



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 3

JUNE / JULY 2023



## NIGHT to UNITE!

Neighbors Joining Together

### Inside this issue:

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### Save the Date:

### Night to Unite on August 1

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, and games.

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

- making and/or distributing flyers
- setting out and/or putting away chairs and tables in the parking lot

Contact Angie at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429.

**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
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**LIVESTREAM**  
9:30 a.m. Sundays  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)

**RADIO BROADCASTS**  
9:30-10:30 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

9:30 a.m. Sundays

### Livestream

9:30 a.m. Sundays  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)



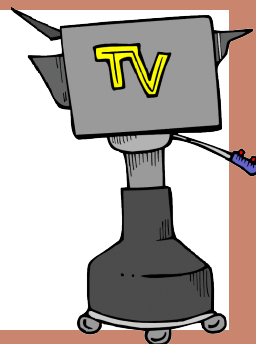
### Radio Broadcasts

9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays  
KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM  
[kymnradio.net](http://kymnradio.net)



### TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays  
12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays  
2:00 p.m. Wednesdays  
7:00 p.m. Fridays  
NTV Channel 187



[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](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

### *What are we waiting for?*

Dear people of God,

I usually think of Advent as the “season of waiting.” Waiting to celebrate the birth of Christ, as we light one candle each week around the wreath, waiting for Christmas morning to share in love and gifts, and waiting for the start of a new year. But *waiting* has been a theme that has been showing up a lot lately, in many places throughout this past year – not just at Christmas.

Throughout this past year, when 40+ people connected to St. John’s participated in the PEEL experience (learning about poetry and photography, and getting to know someone well enough to take their portrait and write a poem about them), it was really hard to give up *three days* for many of us. During those three days of learning and connecting, there were also long moments of *waiting*. Waiting for the photographer’s help, waiting for others to finish their poem, waiting for the next session to start. But interestingly, when some of us reflected on the weekend, it was the *waiting* - the downtime – that many didn’t realize how much they needed, but rarely give themselves.

Theologians Andrew Root and Blair Bertrand have a new book out for congregations called *When Church Stops Working*. The title is a play on words. Many people are very aware of what has been called “the crisis of decline” for churches; many people would say that church *isn’t working anymore*. As a result, there has been a loud and ever-present call for the Church to change (and change fast!) or else there will be no church anymore. It appears that churches are called to accelerate and do more and change just so that the Church can “survive”.

But Root and Bertrand have a different thought about this – what if we are called to be a *waiting Church*. Meaning, a Church waiting for the Spirit to move among us and to connect with God. Or put another way, what happens when the Church *stops working* so hard, and makes room for God to do something. But this isn’t a passive waiting – it is a waiting that focuses on relationship within the church and tends to the connections in our community. Instead of trying to *do more, produce more, be more*, what if we slowed down and just simply *related* more to each other and to God? What if we waited with each other?

I know this might sound too vague of an idea, but that is okay. It is an idea, a hope, that is still being born. Root and Bertrand hope to invite the church into stories and visions that can lead the church beyond the crisis of decline and into an encounter with the living God through our connections to one another. In *this moment, with these people*.

If you want to think more about this with me, I hope you will join us for the St. John’s forum on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. (after 9:30 a.m. worship!). Author Blair Bertrand will be at St. John’s to lead a discussion on the PEEL Experiences and *When Church Stops Working*. He will help us reflect on why we engaged in this experiment and what we might learn from it as a church and how it might help to stop working and start waiting...together.

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](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.



If you are stressed or are going through a difficult time, you may benefit from a caring listening ear.

St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to offer this kind of support.

Please call one of the pastors (507-645-4429) to request a Stephen Minister if you feel this could make a difference for you.

## Stephen Ministry: Extraordinary Ordinary Time

Having survived an extraordinary winter we enter "Ordinary Time." That time arrives every year, but after too many months of measuring snow depth and ice expanse we are extra eager for the return of its green this year. Spring's lush green matches the welcome green of this largest fraction of the church year, Ordinary Time.

