

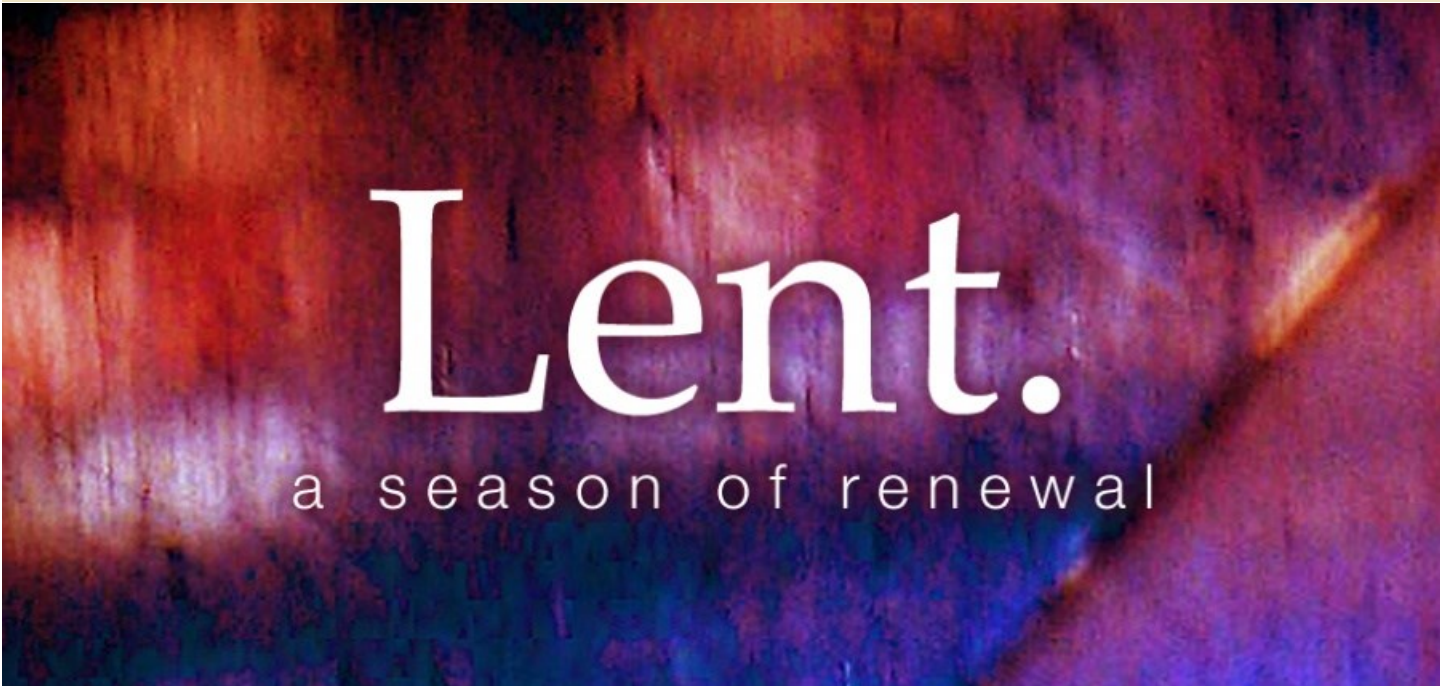


The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2025



Lent.

a season of renewal

Inside this issue:

- 3 From Our Pastors
- 4 Quilt Sunday - March 2
- 4 Minnesota Foodshare March Campaign
- 6 Kid's Night Out
- 7 Wednesdays in March for Youth
- 8 Courageous Conversations in March
- 10 Around the Building
- 10 Pub Theology in March
- 11 Sustaining Grace Updates
- 12 Holy Week and Easter Services

Lent Begins March 5 with Ash Wednesday

Lent, our springtime period of renewal and focus on repentance and life in Christ, begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5, with worship and the imposition of ashes at noon and 6:15 p.m.

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

Wednesday Lenten Vespers

Our Lenten Vespers will be Holden Evening Prayer, a brief sung liturgy by Marty Haugen. The speakers for each evening will be members of St. John's reflecting on a hymn, sermon, or text that has inspired them to go deeper in their faith.

