



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 60, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2020

## Lent.

a season of renewal

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### Lent Begins February 26 with Ash Wednesday

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

The ashes we receive on our foreheads remind us that we, along with all of creation, are dependent on God's grace.

Mid-week worship begins the following week, March 4, at 6:30 p.m. and continues March 11, March 18, March 25, and April 1.

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

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

## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

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

(ASL Interpreter available at the second worship services on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month)

### Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

### Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September - May

### Live Broadcasts

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

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net



### TV Broadcasts

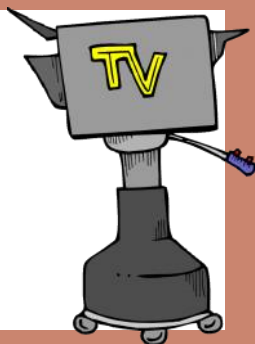
7:30 p.m. Mondays

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

1:00 p.m. Wednesdays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



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

### WELCOME STATEMENT

*St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.*

*While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.*

*We warmly welcome you here.*

### Blessing Box at St. John's

**"Take something if in need;  
leave something when blessed."**



The congregation of St. John's continues to support the "Blessing Box", a mission that started in the fall of 2017. It is similar to the Little Libraries found around town except the Blessing box is filled with donated non-perishable food and personal hygiene products. The idea is that anyone who may be struggling can use the goods to make ends meet. The community is welcome to donate to the box **being mindful of Minnesota's temperature changes**. Donation Ideas (please check expiration dates): canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar, coffee, crackers, soap, mittens, toothbrush, baby items, such as diapers and pacifiers. The box is located in the drive-up on the north side of St. John's.

## From Our Pastors...

Dear Friends in Christ,

**“Money is like water.”** Rev. Eric Law writes that he grew up with this Chinese saying in his family. It’s often used ruefully, to suggest that money is hard to hang onto. But Rev. Law suggests that it’s actually a positive statement about how resources work best when they are flowing.

As all Minnesotans know, water left standing can be breeding ground for mosquitoes. It can start to stink, and you certainly don’t want to drink it. Money, and other resources that make communities work, is similarly prone to create problems when it is hoarded. As our confirmation students have been learning, God gave manna in the wilderness and insisted that the people NOT hoard it. If it was stored up, it rotted and stank. In similar fashion, any resource that we try to keep only for ourselves will likely not end up being a source of life and health.

Like water, our resources are meant to flow. They give the most life when they are released to go to the places where they are most needed. Resources which are shared tend to multiply, whereas resources that are hoarded tend to just get old and less useful.

Eric Law’s book about a healthy flow of resources in a community is called **“Holy Currencies.”** Our Church Council will be discussing this framework as we ponder all the gifts God has given us. We all have a measure of different resources - our relationships, our time, our money, our property, our skills, our truth. Only when these **“currencies”** flow do they really provide the kind of life and growth for which they are intended. As one of my mentors once said, **“If you have more than you need, then you have to ask yourself, ‘for whom did God intend this gift?’ And the answer is probably *not* you!”**

*Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow*, we sing regularly. May we remember that often those blessings are intended to flow from God *through* us and *to* others.

Pastor Pam

P.S. Speaking of resources flowing, we were blessed with nearly a decade of skilled leadership from Bernie Renander as our Financial Manager. As he retires this spring, we are grateful for the ways he has transformed our books, enabled ministry, and set us on a better footing financially. Please pray for the transition of this critical staff position, and if you know someone with bookkeeping skills, let them know about St. John’s!

## From Our Pastors



**Pastor Pam Fickenschner**



**Pastor Jonathan Davis**

## Prayer and Care Ministry

### Prayer Chain:

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

### Grief Care Resource:

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

### Grief Booklets:

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



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

February 16, 2019  
**Sylvia Solberg**

February 21, 2019  
**Richard Gronning**

## Stephen Ministry: Food for the Spirit, From the Spirit

Lent is traditionally a season of the church year in which Christians have sought to deepen their life of faith through various spiritual disciplines. Two of the simplest and most profound of these are prayer and Scripture reading. If these are not a part of your daily life, this is a good time to begin them. Below are suggestions for doing so. Please modify them to fit your needs.

1. Set aside a time and place for daily devotions. First thing in the morning works best for most people, and any quiet and comfortable spot will do. Allow fifteen minutes. You can work around a busy and noisy household routine by getting up early, or by declaring you and your space off limits for a brief time and gently enforcing the ban. Consider this daily appointment inviolable and essential preparation for your day.

