



The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2019

## Lent.

a season of renewal

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### Lent Begins March 6 with Ash Wednesday

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

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

Mid-week worship begins the following week, March 13, at 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

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

### Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

### Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September - May

### Live Broadcasts

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

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

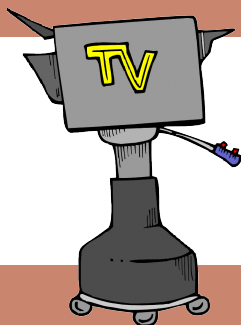


### TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 180



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

### WELCOME STATEMENT

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

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

*We warmly welcome you here.*

### Blessing Box at St. John's

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



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

## From Our Pastors...

Dear friends in Christ,

I have been thinking a lot about death recently.

You see, we have just started a “Death and Dying” unit with our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation class. During our first gathering, we pushed together some big carpet squares, we took off our shoes (just like Moses did at the burning bush), and we sat together around candles. Each person was invited to bring in a picture of a loved one who had died. Among us in spirit that evening were great-grandparents, cousins, beloved friends, and a couple cats - all our loved ones’ images resting beside a small flame. There were others there, too, known only in the hearts of our young people that were just too painful to name.

As we all sat together, more quietly and attentive than usual, there was an unspoken truth among us - any of our pictures could have been up there. Someday, someone will bring our image to a Confirmation class and lay it beside a candle.

I am proud of our youth for how maturely and seriously they were in that moment. It is a courageous and humbling act to look death in the eye. An act that our culture does not allow us to do very often. We like to avoid death at all costs and do whatever we can to stay young and stay alive. We trade the jagged word “died” for a smoother, more palatable words: passed, left us, went home.

Which is what makes Ash Wednesday in the Church such a unique and necessary act in our culture. In some ways, Ash Wednesday is that Confirmation class when our beautiful and fragile images are laid beside a flickering candle. Ash Wednesday is when we all come face-to-face with the truth about each one of us: we are mortal. For all of us to be marked with ashes and to hear, “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return,” is to walk together in a level place, where no one’s perceived higher or lower status makes any difference. In the book by Cathy Wurzer and Bruce Kramer, *We Know How This Ends*, Bruce Kramer says, “acknowledge death, and suddenly you must acknowledge just how vulnerable the human condition truly is.”

We are dust. We are mortal. We are dying. It is a truth that lays us all bare and, like the elephant in the room finally being named, we can all exhale. We can look around at the community of people gathered around us and know that we are all in this together. We are not alone. We belong to each other and we belong to God. As the Apostle Paul put it, “Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” At the end of the day and the end of a life, that’s all we really need to know.

I recently heard the story of a hospital chaplain who had attended an Ash Wednesday service over the noon hour. He came back to the hospital with ashes on his forehead, and went to go visit a particularly joyful and peppy resident – one who would say, “Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!” after just about anything. But on this particular day, she asked about the dirt on his forehead, and he said, “No, no. It’s Ash Wednesday. This is a cross that has been placed on my forehead in ashes and oil.” Looking confused, she asked, “Why on earth would you

Continued on page 4

## From Our Pastors



**Pastor Pam Fickenscher**



**Pastor Jonathan Davis**



## Prayer and Care Ministry

### Prayer Chain:

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

### Grief Care Resource:

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

### Grief Booklets:

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



*The following St. John's members died in this month last year.*

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

March 18, 2018  
**Elaine Kringen**

## Stephen Ministry: A Call for Healing

In the era of road rage and dueling tweets, God's people are called to look with love on one another. Perhaps we think we do just that, but it is easy to ignore the hurts of others. Jesus helps us respond to that call to love by inviting us to see him in the faces of those who are anxious, in the hands of those who must work two or three jobs, in the feet of those who are in a hurry - even on icy roads. How can we help one another heal?

Set aside the notion of healing as curing or fixing. Much human pain requires neither drugs nor repair. Much human hurt seeks simple acknowledgement and presence. Turn to your right and consider the respite from worry someone there may need. Offering a smile could make an important connection. Turn to your left and wonder which soul's regret aches for forgiveness. Extending a hand and warm greeting could begin a welcome conversation.

For Christians, Lent is a time to reflect on hurts: those of Jesus, others, and our own. Some hurts are obvious, even public; many are not. Might someone you know express private hurts by retreating, lashing out, denying, deflecting, or giving up? Might you? Stephen Ministers are trained to listen attentively, support quietly, and offer the healing of all hurts through the free gift of God's grace. To learn more about connecting with a Stephen Minister, contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

do that?" After thinking for a moment, he said, "Because this is a sign that when life goes to hell, God is still with me."

