



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 4

AUGUST 2023

## Registration is now open for Children and Youth Programs, 2023-2024!

Check out St. John's website at:  
[stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/](http://stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/).  
Click on "Children" or "Youth" to find out more about the programs available.

Register your children/youth by using the QR code or by visiting our website!



SCAN ME

### Inside this issue:

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### Night to Unite on August 1

St. John's will again be hosting our annual Night to Unite celebration. This is a part of a national program that encourages neighbors to come together on the first Tuesday in August to strengthen community and increase the safety of neighborhoods.

The celebration will include a picnic style meal along with a bouncy tent, emergency vehicle tours, and games.

Please let Angie Gehring know if you can provide/help with one of the following:

- help set up tables, chairs, and other needed items outside beginning around 3:30 p.m.
- help with clean-up beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Contact Angie at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429.

**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
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**LIVESTREAM**  
9:30 a.m. Sundays  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)

**RADIO BROADCASTS**  
9:30-10:30 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

9:30 a.m. Sundays

### Livestream

9:30 a.m. Sundays  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)



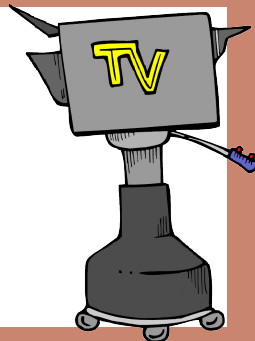
### Radio Broadcasts

9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays  
KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM  
[kymnradio.net](http://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.

## Successful Middle and High School Mission Trip to Nashville!

In June, Pastor Jonathan and Emmanuel lead 28 youth and 6 other adult chaperones (three of whom were former youth at St. John's – Jaida Gehring, Mia Becker, and Seth Hansen!) to Nashville for a mission trip. This trip included youth and chaperones from St. Peter's and First UCC. It was really great to create community and connections between our churches!



On Saturday, June 24, we drove to St. Louis and stayed over at a

local church. We worshiped at Gethsemane Lutheran Church that next morning and then visited the St. Louis Arch! On Sunday afternoon, we hit the road for Nashville!

During the week, we were divided into three separate service groups, which would leave our church homebase around 9:00 a.m. each day (with bag lunches in tow) and not return until 7:00 p.m. or so. Each day was divided into *morning* and *afternoon* service projects.



Throughout the week, participants spent time serving meals in a homeless shelter (*Room in the Inn* of Nashville), volunteering at a local church garden (*The Giving Garden*), sorting medical supplies to be donated (*Project CURE*), and working with community youth programs (*Preston*

*Taylor Ministries* of Nashville).

Each group also spent a morning driving around the city, learning about the history of its neighborhoods and praying for the places of struggle and care. Each person



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## 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](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.



If you are stressed or are going through a difficult time, you may benefit from a caring listening ear.

St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to offer this kind of support.

Please call one of the pastors (507-645-4429) to request a Stephen Minister if you feel this could make a difference for you.

## Radio Broadcasts in June and July

**June 4, 2023**

Given by Duane Engstrom in memory of Marlene Engstrom on her birthday today.

**June 11, 2023**

Given in memory of Steve Swanson by Judy Swanson.

**June 18, 2023**

Given in memory of Pam Schwandt.

**June 25, 2023**

Given in celebration of Lowell & Barbara Johnson's 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**July 2, 2023**

Given in memory of Edgar Larson by Helen Larson and family.

**July 9, 2023**

Given in celebration of Shirley Falck's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 11.

**July 16, 2023**

Given by Cindy Clauson in honor of her family.

**July 23, 2023**

Given by Marie Benson and family in memory of Duane Benson on his birthday, July 21.

**July 30, 2023**

Given in memory of Howard Thorsheim by David & Martha Brown.

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).

## St. John's Forums this Fall: Exploring the Bible with Interfaith Sensitivity

Throughout the New Testament, the Jewish roots of Christian faith are obvious. Jesus was a Jew, worshiped as Jew, and proclaimed the good news to fellow Jews. In spite of, or perhaps because of, this very close relationship to Judaism, early attempts to define Christianity's distinctiveness hardened into a fierce and deadly anti-Judaism. In the aftermath of the Holocaust, all major Christian denominations, including the ELCA, repented of this legacy; yet the recent rise in anti-Jewish violence would indicate its lingering impact.

