



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2025

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Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

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

Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.
(6:30 p.m. service will be livestreamed
and broadcast on KYMN)

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday

Liturgy of Good Friday
12 noon and 6:30 p.m.
(6:30 p.m. service will be livestreamed
and broadcast on KYMN)

Celebration of the Resurrection 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.

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



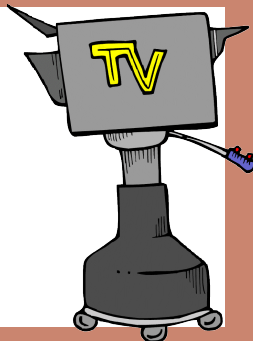
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7:30 p.m. Mondays
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2:00 p.m. Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 187



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

“Weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning.”
Psalm 30:5

A few weeks ago, in a Catechism class, I reminded our 3rd-5th graders that the word *Lent* actually means “springtime.” Instantly, one young person replied, “That’s so weird – because Lent seems like such a gloomy time in the church.” He is not wrong. It is a sort of gloomy time. We begin with the marking of ashes and reminder of our

mortality. We continue with hymns in a more minor key – and even the center pieces in the St. John’s Commons are sort of gloomy with their black placemats and their boney branches.

When you think about it, though, “springtime” is always preceded by a kind of gloom or emptiness. The earth outside looks weathered and worn, brown and burdened by another weird winter. But just beneath the surface, where we cannot go just yet, lest we disturb the magic and mystery, there are bulbs preparing to reach for the surface. There are seeds cracking open, creating their own little cauldrons of life that will soon burst towards the sky. Or think of the moment a new one is brought into this world. It doesn’t always *start* with celebration. It starts with birth pangs. It starts in the dark, with life fighting for the surface, kicking to be born.

As weird as it may sound, springtime always begins in gloom. It must.

Earlier on the same day as that Catechism class, the Northfield area clergy and faith leaders group gathered for our monthly meeting. Because of the challenges our nation and world are facing at the moment, the group itself was quite gloomy. Recognizing the state of everyone in the room, the Rabbi from Carleton (who was giving the devotion that day) said, “I know this might sound weird, but I want us to go around and share where we have been surprised by joy recently. I am sure no one is in the mood for this right now, but can we just try it?” One by one, we all reluctantly obliged.

One person shared that they got to spend 3 unexpected days with their college-age daughter. Another shared that they unexpectedly joined the neighborhood kids in sledding, after the sudden snowstorm a week earlier. Someone shared that unexpected joy found them when they caught their young kids sneaking downstairs earlier in the morning with mischief mixed with comradery painted all over their faces.

One by one, each person found something to share – and it wasn’t long before we all were laughing together with bright smiles towards one another. One person said, “When you asked us to do this, I rolled my eyes, because it was the last thing I wanted to do and I had nothing to share. But now...now I feel so filled with joy. I had no idea it was just waiting to be found.”

There was joy...life...right underneath the surface of our lives, ready to burst forth. We just had to let it happen. It was marvelous.

Since then, I have been trying to mark the moments where I am surprised by joy – like when I catch someone dancing in their car at a spotlight or when I see two college students walking and laughing

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.

April, 2024
Elouise Quinnell

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

Stephen Ministry: All God's Children

It's easy to say, seems obvious, and almost rolls off the tongue. But how big is *all* – really? Are there limits to our understanding of everyone? Are we comfortable accepting each person as a self-defined individual not limited by categories we were raised with? How can we create a safe space for anyone who identifies as LGBTQIA+ in our community?

Recently one of St. John's Stephen Ministers helped other Stephen Ministers become familiar with queer vocabulary, and in the process think about questions like those. The group wanted very much to "do the right thing" with language as well as attitudes and actions. Clarified definitions felt like a wonderful gift and also encouraged more questions. We unpacked our anxieties as we learned together and left better equipped to share our new, genuine appreciation for ALL of God's beloved.

If you would like to learn more about the diverse human family around us or know someone who would benefit from the love and support of a Stephen Minister, contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

St. John's is a safe environment and you are welcome here!

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

down the sidewalk, as they pretended to talk to each other through the plastic bananas they held up to their ears. Just marvelous.

Friend, as we turn our hearts and minds from Lent to Easter this month, I invite us all to warm up the soil around our hearts by keeping an eye out for those unexpected moments of joy – life – breaking through the surface. Remember them. Write them down. Share them with a friend. We are living the story of Easter in this moment – from death to life, from gloom to blooming spring, from the cross of Good Friday to the resurrection of Easter.