What is Ordinary Time? Synonyms for the word *ordinary* include common, expected, normal, routine, predictable, maybe even calm. The church's Ordinary Time is actually a two-part season. The shorter part goes from the end of Epiphany until Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins; the second, longer part runs all the way from the Monday after Pentecost until the First Sunday of Advent. But in what sense are these two parts "ordinary"? They are between celebrations; they are simply days, weeks, months that neither anticipate nor mark anything special. They are predictable and calm, but that doesn't mean nothing is happening. Heavens, no!

Ordinary Time provides breathing room - a chance to stop, unwind, reflect, create, and mature. Living things (including us) emerge, are nourished, blossom, and bear fruit during this green time. Movement happens. Growth happens. Revelation happens. And hope happens. Heavens, yes! Of course God comes to us in the hoopla of Christmas and the surprise of Easter, but trust that God also comes in the quiet grace of all things ordinary.

If you or someone you know needs help appreciating the gift of Ordinary Time, contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429 about partnering with a Stephen Minister.



## Summer Worship Schedule Continues Thru Sunday, September 10

This summer we will have one worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 10.

## Radio Broadcasts in April and May

**April 2, 2023**

Given by Sharon Bishop.

**April 6, 2023**

Given by Kathy Vang  
in memory of parents Louis & Lucille Vang  
and brother Harold Vang and sister Lana Hammer.

**April 7, 2023**

Given by friends of St. John's.

**April 9, 2023**

Given by Ruth and Ronnie Anglin  
in memory of their daughter Helene  
and Ruth's parents Lowell & Eulalie Smestad.

**April 16, 2023**

Given by Joyce and Richard Moore  
in celebration of their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.

**April 23, 2023**

Given by George and Judy Pinc  
in honor of their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 20.

**April 30, 2023**

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

**May 7, 2023**

Given by Mark and Terry Rydberg  
in memory of Melvin Rydberg and Paul Tollefson  
whose birthdays were May 4 and May 7.

**May 14, 2023**

Given in honor of Joe Shaw's recent 98<sup>th</sup> birthday with love  
from daughters Nancy, Betsy, Margaret, and Mary  
and his many honorary daughters.

**May 21, 2023**

Given by Marie Benson and family  
in memory of Duane Benson.

**May 28, 2023**

Given in memory of Howard Thorsheim.

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).

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

February 26, 2023

*Bill Talen*

April 8, 2023

*Jennifer Bothun*

May 8, 2023

*Tom Fjelde*

May 21, 2023

*Ronald Detlie*

May 22, 2023

*Jaron Johnson*



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

June 7, 2022

**Elvin Heiberg**

June 12, 2022

**Duane Kringen**

July 20, 2022

**Dale Gehring**

# Children and Youth



## Family Vacation Bible School in June!

Children preschool through elementary will love this hero-inspired VBS filled with heroic stories of the bible, activities, games and songs!

St. John's along with Bethel, Emmaus, and St. Peter's, brings these two fun family nights.

Please click on the QR code for additional information and to register!

**When:**

Wednesdays, June 14 and 21

**Time:**

6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Where:**

Outside at Bethel Lutheran Church

**Cost:**

\$20/family

**Hosted by:**

St. John's, St. Peter's, Emmaus, and Bethel



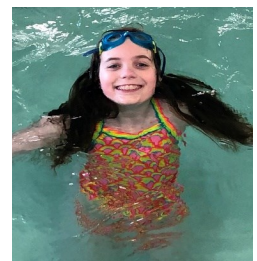
## It's Been a Great School Year!

Thank you, parents. We are so grateful for your support of our children's programs at St. John's and for volunteering to lend a hand. It means so much!

**Thank You to Our Sunday School Volunteers:** Sue Brockman, Brian Evenson, Candace Godfrey, Siri Lindell, Arielle Loy, Jenny Nystrom, Jennifer Paulson, Amy McBroom, and Melissa Pellinen.

**Thank You to Our Wednesday Crew:** Pastor Pam, Pastor Jonathan, Emmanuel, Arielle, Green, Michael, and our middle school helpers, Jonah Brownlee and Eleanor Godfrey, plus our Bus Angels, Jenn Paulson, Melissa Pellinen, Amy McBroom, and Amy Tacheny.

