



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2026

A retreat with Alan Storey

MANNA AND MERCY



A BRIEF HISTORY OF GOD'S UNFOLDING PROMISE TO MEND THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE

Daniel Erlander

Twin Cities: April 17-18, 2026
Northfield: April 24-25, 2026

Rev. Alan Storey is a gospel storyteller and facilitator of personal and political change. He is the author of the 2025 Andrew Murray Desmond Tutu Prize winning *The bell, banners & blasphemy.*



Register: alanstoreyinminnesota.org
A sliding-scale registration fee includes a Friday opening dinner, lunch on Saturday, and a copy of Manna and Mercy.

Inside this issue:

- 2 St. John's YouTube Channel
- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 St. John's Forum: State of Nfld Hospital & Clinics and the Purchase of Nfld Allina Clinic
- 6 Kid's Night Out
- 7 Interfaith Synagogue Visit
- 8 Courageous Conversations
- 11 New Visual Exhibit in St. John's Hall
- 12 Annual Spring Yard Clean Up
- 14 Out'n About

Holy Week and Easter

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,

For many, many years now, I have often begun my sermons with this prayer:

Spirit of the Living God, come now and grow our faith. Come and deepen our hope. Come and strengthen our love. Come and water within each of us the desire to be your faithful friends forever. Amen.

This is a prayer I learned from Rev. Alan Storey – and it has been echoing within me ever since. I find it to be such a centering prayer that names both who we long for – the Living God – and what we long for – a growing faith, a deeper hope, a stronger love, and a more faithful friendship. As of now, it is a prayer that has yet to become tired for me.

You might know this already, but Alan Storey has had a massive impact on my life as a person, on my faith as a Christian, and on my way of being and preaching as a pastor. Alan is a Methodist pastor in South Africa. He was the last conscientious objector to the apartheid in South Africa, having faced the threat of a six-year prison sentence for not joining the apartheid regime’s military. Alan’s lifelong work remains the experimental practice of the Sermon on the Mount and he hopes to contribute to “heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice, and fundamental human rights” (from the preamble of the South African Constitution).

Through attending two of his *Manna and Mercy Retreat* (see page 1) and listening to many hours of his sermons, I have learned helpful, bite-sized phrases from Alan that have become little anchors in my faith and my theology. Phrases like:

- “You are born in love, by love, and for love, yet with the freedom not to love.”
- “Not everything that is Biblical is Christ-like. We are called to read the Bible, but follow Jesus.”
- “Jesus never asked us to worship him – he asked us to follow him.”
- “I don’t know if it happened that way, but I know it is true.”

If you are longing for a deeper connection to your faith, to God, to the scripture, and to your church community, I hope you will consider joining us for the *Manna and Mercy Retreat* on April 24 and 25 here at St. John’s. I’m confident that you will come away inspired, challenged, hopeful, and with a desire for more. Alan will also engage with the broader Northfield community on Thursday evening, April 24, during a gathering titled, “*Called as Community in Fractured Times.*” I hope you will consider attending this as well.

Alan will be in Northfield from April 20-26. You can find a list of all the offerings at alanstoreyinminnesota.org.

In peace and joy,
Pastor Jonathan

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

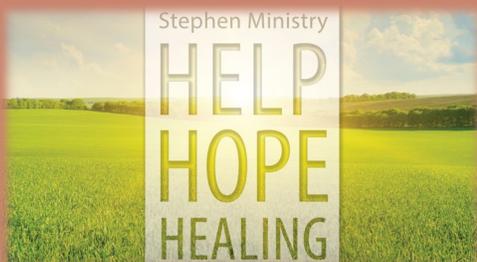
Prayer requests are welcome for any concern or thanksgiving. Requests are kept confidential and not included in Sunday morning prayers unless specifically requested. Contact Mary Cisar with a prayer request or to become a prayer chain volunteer: macisar@gmail.com or 507-663-1097.

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.



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).