2. The night before you begin this routine, prepare your place: set a Bible or New Testament next to your chair. You may also want to include a small notebook and pen or pencil.

3. Keep your appointment. Begin with a short prayer, perhaps the same one every day. Here are two: "Speak Lord, your servant is willing." "Dear Christ, open my heart to your love." Then read a short passage from Scripture. Begin with one of the gospels, and plan to read it through from beginning to end, day by day. Try Matthew, our gospel for the present church year. Read a paragraph or two, a unit that makes sense to you. Pause to think about it, and then read it again. This time you may want to listen for a verse (or just a phrase or word) that seems to speak to you. Write that verse in your notebook and date it. Then close your eyes and pray. This may be a response to the Scripture passage you have read, to the verse you have written down, or to something in your life. If words don't come to you, close with a simple memorized prayer: "Thy will be done." or "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, a sinner." or "Thank you for your many blessings." In Romans 8, Paul assures us that the Holy Spirit "helps us in our weakness" as we stumble through our prayers that it "intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

If for a time daily devotions seems like a lifeless routine, do not lose heart. You are receiving spiritual nourishment, but you may not yet have eyes to see. You have opened yourself to the work of the Spirit. You will learn to hear God's voice speaking to you, and you will learn to respond, in God's own time. Have faith that you are being fed.



## St. John's Forums in February

### February 2:

Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (Sanctuary)

Anne Krisnik, Executive Director of the Minnesota Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) will speak, discussing JRLC's priorities among issues before the 2020 Legislature. Guided by God's vision for the common good as reflected in Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions, the JRLC mobilizes religious communities to influence public policy in Minnesota. ([JRLC.org](http://JRLC.org))

### February 9:

**Children and Youth Pancake Breakfast "FUN" Raiser (St. John's Hall)**

For more information please see pages 8 and 16.

### February 16:

Creation Care - Social Justice, Public Health, and the Environment with Diane Angell (Sanctuary)

Researchers have recently come to understand the subtle but clear connections between social and economic status, the changing environment we live in and our health. How can economic stress and racism drive long term changes in how our bodies function? Why are low income populations likely to be disproportionately affected by climate change? What are the factors driving some populations to be differentially exposed to environmental contaminants? Come learn about the interesting research and new perspectives that are arising at the intersection of the fields of social justice, the environment and public health. The Forum will be presented by Diane Angell, Associate Professor of Practice, Biology and Environmental Studies, St. Olaf College. She is an ecologist with long term interests in animal ecology and how human actions affect environmental health for all organisms.

### February 23:

Lenten Book Read Small Groups

**During Lent, St. John's forum will make intentional space for Lenten Book Read small groups to gather.** This year, we are reading *Searching for Sunday*, a memoir by the late Rachel Held Evans, a bestselling author who is known for her books and articles about faith, doubt, and life in the Bible Belt. If you would like to be part of a small group, please contact Merilyn Calcutt at [merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com](mailto:merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com).

## Read, Talk, Pray: Sunday Psalm Conversation

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

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

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

## Life and Growth

### Baptisms

December 1, 2019

*Willow Francis Rea*

*daughter of Kristin and Patrick Rea*

December 22, 2019

*August Liam Hayek Traaseth*

*son of Stephanie and Nate Traaseth*

### Deaths

December 19, 2019

*Betty Schuette*



### Radio Broadcasts

January 5, 2020

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

January 12, 2020

Given in honor of Nathan Proctor  
by Mark & Erin Goettsch,  
Nathan, Anneliese, and Charlotte.

January 19, 2020

Given by in memory of Milo Quinell  
by his wife and families.

The third anniversary of his death  
was January 5.

January 26, 2020

Given by a community member in gratitude  
**for the excellent preaching at 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 (9:45-10:30 a.m.)

February 2 Sunday School

February 9 Sunday School

Toddler Time

February 16 Sunday School

February 23 Sunday School

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

February 5 ROCK

February 12 ROCK

February 19 ROCK

February 26 ROCK

Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Sunday, February 2

9:45 a.m., Fireside Room

Prayer Buddy Get-Together

Sunday, February 26

5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

### Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/19) and our preschool Sunday school class, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler Time.

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

Here is the schedule for the year:

February 9, March 8, April 5, and May 3.

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 28

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 23 so we can plan the event. Call Julie Brehmer if you have questions at 507-645-4429.

Kids' Night Out!