Mid-week worship begins March 12, at 6:15 p.m. and continues March 19, March 26, April 2, and April 9. *Note that on March 26 there is no Lenten Soup Supper but there IS Lenten Vespers.

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

LIVESTREAM
8:30 a.m.

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

RADIO BROADCASTS
8:30 Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM
kymnradio.net

TV BROADCASTS
NTV Channel 187

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

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Livestream

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



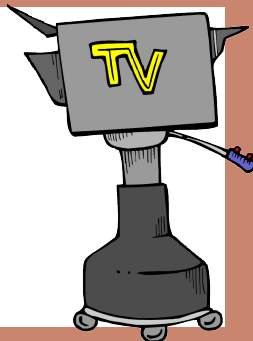
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7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

WELCOME STATEMENT

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

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

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

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



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

From Our Pastors

Maybe because the news is so full of rancor, I've gone back to rewatch the Apple series, *Ted Lasso*, the story of a relentlessly positive American coach who is thrown into the task of leading a struggling Premier League British soccer team. He focuses immediately on the team's interpersonal dynamics, which are full of bullying and out-of-control egos. At one point he chastises his would-be star player who childishly wants to sit out practice. *Lasso's* speech makes it clear that practice is not just an optional part of the job – but the essential task of being ready for teamwork.

In the season of Lent, we are called back to spiritual *practices*: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The shape of those practices may vary from person to person, but a lot of what makes them powerful is that we are practicing *together*. Along with Christians around the world, we take these six weeks to fertilize the soil of our faith again – *together*.

Christian faith is the faith of *a body* – an imperfect, embattled, complicated body to be sure, but always essentially a team sport. The only way the Gospel has persisted for two millennia is through the ongoing gathering and witness of thousands of small communities who read Scripture, pray, and bodily share in Jesus' presence together. These small communities have withstood war, famine, and tyrannical regimes all while still providing refuge for the persecuted, healing for the sick, food the hungry, and blessing to the lives of people the world forgets.

It is easy to think of the essential practice of worship as a decoration to the “real” stuff, rather than the heart of our identity; but it is only by *practice* that we are ready to live out the hope and faith and love that are in short supply in our world. Where else in our world can we gather to pray, we collect our offerings together, and we offer up our time and talents together intentionally in this season so that as a body we are better equipped to witness to the resurrection again in the world.

Whatever Lenten disciplines you commit to this year, I encourage you to not do them alone. Gather with others to pray; share your Lenten intentions with at least one other person; share your food and funds with our neighbors at the food shelf through Minnesota FoodShare. And don't forget that every Sunday we **practice** our faith, listening for God's word, praying for God's power, and sharing the life Jesus gives us at the table.

In peace and love,
Pastor Pam Fickenscher

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

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

Grief Care Resource:

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

Grief Booklets:

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



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

March 14, 2024
Jane Gelle

March 18, 2024
Wendy Scholz

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

Quilt Sunday - March 2

The quilts are made for Lutheran World Relief, Global Health Ministries, and locally for Operation Joy and Habitat for Humanity. Quilts will be on the pews for a blessing before they are shipped.

Thank you to all who have donated fabric, supplies, money, and their time for making the quilts this past year! Donations are again appreciated for the Quilt and Kit Fund. Baskets will be in the Commons and Narthex entrances to the Sanctuary. If you would like to write a check, please make it out to St. John's WELCA with quilts/kits on the memo line. If you want to help the quilters, join us at 9:00 a.m. any Thursday in Fellowship Hall.

A silent auction for the quilt of your choice will be held between services in the Commons. The auction will end at 10:45 a.m. Two quilts will be auctioned. The winners of the auction may choose a quilt from the pews and take it home after the second service.

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) Minnesota FoodShare Campaign gets underway on March 1 and continues through April 6. The FoodShare began its work in 1982 with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. Because the effort was so successful and the need so great, the March campaign became a state-wide program and now is in its 44th year.



As the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together various faith communities, businesses, and community organizations, to help stock nearly 300 food shelves across the state.

Minnesota FoodShare envisions a future where all Minnesotans have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. The campaign directly addresses these issues. You are invited to join its efforts and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity. 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/>

Thank you for being God's hands to reach out to our neighbors in need.