CPR & First Aid Training Opportunity Thursday, April 9, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., St. John's Hall

St. John's is offering a CPR and First Aid class for staff, ushers, and members of the congregation. This training will teach practical, lifesaving skills such as recognizing emergencies, performing CPR, using an AED, and providing basic first aid until professional help arrives. Whether you want to be better prepared to care for your family, assist someone in the community, or simply gain confidence in responding during a crisis, this class is a valuable opportunity.

CPR / FIRST AID TRAINING

Thursday, April 9
8:30 am-12:30 pm

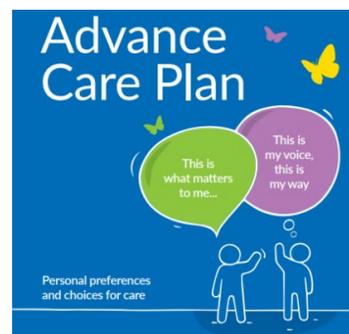


Thanks to Foundation funds, the cost of this training is being covered so participants can attend at no charge. Because of this, space is limited, so please sign up in the office or reach out to Sally Lindell at parishnurse@stjohnsnorthfield.org, or [online](#).

Advance Care Planning Open House Wednesday, May 6, 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.

St. John's Forum: State of Northfield Hospital + Clinics & the Purchase of Northfield Allina Clinic, Sunday, April 12, 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Join us in the Sanctuary for a discussion of the State of Northfield Hospital + Clinics and the purchase of the Northfield Allina Clinic.

Learn:

- why this is important for the future of the hospital & community
- why this makes financial sense
- what's staying the same and what is changing
- what else is happening NH+C

Most importantly - Be able to ask the questions you or your neighbor has and share what you are hearing in the community.

This is an opportunity to hear and spread factual information and expand understanding among community members about the business of providing quality and accessible healthcare in and around Northfield.

St. John's is Hiring Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

As some of you may know, Kristin Partlo will be leaving her position at St. John's this July, in order to continue her seminary education through Pastoral Internship at United Lutheran Church in Red Wing. This means we are looking to find our next Director of Ministry with Youth & Families!

Please go to our website (<https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/about/employment/>) to read the job description and to see how to apply.



Life and Growth

Radio Broadcasts

March 1 2026

Given by friends of St. John's.

March 8, 2026

Given in honor of our leaders at St. John's by Rose Berthelsen.

March 15, 2026

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

March 22, 2026

Given in honor of Carolyn Jennings by David and Martha Brown.

March 29, 2026

Given in celebration of Alan Alberg's 100th birthday on March 26.

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

April 4, 2025
Billi Faillettaz

April 29, 2025
Myrna Otte

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

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember

Sunday School Schedule

April 12, 19, and 26
No Sunday School April 5

Wednesday After School Schedule

April 1, 8, 7, 22, and 29

Saturday, April 4

Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 8

Prayer Buddy Get Together
5:35 p.m., Fireside Room

Sunday, April 19

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat
Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Friday, May 1

Kid's Night Out! Grades K-5
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 6

Last Day of Wednesday Programs
We are going to the YMCA!

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

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

When: Friday, May 1

Who: K – 5th graders

Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: St. John's Hall

Admission: A snack/family 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, April 26. Email Julie if you have questions:

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat Sunday, April 19

3rd graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend a retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism, Sunday, April 19, from Noon–2:00 p.m. at St. John's.

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

Northfield Week at Good Earth Village 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:

SIBLING2026-use if more than one sibling is attending, 25% off

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

Interfaith Synagogue Visit

What is your family's experience with people of Jewish faith and identity? What have you learned about their values, holidays, hopes, or what experiences have you shared with them? What are you curious about? More details about the visit are forthcoming.

This year's interfaith trip will be to Shir Tikvah Synagogue in Minneapolis on Wednesday, April 15. Wednesday evenings at Shir Tikvah are -- like at St. John's -- a time for youth programming. If this visit is like our last one, we'll get to participate in a prayer service, take a tour, and meet people who will tell us about their holy community and answer our questions. Families can help us prepare by exploring the Shir Tikvah website and having conversations together.