Friday,  
February 28

## 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:

- VBS for Ages 3-Grade 2 (completed)  
Knights of North Castle: Quest for the **King's Armor**, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. More info along with registration will be coming soon!
- June 21-26: 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 24-26: 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!

## Wednesday Confirmation

Youth are encouraged to attend on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:30 p.m. as part of our Confirmation program. These gatherings will be led by Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, and Emmanuel Kaghondi.

Grade 6: Meets in the Undercroft

Large group teaching of the story of Scripture through *Mana and Mercy* curriculum followed by guided smaller group discussion time. Pastor Jonathan Davis will lead these topics:

- February 5: God's Surprise
- February 12: Manna and Mercy for All
- February 19: Jerusalem
- February 26: No Programming - Ash Wednesday

Grades 7-8: Meets in Fellowship Hall

Large group teaching on how faith connects with important topics followed by guided smaller group discussion time. Emmanuel Kaghondi will lead these topics:

- February 5: Dusty Stories - The Ethiopian Eunuch
- February 12: Dusty Stories - Esther
- February 19: Dusty Stories - Shadrack, Shack, and Benny
- February 26: No Programming - Ash Wednesday

## High School Youth Group

The high school youth group will continue to meet on Wednesdays 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, burning questions, service projects, and casual hangout times to foster friendships with one another in the guidance of adults and supporting parent volunteers.

Pastor Pam Fickenscher will lead the following topics:

- February 5: Worship - Seeking God's Presence
- February 12: Service Project
- February 19: Sacraments - A Tapestry of Traditions
- February 26: No Programming - Ash Wednesday

## Sunday Morning Youth Group

On Sunday mornings, during the school year, all youth (grades 6-12) are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 a.m. for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion! Other young adults and church members are encouraged to attend for intra and inter-generational connections. These gatherings will be led by Emmanuel Kaghondi and other adults. This month's topics will focus on "Life's Burning Questions about Spirituality".

## A Joint "High School Romans & Christians and Lock-In"

St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's Youth  
Friday, February 28, at St. John's

Sign-up in the Commons.

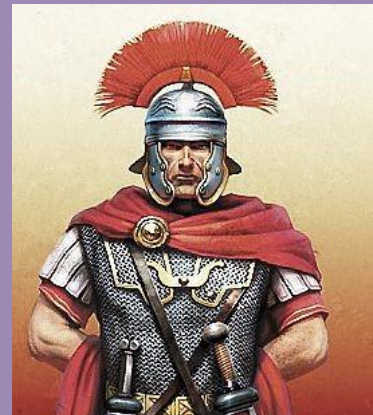
## Children and Youth

# Mentee Mentor

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

Sunday, February 2  
9:45 - 10:30 a.m.

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



### Middle School Romans & Christians

### Watch Future Publications for Date and Time

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.

Sign-ups will be in the Commons,  
outside the Youth Room,  
or email Emmanuel Kaghondi at  
[youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## News and Updates

### **Children and Youth Pancake Breakfast “Fun” Raiser and Valentine’s Day Bake Sale!**

**Sunday, February 9**

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

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

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



## **“Northfield Children’s Mental Health” Thursday, February 6, 7:00 p.m.**

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



Open to the public. Refreshments. Sponsored by St. John's Women "Courageous Conversations-Bold Actions".

### **Parent Orientation: Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) Sexuality Program for High Schoolers Sunday, February 2, from 12:00-2:00 p.m. in the Youth Room**

This spring, we are offering the Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) sexuality program for high schoolers. O.W.L. is a curriculum designed to teach the social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of sexuality. Pastor Jonathan and Tamara Jackman, a Certified Nurse Midwife, will be leading these sessions for High Schoolers.

Sunday, February 2, Tamara Jackman and Pastor Jonathan will be lead the Parent Orientation session for parents of those youth who are participating in OWL Human Sexuality Program at St. John's this spring. This is just for parents - not for youth. It is expected that a parent of youth participating in OWL attend this orientation session.

For more information, please email Pastor Jonathan at [jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

The dates of O.W.L. are as follows:

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



## Become a Dementia Friend

Do you know someone with dementia? How do you relate to them? How do you continue to be a friend or become a new friend to someone? To learn how to become a dementia friend mark your calendar for:

- Saturday morning, February 15, in St. John's Hall
- Coffee: 9:30 a.m.
- Speaker: 10:00 a.m. Colleen Fritch, a Dementia Friend



Our speaker will be Colleen Fritch who has spent two decades in aging service, engaging community members in supporting older adults. She's a trained "Dementia Friend Champion," helping Minnesota become a Dementia Friendly state.

