kathy Vang 645-4849

### **Quilters**

Mon. Feb. 18 & Thu. Feb. 21  
8:30a - noon, Fellowship Hall



## **COURAGEOUS**

## **CONVERSATIONS**



### **"Poverty In Northfield"** (Panel Discussion)

**Saturday, February 2nd, 1:00pm**

**Sandra Gerdes** (Laura Baker), **Dayna Norvold** (Habitat for Humanity) and **Scott Wopata** (CAC)

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

.....

### **MARCH PROGRAM:**

### **Dr. Jennifer Kwon Dobbs**

Associate Professor of English and Director of Race and Ethnic Studies at St. Olaf College.

### **"The Invention of Race: How Did We Get Here?"** **Thursday, March 7th, 7:00pm**

### ***You can influence our community, our nation and our world!***

Consider shaping the breadth and scope of St. John's Women in the coming two years. Experience a group of dynamic women who meet to forge the future for the betterment of our world through missions (Lutheran World Relief), small group discussions around Biblical themes, and inspirational monthly programming with outstanding speakers on timely and relevant topics. Consider stepping into a space on the St. John's Women Executive Board. Several openings are available.

Contact Meribeth Beck, 663-0562, pmbeck@gmail.com

### **Visit our web page:**

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



like us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns"

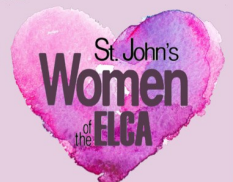
friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns

(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🤔)

### **Correspondence:**

women.stjohns500@gmail.com

Publicity: Julie Zdenek





## The Library at St. John's

### From the Adult Ministry & Education Board

By Genevieve Quarberg

Although the word “love” gets batted about too easily, we are going to join the February parade and ask you to **LOVE OUR LIBRARY** at St. John's. After some months of moving and building new shelving and re-shelving books, we are discarding some books that may still be useful to others. On Sunday, February 24, we will have a “book giveaway” during the coffee hour. In return, we ask for a money donation which will go toward a computer and a digital card cataloging system. Such a system will make it much easier for volunteers to be good stewards of the library and much easier for you to find the books you want to read. It will make maintenance and new acquisition more efficient and up-to-date, a library for all to use with regularity. (Have you heard February is **I Love to Read** month!?)

During February, the display area in the Library will showcase books by writers who speak to people in any age. They are God-believers who have wise minds and compassionate hearts combined with extraordinary language skills. They are writers like C.S. Lewis, Henri J.M. Nouwen, Madeleine L'Engle, Alvin Rogness, Gerhard Frost, Frederic Buechner, and others. Look them over, check one out, and use it for daily reading, meditation, prayer.

## DEVICES FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED



Three new hearing devices are available for use in the Sanctuary and in St. John's Hall.

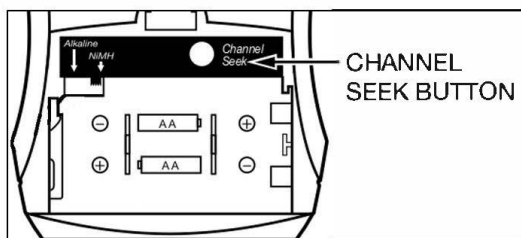
These devices, in addition to several older devices, are found in baskets in the Narthex and at the entrance to the Sanctuary via the Commons.

To use in the Sanctuary or St. John's Hall, open the battery compartment, locate the CHANNEL SEEK BUTTON and press until the device “finds” the correct channel.

The same needs to be done each time the device is used in a different venue. The device will remain on the same channel of its last use. Ask an usher for help.

You can help keep our hearing devices operational by loosely wrapping the earbud cord around the device when not in use. Do not pull tightly or tie it in a knot.

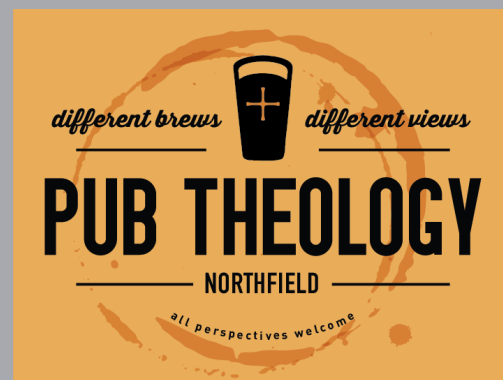
Ensure the device is turned off and returned to the basket, or usher following each service.



