



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 3

JUNE / JULY 2022

Please Note:

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

Due to the pandemic, these may change.

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

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

RADIO BROADCASTS

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

9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays in July

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



Save the Date: Night to Unite on August 2

St. John's will again be hosting our annual Night to Unite celebration. This is a part of a national program that encourages neighbors to come together on the first Tuesday in August to strengthen community and increase the safety of neighborhoods.

The celebration will include a picnic style meal along with a bouncy tent, emergency vehicle tours, vintage cars, live music, and games.

Please let Angie Gehring know if you can provide/help with one of the following:

- showing/giving rides in your interesting vehicles
- singing and playing instruments or setting up music
- making and/or distributing flyers
- setting out and/or putting away chairs and tables in the parking lot

Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429.

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays in June
9:30 a.m. Sundays in July

Livestream

8:30 a.m. Sundays in June
9:30 a.m. Sunday in July
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org



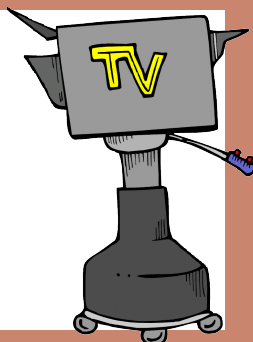
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7:30 p.m. Mondays
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2:00 p.m. Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

WELCOME STATEMENT

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

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

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

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



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

From Our Pastors

Sabbatical, Sabbath, and Jubilee.

You've probably noticed that the number seven appears a lot in Scripture. The Hebrew tradition is that seven is a "complete" number, and so it appears and reappears in story and song.

"Seven" is in fact the literal meaning of the word "sabbath," the seventh day of the week that the Third Commandment sets apart as a day of rest and worship. While Lutherans have often emphasized the importance of worship on the sabbath, Exodus and Deuteronomy both lift up that Sabbath is to be a day where we cease from our striving, remembering that God rested after creating the world, and God granted freedom and rest to the Hebrew slaves in Egypt.

The Hebrew law goes on to specify that this sabbath rest can be extended to more than just a weekly ritual. Every seven years, the Hebrews were commanded to let the land rest; and every seventh year was to be a year of Jubilee, when the whole community was commanded to cancel debt and observe liberation for everyone.

It's from this tradition that the church (and academia) have created traditions of granting pastors sabbaticals in every seventh year of service. While not required of any pastor or congregation, ELCA congregations are urged to carve out these moments of rest and reflection both for the health of the pastor and for the health of the congregation.

St. John's pastors were scheduled for sabbaticals in 2020 and 2021 when the pandemic threw everyone's plans into disarray. This year instead Pastor Fickenscher took a mini-sabbatical in February-March, and Pastor Davis will take a traditional 12-week sabbatical beginning July 11.

For Pastor Pam, the time away offered a chance to be refreshed physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually. She was able to deepen her engagement with two hobbies – skiing and knitting, as well as a chance to attend the first in-person continuing education event in two years! Coincidentally Bethel's new Senior Pastor Inger Hanson also attended Recreation and Revelation, a week-long gathering in Colorado for pastors to attend twice daily lectures interspersed with time in the snow. The themes were forgiveness and ministry in a divided age, led by Prof Anthony Bateza and Dr. David Lose. Pam is deeply grateful for these weeks that allowed her to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. The fruits of this time will emerge in sermons still to come as well as a sweater that she'll get to wear next winter.

For Pastor Jonathan, sabbatical will be anchored by a two-week trip to Scotland with his family and possibly two other trips for personal and spiritual renewal. He is hoping to find time to visit and learn from Pastor Alan Storey, when Alan is visiting the United States in August, and to take time in the sun and near an ocean. As he has mentioned before in a sermon, one of the most spiritually-filled and peaceful

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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.



Summer Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during the summer will be on the following Sundays: June 5, July 3, and August 7.

If you need items other times during the summer please contact Dawn Tommerdahl at dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com or 701-238-5038.

Stephen Ministry

On Sunday, May 8, a newly trained group of Stephen Ministers was commissioned at St. John's. They join current care givers available to meet regularly, one-on-one, with adults who could benefit from time with someone prepared to listen, pray together, and simply be present. Contact a pastor at 507-645-4429 to learn more.