In addition, Colleen is a Master Trainer, training other Champions across the country to make this a Dementia Friendly USA.

This program is co-sponsored by The St. John's Board of Adult Education & Ministry and The Northfield Area Retired Educators (NARE).



## 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 5<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, February 26, until Easter Sunday, April 12. 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 19, 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.

## 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 5  
Chili

Wednesday, February 12  
Fajita Boats

Wednesday, February 19  
Hot Dog Bar

Wednesday, February 26  
Lenten Soup Supper  
Cheeseburger Soup / Potato Soup



Wednesday Meals are made and served  
completely by people donating  
their time and talents.  
Dessert contributions are always welcome!

# the **WOMEN'S** page



## February Gatherings

### Baby Boomers

Saturday, Feb 1, 4:30-6:00pm  
Jo Franklin's home  
1001 Freedom Court

### Breakfast Women's Group

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

### Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Feb 13  
J. Rondestvedt's home  
2002 Lake Dr.

### Lydia & Paul Circles

Wednesday, Feb 12  
Coffee 9:00, Study 10:00  
Leader: Luther Peterson  
St. John's Hall

### Mary Circle

Friday, Feb 14, 1:00pm  
Carol Benson's home  
670 Green Meadows Ct.

### Ruth Circle

Thursday, Feb 13, 9:30am  
Parkview West Fireside Rm

### Knitters (Prayer Shawls, blankets & baby caps)

Thursday, Feb 13 & 27  
10:00am Room 19

### Knitters (World Vision)

Tuesday, Feb 11 & 25, 10am  
Kathy Vang 645-4849

### Quilters

Mon. Feb 17 & Thu. Feb 20  
8:30am-noon Social Hall



Feb 6, 2020

### "NORTHFIELD CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH"

St. John's Hall 7:00pm

Carrie Duba, School Psychologist at Northfield High School

**COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS**

**ABOLD ACTIONS**



### March 5 "JUSTICE FOR NATIVE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES"

St. John's Hall 7:00pm

The Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs, of St. Paul, is a member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Nation, with degrees in Pastoral Studies and Christian Theology.

## YOUR DONATIONS-

- fund Quilts for Lutheran World Relief
- fund knitted prayer shawls, baptism blankets, baby caps and sweaters
- fund Baby kits, Personal Care kits and School kits for LWR and TORCH
- fund monthly community programs with relevant topics & speakers
- host monthly gatherings for fellowship
- support local, national and global women's organizations
- bought five new hearing devices capable for use in St. John's Hall
- donated money toward the new large screen television

## THANK YOU!

Did you know the projects of St. John's Women are funded through your donations?

We are independent from St. John's congregation and do not receive funds from the church. All our projects and our programs are funded with gifts from offerings taken at our gatherings, and through Thrivent grants.

Thank you, women! You are impressive!

## QUILT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22ND



Visit our web page:

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



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

friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns

(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

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





## Words from St. John's Library

### From the Adult Ministry & Education Board

By Genevieve Quarberg

It takes special expertise and compassion to write of suffering and of dying, yet, there are special people who do that well, even when the experience is of one's dearest person. There are several books in our St. John's Library which fulfill that description.

In *The Year of Magical Thinking*, Joan Didion writes of her reactions to the sudden death of her husband. The first thing to say is that she had already written much. The second thing to say is that she was **adamantly convinced that "information gives control," something she was loathe to give up.** Yet grief can be overwhelming and she writes of that and the later necessary mourning in a book of memories heaped on memories.

Bob Artley, too, was a writer, but primarily a cartoonist (at one time in Worthington, MN). He wrote a loving story of his wife, *Ginny*, who suffered from the "cursed affliction - Alzheimer's disease." Artley writes of memories of a long marriage and of Ginny's gradual mental decline.

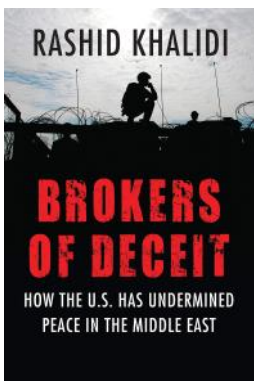
A sports columnist, Mitch Albom, writes in *Tuesdays with Morrie* of weekly meetings with a rediscovered teacher in the last months of his life. This book can be a gift of wisdom to the reader.