Parent Drivers Needed

Right after the two-week programming break for spring break, Holy Week, and Easter, middle and high school youth will spend two weeks on field trips. See the dates below. We will need several parents willing to drive carloads of youth to our destinations. Please consider whether you could help out in this way. Contact Kristin if you're available to drive.

- Wednesday, April 8 to Dennison
- Wednesday, April 15 to Minneapolis

Coming this Summer to Northfield!

Good Earth Village brings the fun of summer camp to Northfield!

When: August 3-6, 8:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Who: Kids completing grades K-5

Want to give your kids a faith-filled camp experience – without leaving Northfield? Good Earth Village Day Camp brings the energy, joy and spiritual impact of summer camp to us!



GEV summer staff lead a week of songs, Bible study, worship, crafts, games, and connection—all designed to help children grow in faith, friendship, and love for the church.

Summer Camp for PreK too!

When: Same as Day Camp, August 3-6, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Who: Kids age 3 by September 1, 2026 – age 5

More information and registration coming soon!

Children and Youth

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, April 12, 19, and 26.



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.

the WOMEN'S page

April 2026

April Gatherings

Baby Boomers

No April gathering
We'll meet again in May

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Apr. 9th, 1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia & Paul Circle

Wednesday, Apr. 8th,
9:30am Coffee 10:00am Study
St. John's Library

Mary Circle

Friday, Apr. 10th, 1:00pm
Fireside Room

Wellspring

(GenXers & Millennials)

Tuesday Apr. 7th, 6:30-8:00pm
St. John's Fireside Room

Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Apr. 18th, 9-10:30am
Fireside Room

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursdays, Apr. 9th & 23rd
10:00am St. John's Library

Evening Knitters

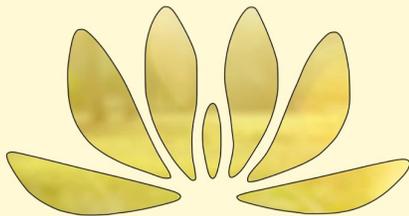
On Hold until further notice

Wellspring Craft & Conversation

On Hold

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays
9:00am - noon
Fellowship Hall



Web pages:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women

Contact:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com



Like us & Friend us on Facebook:

"Women of St. Johns"
@ Kvinner St. Johns

COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS



April 9, 2026, 7:00 pm

"ON BEARING WITNESS TO INEQUITIES"

Ibtesam Al Atiyat, Jordanian-Palestinian scholar and St. Olaf professor of Sociology

In a world marked by war, poverty, and racism—where no one can claim ignorance—how do we live with what we see and know? Paul Celan, poet and Holocaust survivor, ends his poem “Ashglory” with the haunting line: “No one bears witness for the witness.” He reminds us that suffering resists substitution, translation, and spectacle—that no one can inhabit another’s suffering. And yet... If we cannot bear witness for the witness, what does it mean to face what is before us, and not turn away?



IN ADDITION TO APRIL'S COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS, is a joint exhibit curated by the American Friends Service Committee and Visualizing Palestine. The exhibit includes a collection of visuals, photos, and excerpts from published stories on the themes of fragmentation, displacement, return, and future visioning. Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel is thrilled to be able to make this exhibit available to St. Johns. The exhibit will be displayed for viewing in St. John's Hall from April 9 - May 3 (see Nathan's article elsewhere in this edition of the Voice).



Save the Date:

April 17th, 10am:
“Coffee and Conversation with Beth Goldring: Dispatches from Gaza.” Hosted by NJP/I. Rev. Beth, a Buddhist teacher and human rights worker in Palestine, will lead the discussion.
(St. John's Hall)

Save the Date:

April 19th, 9:45am: St. John's Adult Forum will feature Maddi Froiland, Program Director for ELCA's “Sumud: for Justice in Palestine and Israel Initiative.” Froiland recently served with the ELCA partner church in the West Bank for three years.





