



The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MARCH / EASTER 2020

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### ***Palm Sunday, April 5***

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

### ***Maundy Thursday, April 9***

Holy Communion  
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

### ***Good Friday, April 10***

Liturgy of Good Friday  
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

### ***Holy Saturday, April 11***

The Great Vigil of Easter  
8:00 p.m.  
Boe Chapel, St. Olaf College

### ***Celebration of the Resurrection Easter Sunday, April 12***

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.  
Holy Communion at all Services  
Easter Breakfast from 8:30-11:00 a.m.  
9:30 a.m. service broadcast on KYMN 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

**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 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 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays  
(ASL Interpreter available at the second worship services on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month)

### Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

### Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays  
All Ages from September - May

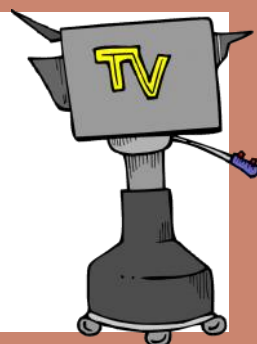
### Live Broadcasts

8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays  
KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM  
kymnradio.net



### TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays  
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

### A Place for You

One of my favorite moments of the year is serving Communion during the 11:00 p.m. worship service on Christmas Eve. I cannot quite put my finger on it, but there is something particularly holy about that moment for me. Perhaps it is the particular alertness and warmth of late evening worship, or the act of blessing the little ones in their pajamas and asleep on their parent's shoulder.

Truth be told, Holy Communion is becoming one of my favorite moments of any worship service and I cannot imagine having worship without it. It is this beautifully communal and yet spiritually intimate moment. As just about any worship leader could tell you, people come to Communion in all sorts of ways. Some people come to Communion with an unshakable joy (particularly children), while others come consistently with a somber-reflective look. Some hold out their hands as if they are about to receive the most precious gift anyone has ever given them, while others are clearly building the afternoon's grocery list in their head.

Don't get me wrong, I am not prescribing which is right or which is wrong. As a pastor, I am capable of all four of these descriptions and more. I am just curious - how do you find yourself coming to Communion? Does it change week-to-week?

One great joy of serving Communion each week is getting to watch young children grow in their desire to receive Communion. Some children are a little spooked by the whole thing and hide behind their parent or grandparents' leg, which is more than fine. The grace of God can reach us even in our hiding places. But other children will approach Communion with deep awe and wonder, and perhaps a little bit of disappointment when they receive a measly blessing from the pastor and not the real deal of bread and wine, like everyone else. Usually, the next stage is the little one will subtly put their hands out to see if you will give them a piece of bread, and then the harried or embarrassed or unsure-of-what's-okay parent will pull back the child's hand and simply ask for a blessing. The next phase is often the child or the parent asking this question: Who can receive Communion?

I love this question. Practices around Holy Communion have changed over the past hundreds of years. For the first 1,000 years of Christianity, infants received Holy Communion. It was believed Holy Communion was a symbol of God feeding the children of God. At one point in history, only the clergy were allowed to drink the wine, out of fear that it might be dropped or spilled by people in the congregation. And as many of you know, years ago, many Lutherans did not receive first Communion until they were confirmed. In the 1970s, tradition changed to receiving first Communion at 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Much of this was because it was believed that one needed to *understand* what was happening in Holy Communion.

Who can receive communion is an important question that the ELCA is currently wrestling with. Technically, the ELCA's policy on Holy Communion is that it is for those who have been baptized. However,

Continued on page 11

## From Our Pastors



**Pastor Pam Fickenschner**



**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 26, 2019  
Marjorie Kilber

April 4, 2019  
Elizabeth Trangsrud

April 5, 2019  
Robert Vargas

## Stephen Ministry: Eat Your Vegetables - Go To Church!

We all want healthy bodies and healthy minds. We know that research consistently shows that people who eat the most vegetables have the lowest risk of many diseases, including cancer and heart disease. We may not be aware that there is also a growing body of evidence supporting a positive association between regular church attendance and mental health, significantly affecting depression, mood disorders, and suicide risk (Ying Chen, Harvard; Jane Fruehwirth, UNC). Additional evidence supports links between regular church going and physical health, including cardiovascular and immune function. (Harold Koenig, Duke University School of Medicine). "Something about the communal religious experience and participation matters. Something powerful appears to take place there, and enhances health," Tyler VanderWeele (Harvard School of Public Health) writes in USA Today.