The Adult Ministry & Education Board has invited three noted scholars in Jewish and Christian thought to examine this problem in greater depth as we launch a year-long study of the New Testament in its Jewish context. All three of the following forums will be held in the Sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. between the two Sunday services:

### October 1

#### ***Dr. Deanna Thompson - Martin Luther's Anti-Judaism and Our Contemporary Response***

In 1543, Martin Luther published "On the Jews and Their Lies," an anti-Jewish diatribe filled with hateful and violent language towards Jewish people. During this forum we will discuss the legacy of Luther's anti-Judaism and explore ways the ELCA has been working to repair Luther's legacy of harm against Jewish people, and what that work means for us as Lutheran Christians today.

Dr. Deanna A. Thompson is Director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values and Community and Martin E. Marty Regents Chair in Religion and the Academy. Thompson's work at St. Olaf focuses on advancing the mission and programming of the Lutheran Center and promoting interfaith dialogue both within and beyond St. Olaf. She is the author of five books, including *Crossing the Divide: Luther, Feminism, and the Cross* (Fortress, 2004) and a theological commentary on the biblical book of Deuteronomy for the Westminster John Knox Belief commentary series.

### October 15

#### ***Earl Schwartz - "Who is like your people Israel, a singular nation?": Jewish "Chosenness" as a Source of Inspiration and Tension***

Biblical history tells us something about when, where, and how Israel's distinctive identity as a people developed, but the extraordinary endurance of the Jewish descendants of those Israelites would also come to spawn questions about why it developed among these particular people. Themes of divine decree, ancestry, and an instructed way of life came to be associated with Jewish identity. What can we learn, as heirs of Abrahamic traditions, from the ways in which these themes have wended their way through this story?

Before his retirement, Earl Schwartz taught in the religion department of Hamline University and was the university's first director of its program in social justice studies. He has also served on the faculty of the Talmud Torah of St. Paul. He is the author of two books on Jewish moral education and co-author with Rabbi Barry Cytron of *When Life is*

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## Life and Growth

### Weddings

June 24, 2023  
*Morgan Errington and Kolt Gorg*

### Deaths

May 25, 2023  
*Gary Hagen*

June 23, 2023  
*Jean Schrader*

June 25, 2023  
*Max Williams*

June 30, 2023  
*Ann Ness*



*The following St. John's members died in these months last year. We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."*

August 8, 2022  
**Charlene Albers**

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

Online Registration for 2023-2024  
Now Open

Afterschool Programming and Catechism  
Orientation

Wednesday, September 13, 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation Orientation

Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 p.m.

First Day of Sunday School

Sunday, September 17, 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Afterschool Programming

Begins Wednesday, September 20

First Day of Confirmation

First Day of High School Youth Group

Wednesday, September 20, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Graders

Receive their CATEchism Books

Sunday, September 24, 10:45 a.m. Service

CAT Begins for Grades 3-5

Wednesday, October 4, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

## Children and Youth Ministries 2023-2024 School Year

St. John's is excited to begin a new school year with our children and youth!

**Sunday school** for children age 3 (by 9/1/23) to grade 5 starts with an open house on Sunday, September 17, at 9:45 a.m. in the lower level of St. John's.

**After the Open House**, enjoy breakfast along with children's activities (hopefully outside) from 10:00-10:30 a.m.

**Middle School and High School Youth Group** – Watch for more details in the Youth's weekly emails.

### Wednesdays...

**ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids**, begins on Wednesday, September 20.

**ROCK**, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K-5. Wednesday programs, for all grade levels, consists of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, Kid's Club, music opportunities, art, and service projects.



St. John's, through Benjamin Bus, provides an afterschool bus to pick up kids from Greenvale, Bridgewater and Spring Creek elementary schools and from the Middle school for Prairie Creek students who register for Wednesday programs. Make sure to indicate on the registration form if your child would like to ride!

**Catechism for Grades 3-5** is part of our Wednesday afterschool program. Catechism begins on Wednesday, October 4. Watch for more details in the Children's weekly email.

**Mark your calendars!** 3<sup>rd</sup> graders receive their Catechism book on Sunday, September 24, at the 10:45 a.m.

**Confirmation for Grades 6-9** begins on Wednesday, September 20. Join us in Fellowship Hall (lower level) from 6:15-7:30 p.m. Watch for details in the Youth's weekly email.