Here are a few photos of the Wednesday program's end of year event at the YMCA.



## Summer Camp for Grades 2-6

Summer is just around the corner and with summer comes great outdoor experiences!



This year, kids are invited to participate in these Summer experiences at Good Earth Village Bible Camp, Spring Valley, MN.

### June 28-30: 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. Campers stay in Log Lodge.

### June 25-30:

#### Pathfinders – Grades 3-4 (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 our on-site naturalist. Campers stay in our Hilltop Cabins.

#### Pioneers – Grades 5-6 (completed)

Pioneers experience adventure-filled days and laid-back nights of an Old West style camp. Pioneers sleep in Old Town Village, learn outdoor skills, cook meals over the fire, hike to new locations, play awesome group games, share stories and songs around the campfire, and take care of each other.

#### Summer Camp Discount

- Siblings each receive a 25% discount with code **SIBLING23** excludes Intergenerational Family Camp

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

## Thank You, Giada!

Thank you to our Nursery caregiver, Giada, for spending the school year with the littlest ones at St. John's.

We wish her a wonderful summer break!

She returns to St. Olaf this fall.



## Children and Youth

### The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was so much fun!

Thanks to everyone who helped with the event by donating candy, filling, and hiding over 1,700 eggs.

And, thank you to the Easter Bunny for hopping by!  
(aka Peder Lindell)



# the WOMEN'S page



## GATHERINGS

Some Circles do not meet during the Summer months. Contact [women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com) for circle questions.

### Baby Boomers

1st Saturday, 4:30-6:00

Meet in homes

Boomers will meet once mid summer, watch for info

### Women's Breakfast Group

Meeting during Summer

2nd Saturday, 9:00am

St. John's Library

### Elizabeth Circle

2nd Thursday, 1:30pm

St. John's Library

### Lydia Circle

2nd Wednesday, 9:00am

Coffee and Conversation

10:00 Bible Study

St. John's Hall

### Mary Circle

2nd Friday 1:00pm

St. John's Fireside Rm

### Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

2nd & 4th Thursday

10:00a St. John's Library

### Knitters (World Vision)

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 10am

Kathy Vang 645-4849

### Quilters

Thursdays

9:00a - noon, Fellowship Hall



## 2023-24 Movers, Shakers, and Good Trouble-makers Introducing the new WELCA Executive Board Members



Row 1: Jennifer Edwins (Treasurer), Michelle Kramer-Provist, Pam Groves-Gaggioli (President), Mary Hoff, Janet Lotegeluaki (Secretary), Jo Franklin, Jane Rinehart. Row 2: Jean Wakely, Julie Zdenek (Publicity), Alison Kavanaugh (Vice President), Dawn Tommerdahl, Kathy Schuurman, and Sara Bright.



## Women's Day at Good Earth Village

"Boundless Compassion"

Saturday, June 24, 2023

9:00AM-3:00PM

\$35 per person

Pre-registration:

(507) 346-2494 or at [info@goodearthvillage.org](mailto:info@goodearthvillage.org).



Come and explore compassion! Boundless Compassion is a mission founded by Sister Joyce Rupp, a nun who has written 32 books on spiritual matters over her lifetime. Sr. Joyce believes that compassion is deeply missing from this century and feels called to bring the need for compassion to light, and to build compassion skills in people who see the need for God's Boundless Compassion.



New!  
Evening  
Knitting  
Group!

3rd Wednesday of the month

6:00pm-8:00pm

Church Library

Come and go

Contact: Jill Enestvedt

(507) 645-9330

[jillenestvedt@gmail.com](mailto:jillenestvedt@gmail.com)

Visit our web pages: [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women)

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



Like us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns" Friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns (Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)





WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING  
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX  
WELCATG.ORG

Join other St. John's women  
for a life-changing 4 days in  
Phoenix, AZ!

Register online or contact Pam  
Groves-Gaggioli for details, and  
AirBnB lodging opportunities.

## MISSION MORNING HUGE SUCCESS!!

60 women showed up to help change the world on a Saturday in late April.