So going to church regularly, like eating your vegetables, is good for you! But given a multitude of appealing choices (like ice cream instead of vegetables) it can be a challenge to focus on long term benefits on any given Sunday. We know that the first step in cultivating a healthy habit is to create a mindset that understands the "why." When we embrace the "why" then the healthy habit becomes a priority and things that get in the way take a back seat. Knowing that church attendance can positively affect your mind and body is certainly a motivating "why," but perhaps that "something powerful" is speaking to another "why"...something more visceral that happens every time you step through the doors of the church to grow together in faith as part of a broken but beloved community.

Rachel Held Evans, in *Searching for Sunday*, which many of us are reading in our Lenten book study, explains it this way: "it was the tangible, tactile nature of the sacraments that invited me to touch, smell, taste, hear, and see God in the stuff of every day life again...They reminded me that Christianity isn't meant to simply be believed; it's meant to be lived, shared, eaten, spoken [sung], and enacted in the presence of other people. They reminded me that, try as I may, I can't be a Christian on my own. I need the community. I need the church."

So, come, "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Psalm 34:8). Eat your vegetables; go to church...a healthy habit for body, mind, and spirit.

St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to walk with those who are facing a challenge in life, whether it be of mind, body, or spirit.

If you know of someone who could benefit from a Stephen Minister, call one of the pastors 507-645-4429 or Jo Franklin (720-281-5107).



## St. John's Forums in March and April

### March 1 and 8:

#### ***Lenten Book Read Small Groups Continue***

During Lent, St. John's forum has made an intentional space for Lenten Book Read small groups to gather. This year, we are reading *Searching for Sunday*, a memoir by the late Rachel Held Evans, a best-selling author who is known for her books and articles about faith, doubt, and life in the Bible Belt.

### March 8:

#### ***Questions About the Middle East? Come get some answers! (Sanctuary)***

This forum will feature an update from Lutheran Mideast Development (LMD). Matthew Hand, LMD's international director, with more than 30 years in the field, will give a presentation with visuals from his most recent trip. You will hear compelling and hope-filled stories, along with time for questions and answers. Invite your family and friends. Come, be encouraged by the good work supported by the ELCA.

### March 15:

#### ***Creation Care - Ecological Ethics and Christian Theology with Kiara Jorgenson, Assistant Professor of Religion and Environmental Studies at St. Olaf College (Sanctuary)***

Since Pope Francis' publication of the ecologically-focused papal encyclical *Laudato Si* in 2015 Christians of all stripes have been considering the ethical implications of biodiversity with greater attention. What do the Scriptures have to say about the value of other-than-human life? How might Christian theology provide insight into the connection between humans and ecosystems? And to what degree should the natural sciences shape religious life given contemporary environmental challenges? In this brief forum we'll explore these questions and the larger matter of ecological ethics by examining small sections of *Laudato Si* and Protestant responses to it.

### March 22:

#### ***Fellowship Sunday***

There is no St. John's Forum which means it is a good opportunity for us to gather around coffee and treats to be in fellowship together. We hope you will join us in the Commons for this time to connect.

### March 29:

#### ***Jefferson's Jesus with Professor Charlie Wilson (Sanctuary)***

Join us for this forum where Professor and St. John's member Charlie Wilson will help us consider the religious views of Thomas Jefferson, one of our greatest presidents, and particularly his controversial views of Jesus, as we see in his editing of the gospels of the New Testament.