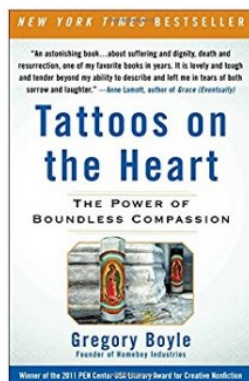
It wasn't long before this patient reached up, took some of the ashes off his forehead, and put them on hers, saying, "I think I need some of that."

Don't we all.

With love and gratitude for each one of you,  
Pastor Jonathan



## St. John's Forum: Lenten Book Read Small Groups



During the month of March, St. John's forum will take a break from March 3 through March 17 to make intentional space for Lenten Book Read small groups to gather.

This year, we are reading *Tattoos on the Heart*, a memoir by Father Greg Boyle, a priest working with gang members in Los Angeles. If you would like to be part of a small group, please contact Marilyn Calcutt at [merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com](mailto:merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com).

### March 24

#### *The Wallflower Project: Addressing Youth Homelessness in Northfield - Sanctuary*

Youth homelessness is happening in Northfield. On any given night there are up to 5 youth without shelter in Northfield alone. The Northfield Union of Youth and The Key are addressing this through The Wallflower Project, a host home program that is designed to provide a caring and supportive family environment that puts the emphasis on *home* rather than *housing*. Emily Fulton, the Executive Director of The Key, will present on this project and how we in the faith community can help support it.

### March 31

#### *TEDxStJohns: Karl Hella and Accepting Grace - Sanctuary*

In a new forum series we are calling "TEDxSt.John's", a St. John's member will give a TED Talk style presentation on ideas or stories that are worth sharing. In this edition, St. John's member Karl Hella will share his thoughts on accepting grace.

## "New" Bible Study Continues... Manna and Mercy Text Study

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

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

February 16, 2019  
Sylvia Solberg

February 21, 2019  
Richard Gronning



### Radio Broadcasts

**February 3, 2019**  
Given in memory of  
Joyce Schrader  
by family and friends.

**February 10, 2019**  
Given in memory of  
Gene Schrader  
by family and friends.

**February 17, 2019**  
Given in honor of  
LaVerne Reitz's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
by her husband Otto.

**February 24, 2019**  
Given in memory of  
Chuck Jacobson  
by Marilyn Jacobson.

If you would like to  
sponsor a broadcast (\$160),  
please contact the church office  
by phone at 507-645-4429 or email at  
[office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children to Remember!

#### Sunday School Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

March 3	Sunday School
March 10	Sunday School Toddler Time (Daylight Savings)
March 17	Sunday School
March 24	No Sunday School (Spring Break)
March 31	No Sunday School (Spring Break)

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

March 6	ROCK
March 13	ROCK
March 20	ROCK
March 27	No Programming (Spring Break)

#### CATechism for Grades 4 and 5

Wednesdays, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

March 13
March 20
April 3
April 10

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

Saturday, March 9

9:00-11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall  
Parents Invited!

## Summer Camp for Ages 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

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

This year, kids are invited to participate in these Summer experiences:

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

**Ages 3-Grade 2 (completed)**

Blast off with the first VBS to land on the moon! *To Mars and Beyond* will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. Registration information is available in both the upper and lower Commons.



- **June 23–28: Good Earth Village Pathfinders**

**Grades 3-5 (completed)**

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

- **June 26-28: Settlers**

**Grades 2-4 (completed)**

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

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

## Toddler Time

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



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

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

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

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



Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited on Saturday, March 9, 9:00-11:00 a.m. for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion. We will meet in St. John's Hall.

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

## Middle School Youth Group

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

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

On March 24 and 31 there will be no meeting due to Spring break.

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

The season of Lent begins March 6 with all invited to attend the Ash Wednesday Worship service at 6:30 p.m. There will be no youth programming that night.

For Wednesdays, March 13 and 20, we ask that youth attend the Lenten Vespers Worship in the Sanctuary from 6:30-7:00 p.m. Following that, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders should find their confirmation group guides for small group discussion time, and high school youth are also invited to go to the Youth Room for activities and discussion time.

**There will be no Wednesday Confirmation class or High School Youth Group during Spring break on March 27.**

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

## Children and Youth



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

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

Find each other between services  
for faith discussion time.

Please consider signing up to participate  
in **Feed My Starving Children on March 9!**  
(For more information see page 10)

This is a great opportunity to  
work together on a service project.