Mission Morning

mocha, muffins, & missions

**Saturday, April 11
9:00-11:00**

Have you ever wanted to make a difference in the world, but felt insignificant? Well, welcome to the power of women working together! Mission Morning produces life-changing kits and products sent worldwide to comfort those in need of quilts, baby layettes, personal hygiene and hospice kits. Come for a great time of fellowship and kit-making.

Our Mission Morning speakers will be Nan Winsell's relatives who are witnesses to the work of Global Health Ministries in Madagascar. The kits we will assemble this morning go to GHM, as well as to Lutheran World Relief, both to far off countries, as well as to people here in the USA.

Go ahead. Change the world.

Register now for the Women of the ELCA Triennial, this summer in Des Moines, IA. July 16-19, 2026.



Join thousands of women from across the country for great speakers, worship, music, and inspiration.

"A wonderful opportunity to stay connected to our sisters in Christ from all around our country." -Geri Licke

www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page



Did you know?

Our quilters go through \$300 worth of batting every two months?



Global Health Ministries
7831 Hickory Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55432

2026 Spring Celebration

Friday, April 24th • 5:30-8 p.m.

Heritage Center of Brooklyn Center
6155 Earle Brown Drive | Brooklyn Center, MN 55430



There are thousands of fingerprints, each one unique, that have left a lasting mark on Global Health Ministries' life-saving work.

Join us for an evening of fellowship, featuring great food, music, and interactive experiences. Hear inspiring stories from volunteers and partners around the globe, and see firsthand how your support is Helping the Hands that Heal.

Let's celebrate the impact we're making together!

For event or sponsorship questions, contact Sam Buegler at sambuegler@ghm.org or 763-586-9590.

Register online at ghm.org



SAVE THE DATE

Women of the ELCA Cannon River Conference Spring Event and Salad Luncheon

**Saturday, April 25, 2026
8:00-Noon**

**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
Welch, MN**

8:00-8:50 - Registration Coffee and Displays

Speakers Bruce and Brenda Blair will share their experiences working with the Village of Mondema in Sierra Leone West Africa and helping them convert a vacant church building to a new Center for Education

More information and Registration forms are available under the Women's bulletin board in the Commons

News and Updates

Lenten Soup Supper Thank You

I'm so grateful for the many people who helped make our Lenten Soup Suppers a success! It was lovely to experience the warmth and cheer of a full, bustling St. John's Hall as both members and community guests shared a meal and fellowship with one another during this Lenten season.

I'd like to give a big thank you to our truly fabulous soup cooks, Roger Van Veldhuizen, who prepared our scrumptious Ash Wednesday soups, and Zack Pelletier, who prepared 8 delicious soups for the 4 remaining Lenten suppers! Each meal required bulk grocery shopping, followed by hours of preparation and cooking. Thank you to Vikki Van Veldhuizen and Jenny Pelletier who assisted their husbands in the kitchen with the labor of chopping, peeling, and other tasks. We all benefited from the fruits of their labor.

Thank you to Larry Enfield, who generously donated all of the delicious organic beef (that he raised himself!) for the beef stew and other meals.

Thank you also to Martha Erickson, our skilled soup cook of many years prior, for sharing her recipes and invaluable tips while passing the baton this year.

Thank you to the 40 church board members and Bob & Pat Tabery, who donated their time on a Wednesday evening to either help serve soup, wash dishes, scrub roaster pans, bus tables, or clean up the dining hall.

All of you are so appreciated!

Angie Gehring, Shared Ministry Coordinator

Lent to Easter with the Lord's Prayer

During the season of Lent, the middle and high school youth Wednesday evenings look a bit different from the rest of the year. Since the first part of our time together is spent in Vespers for worship, our class time is shortened. A quiet transition to our space replaces our usual opening song and game. Youth light candles and reflect on what they heard and experienced during Vespers. Then, during instructional time, we study the Lord's Prayer before breaking into small groups.



Over four weeks, we looked at how these familiar words shape us over a lifetime as beloved members of God's creation and coming kingdom, dependent on God's manna and mercy. Jesus offered this prayer to his disciples as a learning prayer with the invitation, "Pray, then, in this way." Prayed over thousands of years, by countless people, it brings us to discover again and again what it means for God to be God-with-Us, for all people, and for us to receive God's abundant sustenance and grace and share it with our lives. Again and again we find ourselves both needy and needed before God and each other.