If you are not receiving the Children's and Youth Weekly emails and would like to, please contact Julie at [Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or Pastor Jonathan Davis at [jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org) and we will add your email to our list.

## Get involved with Children's Programming at St. John's

An ambitious array of activities means more volunteer opportunities for St. John's members - parents, grandparents, high school and middle school youth! Are you able to help on Wednesdays or Sundays? Whether you enjoy working with large or small groups of children or behind the scenes, there is a place for you. Many opportunities can fit into your schedule.

### Wednesday afternoons:

- Snack Servers - help serve snacks on Wednesdays
- Bus Angels - check children on the bus at one of the elementary schools (about a 5 minute time frame)
- Kid's Club assistants for grades K-2<sup>nd</sup>
- Adults share a hobby/passion/interest with kids on Wednesdays.

### Sunday Mornings:

- Sunday School team teachers
- Nursery volunteers
- Music volunteers

Please contact Julie Brehmer at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429, if you have questions. Our thanks to you in advance!

## Fun at VBS This Year!

Thanks for being a part of VBS this summer. We had a wonderful time with our theme, "Hero Hotline". Thanks to our wonderful volunteers from St. John's: Arielle and Anders Loy, Jonah Brownlee, Eleanor and Arthur Godfrey, Izzy and Maddy Rudser.



## Children and Youth

### Online Registration for Children and Youth 2023-2024 School Year

Check out St. John's website at [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org) or scan the QR code to register online for the 2023-2024 school year plus information on how to volunteer for upcoming events and programs.

We appreciate registrations turned in by September 10 for returning members. Visitors and new members are invited to register at any time during the year.

Please contact Julie Brehmer or Pastor Jonathan Davis at 507-645-4429 if you have questions regarding programming.



# the WOMEN'S page

August 2023



## Gatherings

### Baby Boomers

1st Saturday, 4:30-6:00

Meet in homes

Resumes in September

### Women's Breakfast Group

2nd Saturday, Aug. 12, 9:00am

St. John's Library

### Elizabeth Circle

2nd Thursday, 1:30pm

St. John's Library

Resumes in September

### Lydia Circle

2nd Wednesday, 9:00am

Coffee and Conversation

10:00 Bible Study

St. John's Hall

Resumes in September

### Mary Circle

2nd Friday 1:00pm

St. John's Fireside Rm

Resumes in September

### Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

2nd & 4th Thursday

10:00a St. John's Library

Throughout the Summer

### Knitters (World Vision)

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 10am

Throughout the Summer

Kathy Vang 645-4849

### New Knitters!

1st Wednesday

6:00-8:00pm

St. John's Library

Throughout the Summer

### Quilters

Thursdays

9:00a - noon, Fellowship Hall

Throughout the Summer



## WHAT A SATURDAY!

On June 24, three St. John's women attended the **Womens' Day at Good Earth Village** and enjoyed beautiful scenery, a great speaker, each other's company, as well as that of the other retreat attendees, and a good lunch!

The speaker's topic: **Compassion**. We learned much & discussed much and came away with a more informed understanding.

The four spiritual seeds that will empower compassion to grow are:

- 1) non-judgement
- 2) non-violence
- 3) forgiveness
- 4) mindfulness



To be compassionate we need to become aware of suffering, then take a correct attitude toward it (*don't blame or judge*) and then carefully choose a response (*care, don't cure*).

We are looking forward to next year. We hope you will be able to join us!

## THANK YOU St. John's congregation



for all your efforts to help us make 50 more baby kits! Because of your generosity (*items & donations*) we will be sending out at least **50** additional baby kits to LWR by the end of August! Thank you for helping babies around the world have a more comfortable start in life!

## THANK YOU, JEAN WAKELY!

Jean went above and beyond this year, serving a second term on the WELCA executive board as president of St. John's Women, and will remain on board assisting our new president, Pam Groves-Gaggioli.

Jean worked tirelessly to help St. John's women be effective in our church community, our Northfield community, and our world.

Under her leadership our monthly gatherings blossomed and new friendships emerged within our congregation, welcoming all women.

Courageous Conversations flourished, even through the pandemic, and Zoom programs, and livestream, feeding the Northfield community with important topics.

The women's ministries have gone over-the-top to provide kits and supplies to Lutheran ministries around the globe.