Remember that as part  
of the confirmation program,  
we ask that 9<sup>th</sup> graders and their mentors  
participate in a service project or two  
together during the year.

The projects can be ones  
you do through St. John's, or others offered  
through other places in the community  
that you would like to do.

The idea is simply to enjoy  
engaging an activity of service together!



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

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

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

**Sunday, April 28**

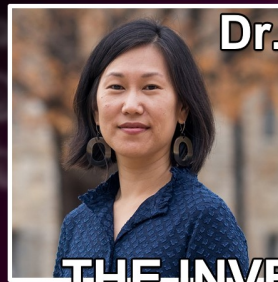
We will continue our Easter celebrations with a special focus on local composers and local visual artists.

**Sunday, July 14**

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

**October 26-28**

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



**Dr. Jennifer Kwon Dobbs**

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

### THE INVENTION OF RACE:

Tracing the origins of our current understanding of race. Inviting us to consider the implications as we seek to become a beloved community.

**Thursday, March 7  
7:00pm  
St. John's Lutheran  
Open to the public  
Refreshments**

**COURAGEOUS  
CONVERSATIONS**

sponsored by St. John's Women

## Creative Arts Group

Join us for the next Creative Arts Group as part of the *Grace Overflowing* anniversary campaign at St. John's on Wednesday, March 13, from 5:45-6:30 p.m. in St. John's Library.

These monthly groups focus on building relationships through shared art and music experiences.

Please join us and support this effort to build community between church members and your LBSA neighbors. No previous art or music experience required for any of these sessions!

Come and explore a variety of novel instruments including technology and electronics that makes playing instruments fun for anyone! Come willing to meet new people, try something new, and make music together.

## Get Involved in Worship!

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

## Lenten Wednesdays

The Gospel of Luke is known for its many stories of healing - so much so that tradition has held that the author was a physician. Healing and salvation are words with common roots, and while in our times we often separate the physical from the spiritual, the Bible usually makes no distinction. We are healed as whole persons - mind, body and spirit all held in God's grace.

As we celebrate 150 years at St. John's, we know that the arts have been a major part of the healing grace offered in this place. Music, visual art, and poetry have all been part of how salvation is celebrated and experienced by many in this congregation. Sometimes the arts celebrate what God has done, but just as often they are the vehicle through which God's healing hand is at work.

This year our Lenten series will invite five members of the congregation to reflect on the ways that the arts and healing have intersected in their faith lives. Whether reflecting on a favorite hymn or sharing a story of the process of creating art, they will give us glimpses of the mysterious ways God's grace comes to us as we create and as we are created anew in Christ's love.

- March 13: Nathan Knutson
- March 20: Arielle Loy
- March 31: TBD

## Prayer Buddies During Lent



During this Lenten season, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Catechism kids are paired with an adult member from our congregation to be their "Prayer Buddy". Prayer

Buddies pray for their buddy during the Lenten season, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 6, until Easter Sunday, April 21.

Thank you to our Prayer Buddy volunteers for being a part of this faith sharing experience.

## News and Updates

### St. John's Wednesday Night Meals and Lenten Soup Suppers

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, March 6**  
Cheeseburger Potato  
Tomato Basil

**Wednesday, March 13**  
Chicken Wild Rice  
Pasta e Fagioli (Vegetarian)

**Wednesday, March 20**  
Zuppa Toscana  
Broccoli Cheese

**Wednesday, March 27**  
Chicken Noodle  
Tortellini



## News and Updates

### Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 20

The Annual St. John's Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 20 at 9:00 a.m. at St. John's.

Can you help?

We need individually wrapped candy and small items to fill the eggs and help hiding eggs the day of the hunt.

A donation basket will be in the upper and lower Commons starting March 20.

Thanks so much!



### Intergenerational Youth Event: A Trip to Feed my Starving Children

**What:** Help package food to be shipped to hungry children in need around the world, and learn about the ongoing problem of world hunger.

**Who:** Youth grades 6-12, parents, and mentors!

**When:** Saturday, March 9

**Time:** Meet in St. John's parking lot at 10:30 a.m. to carpool, or meet us at Feed My Starving Children at 11:15 a.m. (990 Lone Oak Rd. # 136 in Eagan)



Following this service project which concludes around 1:30 p.m., we'll head to **Punch Pizza**, in Eagan, for lunch together!

**Cost:** \$5

**RSVP** by emailing Angie Gehring: [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### We Need Many Volunteers for VBS "To Mars and Beyond!"