### April 5:

#### ***150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Forum - Habitat for Humanity with Dayna Norvold (Sanctuary)***

Dayna with Habitat for Humanity will share some exciting news about building four homes in Northfield in 2020 and how YOU can get involved. We'll also have an opportunity to talk about affordable housing in our community and how it impacts all of us.

### April 12:

#### ***Youth Easter Breakfast Fundraiser (St. John's Hall)***

## Life and Growth

### **Baptisms**

January 26, 2020

Jaxon Anthony Hirdler  
son of David and Tony Hirdler

February 16, 2020

Cecilia Jo Gallagher  
daughter of Ashley and Marty Gallagher

### **Deaths**

January 19, 2020

Vernon Faillettaz

January 20, 2020

Allan Nelson

February 7, 2020

Donna Mathre

February 15, 2020

Douglas Schuurman



### **Radio Broadcasts**

February 2, 2020

Given in memory of  
Omar and Margery Otterness  
by the Otterness children.

February 9, 2020

Given in memory of  
Omar and Margery Otterness  
by the Otterness children.

February 16, 2020

Given in memory of  
Omar and Margery Otterness  
by the Otterness children.

February 23, 2020

Given by Judith Stoutland.

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 1	Sunday School
March 8	Sunday School - <i>Daylight Savings</i> Toddler Time
March 15	Sunday School
March 22	No Sunday School - <i>Spring Break</i>
March 29	No Sunday School - <i>Spring Break</i>
April 5	Sunday School
April 12	No Sunday School - <i>Easter</i>
April 19	Sunday School Toddler Time
April 26	Sunday School

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

March 4	ROCK
March 11	ROCK
March 18	ROCK
March 25	No Programming - <i>Spring Break</i>
April 1	ROCK
April 8	ROCK
April 15	ROCK
April 22	ROCK
April 29	ROCK

#### CATechism for Grades 4 and 5

Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 & April 1

#### Third Grade CAT Retreat

Saturday, March 14  
9:00-11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall

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

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited on Saturday, March 14, from 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).



## 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:

- **VBS for Ages 3-Grade 2 (completed)**  
Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. More info along with registration will be coming soon!
- **June 21-26: 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 24-26: 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!

## March Through Easter Calendar for Confirmation and High School Youth Group

There will be NO Youth PROGRAMMING in all of March thru Easter Sunday. For Wednesdays, March 1-April 1, we encourage youth to attend the Lenten Worship Service in the Sanctuary from 6:30-7:00 p.m.

If you are interested in being part of an informal gathering after the worship service contact Emmanuel Kaghondi at 507-645-4429 or [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

### Sunday Morning Youth Group

On Sunday mornings, during the school year, all youth (grades 6-12) are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 a.m. for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion! Other young adults and church members are encouraged to attend for intra and inter-generational connections. These gatherings will be led by Emmanuel Kaghondi and other adults.

In March we will have guest speakers to share their experiences related to the following topics:

- March 1: What is one cause you feel super passionate about?
- March 8: Why do we have cancer? Why did God create mosquitos?
- March 15: Grieving and Re:Form: Why does God let bad things happen?
- March 22: No Sunday Morning Youth Group - *Spring Break*
- March 29: No Sunday Morning Youth Group - *Spring Break*

In April we will discuss the following topics:

- April 5: Our Gifts, Our Passions
- April 12: No Sunday Morning Youth Group - *Easter Sunday*
- April 19 Emotions, Judgements, and Reactions
- April 26: Neurodiversity and 'We Are All God's Creation'



### Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 11

Children, up to grade 5, are invited to St. John's for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 11, at 9:30 a.m. Remember to bring a basket or bag for collecting eggs!

Can you help? We need individually wrapped candy and small items to fill the eggs. A donation basket will be in the upper Commons starting March 8.

If you can volunteer to help the day of the hunt, please contact Julie at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org). Thanks so much!