They are responsible for:

75 personal care kits, 50 baby care kits, and 6 quilts assembled for  
Lutheran World Relief

60 hospice kits, and 100 bandages rolled for Global Health Ministries

Baby hats, sweaters and blankets knit, and patterns given out for World  
Vision/Knit for Kids

Prayer shawls knit for our own parish outreach



Mission Morning  
mocha, muffins, & missions



## News and Updates

### Season Two of the St. John's Seraphs Summer Softball Team

Join the fun! Come cheer our team on!

Here is the upcoming schedule:

**Sunday, June 4**

5:00 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 1  
*St. John's vs. Canvas*

**Sunday, June 11**

5:00 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2  
*St. John's vs. UCC*  
6:05 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 1  
*St. John's vs. Methodist*

**Sunday, June 18**

6:05 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2  
*St. John's vs. St. Dominic Johnnys*  
7:10 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2  
*St. John's vs. Cornerstone*

**Sunday, June 25**

7:10 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2  
*St. John's vs. Bethel*

**Sunday, July 2**

No Game

**Sunday, July 9**

7:10 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2  
*St. John's vs. St. Dominic White*

**Sunday, July 16**

8:15 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 1  
*St. John's vs. Hosanna*

**Sunday, July 23**

6:05 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2  
*St. John's vs. Life 21*

**Sunday, July 30**

7:10 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2  
*St. John's vs. Emmaus*

**Sunday, August 6**

6:00 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 1  
*St. John's vs. Cornerstone*



### Special St. John's Forum: The PEEL Project with Blair Bertrand June 4, 11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall

On Sunday, June 4, following worship, all are welcome to join us for a special St. John's Forum with Blair Bertrand, co-author of *When Church Stops Working*, who will present to the St. John's community what the PEEL Experiences were about and why they wanted to try this experiment in a congregational setting. This will help the St. John's community have a richer understanding of these portraits and poems and how they might inform our life together as a congregation going forward.

### Celebrate Mid-Summer at Vang Lutheran Church

The Adult Ministry & Education Board invites you to celebrate midsummer at Vang Lutheran Church, on Wednesday, June 21, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Some history of the congregation and the church building will be shared by a member of the Vang congregation. This will be followed by fellowship and ice cream with members of the Denison-Vang Parish and others from St. John's.



We hope for similarly glorious weather to what we enjoyed at the Valley Grove churches last summer, but the event will take place rain or shine! We look forward to seeing you there.

## Church Music Intern Program

The music internship program at St. John's began in 2013 with an idea of having paid singers from St. Olaf sing with the St. John's Chorale. The guiding hope was that these singers could contribute to the sound of the choir, but that the choir itself could offer hands-on vocational training to these future music educators and church musicians. The program has been steadily continuing each year. In 2016, we moved to five interns with the Chorale, and one intern with our Jubilate Choir. In the 2022–23 season we had five interns with the Chorale and one with our handbell choir, Rejoice Ringers.

While most of their work happens behind the scenes in our weekly rehearsal, or in the balcony on Sunday morning, this program has truly been life-giving to the music at St. John's. It is exciting to see these students become a part of our choir family each year. In addition to adding their voices to our Chorale, they can also experience conducting, leading sectionals, accompanying hymns and anthems and singing solos.

Music at St. John's is a treasured part of worship, and the music internship program has enhanced the experience in many ways. In 2013 when, John Ferguson, as Interim Director of Worship, Music, & Arts introduced this idea, the funding was made possible from a small amount from the estate of Dr. Alice Hanson. Dr. Hanson was a distinguished professor of music at St. Olaf as well as a devoted member of the Chorale. She embodied this connection between St. John's and St. Olaf.

Our congregation has strong ties with the music at St. Olaf, going way back to the days when F. Melissa Christiansen was organist at St. John's, and it is my hope that this internship program allows us to deepen that relationship. Now years later, this program continues from ongoing financial gifts to the Alice Hanson Education Fund, named in her memory. I am grateful to the many gifts given to this fund that help us continue this program into the future.

We thank our 2022-2023 music interns and wish them well as they begin their next musical adventures.