- Crew Leaders – lead a small group of children to various stations
- Station Leaders and Assistants – lead music, crafts, games Bible storytelling, snacks
- Decorating and Prep – prior to VBS
- Help with Registration on Monday, June 10
- Nursery Care

Please contact Julie Brehmer at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429 or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet if you are willing to help.



## Recap of the Middle School Roman & Christians Event

On February 1, in cooperation with Bethel and St. Peter's Lutheran churches, St. John's hosted a "Romans & Christians" event. 71 middle school youth showed up to participate in this popular, biblical version of hide 'n' go seek! During a pizza and pop break, the youth voted to donate the evening's extra proceeds of approximately \$200 to ELCA World Hunger. All in all, it was a successful night of friends and fun!



## Limited Church Office Hours During Spring Break, March 23-April 1

This year spring break for Northfield Public Schools will not be during Holy Week. With that many staff members will be taking some time off.

Our Office Manager, Leah Garlie, will be out of the office from March 22-April 2. If anyone is interested in helping in the office (i.e. answering phones) please let Leah know. She can be reached at 507-645-4429 or [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## News and Updates

**Turn your  
clocks ahead  
on Sunday,  
March 10,  
at 2:00 a.m.**





# the WOMEN'S page

Hello March

## March Gatherings

### Baby Boomers

Saturday, Mar. 2, 4:30-6:00  
Jo Franklin's home  
1001 Freedom Ct.

### Breakfast Women's Group

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

### Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Mar. 14, 1:30p  
Barbara Walter's home  
1204 Woodland Trail

### Lydia Circle

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

### Mary Circle

Friday, Mar. 8, 1:00p  
Lydia Moe's home  
219 Nevada Street

### Ruth Circle

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

### Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursday, Mar. 14 & 28  
10:00a Room 19

### Knitters (World Vision)

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

### Quilters

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

**COURAGEOUS**

**CONVERSATIONS**

## Dr. Jennifer Kwon Dobbs

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

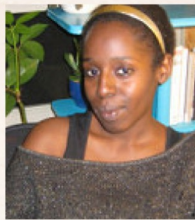


### "The Invention of Race: How Did We Get Here?"

Thursday, March 7th, 7:00pm

### April's Courageous Conversation

### "Immigration Law: What is and isn't working"



Sylvie Bisangwa of the Immigration Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM) formerly worked for UNHCR (the UN Refugee Agency) in various capacities for six years, after graduating from law school at UW-Madison, and most recently as a consultant in the UNHCR West Africa regional hub in Senegal.

*ILCM is a nonprofit agency that provides immigration legal assistance to low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota, working to educate Minnesota communities and professionals about immigration matters, advocating for state and federal policies which respect the universal human rights of immigrants.*

**Mark your calendars: Thursday, April 4, 2019 • 7:00pm • St. John's Hall**

**WELCOME**

St. John's Women bid a hearty "WELCOME!" to four new 2019-2020 executive board members: **Jennifer Edwins** (Vice President), **Jean Wakely** (Discipleship), **Kathy Schuurman** (Justice) and **Janet Lotegeluaki** (Secretary). Thank you for saying "yes!"

Visit our web page:

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



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

friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns

(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

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

Publicity: Julie Zdenek

## The Library at St. John's From the Adult Ministry & Education Board By Genevieve Quarberg

During our February snows many of us were hunkered down with Netflix. Maybe even watching a movie in a foreign language we once studied, where we struggled to understand what was going on even though we recalled only a few words or phrases - because we hadn't practiced that language. I suspect that much of the world we live in has that experience with the church. Or a different a picture. Sometimes our TV shows a split screen, but something goes wrong and one side becomes blurry or indistinct. For many people our empirically orientated world shows up clearly but our "church world" becomes so foggy we turn it off. In either picture it's obvious that the practice of "living in God's presence" has become very difficult for many people.

Our pastors are diligent, faithful, and imaginative in their sermons, always based on one of the four Gospels, the stories of Jesus. Our liturgy and the hymns we sing together give us time to face ourselves and to express our faith. Our times talking together give us encouragement and an opportunity to be friends. And, we have another resource at St. John's in the Library.

While we removed many books that were outdated in approach or language, we still have many more available for personal use. Some on display are especially for the season of Lent, some are from people who have gone through difficult times and found solace in God's presence in their lives. No one person's words are the last word. Their words are there to read, to question, to argue with. They are there for us, the readers, to find our own words to be able to live in this world of the 'forgotten language' of the church or the 'split-screen' world we all live in.

