



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MARCH 2026

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Sunday, March 29 - Palm Sunday

Procession with Palms and Holy Communion
Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Thursday, April 2 - Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.
(7:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed and broadcast on KYMN)

Friday, April 3 - Good Friday

Liturgy of Good Friday
12 noon and 7:00 p.m.
(7:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed and broadcast on KYMN)

Celebration of the Resurrection

Sunday, April 5 - 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.

WORSHIP SERVICES
Sundays

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

RADIO BROADCASTS
8:30 a.m. Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM
kymnradio.net

LIVESTREAM
Sundays

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

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Livestream

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



Radio Broadcasts

8:30 a.m. Sunday
KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM
kymnradio.net



Video

St. John's YouTube Channel
www.youtube.com/@StJohnsNorthfield



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,

Since I emailed you all on January 23, following my arrest with 100 other clergy at the Minneapolis airport, I have had a lot of time to reflect on that experience. I want to share a few more details about the protest and the days that followed.

First, I want to thank all of you as a congregation. So many of you have reached out with emails, hugs, and thank-yous. It's a little weird to hear "Thank you for being arrested," but I'm getting used to it! And for those of you who still don't know what to think or disagree with this action, please know I really do want to have conversation with you.

In the early days of January, much of the world's attention was on the Twin Cities, but it was clear that the "surge" was affecting our neighbors here in Northfield too. We had already seen a violent warrantless arrest on our own streets in November. Many of our neighbors were afraid to go to work: the people that make our communion bread, the people that cook and clean for the elderly in our care centers, business owners who have worked so hard to support their families. We were hearing reports of young people being stopped on their way home from school for no reason other than they are brown.

One federal judge (appointed by George W. Bush) has noted that in the month of January, Immigration and Customs Enforcement defied over 100 court orders. We were hearing from local police that the surge was stressing local officers to the breaking point because ICE was not abiding by the norms of legal and courteous enforcement.

At the airport, our purpose was to call attention to the thousands of Minnesotans being flown out of state to detention, often before they could even present their papers. I was given courage to take part in civil disobedience by the strength of our numbers and the impeccable preparation offered by ISAIAH and our union partners. Everyone taking part was crystal clear about our purpose and our faith witness, and we were all required to spend hours preparing and grounding ourselves in the principles of nonviolent non-cooperation. There were leaders whose sole role was to prepare us, to communicate during the action, and to look out for our safety. There were volunteers ready to follow up after the arrests and get us back safely. If at any point we thought that our faith witness would be jeopardized, we knew that plans would change.

What was it like to kneel in the roadway in 15 below for more than an hour? Well, it was cold.

It was also one of the most profound experiences of prayer I've ever had. To be in the company of so many other committed faith leaders who had carefully discerned this public action gave me so much courage. What wasn't always clear in the news coverage was the incredible crowd in the 'free speech zone' on the sidewalk: fellow clergy, congregation members, union members holding the names of airport workers who have been taken. They sang and chanted; they called out "we love you clergy!"; they offered hand warmers; and they stayed until every last one of us was arrested. Praying with them, for them, and for all our neighbors in our various words and songs, will stick with me forever.

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 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 or 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 8, 2025
Charles Hougé

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

Musicians, Poets, Performers

Benedictine residents would enjoy hearing and seeing you!

The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board heard from Barbara Walters for an invite to come. She said even a casual practice time could happen on Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. or on Sundays at 2:00 p.m. for an extension of the church time. The more formal Monday Music slot at 2:00 p.m. needs to be filled. Christy Grim, the new Wellness Director can be contacted at 507-650-5007 (work) or 918-706-7216 (personal) to set up a gig.

Be creative and share your energy!

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

We were processed by airport police and supplemental officers from surrounding local police forces. They treated each of us arrested with courtesy and dignity, sometimes even tenderness. The contrast of their behavior with the way ICE was treating Minnesotans was stunning. We had a long wait on school buses to receive our citations and be released. As I write this, the legal process for our charges is still pending, and that is a little stressful, but we have group legal support that knows this particular road of civil disobedience well.