Yes, it is still Lent – which means things will still be gloomy around church for a little while longer. But it also means that it is springtime and Easter is coming – soon.

With joy,

Pastor Jonathan

Tuesday, April 29, 6:30 -8:30 p.m. “When My Times Comes” Documentary & Discussion

The Faith & Health Board invites you to participate in viewing and discussing a thought-provoking documentary about medical aid in dying.

When *My Time Comes* is a PBS documentary depicting Diane Rehm’s exploration of the issue of medical aid in dying (MAID). This is an option for terminally ill patients with six months or less to live who are able to make their own medical decisions and meet certain other prescribed criteria. Available to over 20% of the U.S. population, it is an option that John Rehm, Diane’s husband of 54 years, wanted before he died in 2014, but could not have.



The film tells Diane and John’s story, as well as the stories and perspectives of others as Diane sets out to discover as much as she can about MAID. Viewers will learn what Diane learns, right alongside her, in a series of conversations with patients, family members, physicians, clergy, and lawmakers. A diversity of viewpoints is represented – pro, con, and undecided.

The film will help Americans understand what MAID actually is, and what it is not. Medical aid in dying is not suicide, euthanasia, or many of the other things with which it is sometimes confused. The film will also encourage people to have conversations with their family and their physicians about what they want at the end of their lives, and to have those conversations early.

Raymond De Vries will facilitate a discussion following the 55-minute film. Ray is Professor Emeritus at the University of Michigan’s Center for Bioethics and Social Sciences in Medicine. He was Professor of Sociology at St. Olaf College from 1988 to 2006.

Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (May 2025 Edition):

April 15

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

Life and Growth

Deaths

March 8, 2025

Charles Houge



Radio Broadcasts

March 2, 2025

Given by Kathy Vang
in honor of the St. John’s Quilters.

March 9 2025

Given in memory of Wendy and by Scholz.

March 16, 2025

Given in memory of Ken Struss and
Elmer & Cora Schultz
by Marie Struss and family.

March 23, 2025

Given by Sharon Bishop.

March 23, 2025

Given by
Anthony Becker and Rebecca Judge.

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
April 6, 13, 27

Wednesday After School Schedule
April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Kid's Night Out! Grades K-5
Friday, April 4
5:30 pm.- 8:30 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 19
9:30 a.m.

Prayer Buddy Get-Together
Wednesday, April 23
5:35 p.m.
Fireside Room



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 April 13.

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.

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat Saturday, May 3

3rd graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend a retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism, Saturday, May 3, from 9:00–10:30 a.m. at St. John's.

Please contact Julie Brehmer, children@StJohnsNorthfield.org, if you are unable to attend.



Road Trip: On the Go with God

A joint Vacation Bible School endeavor!

Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church, Bethel Lutheran Church, and Emmaus Church.

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

Ages: Entering K-Grade 3, Fall 2025

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church, 500 3rd St. W., Northfield, MN

Cost: \$15/child; \$30/family, payable the first day of VBS

Registration coming soon! Watch weekly emails and bulletins for more information.

We are looking for volunteers to help with VBS! (Middle and High School Youth too!) If you are interested, please contact Julie Brehmer, Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Wednesdays in April

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

April 2 & 9 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.

April 16: Holy Week - No programming. Come to Holy Week worship.

April 23 & 30: Back to regular schedule (6:15-7:30 p.m.)

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.

We'll meet on April 6, 13 & 27.



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:

- 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.

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 Sunday Coming Up:
May 4

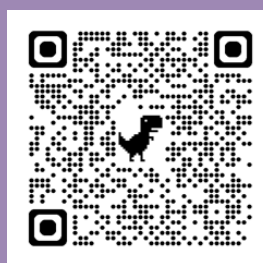


Summer 2025 Summer Trip

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.

*** Three High School Spots Remain*
Sign-up by Now!**



Celebrating 150 years of St. John's Women

the Women's page



APRIL
2025

1875-2025



COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS

"Songs to Meet the Moment"
with Sarina Partridge,

Musician, Song Leader, Educator,
and Activist

Thursday, April 3, 2025 7:00PM

Based in the Twin Cities, Sarina has a passion for connecting people with their own creativity and with the community, using singing to help people develop a sense of wonder for this wild world around us. She will share songs of activism and spirituality: connecting with song as potent medicine to help us meet the challenges of these times.



April Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Apr. 5, 4:30-6:00
Jean Wakely's home
Suite 202
419 Divison St S.

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Apr. 10, 1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia & Paul Circle

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

Mary Circle

Friday, Apr. 11, 1:00pm
Fireside Room

Wellspring (GenXers)

Tuesday Apr. 1, 6:30-8:00pm
St. John's Fireside Room

Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Apr. 12
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



Mission Morning!