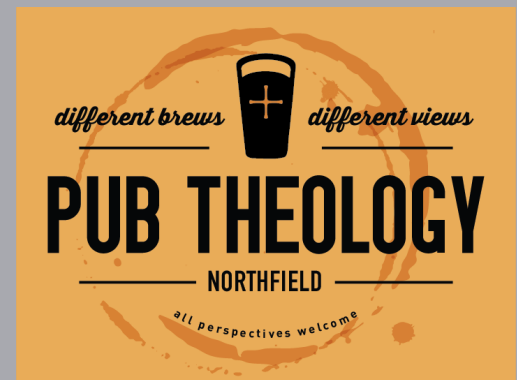
### St. John's Library "Book Giveaway"



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, DURING THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEAL  
SUNDAY, MARCH 3, BETWEEN SERVICES IN THE COMMONS

Monetary Donations Appreciated (Cash or Check)

## News and Updates



### Pub Theology Winter Schedule

What is Pub Theology?

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

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

**March 4**

**March 18**

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

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

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



## News and Updates

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

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

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

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

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



#### HOW TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS®

##### Online

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

## From the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board

Now is the time for the annual Minnesota Food Share Campaign through the Northfield Community Action Center (CAC). During the month of March food shelves across Minnesota seek donations to augment supplies and run their programs. Local donations are dispersed by the CAC into Northfield food programs such as the Food Shelf. Monetary donations are preferred. The CAC is a non-profit serving the life sustaining needs of people in our area through resources, advocacy and volunteer efforts. Last year the Food Shelf distributed over 540,000 pounds of food and rescued 249,000 pounds of food from local retailers.

You may use the St. John's special offering envelope for the CAC Food Shelf. Please write your check to St. John's and indicate CAC Food Shelf on the memo line. You can also give online through the St. John's website at <https://StJohnsNorthfield.org/>

Our goal is to reach at least \$10,000. Thank you for being God's hands to reach out to our neighbors in need.

## Easter Garden Orders

If you would like to order a flowering plant in memory or honor of a loved one, the Chancel Guild will be taking orders on Sundays, March 31 and April 7, between services. They will also be taking orders Wednesday nights April 3 and 10, at the soup supper.

There will be an assortment to choose from with different price ranges.



Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

The flowers will be labeled with your name behind the bow and may be taken home after the last service Easter morning.

# From Bread for the World: Offering of Letters

Bread for the World's annual Offering of Letters campaign engages churches, campuses, and other faith communities in writing letters to Congress. Each year for the focus of the campaign we choose specific legislation or a legislative emphasis that can make a real difference to people struggling with hunger and poverty.



People write letters, usually as a group, and present them as an offering to God before mailing them to Congress. Hundreds of Offerings of Letters are held each year, resulting in tens of thousands of letters to Congress. Supported with prayer, these letters are a bold witness to God's justice and mercy. They have a significant impact on the decisions made in Congress.

Over the past several decades, the world - with a strong commitment from the United States - has made great progress toward ending hunger by promoting global nutrition programs. Hunger and poverty rates have been cut nearly in half during the past 30 years. In countries such as Ghana and Honduras, stunting - when a child does not grow and develop properly because of chronic malnutrition - has been reduced by nearly one third in approximately 10 years.

To accelerate progress on nutrition we must scale up what we know works: improved access to nutritious foods, vitamins and minerals, clean water and sanitation, promotion of breastfeeding, and treatment for severe malnutrition. Current funding is not enough to reach our global nutrition goals and powerful political forces are pushing to curtail poverty-focused assistance.

The letters we offer will urge Congress to support a global initiative that will speed up progress on nutrition. Passage by our Congress of a bill strengthening U.S. commitment to global child nutrition, with funding increases, will lead other countries to join us in the global effort to end hunger.

At a time of sharp political division in our country, our Offering of Letters can unite Americans around a common cause from which millions stand to gain.

St. John's will join the Bread for the World 2019 Offering of Letters campaign, "Better Nutrition, Better Tomorrow," this month. Materials, including sample letters, will be available between services at tables in St. John's Hall on Sundays - March 10, 17 and 24. Members of the Peace & Justice Group will be present with information and assistance. Letters will be offered in worship on March 24.

## 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)

### Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

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### Facility Manager

Tim Byers

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### Financial Manager

Bernie Renander

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### Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

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### Music Staff

Carol Benson - Jubilate Choir

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Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir

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

Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers

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

### Office Manager

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### Parish Nurse

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### Shared Ministry

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

Angie Gehring

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### Youth Support Staff

Emerson Clay

Angie Gehring

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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

**LENTEN MID-WEEK  
WORSHIP SERVICES  
6:30 P.M.**



March 13

March 20

March 27

April 3

April 10