I have been so moved by the ways that you as a community have stepped up to help others. The needs for volunteers and financial gifts will not go away any time soon, so I pray you will not lag in zeal for your neighbors.

As media attention turns elsewhere, I hope we will not forget what we are mostly *not* allowed to see: the thousands of human lives disrupted by detention. Around 70,000 people are being held in facilities that have little oversight, including thousands of children. Reports of medical neglect are rampant. Six human beings died in detention in the month of January alone.

Let us keep praying for our neighbors – with our words, and our hands and our feet. And when you don't know what to pray, the end of the Lord's Prayer continues to echo through my mind:

*Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.*

Pastor Pam

P.S. On March 13, Kari Hong, a law professor with a specialty in immigration, will be offering a presentation in St. John's Hall. Her talk will be titled "*Mass Deportation, Detention, and ICE: How it Happened. What We Can Do.*" Ms. Hong is the granddaughter of Edna and Howard Hong, who were instrumental in St. John's refugee resettlement efforts following World War II.

Lenten Wednesday Worship: *When Have You Felt Called?*

When people speak of a calling, it is often in large-scale, life-altering terms, like a career or a decades-long responsibility. But God calls in many ways, sometimes to actions that are smaller and less noticed by the world, and sometimes in the midst of circumstances we never would choose. This Lenten season we are inviting five members of St. John's to reflect on the notion of calling and to share how they have felt called in their lives.

To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

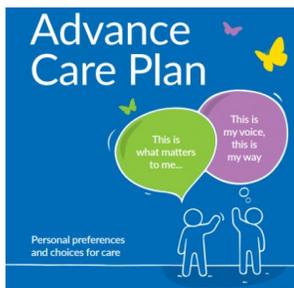
– 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Lenten Vespers—taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy—will take place each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. from February 25 - March 25.

- February 25: Paul Beck
- March 4: Gordy Turpin-Moore
- March 11: Rusty Kluver
- March 18: Susan Lohmann
- March 25: Anika Rychner

Advance Care Planning Open House Wednesday, March 4, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Northfield Library, Bunday Room

At this open house session, trained Advance Care Planning facilitators will be available to answer your questions and individually assist you in starting, completing, revising, and/or notarizing your health care directive.



A health care directive is a document for putting your health care wishes into writing in the event you are incapacitated in the future. This is a way to make known your values and goals for care, and to gain peace of mind (and a thumbs-up from family members and medical providers!)

Adults of all ages are welcome. Feel free to bring your own blank or partially-completed health care directive; blank documents will also be available. This event is free.

Facilitated by the Northfield-based End of Life Choices Collective.

Life and Growth

Deaths

February 7, 2026
Donald Starkweather



Radio Broadcasts

February 1, 2026
Given in loving memory of Karen Swenson by her family.

February 8, 2026
Given in loving memory of Lynn Matta on her upcoming 65th Valentine's Day Birthday by Marilyn Matta and family.

February 15, 2026
Given in memory of Chuck Jacobson by Marilyn Jacobson.

February 22, 2026
Given in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Vern and Joan Koester by Gracie and Justin Koester.

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.

the WOMEN'S page

Hello
2026 March

March Gatherings

Baby Boomers
Saturday, Mar. 7th, 4:30-6:00pm
Jo Franklin's home
1001 Freedom Ct. N'fld

Elizabeth Circle
Thursday, Mar. 12th, 1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia & Paul Circle
Wednesday, Mar. 11th,
9:30am Coffee 10:00am Study
St. John's Library

Mary Circle
Friday, Mar. 13th, 1:00pm
Fireside Room

Wellspring
(GenXers & Millennials)
Tuesday Mar. 3rd, 6:30-8:00pm
St. John's Fireside Room

Women's Breakfast Group
Saturday, Mar. 21st, 9-10:30am
Fireside Room

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)
Thursdays, Mar. 12th & 26th
10:00am St. John's Library

Evening Knitters
On Hold until further notice

Wellspring Craft & Conversation
On Hold

Quilters & Bandage Rollers
Thursdays
9:00am - noon
Fellowship Hall



COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS



March 5, 2026 7:00pm BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH STORYTELLING

Lupita McClanahan, Navajo elder from Arizona's Canyon de Chelly, a cultural historian, and a seasoned story teller. She will speak on nurturing personal resilience and strengthening cultural identity through adversity.