## Children and Youth



### 9<sup>th</sup> grade Mentor and Mentee Meeting Sundays March 1 and April 5 9:45 - 10:30 a.m.

Find each other between services  
for faith discussion time  
or any other time that works for you.  
Continue to look for opportunities to serve  
together in our church  
or out in the community.



### Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/19) 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 9:30 a.m. in Room 14 (lower level).

Here is the remaining schedule for the year:  
March 8, April 5, and May 3.

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

## News and Updates



### The Easter Breakfast Fundraiser is Easter Sunday, April 12

**When:**

Sunday, April 12, from 8:30–11:30 a.m.

**Where:**

St. John's Hall

**Who:**

For Everyone at St. John's  
(but put on by Youth)

**What:**

As a service to the congregation and all our guests Easter Day, St. John's Youth will be hosting a breakfast consisting of egg-bakes, muffins, and fruit.

All proceeds from the event will go to children and youth to help defray the cost of summer camp and ministry opportunities.

**Youth:**

Watch for additional information regarding your participation including items to bring and sign ups to help at the breakfast.

## Lenten Wednesdays: The Gospel According to St. John's

In the Gospel of John, which is where many of our Lenten Gospels come from on Sundays, testimony plays a crucial role. Very often people hear about Jesus and Jesus' deeds not directly from him, but from other people. Even some of the apostles are called "second-hand" by one person witnessing to another.

It is clear that John did not consider his Gospel to be the final word on Jesus' action in our world either. He concludes the Gospel this way: *"This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."*

Today we are still part of writing the "many books" that contain the works of Jesus. While many Christians are uncomfortable talking about their faith, personal experience of God's work in our lives is the core of faith. Our own faith is strengthened when someone we know well experiences God's grace and healing.

This year five St. John's members have been invited to share their story of God at work in their life. We are so grateful to these individuals for their courage in sharing their story with us, and we are excited to see how their example helps all of us think more deeply about our experience of Jesus.

Lenten Vespers - taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy - will take place each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. from March 4 through April 1.

- March 4: Michelle Kramer-Prevost
- March 11: Erik Lindell
- March 18: Pam Groves-Gaggioli
- March 25: Brian Evenson
- April 1: Emmanuel Kaghondi

## Easter Garden Orders

If you would like to order a flowering plant in memory or honor of a loved one or in celebration of Easter, the Chancel Guild will be taking orders on Sundays, March 1, 8, 15 & 22, between services. They will also be taking orders Wednesday nights March 4, 11 & 18, 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 may be taken home after the last service Easter morning.



## Lenten Soup Supper Traditions

Lenten Soup Suppers are a lovely tradition here at St. John's. We take a step back from our typical Wednesday routines to be fed both by the meal and with the words shared during the Lenten services afterward.

Our energetic and very hardworking Wednesday Meal Crew takes a respite during Lent while another very hardworking group, the St. John's Council & Boards, step in to set up, serve, and clean up for the Soup Suppers.

Peggy Dell and Kristy Harms, the Wednesday Meal chefs and coordinators, have once again kindly offered to plan, shop for, and prepare soups for all the suppers, including on Ash Wednesday. Thank you, all!

We hope you can all join us for soup suppers during Lent! And invite your neighbors, friends, and anyone else who might want a warm meal!

**THANK YOU to ALL who volunteer their gifts of time and talent in our hospitality services, sharing God's welcoming love with all of our members and visitors!**

Become involved! Sign up to help with greeting, acolyting, and communion during a Holy Week or Easter worship service! This special week needs many helpers. Look for the signup sheet in the Commons, sign up online in CCB, or email Angie Gehring at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org).



## Prayer Buddies During Lent

During the 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". This program is in its 5<sup>th</sup> year helping to build faith-based, cross-generational relationships between children and adult members in the congregation.

Prayer Buddies pray for their buddy during the Lenten season, beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 26, until Easter Sunday, April 12.

On Wednesday, April 15, we will have a Prayer Buddy get-together in the Fireside Room starting at 5:30 p.m. for Prayer Buddies and their child/family to share their experience. The Wednesday meal will be served in the Fireside Room.