During the season of Easter, we turn outward. One last session on Neighbors in Northfield will highlight Larry Enfield's greenhouse effort to relieve food insecurity. Then we visit the Shir Tikvah synagogue in Minneapolis and have a special visit with South African pastor Alan Storey (see Pastor Jonathan's letter on page 3) before we wrap up the program year with review and fun.

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 \$20/family.

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

New Visual Exhibit in St. John's Hall

Coming Soon! "Why We Record: Defying Fragmentation and Erasure in Palestine," curated by Visualizing Palestine (American Friends Service), and on loan from NJP/I (Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel), will be open for viewing in St. John's Hall from April 9 until May 3.

This exhibit honors the artists, journalists, poets and storytellers who continue to bear witness, as they have across generations, in the face of erasure in Palestine. As writer Omar El Akkad observes, "One day, when it's safe. . .everyone will have been against this."

St. John's WELCA is pleased to have this as a backdrop to their April 9 Courageous Conversations program, which will feature Dr. Ibtesam Al Atayat (St. Olaf Sociology professor) presenting "On Bearing Witness to Inequities" (see Women's page for details).

There will be two additional opportunities to hear from speakers who have personally borne witness to injustice in Palestine as we consider how to respond, and not look away:

April 17 at 10:00 a.m.: "Addressing the Genocide in Gaza with Rev. Beth Goldring," hosted by NJP/I. Rev. Beth, Buddhist teacher and former human rights worker in Palestine, will lead an informal discussion.

April 19 at 9:45 a.m.: St. John's Adult Forum will feature Maddi Froiland, Program Director for ELCA's "Sumud: for Justice in Palestine and Israel Initiative." Froiland recently served with the ELCA partner church in the West Bank for three years.

News and Updates

St. John's 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 1
No Meal - Holy Week

Wednesday, April 8
Chicken Broccoli Rice Casserole

Wednesday, April 15
Enchilada Bake

Wednesday, April 22
Totcho's

Wednesday, April 29
Chicken Pot Pie

Wednesday, May 6
Last Meal of the Season
Sloppy Joes

WEDNESDAY
Night Meals
Come share a meal!
Wednesdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m.
St. John's Hall

News and Updates

Pub Theology in April

What is Pub Theology?

It is a conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture.

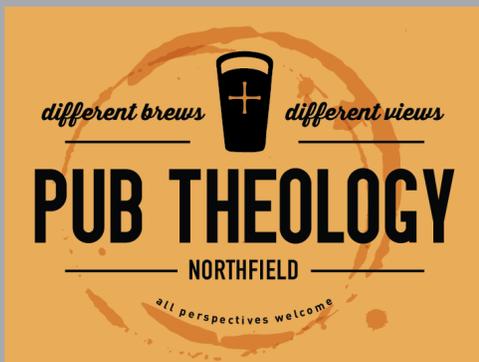
No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate.

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)



Annual Spring Church Yard Clean Up Saturday, April 25, 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, wheelbarrows for spreading mulch, shovels, leaf blowers, tarps, leaf bags, clippers, and dandelion diggers. Garden trailers and/or trucks are needed. Thank you!



Property & Grounds Board Adopt-A-Garden Program

In order to reduce maintenance costs each summer season, church members are asked to volunteer to maintain fifteen gardens on the grounds. As former gardeners retire from their duties, gardens become available for "adoption."

For the 2026 season, there are a few gardens needing immediate adoption by individuals or by families. If you are interested in this program and seek more information, please contact board member Craig Schultz at 952-426-8834. Thank you!



Rice County Habitat for Humanity is currently working on several exciting projects in our Northfield community.