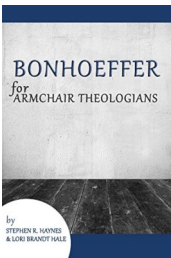
St. John's Forum Sunday, March 2 9:45-10:30 a.m.



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

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

Lenten Book Read: *Bonhoeffer for Armchair Theologians* will be Available on March 2



Our Lenten book selection, *Bonhoeffer for Armchair Theologians*, sold out almost immediately this past Sunday. The books have been reordered and will be available for purchase again on March 2, in St. John's Hall before and after the forum. If you have not yet signed up for a discussion section, there will also be a signup sheet for you to do so.

- Sundays, March 9 -30, between services from 9:45-10:30 a.m.
- Wednesdays, March 12-April 2, at 4:15 p.m.

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

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



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

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

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2025, to direct any remaining 2024 Choice Dollars.

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

Life and Growth

Baptisms

February 9, 2025

Valerie Josephine Kastner
Daughter of Emily and Colton Kastner

February 16, 2025

Trey Bilderback
Son of Krista Novak and Joshua Bilderback

Deaths

February 8, 2025

Iva Dodson



Radio Broadcasts

February 2, 2025

Given in honor of Pat Fick,
on her birthday in February,
from her kids and grandkids.

February 9 2025

Given in loving memory
of my husband, Chuck Jacobson,
by Marilyn Jacobson.

February 16, 2025

Given in memory of Karen Swenson
from her family.

February 23, 2025

Given by friends of St. John's.

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

Children ★ and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember

Sunday School Schedule

March 2, 9, and 16

We take a break from Sunday School

March 23 & 30 for

Northfield School's Spring Break

Wednesday After School Schedule

March 5, 12, and 19

We take a break from Wednesday Programs on

March 26 for Northfield School's Spring Break

Kid's Night Out! Grades K-5

Friday, April 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m.



Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/24) are invited to join the preschool Sunday School class.

Toddler Time meets in Room 14. Parents are welcome to attend.

Toddler Time meets this month on March 9

It's Kid's Night Out at St. John's!

Games, pizza, along with more games, crafts, and a movie!

When: Friday, April 5

Who: 1st – 5th graders

Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: St. John's Hall

Admission: A snack to share with the group

Friends are welcome!



Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or across from the Nursery by Sunday, March 30. Email Julie if you have questions:

Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



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

Good Earth Village Summer Camp Registrations are now open!

Suggested week to attend is June 22-27.

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

Check out these Registration Discounts:

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

ONLY ONE DISCOUNT CODE PER REGISTRATION. EXCLUSIONS MAY APPLY.

Coming This Summer! VBS Road Trip!

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

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

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



WHY DO WE DO THIS?

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

Wednesdays in March

Middle School Confirmation and Non-O.W.L. High School Youth Group
(Grades 6-12)

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

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

Sunday Morning Youth Group (Grades 6-12)

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

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

Support a Camper

Would you like to support St. John's youth going to Christikon this summer? Donations are welcome to help offset trip costs.

Get Involved with Youth Programming at St. John's

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

Wednesday nights

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

Events

- Drivers
- Acquiring and Preparing Snacks
- Chaperones

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

Children and Youth

Mentor & Mentee Meetings

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

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

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

Mentor/Mentee Sundays Coming Up:

April 6

May 4

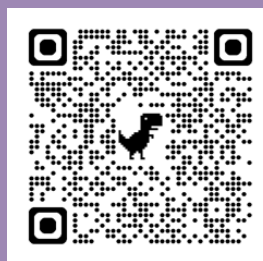


Summer 2025 Summer Trip

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

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

Sign-up until spaces run out!



Celebrating 150 years of St. John's Women

the Women's page



1875-2025

March 2025

March Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Mar. 1, 4:30-6:00
Julie Zdenek's home
2121 Ontario Ln.