## News and Updates

### St. John's Lenten Soup Suppers

All are welcome, it's a fantastic time for fellowship for ALL ages!

Soup and Bread are served from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall followed by Lenten Worship Service from 6:30-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Free will offering appreciated!

**Wednesday, March 4**  
Chicken Wild Rice Soup  
Spiced Lentil Soup

**Wednesday, March 11**  
Zuppa Toscana  
Tortellini Soup

**Wednesday, March 18**  
Chicken Tortilla Soup  
Creamy Tomato Soup

**Wednesday, March 25**  
Swedish Meatball Soup  
Vegetable Basil Soup

**Wednesday, April 1**  
Pasta E Fagioli  
Chicken Noodle Soup

**Wednesday, April 8**  
No Meal - Holy Week



## News and Updates

### 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, 2020**, to direct any remaining 2019 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.

Stewardship Board member Brad Kmoch is available to guide you through the process if you have never designated Choice dollars before. You can contact him at [bkmoch@gmail.com](mailto:bkmoch@gmail.com).

Don't let Choice Dollars expire. (Note: Eligibility is based upon premiums and contract values - not all members of Thrivent are eligible).



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

*Connecting faith & finances for good.*

## The Women of St. John's Thanks Thrivent Choice Donors

Last year the St. John's Women of the ELCA was the recipient of \$360 Thrivent Choice dollars. This amount was added to some carry over Thrivent Choice dollars from the prior year, allowing WELCA to support projects in our church and scholarships to college students.

- \$100 was donated to the church wide ELCA International Women's Leaders Scholarship. Three of the recipients attend St. Olaf College, and our WELCA has made personal contact with them. They hail from Tanzania, Cameroon, and Indonesia. We have also supported the local TORCH college students by sending gift packages in September when they started their new school year.
- \$200 Thrivent Choice dollars were given to St. John's to help purchase a large video monitor to post current church events.
- \$200 was given to a St. John's Woman to help cover expenses to attend the Triennial WELCA Convention in Phoenix in July 2020. (Three St. John's women will be supported by WELCA funds.)

We greatly appreciate the St. John's members who designate St. John's to receive their Thrivent Choice dollars.

## Winter Book Read Continues in March

Consider being part of a group reading and discussing a book a month during the winter season. The group will meet on the fourth Thursday in the Library at 1:00 p.m.: March 26.

In March: *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger, is a story of four orphan children in an Indian boarding school in northern Minnesota in 1932 who escaped and canoed down the Mississippi River seeking a new home.

These books should be available in the local Northfield Library as well as at Content Bookstore and online.

Contact Genevieve Quarberg at [davidquarberg@hotmail.com](mailto:davidquarberg@hotmail.com) or talk with her or another member of the Library Committee (Anita Hellie or Merilyn Calcutt) to be part of the group.

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

this policy is not always practiced in our congregations and for good reason. It would be an administrative nightmare to try and check proof-of-baptism cards at the door. It also could be spiritually damaging to deny Holy Communion to an unbaptized person who is on a spiritual journey and whose desire to receive the grace and love of God arose in that particular worship service.

Whenever Pastor Pam and I get asked, "Who can receive Communion?", our answer is, "Whoever desires to receive it." Then we invite them into a deeper conversation about this particular sacrament.

Recently, I got to have this conversation with a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and her kindergarten-aged sister. These two young people knew that Communion was about the bread and wine being Jesus' body and blood, which they thought was both weird and pretty cool. Whatever it was, they wanted in on it. Together, alongside their parent, they read *A Place for You: My Holy Communion Book* by Daniel Erlander. In this book, Erlander touches on all the significant meals Jesus shared with people throughout his ministry, from the feeding of the multitude to the last supper. Erlander emphasizes the promise of Jesus' presence and forgiveness in this holy meal, and that there is always, always a place for you at it.