Ruth Smestad Anglin, Carol Breimhorst, Barry Becker,
Mary Holleque, Erik Holleque

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

experiences for Jonathan is swimming deep in a body of water. On this sabbatical, he hopes to fulfill a life-long dream of scuba diving in the ocean. In between these adventures, Jonathan plans to spend time at home gardening and building a trellis for a new walking garden, reconnecting with old friends and colleagues, and finally tackling some of the half-read books on the nightstand. Along with Pam, Jonathan is deeply grateful for this unique and generous opportunity, and is excited for being rested and refreshed for exciting years ahead at St. John's.

With much love and gratitude,

Pastor Pam and Pastor Jonathan

Radio Broadcasts

April 3

Given in celebration of Elaine Feroe's 100th birthday on April 6.

April 10

Given in loving memory of Don McRae
From Marilyn McRae Raadt and family.

April 14 (Maundy Thursday)

Given by friends of St. John's.

April 15 (Good Friday)

Given by friends of St. John's.

April 17

Given by Sharon Bishop in memory of her parents.

April 24

Given in celebration of Lester Gunderson's 100th birthday on April 21.

May 1

Given in celebration of Duane Kringen's 100th birthday today.

May 8

Given in memory of Marlene Engstrom, Lillian Engstrom,
and Cora Hustad from Chris, Peter, and Rolf Engstrom.

May 15

Given in memory of Andrew and Betty Droen
by Rick and Nancy Moe.

May 22

Given in loving memory of Fred J. Gaggioli
on his birthdate, May 25, 1954, by his family.

May 29

Given in memory of Marlene Engstrom
from Duane, Chris, Peter, and Rolf.

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.

Life and Growth

Baptisms

April 3, 2022

Eleanora Josephine Luckman
daughter of Anastacia and Ryan Luckman

April 17, 2022

Robin Lawrence Lichti Hendrickson
son of Kate Lichti & Caleb Hendrickson

May 1, 2022

Elijah Anthony Rydberg
son of Rachel and Anthony Rydberg

Deaths

May 24, 2022

Lois Rand



Summer Worship Schedule

Summer worship services
will be at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

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

Children and Youth

It was wonderful to be back in person this year with St. John's kids!

Many thanks to our Wednesday and Sunday Children Ministry helpers:

Amy McBroom, Christy Hall-Holt, Angie Gehring, Sally Lindell, Leah Garlie, Amy Rudser, Jonah Brownlee, Wyatt Norrie, Brian Evenson, Sue Brockman, Jenn Paulson, Cora McBroom, and Melissa Pellinen, Arielle Loy, Pastors Jonathan and Pam, and Emmanuel Kaghondi.

On the last day of Wednesday after school programs, we walked to "The Blast" ice cream shop.

Here's a photo of most of the crew!



On April 30, the 3rd and 4th graders attended a Catechism Retreat on the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

On Sunday, June 5, the children will be taking communion out of the clay cup and plate each of them made at the retreat.

We want to thank Joel, Berit and Sam Froehle for helping kids create their pottery pieces!

Summer Adventures for Ages 3-5th Grades

With summer comes great outdoor experiences! This year, kids are invited to participate in these Summer experiences:

Family VBS on Wednesdays, June 15 and 22 at Bethel Lutheran Church, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. St. John's, along with Bethel, Emmaus, and St. Peter's Churches, offer this event. Designed for kids up through elementary. Cost is \$20 per family. Register online on the St. John's website.



Summer Camp for Grades 2-5

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

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

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

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

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

On May 14, the 3rd graders attended a Catechism Retreat on the Sacrament of Holy Baptism down by the Cannon River.

Northfield's Clean River Project led a "River Insect Safari" activity where kids captured river insects. The type of insects can tell us about how clean the river water is in Northfield.



Youth Summer Trips

June 19-24th - Middle School will be at Wisconsin for Amnicon camp for River Heroes Service Adventure, which is paddling down the Namekagon/St Croix Riverway while making some stops to take care of nature and explore the beauty of God's creation. There will be time to swim, play before cooking dinner over the fire. Each evening we will set up camp, enjoy dinner cooked over fire, and connect with our fellow adventurers about life and God as the sun sets behind the trees. Oh, and each night we will dream of God's love as we swing our bodies in our sleeping hammocks.