One is an acquisition and rehab house on Poplar Street (just 1 block from St. John's), where volunteers from St. John's helped paint interior rooms on March 14. The St. John's Foundation has donated significant funds for the rehabilitation of this home, which happens to be the first home built by Rice County Habitat for Humanity back in 1993. Another project is a new modular home on Forest Avenue. This home was constructed by Dynamic Homes, and is now being finished by Habitat volunteers.



315 Poplar St. S., Northfield

Volunteer crew on March 14, pictured left to right: Liz Rowley, Craig Schultz, Sara Bright, David Bright, Jane Rinehart, Susanne Smith, Steve Reece, and crew supervisor Lee Skaar.



This spring, Habitat will also begin a build on Sumner Street that will include two duplexes serving four families. Habitat will be looking for volunteers to assist with this project during the spring. Watch for the opportunity to sign up to help on St. John's "Build Saturday", which will be advertised as soon as the date is set! St. John's was instrumental in helping with the 4-plex home in Northfield in 2021. Jessica, a homeowner from that 4-plex, shared this about her home: "Habitat has helped me to break out of the poverty mindset I was stuck in most of my life. Having the support of Habitat has allowed me to dream bigger dreams."



Having the support of Habitat has allowed me to dream bigger dreams."

Habitat is currently seeking homeowners in need of affordable housing. To learn more about becoming a Habitat homeowner, visit habitatricecounty.org.

News and Updates



Suzuki Kids

- For children, ages 0-3 with an adult
- Thursdays at 4:00 pm, starting October 2nd
- St. John's Lutheran Church
- Email arielleloy@gmail.com with questions

a FREE music class for babies and toddlers!



News and Updates

Age-Friendly Northfield Lyft Transportation Project

Age-Friendly Northfield is an initiative of States and local communities throughout the US. This initiative serves as a catalyst to local leaders, encouraging them to implement changes that help make communities livable for all ages. It is a global effort of the World Health Organization and AARP.

Northfield became a member of this movement in August 2016. During the Fall of 2023 the Age-Friendly Health and Wellness Team and the City of Northfield both conducted a surveys to better understand what people need and use for transportation in and out of town for medical, leisure, and work activities. Responses to both surveys reported a need and desire for additional options that allow for:

- Increased flexibility
- Individual rides over shared rides
- On demand options
- Options that serve both the City of Northfield and surrounding communities

The Transportation Team reviewed and educated themselves about the current options in Northfield and shared that via educational sessions. We spoke to communities in which Lyft was being used and determined what we needed to establish Lyft as an option in Northfield.

We currently have 3 individuals who have become Certified Lyft drivers. More are needed. We are reaching out to Faith Communities and attending other community events to reach out to individuals who would like to learn more about what it takes to become a Lyft Driver and to individuals who would like to use Lyft as a rider.

For more information, contact St. John's member Bob Tabery.

Out'n About: Conversations with Minnesotans Monday, April 27 9:00-11:30 a.m., St. John's Hall

Our first speaker will be Margo Krager, who will share information on fabrics used for costumes for movies, TV, and quilters, in "*Fabric with the Look of Bygone Eras*". Earl Weinmann will be the second speaker of the morning with "*Grading Papers to Grilling Wieners: A Retirement with a Purpose*".

Register for this event by emailing outnabouto22@gmail.com or calling 507-301-9094. Cost is \$15 for speakers and refreshments or \$20 for speakers, refreshments, and lunch. This is payable the day of the event (cash or check only).

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.



Communion Prep Volunteers are Needed

We are currently in need of more people who can help with the Sunday morning communion prep for worship. It's quite easy and only takes a few minutes to do. If you're someone who likes to work on your own behind the scenes, doing the communion prep for worship is a great way to serve at St. John's! And, if you're not someone who normally attends the early service, you can sign up to prepare communion for the late service instead - any help is appreciated!



If you're interested in learning how to help in this way, please contact Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or by email at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:
Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.
The Voice (May 2026 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.

St. John's Staff

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www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

**EASTER
EGG HUNT**

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

9:30 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church

**Bring an Easter basket and
hunt for eggs!**

**For children grade 5 and under and
accompanied by a parent.**

Hope to see you at the hunt!