I now get a front row seat each week to seeing these two young ones, along with many others, receive the grace and love of God in a way they can touch and taste and carry with them. Their eyes are wide open and their smiles are big.

I am not entirely sure they completely understand what this sacrament means. But then again, neither do I. But it is still one of the holiest moments of the week, and there is a place for you there too.

Pastor Jonathan

## Limited Church Office Hours During Spring Break, March 17-March 31

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 17-March 31. 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).

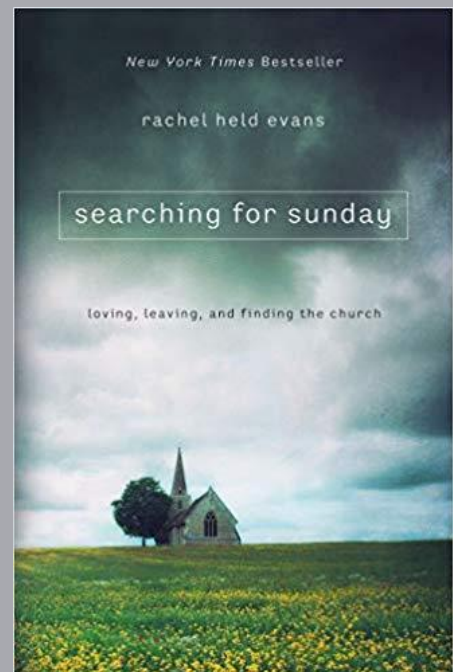
## News and Updates

### Lenten Book Read *Searching for Sunday* By Rachel Held Evans

This year's Lenten Book Read selection is *Searching for Sundays* by Rachel Held Evans, who like her millennial peers didn't want to go to church anymore. Despite her feelings of cynicism and misgiving, something kept drawing her back so she began a journey to try to understand church and find her place.

This book will take readers through a liturgical year with stories about baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, vocation, and death.

These stories are funny, heartbreaking, and sharply honest. This is a memoir about doing and taking risks, about community, and the power of grace.





# the **WOMEN'S** page

COURAGEOUS  
CONVERSATIONS

## **BOLD** *ACTIONS*

**SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2020**

**2:00-4:00pm**

### "Climate Crisis: What Can YOU Do?"



A panel of experts from the Northfield community will address the multifaceted impact of Climate Crisis on our community.

Local organizations will offer hands on information of ways we can make a difference (including water/ rain gardens, bee friendly lawns, recycling, composting, renewable energy for your home, etc.) Co-sponsored with Northfield Reads.

Open to the public. Refreshments.

## **HEALING and REPARATIONS** from an **Indigenous Perspective**

Thursday  
March 5  
7:00pm

St. John's Hall  
Open to the  
public.  
Refreshments



with **Pastor Jim Bear Jacobs**

Minnesota Council of Churches -  
Director of Community  
Engagement and Racial Justice

**MARCH**

## **GATHERINGS**

**APRIL**

**Baby Boomers** Saturday, Mar 7, 4:30-6:00p

Jean Wakely's home 419 Divison St S, Suite 202

**Wm's Breakfast Grp** Saturday, Mar 15, 8:30a

St. John's Fireside Rm

**Elizabeth Circle** Thursday, Mar 12, 1:30p

Dodie Mickelson's 1000 Cannon Valley Dr., #105

**Lydia & Paul Circles** Wednesday, Mar 11

Coffee 9:00a, Study 10:00a

Leader: Luther Peterson, St. John's Hall

**Mary Circle** Friday, Mar 13, 1:00p

Lydia Moe's home 219 Nevada St.