## Get Involved in Worship!

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

## News and Updates



## Pub Theology Winter Schedule

What is Pub Theology?

It is conversation led by

Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture.

No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate.

Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

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

**February 4**

**February 18**

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

Each week, the topic will be different and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the News Blast, and an email list.

Contact Pastor Jonathan

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

to add your name to the email list.



## 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.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2019, to direct any remaining 2018 Choice Dollars.

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://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).



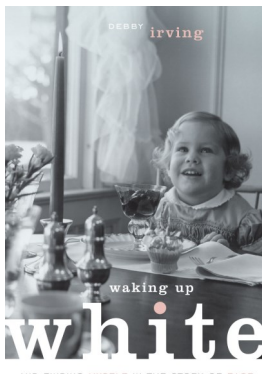
#### HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

##### Online

1. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice).
2. In the Direct Choice Dollars section on the right, select the "Get started now" link.
3. Log in and enter your user ID and password, and answer your security question. (If you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click "Register for account access.")
4. Find the number of Choice Dollars available to direct on the right side of the screen.
5. Locate the organization you want to direct to:
  - a. To direct to a previous organization:
    - i. Click "Direct Now" next to the organization name; or,
    - ii. On the Activity History page, scroll down and click the name of the desired organization.
  - b. To direct to a new organization, enter keyword(s) like organization name, city, state, etc. Click "Find."
6. Click "Direct All" or enter a specific number and click "Direct Now." Follow the prompts on the confirmation window to direct Choice Dollars.

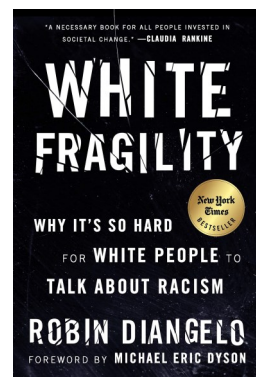
## Courageous Conversations Book Studies Continue

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

# From Bread for the World

From the earliest days of U.S. history, our country has welcomed people who are escaping persecution and poverty. People who make



the decision to leave home and come to the United States in recent years as in the past, generally have few other options. Factors beyond their control have made their circumstances too hungry and violent for them to remain. Undocumented immigration is less

about the United States and more about hunger, extreme poverty, and conflict in the three countries of Central America's Northern Triangle - Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. War and extreme poverty have created similar situations from Syria and Nigeria to Yemen and Myanmar.

While it is ultimately the responsibility of each country to provide for its own citizens and protect them from violence, the United States should support neighboring countries in the endeavor for both moral and strategic reasons.

The United States should strengthen its diplomatic efforts and development and humanitarian assistance to help countries in the region respond to and address the causes of forced migration. In addition to efforts to stem violence and strengthen governance and institutions, these should include food security and nutrition programs. As our country continues to debate immigration policy, we must acknowledge the U.S. cannot have a comprehensive immigration strategy without a focus on supporting other countries' efforts to create environments that help people survive and thrive in their homes and communities.

In an upcoming Offering of Letters from St. John's we will urge our senators and representative to support legislation and programs that benefit immigrants, those fleeing violence, and all our neighbors near and far who are faced with food insecurity and hunger.

## "Poverty In Northfield"

(Panel Discussion)

**Saturday, February 2, 1:00 p.m.**

Sandra Gerdes (director of Laura Baker Services Association), Dayna Norvald (director of Rice County Habitat for Humanity), and Anika Rychner (Community Action Center) will speak on poverty in Northfield at a panel discussion hosted by the Women of St. John's. As part of St. John's Women's Courageous Conversations Programming, they will address topics such as affordable housing, wages, advocacy, government funding for programs, and the interconnectedness of all these issues. The community is welcome, admission is free, and refreshments will be served.

## St. John's Staff

### Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

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

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### Financial Manager

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Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir

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Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers

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

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Angie Gehring

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**WEBSITE**

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

## MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY for the CONGREGATION and the COMMUNITY

(Men and Women)

*Join us for coffee, refreshments and Bible study*

*Wednesday mornings in St. John's Hall*

*9:00 Coffee & Fellowship*

*10:00 Bible Study*

*February 13th*

*March 13th*

*April 10th*

*Led by Pastor Mark Rydberg*



*Sponsored by Lydia Circle  
Contact Anita Hellie: 301-3609*