Lupita is from a world that doesn't exist any more. She grew up in Canyon de Chelly in northeastern Arizona in the 1950's, where she was raised by the last generation of traditional Dine' elders on the Navajo Nation. Their hope was that Lupita would be protected from having to attend Indian Boarding School, but she was eventually discovered and taken from her family. Lupita will speak about her early years, attending Indian Boarding School, overcoming trauma, and choosing to become a bridge-builder between cultures by sharing her stories. She continues to live on her ancestral land.



Mission Morning

mocha, muffins, & missions

Fellowship, kit-making, quilt-tying, and bandage-rolling.

Bring packages of toilet paper for Ruth's House.

Saturday, April 11

9:00-11:00am

Special guest: a witness to Global Health Ministries in Madagascar!



Ruth's HOUSE
Sarah's Needs

Soap- Dish, Hand
Disinfectant Wipes
Paper- Towels,
cups,
Plates

Thank You!

Ruth's  House



Like us & Friend us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns" @ Kvinner St. Johns

Web pages:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women

Contact:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com

Visitors from the Hill *What a glorious morning the quilters had on January 15 when 32 St. Olaf students came to quilt with us! They are students from Nancy Simpson-Younger's J-term class "Medical Humanities: Narrative Analysis."*



As part of the community engagement portion of the class, the students helped tie quilts, cut squares, sew their own quilts and roll bandages.

They made 16 baby quilts that will be donated to CAC Operation Joy. We all enjoyed each other's company and conversations!



QUILTING BEE! Celebrate National Quilting Day with Us

Saturday, March 21, 2026 10am - Noon in the Fellowship Hall

St. Olaf students will be joining us! We hope to turn this into an annual event so those who can't quilt with us on Thursday mornings have a chance to join in on the fun. We will be cutting out squares, sewing quilt tops, tying the quilts & sewing on the bindings. Refreshments will be provided.



A BIG THANK YOU! to our dedicated quilters. And thanks to Pam G-G for delivering 67 quilts to the LWR warehouse. Donations totaled \$968. That includes \$245 from the quilt auction.



Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember

Sunday School Schedule

March 1, 8 and 15

No Sunday School March 22, 29 and April 5

Wednesday After School Schedule

March 4, 11 and 18

No Programming March 25

Confirmation During Lent

After Ash Wednesday on February 18, we will have four Wednesdays in a row where Confirmation and High School Youth Group start early so we can gather before going upstairs to sit together during Vespers worship.

The Lenten speakers will address the question, "when have you felt called?"

Our focus in confirmation will be on the Lord's Prayer.

How will your family mark the season of Lent?

Consider this calendar of daily practices



and this devotional.



Prayer Buddy Get-Together Wednesday, April 8, 5:30 p.m.

Our next Prayer Buddy Get-Together happens Wednesday, April 8, in the Fireside Room starting at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided along with great conversations with your buddies!



If you are unable to attend, please let Julie Brehmer know by emailing her at Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Sunday Morning Youth Group (Grades 6-12) 9:45-10:30 a.m.

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.

Youth Group will meet on Sundays, March 1, 8 and 15.

Sign Up for Good Earth Village Summer Camp



Good Earth Village, located in Spring Valley, has opened the 2026 summer registration site online.

Northfield Week at GEV is June 21 – 26 for children in grades 2-6.

Here are the camp options:

Discover Camp for kids in Grades 2-4, June 24-26

Seekers Camp for kids in Grades 3-4, June 21-26

Stargazers Camp for kids in Grades 5-6, June 21-26

For Northfield Week use sponsorship codes:

NORTHFIELD26FULL for Seekers and Stargazer Camps, sponsorship of \$100

NORTHFIELD26HALF for Discover Camp, sponsorship of \$50

You may also use GEV Discount Codes:

SIBLINGz2026-use if more than one sibling is attending, 25% off

The discount and sponsorship codes will be entered on the 'My Cart' page. If you need to use more than one code, enter them separately.