**Ruth Circle** Thursday, Mar 12, 9:30a

Parkview West Fireside Rm

**Knitters** (Prayer Shawls, blankets & baby caps)

Thursday, Mar 12 & 26 10:00a St. John's Library

**Knitters** (World Vision) Tuesday, Mar 10 & 24, 10a

Kathy Vang 645-4849

**Quilters** Mon. Mar 13 & Thu. Mar 19

8:30a-noon Social Hall

**Baby Boomers** Saturday, Apr 4, 4:30-6:00p

Fairfield Inn Lounge, after Courageous  
Conversations event @ St. John's

**Wm's Breakfast Grp** Saturday, Apr 18, 8:30a

St. John's Fireside Rm

**Elizabeth Circle** Thursday, Apr 9, 1:30p

Gretchen Hardgrove's home 115 Orchard St. S

**Lydia & Paul Circles** Wednesday, Apr 8

Coffee 9:00a, Study 10:00a

Leader: Luther Peterson St. John's Hall

**Mary Circle** Friday, Apr 10, 1:00p

Marcia Yernberg's home 780 Indigo Lane

**Ruth Circle** Thursday, Apr 9, 9:30a

Parkview West Fireside Rm

**Knitters** (Prayer Shawls, blankets & baby caps)

Thursday, Apr 9 & 23 10:00am St. John's Library

**Knitters** (World Vision) Tues., Apr 14 & 28, 10a

Kathy Vang 645-4849

**Quilters** Mon. Apr 13 & Thu. Apr 16

8:30am-noon Social Hall

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)





## **Words from St. John's Library**

### **From the Adult Ministry & Education Board**

#### **By Genevieve Quarberg**

If you find yourself questioning what you believe about politics, about God, about morality, about your participation in religion, you have something in common with several writers whose books are in our library. They were at a point where they were able to look back on their lives, for a kind of self-examination, to make more deliberate choices in their lives about what is most important, their spiritual life.

Krista Tippett in *Speaking of Faith* combines her own life experiences with listening to many voices of concern as she explores religious traditions as resources for our spirits. She has been a journalist and diplomat; she created and hosted the public radio program, *Speaking of Faith*. Her current conversations, *On Being*, are found on the internet.

Frederick Buechner in *Sacred Journey* writes of his early years, not sure of where his life was going until he enrolled at Union Theological Seminary in New York. The theme of his many books (some in our library) is, "Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery that it is."

Paul Tournier, a Swiss physician and counselor, invites the reader to accompany him in his journey of thoughts on the seemingly unjust connection between loss and blessing. In *Creative Suffering* he says "Life is the breath of God who is fighting at our side."

Jacqueline Woodson says she is listening to her life as she tells the story of her life in free verse in *Black Girl Dreaming*. Woodson has won many awards for her literature for children and young adults.

Rachel Held Evans (also author of Lenten read, *Searching for Sunday*) in *Inspired, Slaying Giants, Walking on Water and Loving the Bible Again* retells Biblical stories through memoir, poetry and short stories. She, like many other writers, went back to Scripture to find the uniquely creative in her life.

These books, on display in the library, are for checking out and reading.

## **Circle Bible Study for Men**

The new Paul Circle, for men, joins the Lydia Circle once each month for Bible Study.

Wednesdays, with coffee and refreshments at 9:00 a.m., and Bible Study at 10:00 a.m., led by local pastors and theologians.

Join us March 11 and April 8 in St. John's Hall.

Luther Peterson will be the facilitator.

## **News and Updates**

### **Date Change for the Courageous Conversations Book Discussion Group During Lent**

The Courageous Conversations book discussion group is moving to Mondays during Lent.

We'll meet from 6:00-7:00 p.m.  
on March 9 and April 13.

We'll discuss *Loaded* (about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment) by Roxanne Durban-Ortiz.

Books will be available at Content Bookstore.

Contact [dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com) for more information or if you have questions.

The group is open to everyone!

### **Injustices in Our World** March 3, 1:30 p.m., Undercroft

Jon Kerr will be with us to discuss his book *Mohamed's Dream: Overcoming tragedy & cover up from the Midwest to West Africa*.

Sponsored by Northfielders for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel.



