



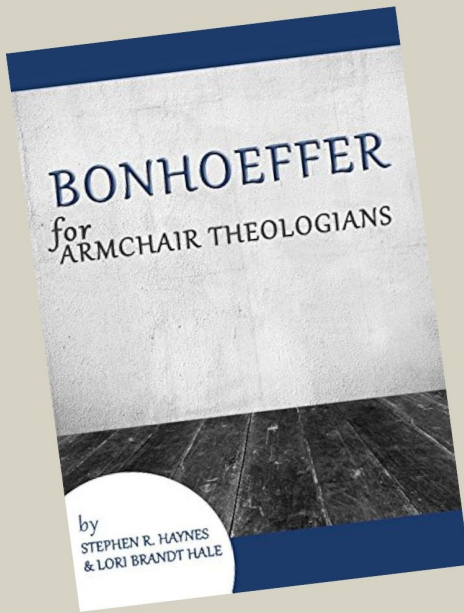
The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2025



LENTEN BOOK READ 2025

Discussion Sessions will be held:

Sundays between services
March 9-30

Wednesdays from 4:15-5:15 p.m.
March 12-April 2

More details on page 10.

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Adult Forum

On Sunday March 2, Dr. Lori Brandt Hale will introduce our Lenten book read with an adult forum on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his legacy. Dr. Hale is Professor of Religion at Augsburg College and serves as President of the International Bonhoeffer Society, Board of Directors, English language section.

She will introduce the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and contextualize his theology for our own times. She has written that the question for Christians today is not, "Is this a Bonhoeffer moment?" but instead, "Who is Christ for us now?"



Dr. Lori Brandt Hale

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

LIVESTREAM
8:30 a.m.

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

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

Livestream

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



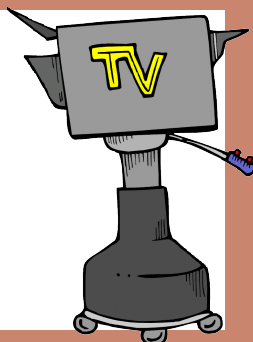
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7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 187



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

For a few months now, I have been captivated by what Parker Palmer calls *the tragic gap*. The tragic gap, he says, is that space between how the world is and how it should be. It is that fault line within each of us that can open up and create a divide *between us*. Rather than pick a side of all the division between us, Parker Palmer invites us to stand in the tragic gap.

As a result, I have been asking myself how I can stand in the tragic gap during this moment in history. These past few months, I have found myself increasingly interested in expanding the borders of my life so that I am inviting in more opportunities to be with people who think and vote and live differently than I do. Somewhat surprisingly, I have found that I am not alone in this. I have had a number of conversations recently with people who are feeling this same nudge – to intentionally meet and engage more deeply with their congregational and local community to listen to and to understand others who are not part of their everyday circles. The Spirit is at work – shifting the hearts and minds and motivations of people to a new way of being.

In the Lenten Book Read this year, St. John's will explore the life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran pastor during World War II under Nazi Germany. In his book *Life Together*, Bonhoeffer says that the goal of Christian community is that we “meet one another as bringers of the message of salvation.” There is something in *the other* – the person we despise, the person we disagree with, the person we want to keep at arm's length – that carries the very message of gospel that we need in our own life. This is the humility asked of us every time we have confession and forgiveness in worship. *We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.*

Poet Amanda Gorman has said, “Our only enemy is that which would make us enemies of each other.” We have not loved our neighbors when we make them into enemies.

There are ways in my life recently that I have become complacent and stationary, waiting for *the other* to come to me. Perhaps I have not quite demonized such neighbors, but I certainly have not sought them out for connection. I hope to change that this year. You're welcome to join me. Through the ministries at St. John's or through your own individual ways of life, I invite you to join in on the slow work of healing the dividedness between us. This effort to become less divided might sound cliché or tired, but is there any other way forward?

If you are wondering what this might look like in your life, let's talk.

In peace and love,

Pastor Jonathan

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 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 last year in this month.

February 19, 2024
Dalton James Distad

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



Are you stressed or going through a particularly difficult time? If so, you are not alone, and you may benefit from a caring listening ear. St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to walk with those who are facing a challenge in life, whether it be of mind, body, or spirit.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the support of a Stephen Minister, call one of the pastors (507-645-4429).