Elizabeth Circle

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

Lydia & Paul Circle

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

Mary Circle

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

Wellspring (GenXers)

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

Women's Breakfast Group

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

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

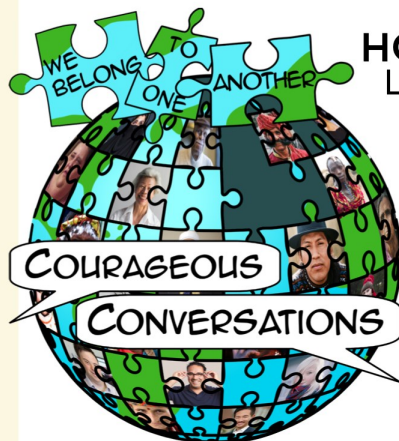
2nd & 4th Thursday
10:00am St. John's Library

Night Knitters!

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

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays
9:00am - noon
Fellowship Hall



HONEST STORYTELLING: Lifting up Untold Stories of St. Olaf College

Anthony Bateza,
Department Chair
of Race, Ethnic,
Gender, and
Sexuality Studies at
St. Olaf,



and

Katherine Tegtmeier Pak,

Professor of Political Science
and Asian Studies will
share this ongoing
research project, along
with **Lily Middlestadt**,
senior, Political Science
and Environmental
Studies major.



scan here to read
more about "Honest
Storytelling."



Mission Morning Saturday, April 26, 2025 9:00 am

Kick off speaker Rev. Lisa Kipp,
Lutheran World Relief
Director for Congregational
Engagement. We will be
packing LWR baby care
kits, personal care kits, and
Global Health Ministries
hospiice kits.



Also
rolling
bandages
and
assembling
quilts.

Saturday, May 10, 2025 10:00 am - Noon 150th Anniversary Brunch

Join us in our celebration
with delicious food and
entertainment.

Watch for details and
sign ups.



From the history of the first 100 years of St. John's Lutheran Church:

"Olav Lee reports that [to fund the new church building] during the year 1911 a committee [...] solicited funds within the congregation and the city. True to their nature, the women of the congregation went into action, too, and in 1910 began serving meals to visiting St. Olaf College alumni and other visitors at commencement time and continued this service until the St. Olaf College cafeteria was opened. Mrs. Rolvaag recalls this enterprise in her 'Memories': Alumni lunches, as they were called (in reality picnic suppers), were served on the campus lawn to the St. Olaf Alumni at commencement time for nine consecutive years from 1910 to 1918. And then, too, dishes, coffee pots and other utensils needed had to be brought up from our own kitchen. All the food was donated. Few had cars in those days, and I am sure many of the women walked from way across town with their contributions. The menu consisted of such dishes that could be prepared at home and served easily. Although I did work at a few of those suppers I cannot now recall how or where the coffee was cooked nor the dishes washed, but I do know we were tired when the evening was over.

"Mrs. Rolvaag recalls other money-raising enterprises early in the decade to help reduce the large debt of the congregation incurred in building the new church. Lunches, consisting of hot hamburger or ham sandwiches, doughnuts or pie and coffee, were served the three days of the Rice County fair in 1918, 1914, 1915, and again in 1924. Since the lunch was served in some downtown building, all the equipment had to be hauled down and set up; and someone had to be on deck all three days of the Fair. This too became quite an undertaking. Food sales and silver teas (coffee socials, they were called in 1913) have been popular at all times. The silver teas have provided many a social afternoon for the women, besides the financial returns. A new idea was sponsored in 1914, when each member was asked to earn five dollars. I suspect much of this too was earned by having silver teas. To earn part of mine I invited eight college girls down to a 25-cent home-cooked supper. There were not so many eating places then and the girls were glad to come. With two colleges in town, each having a "Lecture Course," one would not think the Ladies Aid would try that scheme, but it did in the winter of 1912-1913. [...] For the various needs of the new church \$4,445.00, distributed to the following items:

Building fund \$802.34; extinguishing the debt \$700; carpets \$222; organ \$551.18; kitchen furnishing \$451.96; Sunday School for Christmas trees, etc., \$50.66; Sunday School library \$25. To St. Olaf College \$236.78, distributed to the following items: Mohn Hall \$100; Ytterboe Hall \$50; Chapel \$25; Hospital \$25; Deaf Mute Department \$25; hospital supplies \$11.78. To the United Church Seminary building fund \$115."