## News and Updates

### Pub Theology 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. at Froggy Bottoms.

**March 2**

**March 16**

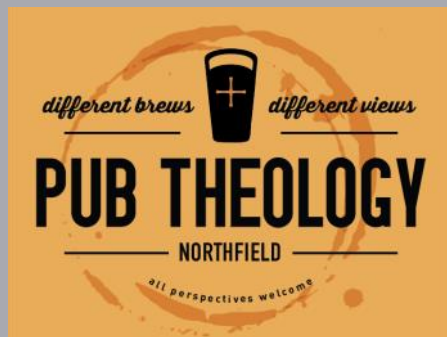
**April 13**

**April 20**

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.



## Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

Minnesota FoodShare began its work in 1982 with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The effort was so successful and the need was so evident, the March Campaign became a state-wide program just one year later.

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

During the 2019 March Campaign, more than \$8 million dollars and over 5.1 million pounds of food shelf items were raised by Minnesota food shelves and Minnesota FoodShare.

Minnesota FoodShare envisions a future where all Minnesotans have access to healthy food and no one struggles with food insecurity. The March Campaign addresses these issues directly, and we invite you to join our efforts and advocate for long-term solutions to food insecurity and poverty in our communities.

This year's campaign goes from March 1 to April 12. Please consider a donation via check or online giving. If donating by check, please note Minnesota FoodShare on the memo line. Thank you!

**Turn your  
clocks ahead  
on Sunday,  
March 8,  
at 2:00 a.m.**



## From Bread for the World

As followers of Christ, we seek to express and embody God's reconciling love at all times and in all places. Throughout the Scriptures, God speaks of our purpose to rebuild, restore, and renew all that is broken (Isaiah 61). We work to end the brokenness of hunger and poverty in our communities and around the world. We partner in God's work to remove the barriers that impede the flourishing God intended for all people. Our faith moves us. The themes below are important faith motivations for working to end hunger.



### Loving Our Neighbor

Scriptures speak to the role and responsibility of leaders in caring for poor people (Psalm 72, Jeremiah 22, Proverbs 31:8-9). In the New Testament, Jesus calls his followers to love their neighbors (Matthew 22:39-40) and warns that the nations will be held accountable and judged for the ways that they have treated the least among them (Matthew 25:31-46).

### Christian Discipleship

In the Gospels, Jesus was compassionate to all people, especially the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the hungry, the poor, and the infirm - the most vulnerable in society (Isaiah 61:1-2, Matthew 11:2-6, Luke 4:18-21). Jesus loved all people - rich and poor - and actively cared for people in need. He urged his disciples to do the same (Matthew 25:31-46). We too are commissioned to do the same today.

### Confession of Our Complicity in Sin

Human sin has marred every aspect of creation. Sin is both individual and social, personal, and structural. Because of greed and disobedience to God's commandments, humanity experiences social and economic disparity that leads to hunger and poverty. Through the prophets God held rulers accountable for the sin of the nation of Israel (Jeremiah 22:1-5). Poverty is a disastrous aspect of human sin.

### Christians' Involvement in Civic Affairs

As people of faith, we heed our moral call to engage with our government. Practicing citizenship is our right under the U.S. Constitution. Hunger is a profoundly important issue that should be a top concern of our government. We are serving God when we raise issues of hunger and poverty with our government. It is our responsibility to engage in the processes that remind all elected officials to make relief from hunger and poverty a priority and to address their root causes. To convey this message, concerned people of faith can and should be involved in advocacy before the government.

### Important to Know

Only one in 10 bags of food assistance comes from charitable organizations. Federal nutrition programs provide the other 9.

St. John's Bread for the World Offering of Letters will take place on three Sundays - March 1, 8 & 15. Members of the Peace & Justice Group will be in St. John's Hall between services to facilitate letter writing with needed materials including sample letters to Congress. Do join this effort to eliminate hunger.

## St. John's Staff

### Senior Pastor

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

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Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers

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

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### Shared Ministry Coordinator

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### Welcome Ministry Coordinator

Christy Hall-Holt

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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 4  
March 11  
March 18  
March 25  
April 1