Good Earth Village website: goodearthvillage.org/summer-programs/

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4 9:30 a.m.

St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 4, starting at 9:30 a.m. at St. John's. Families with kids 5th grade and younger are welcome to hunt. Invite friends and neighbors too!

Can you help? We need individually wrapped candy to fill the eggs. A donation basket is in the Commons. We fill over 1,700 eggs! Thanks so much.



Easter Breakfast Easter Sunday, April 5 9:00-11:00 a.m. in St. John's Hall

Please join us for the Youth Fundraiser Easter breakfast. Youth will be serving a breakfast of veggie, meat, gluten-free egg bakes, muffins, and fruit, orange juice, milk, and coffee.



The proceeds from this breakfast will help decrease the cost of this year's summer trips

The suggested donation is \$5/Individual and \$25/family.

The Easter Breakfast is one way we celebrate Easter together as a congregation and welcome those who visit St. John's on Easter.

Come check out the Wednesday Kid's (K-2nd graders) Self Portraits in the Downstairs Lower Commons!



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, February 25

Beef Stew

Creamy Potato Soup

Wednesday, March 4

Chicken Tortilla Soup

Black Bean Soup

Wednesday, March 11

Italian Wedding Soup

Lentil Soup

Wednesday, March 18

Sausage Bean Chowder

Rosemary Garlic White Bean Soup

Wednesday, March 25

No Soup Supper



News and Updates

Pub Theology in March

What is Pub Theology?

It is a 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 meet on Mondays, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. (Watch the Sunday bulletin and E-Voice for dates and location.)

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 at (jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)



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 45th 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. Johns' website at <https://StJohnsNorthfield.org/>

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

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

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

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



Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2026, to direct any remaining 2025 Choice Dollars.

Go to 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).

Registration is OPEN... Manna and Mercy Retreat with Rev. Alan Storey, April 24-25

South African pastor Alan Storey is returning to St. John's to lead a *Manna and Mercy Retreat* on Friday evening, April 24, through Saturday, April 25. Alan is an ordained elder of the United Methodist Church of South Africa and was appointed to the Central Methodist Mission (CMM) in Cape Town until 2023. His commitment to the peace-making Jesus was tested early in life when he faced conscription into the apartheid regime's military. After spending a year of discernment working in Australia, he returned to South Africa, declaring he would never fight in the apartheid army – or any army. He was arrested and faced trial with a six-year prison sentence as the likely outcome. Alan's trial was abandoned, and he became the last conscientious objector to be tried in apartheid South Africa.



During the Manna and Mercy retreat, we will take a fresh look at scripture through the interpretive lens of Jesus' life, death and resurrection and God's overall call for each one of us to partner with God in mending this fractured world. The hope is that after we have done so, our interpretations and use of the scriptures will be truly liberating and life-enabling.

Using Daniel Erlander's book *Manna and Mercy* (a book we use for Confirmation here at St. John's), Alan Storey will take us on a journey from Genesis to Revelation over the course of two days, with sensitivity to the contexts in which the scriptures were written and of our present day.

The cost for the weekend is on a sliding scale of \$50-100. We are asking people to pay what they can. There are scholarships available and the cost for students is \$25. To register please scan the QR Code:



Alan will be leading and speaking at other events in Northfield that week, which may interest you. To learn more about Alan's trip to Minnesota, please visit www.alanstoreyinminnesota.org.

Easter Garden Orders for 2026

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 \$15 and please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church. The flowers may be taken home after the last service Easter morning.

St. John's Staff

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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

Save the Date

*Palm Sunday Public
Procession and Worship*



Sunday, March 29, 2:00 p.m.

St. Paul Capitol Grounds

Thousands of Christians from across the state will gather to process, worship, and sing. We will profess together that Jesus calls us to love our neighbors, putting people before profits.

Further details to come.