Greeters are Needed for Sunday Mornings

Greeting those who come into our building for worship on a Sunday morning with a friendly smile or some helpful assistance really does make a difference in creating the warm and welcoming environment we want to provide here at St. John's as people of faith. I have heard several stories from those who were new that being warmly greeted when they came here for worship was part of the reason they wanted to return to St. John's. We always want our visitors and members to have a feeling that they belong. Please consider giving "greeting" on a Sunday morning a try! No prior experience is needed, and you can do it alone, or with a friend or spouse, or with children. It's not difficult or time consuming - simply arrive 15-20 minutes prior to service, put on a name tag, and stand either by the Commons area doors or the southwest doors by the library. You can leave the door area when service begins, so you will not miss worship. We've had several wonderful repeat volunteers for greeting, and we'd be thrilled to see a few more new names on our hospitality sign-up list! You can sign up in CCB with a link found in the E-Voice, or on the sheet posted on the bulletin board near the office. You can also email Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

A GRACE-BASED APPROACH TO ANTI-RACISM

ELCA members from the Cannon River conference of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod are gathering to learn and build capacity for doing the work of inclusion with the **Tending the Garden** project. Led by the ELCA group Just Move, members of 10 different congregations will take part in two retreats and monthly Zoom gatherings. Leaders Dave Scherer and Joe Davis use poetry, music, conversation and self-reflection to help us connect our faith with the issues of race, privilege and equity in our communities.

The St. John's Council is providing funding through the Foundation to allow St. John's members to take part. There is no cost to members, but participants should commit to both retreats and more than half of the monthly sessions. Contact one of the pastors for more information or to connect with other participants.

Opening in-Person Retreat: Sunday, February 23, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Good Earth Village is an option for a meeting location.
Backup date for Opening Retreat: Saturday, March 22

Closing Retreat: Saturday, September 27 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Zoom Modules: March through August, every 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.



Prayer Buddies During Lent

Starting on Ash Wednesday, March 5, and continuing through the Lenten season, our 4th and 5th grade Catechism kids are paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their "Prayer Buddy". We ask the adult to pray for their buddy during the Lenten season. With this program, we hope to create spiritual and caring connections with children and adults in our church community.

If you are interested in being a Prayer Buddy or would like to continue being a Buddy please contact Julie Brehmer, 507-645-4429 or email children@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

Honoring Life

Baptisms

January 5, 2025
Rowena Lorraine Luedtke
daughter of Benjamin & Allison Luedtke



Deaths

January 1, 2025
Joan Halvorson

January 5, 2025
John Ferguson

January 22, 2025
Donna James



Radio Broadcasts

January 5, 2025
Given in memory of Elmer & Cora Schultz
and Ken Struss by Marie Struss and family.

January 12, 2025
Given by friends of St. John's.

January 19, 2025
Given in appreciation of the rich musical
tradition of St. John's and St. Olaf College by
Ruth Smestad Anglin.

January 26, 2025
Given by friends of St. John's.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember

Sunday School Schedule
January 2, 9, 16, 23

Wednesday After School Schedule
January 5, 12, 19, 26

Valentine Party During Sunday School
February 9

Bowling for Grades 2-5
Monday, February 17 (No School Day)
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Coming This Summer! VBS Road Trip!



When: June 9-12, 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

Who: Kids entering Kindergarten (Fall 2025)
- Grade 3 (Completed Spring 2025)

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church Watch for registration in April!



Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/24) are invited to join the preschool Sunday School class. Toddler Time meets in Room 14. Parents are welcome to attend.

Toddler Time meets this month on February 16

Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, February 17 is a NO SCHOOL DAY so we're heading to the bowling alley!

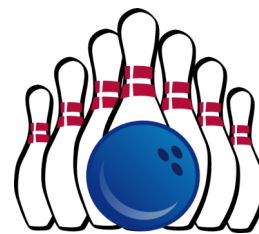
Who: Grades 2-5, Friends are always welcome!

Where: Flaherty's Lanes, Hwy 3, Northfield

When: Monday, February 17 – NO SCHOOL!