Saturday, April 26, 9 - 11:00

Rev. Lisa Kipp, Lutheran World Relief Director of Community Engagement, will kick off the morning with a presentation focusing on how the quilts and kits we make are used around the world.

Then enjoy a morning with St. John's women while putting together kits, rolling bandages, and tying quilts for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries. Coffee and muffins will be served! This event is supported by Thrivent Action Grants and by your donations.



Mission Morning
mocha, muffins, & missions



Global Health Ministries 2025 Gala
Friday, April 25, 5:30-8:00 pm

Men also welcome! An evening to celebrate and raise much needed funds for GHM and their international medical partners, who work for a just world where all people have access to health and wellness. With the demise of USAID, these medical services are needed more than ever. Register at ghm.org, \$75 for individual tickets. Dinner, silent auction, and program featuring host Greta Grosch, and Sara Renner musical ensemble. Place: Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center. For carpool and seating together, contact Jane Rinehart by text or phone: 612-840-6450.



Global
Health
Ministries

From the pen of
Venice Williams
Milwaukee's
Farming Minister
at Alice's Garden



You are awakening to the
same country you fell asleep to.

The very same country.
Pull yourself together.

And,
when you see me,
do not ask me
"What do we do now?"
How do we get through the next four
years?"

Some of my Ancestors dealt with
at least 400 years of this
under worse conditions.

Continue to do the good work.
Continue to build bridges not walls.
Continue to lead with compassion.
Continue the demanding work
of liberation for all.
Continue to dismantle broken systems,
large and small.
Continue to set the best example
for the children.
Continue to be a vessel of nourishing joy.

Continue right where you are.
Right where you live into your days.

Do so in the name of
The Creator who expects
nothing less from each of us.
And if you are not "continuing"
ALL of the above,
in community, partnership,
collaboration?
What is it you have been doing?
What is it you are waiting for?

Venice Williams
November 6, 2024

From the first group for women at St. John's (1875) to present day WELCA, St. John's women have generously raised money to support St. John's, St. Olaf, the Northfield community, and other non-profit organizations. Through the years, money has been raised by catering meals, selling craft items at bazaars, monthly offerings, and gifts. This is a sampling of support offered through the years by St. John's women's groups.



- 1875 – Five ladies attended the first Ladies Aid meeting, each contributing \$0.25 for material which would be made into useful articles to be sold to help purchase a reed organ for St. Olaf School.
- 1900 – \$50 was given to St. Olaf for furnishing a waiting room for girls in the Boys Dormitory.
- 1912 – The Ladies aid gave \$1,802.34 to the building of our present church.
- 1914 – Clothing was purchased for \$3.97 for several children so they could be brought to church for baptism.
- 1915 – The 40th anniversary was observed with gifts of \$1,000 to the church building fund and \$1,050 to the organ fund.
- 1920 – Gave \$1,000 to help finance the parsonage.
- 1923 – In response to an urgent emergency appeal the entire amount in the General Fund, \$1,136.77, was given to St. Olaf for the new Administration Building (now Holland Hall).
- 1943 – Contributed 35 or 40 dozen cookies a week for several weeks to the USO Cookie Jar and also sent cookies to the Red Cross for Christmas.
- 1949 – The Aid gave food and clothing to many displaced persons who came to Northfield through St. John's.



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

Join us in our celebration with delicious food and entertainment.
Watch for details and sign ups.

Cannon River Conference 2025 Spring
Gathering
Saturday, May 3, 2025 Vang Lutheran
Church

2060 County 49 Blvd. Dennison, MN 55018
8 – 9 a.m. Registration, Coffee and Displays
9 – 11:30 a.m. Program, 11:30 a.m. Lunch

Speaker: Theresa Siemers
Navy Veteran, Lay Minister and Youth Director
"Where Have You Seen God Lately?"
Registration: \$15 Mail to: Cross of Christ Lutheran Church



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 and Wednesday Night Meals

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, April 2

Creamy Turkey Wild Rice and Baked Potato

Wednesday, April 9

Chicken Tortilla
Rosemary Garlic White Bean

Wednesday, April 16

No Soup Supper - Holy Week



Wednesday, April 23
Sloppy Joes

Wednesday, April 9
Enchilada Bake

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 19 9:30 a.m.

St. John's Annual Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 19 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 20 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.



Intergenerational Event and Strawberry Sunday May 11

The event will take place in St. John's Hall from 9:45-10:30 a.m. Watch for more information and a sign-up sheet for donating a strawberry dessert!