Edna Hong, The Book of a Century 1869-1969: The Centennial History of St John's Lutheran Church, pp. 57-58

During Women's History Month, take a moment to watch "From Our Mother's Arms,"

a video directed, filmed & edited by Julie Zdenek. In this video, women from St. John's share "reflections from our mothers and grandmothers in the faith of women who got things done." This video is a rich history of how women cared for each other, the church, and missionary work and how women rose to leadership positions in the church and woven among their words of wisdom are fun anecdotes.

To get to the video go to St. John's website > "Congregational Life" > St. John's WELCA > Gallery and then scroll to "From Our Mother's Arms." - o r -

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/congregational-life/women/programs/

Enjoy!



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

Web pages:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women

Contact:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com

St. John's
Women
of the
ELCA



News and Updates

St. John's 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 5

No Soup Supper - Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 12

Zuppa Toscana and Tomato Soup

Wednesday, March 19

White Chicken Chili and Baked Potato Soup

Wednesday, March 26

No Soup Supper - Spring Break



Easter Garden Orders for 2025

If you would like to order an Easter lily
in memory or honor of a loved one
or in celebration of Easter,
please contact Leah Garlie
at office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

The cost is \$10
and please make checks payable to
St. John's Lutheran Church.

The flowers may be taken home
after the last service Easter morning.

Around the Building

February was another busy month at St. John's.

- We received a lovely metal plaque from All Energy Solar detailing the impact of our solar panel project. Check it out!
- Free lightbulb replacement was completed.
- Multiple community groups use our space for gatherings. This month that included:
 - ◇ Two weekly mental illness support groups
 - ◇ A senior exercise class
 - ◇ A Tai Chi class
 - ◇ 8 different scout troops
 - ◇ Laura Baker Services dinner theater event
 - ◇ The Northfield High School Nordic Team
 - ◇ The Northfield Garden Club
 - ◇ The Girl Scouts Cookie Rally

Most nonprofit groups pay only a nominal fee for their use of St. John's. Your offerings toward our utilities and our custodial care are what makes this truly a community space.

Thank you for your support of our facility, and thanks to Steve Harner and Arturo Rosas for their ongoing care!

Pub Theology in March

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 Mondays, March 3 and 17, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at The Contented Cow or at Froggz. The chosen location for the date will be designated in the church bulletin and the E-Voice.

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

If you'd like to be added to the Pub Theology email list, contact Pastor Jonathan Davis at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



Sustaining Grace Updates

In 2024, St. John's raised more than 1 million dollars in pledges for our capital appeal. Your early gifts enabled us to immediately install solar panels on our roof, and since October those panels have been providing clean electricity for our building and keeping CO2 out of our atmosphere.

In addition 10% of this appeal was committed to benevolence projects. Four of those projects were identified in 2023 by a request for proposal process through the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board.

When it was evident that we would have even more funds to donate, the board reached out to our Southeastern Minnesota Synod about a possible global project. Happily, they had an idea ready for us!

Kititimo Girls Secondary School is in the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT-CD). Another congregation in our synod entered into an accompaniment relationship with the congregation in 2022, and, in partnership with the ELCT-CD fundraisers and other SEMN Synod congregations, has provided funds for the renovation of the property (repair of security wall, etc.) and existing buildings (repair of the structures, new roofs, installation of doors, windows, electricity, etc.). (Photos 3-6).

Sustaining Grace funds provided by St. John's will be used to install solar panels to enhance the supply of electricity. As brownouts happen almost daily, this will provide consistent electricity to the campus, particularly important when it becomes a residential school.

Photo 1, II, III - Kititimo Girls Secondary School

Photo 4 - One of the classroom buildings. Note the size & pitch of the roof as well as the absence of trees - perfect for solar panels!

Photo 5 - Newly installed doors and windows

Photo 6 - Interior of a classroom. Note the electricity! (uncommon in older structures throughout the Central Diocese)

Photo 7 - Bishop Syprian Hilinti touring the campus.



St. John's Staff

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St. John's
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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



Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday

12 noon and 6:15 p.m.

(6:15 p.m. service will be livestreamed and broadcast on KYMN)

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday

12 noon and 6:15 p.m.

(6:15 p.m. service will be livestreamed and broadcast on KYMN)

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

(8:30 a.m. service will be livestreamed and broadcast on KYMN)

Easter Breakfast from 9:00-11:00 a.m.