Time: 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Cost: \$11.00/child for bowling and shoe rental – Checks payable to Flaherty's Lanes or cash works too!



Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Nursery.

Parents: Please drop off and pick up your child at the bowling alley. If they need a ride or financial assistance to participate, give Julie a call at 645-4429. Parent or high school chaperones needed.



Kids in Grades 2-6! Register for Summer Camp at Good Earth Village!

Good Earth Village Summer Camp Registrations are now open!

Suggested week to attend is June 22-27.

Good Earth Village, located in Spring Valley, MN has opened the 2025 summer registration site online. Check out the schedule and registration fees on Good Earth Village's website at <https://goodearthvillage.org/summer>. St. John's gifts each camper a portion of the fee. Scholarships are also available.

Check out these Registration Discounts:

- The Early Bird discount of 10% goes until March 2 with code: **EARLY2025**
- Siblings can receive 25% off with code **SIBLING2025**
- Does your camper want to attend more than one summer camp session? Each additional tier-priced reservation can receive a 25% multi-week discount with code **MULTI2025**.

WHY DO WE DO THIS?

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

Wednesdays in February

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Middle School Confirmation

(Grades 6-12)

We'll return to our theme of relatable relationships in the Bible. In February we'll spend time with the stories of Moses' calling, and the friendships of Ruth and Naomi and David and Jonathan. We will meet all four Wednesdays.

High School Youth Group

(Grades 9-12)

High school meets with Pastor Jonathan during the month of February in the Youth Room. Watch the weekly emails for shifts in the high school schedule.

Wednesdays in March

Middle School Confirmation and Non-O.W.L. High School Youth Group

(Grades 6-12)

Time adjustment: 6:10-7:30 p.m.

During Lent we will be arriving a few early so that we can sit together at Vespers. Afterwards, we'll meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall until 7:30 p.m. In March, we'll meet the 12th and 19th ONLY. (March 5th is Ash Wednesday, and the 26th is spring break for Northfield schools.)

O.W.L. (Our Whole Lives) Program: See page 12 in this issue for meeting times and more information.

Sunday Morning Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

9:45-10:30 a.m., Youth Room

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

Children and Youth

Mentor & Mentee Meetings

Working one-on-one with youth is a meaningful experience that we take seriously.

The first Sunday of each month is designated as a Mentor/Mentee Sunday. If necessary, mentoring pairs can make arrangements that fit their schedule.

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

Mentor/Mentee Sundays Coming Up:

February 2

March 2

April 6

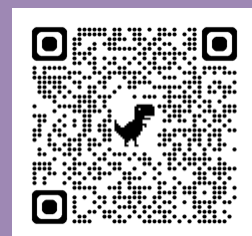
Mentee
Mentor

Summer 2025 Summer Trip

This summer's trip will be backpacking (for high school) and camping & hiking (for middle school) at Christikon in Montana.

Youth and chaperones from St. John's, St. Peter's, and First UCC will adventure in the mountains July 19-27.

Sign-up by February 15!





February Gatherings

Baby Boomers

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

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Feb. 13, 1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia & Paul Circle

Wednesday, Feb. 12
9:30 coffee; 10:00am study
St. John's Hall

Mary Circle

Friday, Feb. 14, 1:00pm
Fireside Room

Wellspring

(GenXers)

Tuesday Feb. 4, 6:30-8:00pm
St. John's Fireside Room

Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Feb. 8
9:00-10:30am
St. John's Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

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

Night Knitters!

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

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays
9:00am - noon
Fellowship Hall

COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS

February 6, 2025, 7:00pm

RETHINKING HOPE:

the Palestinian Concept of "Sumud"



Rachel Williams, a senior at St. Olaf College studying economics, political science, and religion with a concentration in Middle Eastern studies, is our February speaker. This past summer, she interned at Musalaha, a Palestinian NGO centered in Jerusalem that works towards reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis. She will draw from her experiences there to reframe the idea of hope in the context of those living through occupation and war.

Williams received a travel scholarship through Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel to participate in her internship. The scholarships are named for the late Ruth Hansen, the senior founding member of NJP/I: a local community group whose aim is to educate and inform Northfield and the surrounding area about the ongoing occupation of Palestine, and to advocate peace and justice for all people who live in Palestine and Israel.



BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE
WOMEN'S LITTLE CHRISTMAS A FUN EVENT

nollaig na mban



more pictures on the following page...

Piece by Piece: St. John's Women Quilting History from the archives

Quilting for Lutheran World Relief and others in need, started at an annual St. John's workday in July 1970. Beginning in 1973 quilters met twice a month and in 2020 quilting became a weekly activity. Since 1970, thousands of quilts have been given away to various groups, including: Lutheran World Relief, the Marie Sandvik Center in Minneapolis, Northfield Community Action Center, Global Health Ministries, Northfield Three Links Care Center, Rice County Habitat for Humanity, special gifts to various individuals, and for fundraisers.

In 2020, St. John's WELCA honored **Kathy Vang** for her work in organizing the quilting supplies. The letter of recognition sent to her read, in part,

"When you took over, the quilters were a dedicated, hard working, but rather disorganized group. There were many boxes of fabric and blankets that had collected (mildew and dust?) over the years that needed to be sorted into what could be used for quilting, what could be donated for other purposes, and what should be thrown. This was a humongous job that no one else felt able to tackle. You got the ball rolling, and persisted until the supplies were in order. And you kept the ball rolling, as more fabrics are continuously donated. Fabrics are now washed, pressed, and sorted into labeled tubs."

In addition to the letter of recognition, a \$500 donation was made to the LWR shipping fund in her honor, and a brick with an inscription honoring Kathy was installed in the plaza at the LWR headquarters in Baltimore. The inscription reads: "St. John's Quilters Honor Kathy Vang, Northfield, MN." The plaza bricks are in a quilting pattern titled "Around the World," and include 2 other bricks previously donated by St. John's WELCA. A fourth brick, with a \$500 gift, will be donated in 2025. The inscription will read: St John's Women, 1875 - 2025, Northfield, MN.



Bricks at Good Samaritan Plaza, LWR Headquarters, Baltimore, MD



Kathy Vang & handiwork

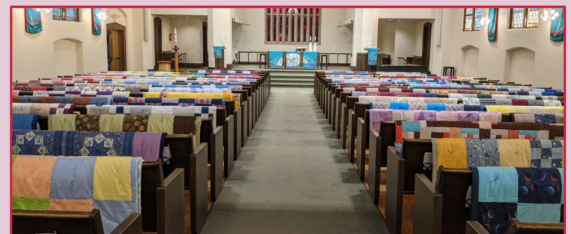
**St John's Quilters
Honor Kathy Vang
Northfield, MN**

Over the years the number of quilts assembled each year has increased. The record year was 2023 when 278 quilts were donated. A core of dedicated quilters have continued, and the group has grown. Quilts are not the only product of the group; friendships bloom and support thrives.

We are grateful, not only to the sewers and quilters, but also for the generous support of the congregation, with gifts of fabric, quilting supplies, and monetary donations. The need for quilts and kits remains great, due to natural disasters, wars, and poverty. Once a year the quilts are blessed before they are distributed.

Quilt Sunday March 2, 2025

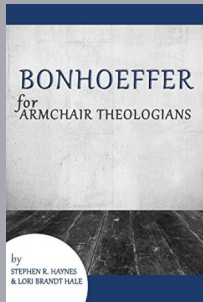
To donate to the quilt and kit fund, please give cash or write a check to St. John's WELCA, note quilt and kit fund on the memo line. Thank you for your support!



more pictures from Women's Little Christmas...



Faith Discussions



Lenten Book Read

Who was Dietrich Bonhoeffer? What was significant about his theology and Christian witness in 1930s Nazi Germany? Are we living in a Bonhoeffer moment now? Join us for the Lenten book read as we address these questions through our reading of *Bonhoeffer for Armchair Theologians* by Stephen R. Haynes and Lori Brandt Hale. Discussion sessions will be held during Lent:

-Sundays March 9 -30 between services

-Wednesdays March 12 - April 2 at 4:15 p.m.

Books will be available for sale later this month.