If you are interested in helping with activities, contact Julie Brehmer, 507-645-4429, or email a children@StJohnsNorthfield.org



St. John's Forum on Immigration Newcomer Welcome: Our Current Reality and the Future April 6, 9:45, St. John's Hall

Jon Buuck, Director of Development at Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Refugee and Immigration Services), will draw on his border immersion trip at the end of February to describe the current situation at the U.S. southern border. He will also provide an update on how Global Refuge continues to work with newcomers who are already here and how they are planning for the reopening of U.S. borders.



Before assuming his present position at Global Refuge, Jon also served as Director of Development at Corus International and Lutheran World Relief. As an ELCA pastor, he has served four congregations in North Dakota, Ohio, and Minnesota. He currently serves on the board of Border Servant Corps in Las Cruces, New Mexico and is the chair of the Endowment Committee at Grace University Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

Annual Spring Church Yard Cleanup Saturday, April 26 8:00 a.m.–Noon



The Property & Grounds Board requests your assistance. All are welcome to attend, as many hands make less work!

Please bring your own brooms, gloves, rakes, wheel barrows for spreading mulch, shovels, leaf blowers, tarps, leaf bags, clippers, and dandelion diggers. Garden

trailers and/or trucks are needed.

Questions? Contact Dan Hanson at 612-413-2938.

Thank you!

News and Updates



Prayer Buddies Get-Together

Prayer Buddy Get-Together
Wednesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m.

Our next Prayer Buddy get-together happens Wednesday, April 23, 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.



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.

News and Updates

Pub Theology in April

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 Monday, April 28, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at The Eagles' Club.

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.

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



Reflection of Kick-off Retreat for Tending the Garden by Margie O'Loughlin

Seven members of St. John's traveled to the Good Earth Retreat Center in Spring Valley, MN on Sunday, February 23rd. The event was the first of an eight part series called, "Tending the Garden". The facilitators had us up on our feet in to time, dancing and singing our way through a curriculum aimed at engaging our whole selves in the work of anti-racism. Who were our facilitators, you might wonder? It wasn't exactly business as usual for a Lutheran retreat.

JUSTmove is a Minneapolis-based dynamic duo of two friends who are brothers in Christ, and really terrific hip hop artists. Both have strong ties to Luther Seminary. Their approach is scriptural, and theologically grounded in the Lutheran tradition. They use music and storytelling to explore differences—not with guilt and shame but with joy and curiosity.

Joe Davis is a nationally-touring artist, educator, trainer, and speaker. He uses poetry, music, theater, and dance to shape culture. David Scherer is a performer, teacher, author, trainer, and facilitator who helps people build bridges across the "differences that make a difference." Davis is African American; Scherer is white.

In this first training, much of our energy was directed at deepening our listening skills and getting to know our fellow participants. As Davis and Scherer said, both are needed to move closer to a space of Beloved Community.

Attending from St. John's were Pastor Pam, Cheryl and Kirsten Buck, Jo Franklin, Elaine Nesbit, Maggie Odell, and Margie O'Loughlin.

The 60 or so people participating in "Tending the Garden" are from churches in Wabasha, Redwing, Dennison-Vang, Minneola, and Northfield. There are six monthly Zoom sessions to follow, and a final in-person retreat to be held at Good Earth in September.

Thank you to Pastor Paul Graham of the Dennison-Vang Lutheran Church for organizing the retreat series, and to St. John's for making it possible for us to attend.



Advocate for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Laura Baker Services Association is a local organization that provides a multitude of services to support those with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live a life of dignity, love, connectedness and purpose. LBSA is a partner in benevolence and sustainability with St. John's.

Currently, financial support from the Federal government is under significant threat as the House of Representatives is voting to reduce Medicaid by \$880 billion dollars. This decision will impact newborn babies, children, those living with disabilities, substance use disorder and the most vulnerable in our communities. As a community in Christ called to serve and care for others in need, we ask that you take action to stop this.



SCAN ME

One way you can take action is by contacting your legislator, urging them to vote in favor of The Caregiver Stabilization Act of 2023 that would ensure fair wages of direct service professionals working with individuals with disabilities. You may scan the QR code or visit laurabaker.org/advocate for further instruction. Thank you!