Mildred Tengboom wrote about a young nurse who volunteered to be tested in the experiment of finding if and what mosquito caused yellow fever in Havana in the late 1800s. Tengboom writes a gripping story of the young Clara Maas in *No Greater Love*.

*Shantung Compound, The Story of Men and Women Under Pressure* by Langdon Gilkey is "about the life of a civilian internment camp in North China during the war against Japan." Langdon Gilkey at the time was a young man who later became a professor of theology at the University of Chicago. He kept a journal of each day so he could later reflect on this time of his life and how people interacted with one another in a confined and oppressive situation. He concluded that the universal problem of selfishness needs the grace and forgiveness of God - in that experience and in our world now.

## Learn the Truth about the Conflict Between Palestine and Israel

February 4, 1:30 p.m., Undercroft



Bring your questions for a discussion of the conflict followed by a book discussion. It is not necessary to have read the book. Please join us, all are welcome.

Sponsored by Northfielders for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel.

## News and Updates

### Children's Ministry Appreciation Brunch

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

The brunch is an annual event to thank all the volunteers who help keep Children's Ministries thriving!

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

Thanks in advance!



### Circle Bible Study for Men

The new Paul Circle, for men, joins the Lydia Circle once each month for Bible Study.

Wednesdays, with coffee and refreshments at 9:00 a.m., and Bible Study at 10:00 a.m., led by local pastors and theologians.

This month, join us February 12 in St. John's Hall. Luther Peterson will be the facilitator.

## News and Updates

### **It's Easy! Direct a Gift to St. John's!**

If you are an eligible member of Thrivent Financial, don't forget to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars.®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program is directed to our ministry among youth and to the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2020, to direct any remaining 2019 Choice Dollars.

But St. John's Lutheran Church needs your support now - this year. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

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



**THRIVENT  
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*Connecting faith & finances for good.*

## **Seeking Finance Manager**

St. John's seeks a part-time Finance Manager to serve our congregation. This position manages St. John's donations and accounts payable, provides accurate and timely financial information to church leadership, and assists with forecasting and strategy for managing St. John's cash flow and stewardship.

The position is 20-30 hours per week. See [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org) for the full job description. To apply send a resume and cover letter to [pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Applications due February 28.

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

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

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

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

## **Date Change for the Courageous Conversations Book Discussion Group During Lent**

The Courageous Conversations book discussion group is moving to Mondays during Lent. We'll meet from 6:00-7:00 p.m. on February 10, March 9, and April 13.

We'll discuss *Loaded* (about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment) by Roxanne Durban-Ortiz. Books will be available at Content Bookstore. Contact [dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com) for more information or if you have questions. The group is open to everyone!



## St. John's and Habitat Rice County: Using our Faith to build Affordable Housing - *Past, Present and Future*

At St. John's we have a long past tradition of supporting the Rice County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity: volunteering on the build sites; providing food for workers; and contributing financially, both individually and as a congregation. Next month Rice County Habitat will hold a ceremony celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> home dedication. That's 50 families who were in need of affordable housing and helped into homes in part by the support of our congregation. Watch this video if you need any further inspiration on the work of Habitat Rice County: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sY\\_jHMiGLs&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5sY_jHMiGLs&feature=emb_logo)

In the present, St. John's is in a special position to continue our partnership with Habitat. You may recall that as a part of the special 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary benevolence, our congregation committed a gift of \$20,000 to Habitat. The affiliate has decided to use this money as the Lead Gift for a Quad-Home project coming this spring to Northfield. The goal of this "Faith Build," is to rally as many churches in Rice County as possible to support the building of this four-unit home, including the funds needed to finance the construction and all the volunteer labor to build it.

So, what is needed in the short-term future? The answer: your prayers and your help and expertise on the build site! There will be opportunities coming this spring for help with the construction (light duty), with providing meals for workers, and for landscaping projects. St. John's has led with the financial side of this project and now we want to be a leader for the boots on the ground, volunteer side as well. Please consider volunteering when the time comes and/or being a leader of a team of volunteers. Could you put together a small group of friends for a volunteer day or manage a group of meal providers for several weeks? We will be looking for all sorts of help from those with a heart for providing affordable housing in Rice County.

Look for more details soon and feel free to reach out to our Faith Build Team at St. John's - Jerry Kipp, Christy Hall-Holt, Chuck Houge, and Brent Nystrom - with questions, ideas, and commitments. Let's use our faith, hands, hearts, and minds to make this important Habitat build happen!