Pub Theology in February

What is Pub Theology? It is weekly conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet on **Monday, February 17** from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at The Contented Cow or at Froggz. The chosen location for the date will be designated in the church bulletin and the E-Voice.

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



We build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter.

Rice County Habitat for Humanity Needs Lunch Providers for February

There is a need for meal providers for the home building crews at the Twin Oaks Court, Faribault location. **If you are able to bring a hot lunch to share with them, they would really appreciate it!** Work crews consist of 10 or fewer people. The sign-up dates are on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays throughout February. If you would like to sign-up, please visit the Rice County Habitat for Humanity website volunteer page at habitatricecounty.org. The website gives instructions about what to bring. If you have additional questions, or want to sign up by phone, please contact Jodi Wagner, Community Coordinator, at 507-403-7868. Thank you!



"The Carter Door"

Coming to St. John's February 7 - 17

Rice County Habitat for Humanity is joining the Habitat for Humanity organizations around the globe in honoring the countless contributions President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalyn Carter have made to the organization and to Habitat homeowners for over nearly four decades. As part of this commemoration, a frame with a door in it is traveling around to area churches and public buildings, **symbolizing the many doors of opportunity** that the Carters helped make possible through a generous life of service to others. St. John's will enjoy the privilege of having this door for 10 days in February. We are invited to pay personal tribute to President Carter by signing our names or writing a personal message on this door to remember our 39th President.



AROUND THE BUILDING

What's happening at St. John's? A lot!

- ◆ This month we welcome Arturo Rosas to our facility staff. Arturo is the primary custodian at Northfield United Methodist Church, and will be at St. John's 10 hours weekly to supplement our building cleaning. Thanks to NUMC for sharing his time with us!
- ◆ Even in the depths of winter, our new solar panels are producing some electricity, reducing carbon emission to the atmosphere. In the month of December that was the equivalent of planting 22 trees.
- ◆ On January 23, we participated in a free XCEL program to replace dozens of lightbulbs with more energy efficient LED's in common areas.
- ◆ Multiple community groups use our space for gatherings. This month included:
 - Two weekly mental illness support groups
 - SAIL exercise class & Tai Chi
 - 8 different Scout Troops
 - The Sons of Norway
 - Northfield Middle School Daylong Retreat
 - Out 'N About Program Event
 - High School Nordic Team Dinner Gathering

Many thanks for your support of our facility, and thank you to our facility manager, Steve Harner for his ongoing care!

Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate and Thistle Farms Sales

Fair Trade Coffee and Thistle Farms items are available for purchase during fellowship hour between worship services on Sunday, February 2, and Sunday March 2 in the Commons. If you need items other times during the month please contact Dawn Tommerdahl at dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com or 701-238-5038.



LOVE HEALS
THISTLE FARMS™

Giving

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, 2025, to direct any remaining 2024 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
FINANCIAL®**
Connecting faith & finances for good.

Fare For All Food Group Distribution

What is Fare for All?

Everyone and anyone can shop at Fare For All across 30+ pop up sites in the Twin Cities and Greater MN. Shop for quality, nutritious foods at discount and budget-friendly prices. We follow a co-op model, so the more people who shop, the better the discounts. Just stop by and shop! Fare For All buys fresh produce and frozen meat in bulk from wholesalers, manufacturers, and growers. Volunteers bundle it into \$10 – \$30 packages that are sold at sale locations across Minnesota. Pay by credit, debit, EBT or cash.

Fare for All Food Group distribution is held at
St. Dominic's Church
104 Linden St. N, Northfield
3:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.

Dates:

2/13, 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/17, 8/14, 9/11,
10/9, 11/6, 12/4

Check out the Website:

<https://www.thefoodgroupmn.org/groceries/fare-for-all>



FARE FOR ALL
Food that makes cents

Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.)

This winter/spring, St. John's is offering the Our Whole Lives (O.W.L.) sexuality and relationship program **for 10th- 12th grade high schoolers**. O.W.L. is a curriculum designed to teach the social, emotional, and spiritual aspects of sexuality and relationships. Pastor Jonathan and Tamara Jackman, a Certified Nurse Midwife, will be leading these sessions for High Schoolers.