Habitat for Humanity: Energy Efficiency & Weatherization Program

Do you want to lower your energy bills AND help the earth at the same time? Habitat would like to help you! Rice County Habitat for Humanity is partnering with the City of Northfield to provide energy efficiency and weatherization assistance to homeowners. The program focuses on recruiting residents for home energy audits, scheduling and participating in the audits, and helping families implement recommendations by connecting them to funding and rebate programs. It also involves assisting with rebate applications and gathering feedback on barriers to accessing these programs. Additionally, the partnership includes weatherization assistance, working with the Northfield Rotary Climate Action Clean Energy Resource Teams (RCAT) to provide weatherization materials and services. Eligible low-income (incomes up to \$80,000) homeowners can receive improvements such as insulation, furnace maintenance, venting, and installation of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. This initiative aims to enhance energy efficiency and home safety for Northfield residents. For more information go to www.habitatricecounty.org or call 507-323-5167.

News and Updates



Make a Difference, Save a Life.

St. John's has hosted several American Red Cross blood drives already during 2025.

Just one unit of blood has the potential to save 3 lives.

There is always an ongoing need, and we invite you to consider making a difference by donating blood.

Upcoming Blood Drive

Friday, April 25
12:00-6:00 p.m.
in St. John's Hall

You can sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-733-2767.

News and Updates



What is Fare for All?

Everyone and anyone can shop at Fare For All across 30+ pop up sites in the Twin Cities and Greater MN. Shop for quality, nutritious foods at discount and budget-friendly prices.

We follow a co-op model, so the more people who shop, the better the discounts.

Just stop by and shop!

Fare For All buys fresh produce and frozen meat in bulk from wholesalers, manufacturers, and growers. Volunteers bundle it into \$10 - \$30 packages that are sold at sale locations across Minnesota.

Pay by credit, debit, EBT, or cash.

Fare for All Food Group distribution is held at St. Dominic's Church.
(104 Linden St. N, Northfield)
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Dates:
4/10, 5/8, 6/12, 7/17,
8/14, 9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 12/4

Check out the Website:

<https://www.thefoodgroupmn.org/groceries/fare-for-all>

Northfield Earth Day 2025

Northfield will hold its 15th perennial Earth Day Celebration on Friday, April 26. and Saturday, April 27. This year, the theme for the Celebration is: " It's Up to Us", hoping to provide ideas and inspiration for all of us to take action.

The Celebration kicks-off the night before, Friday, April 26, with an evening Contra Dance at Armory Square in Northfield.

The next day, Saturday, April 27, at Armory Square, the Celebration continues. It starts with a great lineup of morning workshops from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and continues into the afternoon with the Earth-Friendly Action and Idea Fair exhibitors from 12:00-4:00 p.m. At the same time, from 12:00-4:00 p.m., outside Armory Square, along Division Street, we will have Farmer's Market Vendors, children's activities, music, food vendors, the Northfield Public Library Bookmobile, an electric vehicle (EV) display, and more.

Wrapping up the Northfield Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 27, 4:30 p.m. at the Armory will be our amazing speaker Pete Wycoff. He is the Assistant Commissioner in the Energy Division at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and we are super excited for him to update us on the Federal Inflation Reduction Act and answer your questions.

Join us for this interactive, informative event where you can collaborate, connect, build awareness, and take action in the face of climate change to ensure sustainability, resilience, and a healthier planet for all.

Please check out our website for more information as the day unfolds at [Northfield Earth Day](#).

If you would like to sponsor this event, be an exhibitor or a market fair vendor, please contact us at northfieldearthday@gmail.com Thanks!



Greeters are Needed for Sunday Mornings

Greeting those who come into our building for worship on a Sunday morning with a friendly smile or some helpful assistance really does make a difference in creating the warm and welcoming environment we want to provide here at St. John's as people of faith. I have heard several stories from those who were new that being warmly greeted when they came here for worship was part of the reason they wanted to return to St. John's. We always want our visitors and members to have a feeling that they belong.

Please consider giving "greeting" on a Sunday morning a try! No prior experience is needed, and you can do greet by yourself, or with a friend or spouse, or with children. It's not difficult or time consuming - simply arrive 15-20 minutes prior to service, put on a name tag, and stand either by the Commons area doors or the Southwest doors by the library. You can leave the door area when service begins, so you will not miss worship. We've had several wonderful repeat volunteers for greeting, and we'd be thrilled to see a few more new names on our hospitality sign-up list! You can sign up in CCB with a link found in the E-Voice, or on the sheet posted on the bulletin board near the office. You can also contact Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!



LOVE HEALS
THISTLE FARMS™

Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate and Thistle Farms Sales

Fair Trade Coffee and Thistle Farms items are available for purchase during fellowship hour between worship services on Sunday, April 6.

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

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WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

**Spring
Cleanup
Day**

Many hands make less
work. All are welcome.

Saturday, April 26, 8:00 a.m.-Noon