July 8-16 - High School youth will be at Montana for Christikon Camp. Our trip is Mountaineers backpacking in the world's most lovely country. We will spend our first and last nights at the main camp. But the rest of the time we are hiking through mountain wilderness. In the midst of the exhilaration of high country camping, we will continue to search for God in our energy, endurance, backpacks and sleeping bags.

Youth Summer Events

SonShine events are summer events organized by the three ELCA churches (St. John's, St. Peter, Bethel). More details will be sent later.

- SonShine I: June 29 - A joint Middle School Outdoors Scavenger hunt.
- SonShine II: July 27 - A joint HS/MS movie night. We are planning to reserve the theater this year.
- SonShine III: August 17 - Your favorite joint Romans & Christians game.

Other Events for St. John Youth:

- June 5 - Mentors-Mentees end of year celebration lunch
- **Lock-In** is back this year. Date TBA
- More fun opportunities - TBA

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was back this year. So much fun!

Thanks to everyone who helped with the event by donating candy, filling and hiding over 1,500 eggs. And, thank you to the Easter Bunny for hopping by! (aka Peder Lindell)



Children and Youth

St. John's Nursery Reopens This Summer

Starting Sunday, June 12, St. John's Nursery will reopen during the 10:00 a.m. worship service in June and August and during the 9:30 a.m. service in July.

The Nursery is open for ages 6 and younger.

We ask that children wear a mask.

Youth Update from April and May

The Ministry with Youth & Families partnered with Community Action Center to prepare care bags for families in our community. Our Youth enjoyed putting together: birthday bags - these are kept on the food shelf and given out by request. They're meant as a "celebration in a bag" for parents, snack bags - these are kept on the food shelf and are used to tide over a hungry kid or keep children busy while their parents access CAC resources, and emergency kits - these kits are intended for community members in crisis who need help meeting basic needs for personal care.

We also partnered with The Key Youth Center again this year to provide some help for the youth of Northfield. We provide a weekly meal in May for the youth supported by The Key.

We thank all St. John's Church Community members for your support of these Community Ministries.

Watch for Online Registration coming in August for the 2022-2023 Programming Year!

the WOMEN'S page

June
July
2022

ST. JOHN'S WOMEN WORKING, LEARNING, AND PLAYING TOGETHER

During the school year, many St. John's Women are meeting to design, sew, and tie quilts for local charities, and Lutheran World Relief.

Many of us meet to knit prayer shawls, baptism blankets, baby sweaters and caps for St. John's, World Vision, and Lutheran World Relief.

While most of the St. John's Women's activities are taking the Summer off, the **Quilters** will continue to meet every Thursday morning in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs), from 9:00-Noon.

The **prayer shawl knitters** will continue meeting in the church library on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 10:00am.

The **Women's Breakfast Group** will meet 9:00am in the church library on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Our **Courageous Conversations** and small groups will begin again in September, however, the **Boomers** will meet mid Summer at one of our local eateries for refreshments and fellowship. Watch for the date and time.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS

The ELCA provides annual scholarships for international students identified as leaders. Our gifts help support the education of 200 international women through educational seminars, south-to-south exchanges, in-country study programs, and degree programs at ELCA colleges and universities. We have three recipients here at St. Olaf.

St. John's Women gifted our students with prayer shawls, and for graduation, presented Nakunda with a prayer book.

Here they are, sporting their shawls: **Nakunda Cecilia Mshana** (Senior from Tanzania), **Asi Sitinjak** (Junior from Indonesia/Singapore), and **Hanzina Frederick** (freshman from Namibia)



2022-2023 WELCA Executive Board



(L to R) Janet Lotegeluaki, Cindy McBroom, Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Jean Wakely, Carol Breimhorst, Julie Zdenek, Jo Franklin, Kathy Schuurman, Jennifer Edwins, and Dawn Tommerdahl

"Our Movers, and shakers, and 'good trouble' makers"



Visit our web pages: www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women
Like us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns"
Friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns (Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women")
Correspondence: women.stjohns500@gmail.com



WOMEN'S DAY
Saturday, June 25, 2022



Coming Up this Summer St. John's will be hiring!

This month we gave thanks for two staff members leaving employment at St. John's:

Zack Pelletier served as Director of the Rejoice Ringers for a decade and has welcomed many new ringers to the handbell ensemble over his time here, as well as re-starting the group in this extended COVID season. His last Sunday was May 15.