What the Northfield Quad Home project will look like  
when completed!

## News and Updates

### Winter Book Read Continues in February, and March

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

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

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

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

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

## News and Updates

### Pub Theology Schedule

What is Pub Theology?

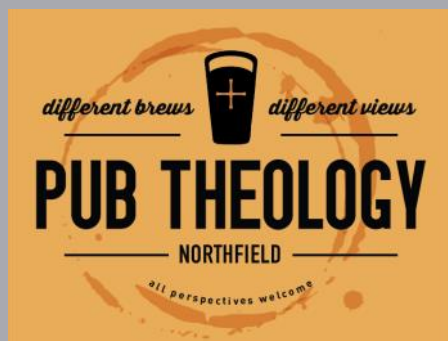
It is conversation led by Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet on the following Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Froggy Bottoms.  
February 3  
February 17

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.



## The End of Life Education Booklet Series

The End of Live Education Booklet Series by Barbara Karnes have been donated to the St John's Library. A sign-up sheet is provided for members to purchase these booklets at a reduced price of \$2.00 each.

### The Core Set of Booklets

- **Gone from My Sight: The Dying Experience** Booklet for the family members that gently explains the signs of approaching death. (Used extensively by Hospice)
- **THE ELEVENTH HOUR: A Caring Guideline for the Hours to Minutes Before Death** Explains how to provide bedside help at the time of approaching death. Especially good for family members helping as care givers and/or overseeing and working with paid or volunteer care givers.
- **PAIN AT END OF LIFE What You Need to Know About End of Life Comfort and Pain Management** This booklet is a guide for keeping people comfortable at the end of their life. It provides basic insight into discomfort as the end of life approaches and explains the role of medications.

### Other Booklets

- **HOW DO I KNOW YOU? Dementia at the End of Life** This booklet is a guide to addressing the challenges that are present in the weeks to days before a person with dementia dies. It is just a sketch, a loose drawing of symptoms, problems, and possible solutions.
- **A TIME TO LIVE Living with a Life-Threatening Illness** This booklet offers some guidelines to help you live with your life-threatening illness.
- **MY FRIEND, I CARE The Greif Experience** No one has taught us how to act or what to say when someone dies. More important, no one has taught us what it feels like to grieve. We don't know how to heal the hurt created by grief or how to live with it. Lists Do's and Don'ts.

## From Bread for the World

2019 was a challenging year politically. Yet, thanks be to God, Bread and its members achieved significant results.



As the year came to a close, Congress successfully negotiated appropriations for fiscal year 2020. The appropriations package provided the first substantial increase since 2010 for programs aimed at helping people in the U.S. struggling with poverty. It also increased international aid to help more people

around the world move out of poverty.

President Trump had proposed deep cuts to international aid. Congress instead increased poverty-focused international assistance by \$1.3 million or 4 percent. The increase included \$5 million for global nutrition, bringing annual nutrition funding to a total of \$150 million. Heather Valentine, director of Bread's government relations, reports that the \$5 million increase will allow 50,000 more children suffering from severe malnutrition and 200,000 women with anemia to receive treatment.

The legislation also provides protection for poverty-focused aid to Central America and food-security aid worldwide. This special oversight gives Congress the ability to ensure food-security funds are disbursed and are not in danger of cuts at the end of the fiscal year.

Congress increased funding for poverty-focused domestic programs as well. The most substantial increases went to low-income housing programs for low-income children.

Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships received enough funding to ensure access for several thousand more families with young children. Child nutrition programs were funded at \$474 million providing meals for an estimated 31 million children.

The WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program received an additional \$30 million. The appropriations package fully funds the First Step Act--the criminal justice reform bill that Bread helped pass last year and increases funding for Second Chance re-entry grants. These grants will help organizations that provide education and employment training and programs for individuals who were formerly incarcerated.

It also funds the U.S. Census, which will reduce under-counting of low-income people and increase federal funding for low-income families and workers.

However, in December Congress also passed a \$427 billion package of tax cuts that will benefit businesses and corporations, yet again neglecting to expand tax credits for low-income families and workers.

In 2020 Bread urges its members - all of us - to continue our advocacy to ensure that Congress hears our voice loud and clear - that ending hunger is possible. There just needs to be the political will to do it. Plan to participate in the St. John's Offering of Letters this spring.

## St. John's Staff

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