Music Interns for the 2022–2023 season are:

Taylor Dirks, soprano  
Abby Carter, alto  
Noah Smith, tenor  
Jake Olson, tenor (2022)  
Ethan Jones, bass  
Will Fecko, handbells

*Nathan Proctor*  
Director of Worship, Music & Arts

## News and Updates

### Weekly “Patio” Theology Returns

Beginning on Monday, June 5, we 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 **various locations**.

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

Below is the schedule as of May 27. Watch the E-Voice and Sunday bulletins for updated information.

**June 5**

PEEL, Contented Cow

**June 12**

TBD

**June 19**

TBD

**June 26, July 10, July 17**

The ELCA's Study on Civic Life & Faith

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



## News and Updates

### Meals on Wheels It's Sign-Up Time

St. John's is committed to delivering Meals on Wheels from Monday, September 11, through Saturday, October 7.

Meals on Wheels is a Northfield Hospital supported, volunteer organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of the community through volunteer drivers.

Sign up online thru CCB at [https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/group\\_detail.php?group\\_id=97](https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/group_detail.php?group_id=97).

If you aren't a CCB user, you may contact the church office to schedule your delivery date.

Printed out driver instructions/information will be available at the Welcome Desk in the Commons.

If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact

Cynthia Neubecker at 612-327-0169 or [redduncan936@gmail.com](mailto:redduncan936@gmail.com)

or

Peter Skoglund at 925-989-6131 or [skoglund.peter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skoglund.peter@sbcglobal.net).

Thank you for being a part of this important service to Northfield!



## Assisting Ministers Wanted!

Have you ever seen an assisting minister read in worship and thought, "I want to try that!" Or have you ever heard an assisting minister pray in worship and thought, "I could never do that!"? Well, guess what? You can! And you *are* capable of it too! Having people from the St. John's congregation be assisting ministers each week is one our greatest joys in worship. We believe it is important to have a variety of voices and gifts and prayers in worship – especially children and youth! If you (or your child or grandchild) have ever wondered about being an assisting minister, but weren't sure how to go about doing it, please reach out to Pastor Jonathan at [jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org) to be on the Assisting Minister list of people we reach out too throughout the year. We will help you all along the way so that it can feel like a joyful and meaningful experience.

## Call for Volunteers to Count Offering

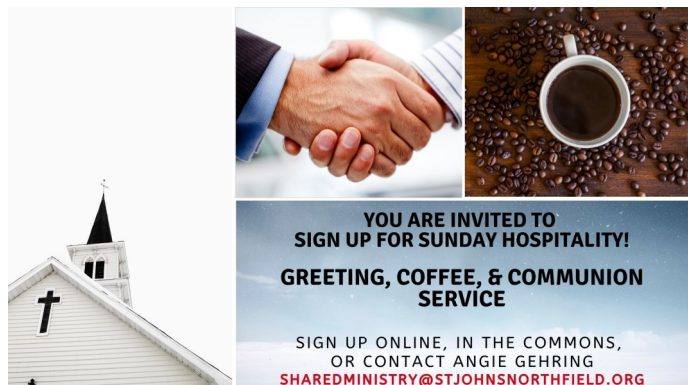
The Business Management Board is looking for additional volunteers to join the counting team. It's a great way to share your time and talents in short increments, and as your schedule allows. Counters are responsible for accurately and confidentially accounting for total offering and attributing gifts to each donor. Counters meet each Sunday for 45-60 minutes, starting at 10:45 a.m. in the summer or at 11:45 a.m. when there are two services. Each counting team includes three people and volunteers generally serve once every 4-6 weeks, with a monthly schedule determined by volunteer availability. If you are interested, please contact Jane Rizzo ([jane.a.rizzo@gmail.com](mailto:jane.a.rizzo@gmail.com)). Thank you!

## 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](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

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





## New in the Library

The display shelves in the church library boast several recently added books. Take a look; you're likely to find something you'll want to check out.

One of the novels new to the library is *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich, based on the life of the author's grandfather, who in the 1950s fought for Native rights to their land, an effort that took him all the way to Washington, DC. Another, *The Red Moon*, is by nationally recognized Northfield author, Ben Percy, a writer of "literary horror" whose prose earns praise from readers as well as critics. Stephen King calls the novel "a werewolf epic."