Christy Hall-Holt has served St. John's in the areas of shared ministry, Wednesday hospitality, and new member welcoming for seven years. She leaves our staff to begin a new ministry season as a chaplaincy resident at North Memorial Hospital. Her last day was Tuesday, May 24. Plans are in process for a sending and blessing.

In addition, St. John's will be seeking a new **Jubilate Choir Director** this summer, to replace Carol Benson's ministry with grade school choirs that has been on pause during COVID. We are also beginning a transition process for our **Facility Manager** position, as Tim Byers prepares to retire at the end of this year.

As you know, these are challenging times for hiring. We welcome your ideas and assistance in spreading the word about these positions. Position descriptions will be posted at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org when they are approved by St. John's Council.

Summer Suppers are Returning

Several years ago "Summer Suppers" were introduced to the members at St. John's and were well attended. The Adult Ministry & Education Board has decided that this would be the year that these gatherings would make a return.



These will be fellowship opportunities to bring together members of St. John's who have been kept apart because of the pandemic. It will help us become connected again; or perhaps introduced to the many new members who have joined St. John's over the last couple of years.

Adult Ministry will be looking for hosts and attendees to join together for an evening meal. The first opportunity will be a mid-week meal during the month of July to accommodate those who have busy weekend plans; the other on a Sunday evening in late August (after the softball season). Dates will be announced in the near future.

It is our hope that you will be looking for an opportunity such as this to reconnect or become acquainted. Watch for the Summer Supper display in the Commons in June or more information will be in the weekly E-Voice and the bulletins.

News and Updates



Upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drive

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

Just one unit of blood has the potential to save 3 lives.

There is always an ongoing need, and we invite you to consider making a difference by donating blood.

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

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

News and Updates

Weekly “Patio” Theology Returns

Beginning on Monday, June 6, Pastors Pam and Jonathan are excited to launch weekly Pub Theology again!

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 Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at **host homes**.

What does it mean to host Patio Theology?

You can invite the group to a space that is inside or outside.

If inside, you can decide if you want masking required or optional.

You DO NOT have to provide beverages.

You DO NOT have to provide all the lawn chairs.

You DO NOT have to lead discussion.

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) to add your name to the email list.



St. John's Joins the Summer Church Softball League

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

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

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

Many thanks to John Bade for the new team logo!

For the full summer schedule and game results go to <https://sites.google.com/site/northfieldchurchsoftballleague>. The schedule is also posted on the bulletin board in the Commons.



Please Join an Usher Team

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

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

Ready to give it a try? Contact Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or by email at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



Save the Date: Tuesday, June 21 Event at Valley Grove Church

The Adult Ministry & Education Board invites you to an ice cream social at Valley Grove Church from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on June 21.

Jeff Sauve will talk about the history of the buildings, the cemetery, and the congregation's connections with the Lutheran churches in the area. Gary Wagenbach will introduce participants to the 50 acres of natural area surrounding the building site and cemetery.

Celebrate the longest day of the year with other St. John's members at Valley Grove Church! More information will follow in the weekly E-Voice.

Alleluia 5K Run a Moving Success!

The second Sunday of Easter this year afforded us an opportunity to get outside and sing our alleluias with members of other ELCA congregations in Northfield. On April 24 all three congregations altered their worship schedules so that our second service would be a moving worship, beginning at St. Peter's, crossing the river to St. John's, and finishing at Bethel. The 5K run drew 80 registrants and lots of enthusiastic cheerers and helpers.



Bethel 6th grader Kai Kust took the prize for the first runner to deliver the "alleluia" to the finish line. Collectively the congregations raised over \$2000 for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, a fitting recipient for our gifts on the day of Orthodox Easter as we remembered many refugees who have had to run for their lives.

Thanks to everyone who participated and helped along the sidelines, and especially to Bethel for hosting Holy Communion and a delicious fish taco lunch at the race's end.

St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

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pfickenschner@StJohnsNorthfield.org

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507-645-4429

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office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

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

Do you ever see people and wonder what their names are?

Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with a name?

Are you a new member and wish you had something to help you put names with faces?

Help is on the way!

We are producing a new pictorial directory!

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

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



Photography Dates:

Monday, October 17 - Friday, October 21

Tuesday, Nov. 8 - Saturday, Nov. 12

Hours of Photography:

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

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