Here is what one youth has said, *"Although the conversations can be uncomfortable, I never regretted being part of them. I grew from my time in O.W.L. and wish I could've had more of it. Don't waste this opportunity!"*
- Oden Hoff, St. John's High School, Class of 2022.

Schedule:

Feb 23 – Parents Only Session – *Required*, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

March 1 – Opening OWL Retreat, TBD

March 5 – OWL Session, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

March 12 – OWL Session, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

March 19 – OWL Session, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

April 2 – OWL Session, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

April 9 – OWL Session, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

April 14 – Closing OWL Retreat, TBD

If you have questions or if your high schooler is interested and ready to sign up, email Pastor Jonathan: jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org, or call the church office at 645-4429.





Accompany Winter/Spring Session 2025 for Newcomers

Are you new to our church community and interested in learning more about St. John's? Are you considering St. John's as your possible church home and thinking about becoming a member?

This late winter/early spring our program for newcomers called "Accompany" is offered to anyone pondering these questions! **Accompany will meet on 6 Sundays during the coffee fellowship hour March 2, 9, 16 and April 6, 13, 27.** This program provides a time to build connections with other participants while learning about the various opportunities we have for service involvement and spiritual nourishment. Meetings are led by a facilitator and guest speakers from various church boards, staff, or other St. John's groups. If you are interested in participating, email Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org or call the church office. We look forward to hearing from you!

Are you a Member and would consider being a Sponsor for a Newcomer?

At St. John's we want to welcome our newcomers by pairing them with a "sponsor". A sponsor is a member who is already feeling comfortable and familiar with our church, and would like to be a friendly support person to someone that is participating in our Accompany program. Being a sponsor is a great way to build a connection with a new person and make them feel welcome here. If you are interested and willing to be a sponsor sometime, please let Angie Gehring know and you'll be put on a list to be contacted when a sponsor is needed for someone. Being a sponsor is not a big time commitment, requires no fancy theological knowledge or prior experience, and can really make a positive difference to someone new—and to you, too!

Thank You



A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD

With gratitude

Thank you all for being stewards of this church. Thank you for giving in time and money and heart during 2024. And thank you for pledging continued support in 2025!

We are St. John's

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
Mac & Cheese w/Hot Dogs

Wednesday, February 12
Chicken Stuffing Casserole

Wednesday, February 19
Scalloped Potatoes w/Ham

Wednesday, February 26
Taco Boats

No Meal on March 5—Ash Wednesday

Soup Suppers begin March 12



Sunday Hospitality

Who doesn't enjoy having a treat while visiting with friends, fellow church members, and guests?

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

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



Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is great way to support the on-going ministry of St. Johns, even when you are out of town or unable to worship in person. To sign up for electronic giving, contact Leah in the church office at (507) 645-4429, or by email: office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. "I give electronically" cards are available in the pew racks, so you can show your support during the Sunday morning offering.



Get Involved with Children's Programming at St. John's

Parents, grandparents, high school and middle school youth! Please consider how you can help partner in faith by volunteering with children's programs this year. We try to create opportunities that are easy to commit to and can fit into busy schedules.

Wednesday afternoons:

- Snack Servers - help serve snacks on Wednesdays for our after-school programming, 3:45-4:00 p.m.
- Youth! Lead games and assist with other activities during our programs.

Sunday Mornings:

- Nursery volunteers during the worship services

Please contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429, if you have questions. Thanks!

Get Involved with Youth Programming at St. John's

Would you like to help out on a regular or occasional basis with youth Wednesday night Confirmation and High School Youth Groups? Volunteering with youth events and regular programming is a great way to get to know the young people in our congregation. Below are some ways you could help in ways big and small – all of which make a difference for everyone involved.

Wednesday nights

- Provide adult presence downstairs between dinner and programming
- Help setting up for confirmation, 5:45-6:00 p.m.
- Sharing game ideas
- Visiting to tell part of your story to youth

Events

- Drivers
- Acquiring and preparing snacks
- Chaperones

Interested in helping out? Please contact Kristin Partlo at 507-645-4429 or youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thanks!

Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (March 2025 Edition):

March 15

Please send submissions electronically via email to Leah Garlie at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org or the [Announcement Request Form](#) found on our website.

Staff & Congregation President

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Associate Pastor

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