If you have a pet or are simply curious about our fellow creatures, check out one of Temple Grandin's books, *Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior* or *Animals Make Us Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals*. A related fictional work is *Walking in Circles Before Lying Down* by Merrill Markoe, a humorous novel about a woman who can hear dogs "talk."

New books about the immigrant experience include *Somewhere in the Unknown World*, by Kao Kalia Yang, who tells stories of refugees from many countries, their struggles and successes in Minnesota. Delve into the Norwegian-American immigrant experience in the 19th and early 20th centuries with *From America to Norway*, a collection of letters sent from newly arrived Norwegians back to family and friends in their home country.

There are new books for children, too, including *The Edmund Fitzgerald: The Song of the Bell*, the story of the famous wreck, clearly told by Kathy-Jo Wargin and vividly illustrated by Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen, and a book about the pandemic, maybe old news to little ones by now but a part of their history: *And the People Stayed Home*, by Kitty O'Meara. The colorful illustrations by Stefano Di Cristofaro and Paul Pereda are a visual treat for any age.

These are just a few of the new additions to the library. Visit this great resource and see what else is available!

## News and Updates



### Make a Difference, Save a Life.

St. John's hosted several American Red Cross blood drives during 2022. 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 15

1:00-6:00 p.m.

in St. John's Hall

You can sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-733-2767.

# News and Updates

## Welcome to St. John's!

We welcomed the following new members on April 30!

*David & Sara Bright*

*Chuck & Julie Cannon*

*Bob & Pat Carlson*

*Dan & Carrie Dauner*

*Jim & Ellen Ellickson*

*Gary & Christine Engstrom*

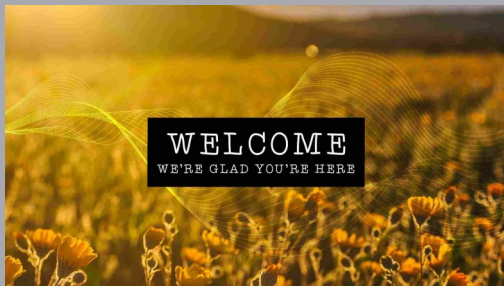
*Greta Matzner-Gore*

*Janet Marti*

*Janell Martin*

*Scott & Elaine Nesbit*

*Ramona Revne*



## Thanks from the Property & Grounds Board

The Property & Grounds Board is extremely grateful to the congregation members who turned out to help on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, for the annual Spring Churchyard Cleanup. Also, we wish to give a special thank you to the individuals and family members who have "adopted" one of our fifteen gardens for the season. A hearty thanks to all for the hard work! The results are quite magnificent!



## Church Directories have Arrived

The directories have arrived. They are available to pick up in the church office both during the week and on Sundays.

## Happy Ministry Anniversaries!

At the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, several St. John's members were recognized for their years of ordained ministry. Congratulations to these servants of the Word for their service to the Gospel.

Van Miller (15 years)  
Judy Thompson-Reitz (20 years)  
Mark Granquist (35 years)  
Grant Aaseng (40 years)  
Todd Nichol (45 years)  
Luther Peterson (50 Years)

## Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during  
will be on the following Sundays:  
June 4 and July 2.

If you need items other times during the  
month please contact Dawn Tommerdahl at  
[dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com)  
or 701-238-5038.



## Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (August 2023 Edition):

July 15

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

## St. John's Staff

### Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

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

### Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

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

### Director of Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

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

### Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Emmanuel Kaghondi

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

### Facility Manager

Steve Harner

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

### Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

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

### Music Staff

Green Bouzard - Jubilate Choir

[jubilatechoir@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:jubilatechoir@stjohnsnorthfield.org)

Arielle Loy - Children's Music Director and  
Early Childhood Specialist

[arielleloy@gmail.com](mailto:arielleloy@gmail.com)

### Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

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

### Parish Nurse

Sally Lindell

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

### Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring

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

### Congregation President

Kathy Shea

[kathleen.louise.shea@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.louise.shea@gmail.com)



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**WEBSITE**

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

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

## Summer Worship Schedule

During the summer, we will have one service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 10.