*Thank You!*



# COURAGEOUS

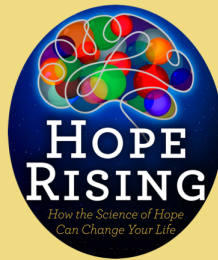
2023-2024

# CONVERSATIONS

## Hope is a Muscle

Today's airwaves are flooded with reminders of our deepening divisions and the back-sliding of many social justice issues that we had long taken for granted. It is easy to lose heart and to wish to bury our heads in the sand. Yet we know that hope is a critical element to human flourishing, together with agency and dignity.

After decades of research, scientists are discovering that hope is more like a muscle than an emotion. It is the belief that your future can be brighter and better than your past and that you actually have a role to play in making it better ("Hope Rising," Gwinn & Hellman). If it were an equation it would look something like: Hope = Goals + Road Map + Willpower.



Among victims of trauma, this kind of hope appears to be one of the most effective antidotes yet studied.

This year our Courageous Conversations will feature speakers who will share stories of hope and resilience in the midst of struggle. It is our hope that we, in turn, might better understand how to reject injustice where we find it, and to work together to envision a better future for all.



Watch for more information about our first Courageous Conversation of the 2023 - 2024 year:

Thursday  
September 14, 2023  
7:00pm  
St. John's Hall



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)

Visit our web pages: [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women)

## It's that time of year again! Back-to-School with LWR Backpacks

Purchased supplies can be left in the cardboard School Bus in the church Commons. Supplies will be collected in August and early September.

Cash donations are also appreciated. Make checks to St. John's WELCA, write school kits on the memo line. Checks can be left in the church office or the offering plate on Sundays.

Our goal is to pack 200 kits, so many supplies are needed! Bags will be packed in September.



### LWR School Kit list:

**70 sheet spiral notebooks** of wide- or college-ruled paper, 8" X 10 1/2"; no loose-leaf notebook paper

**30 centimeter rulers**, or rulers with cm on one side and 12 inches on the other

### Pencil Sharpeners

**Fiskar scissors**, blunt (Fiskar brand preferred as the other ones break easily)

**#2 pencils**, unsharpened, with erasers

**Ballpoint pens** (black or blue, no gel ink)

**Crayola crayons**, box of 24

**Eraser**, 2 1/2 inch



## News and Updates

### Meals on Wheels It's Sign-Up Time

St. John's is committed to delivering Meals on Wheels from Monday, September 11, through Saturday, October 8.

Meals on Wheels is a Northfield Hospital supported, volunteer organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of the community through volunteer drivers.

Sign up online thru CCB at [https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/group\\_detail.php?group\\_id=97](https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/group_detail.php?group_id=97).

If you aren't a CCB user, you may contact the church office to schedule your delivery date.

Printed out driver instructions/information will be available at the Welcome Desk in the Commons.

If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact

Cynthia Neubecker at 612-327-0169 or [redduncan936@gmail.com](mailto:redduncan936@gmail.com)

or

Peter Skoglund at 925-989-6131 or [skoglund.peter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:skoglund.peter@sbcglobal.net).

Thank you for being a part of this important service to Northfield!



## Honoring Ruth Hansen

If you knew Ruth at all, you are likely aware that she was known for entertaining...often with the intent of welcoming newcomers. Whether it was coffee and popovers on her patio, a crockpot meal for college students, or a post Christmasfest gathering with Norwegian sweets and wine, it always involved food and conversation.

In her last year of life, not a day went by without her making plans for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (August). Of primary importance was singing, a choir (as former choir director), and a catered meal at her beloved St. John's.



Though St. John's was unable to host her funeral in late December, it seems fitting that the congregation can now honor Ruth and her life on her 100th birthday. Though she didn't quite make it to her 100<sup>th</sup>, she made it abundantly clear that she wished to gather old friends and newcomers one more time.

So, on behalf of St. John's staff, and Ruth Hansen's family, you are ALL invited (whether you knew Ruth or not) to St. John's on Sunday, August 6, for 9:30 a.m. worship, followed by a catered brunch in St. John's Hall (Bon Appetit).

The worship service will be livestreamed at [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org).

The worship service will be livestreamed at [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org).



## Facilities Sustainability Group Formed

The Church Council has formed a Facilities Sustainability Group in June in order to coordinate conversations around potential capital projects for our building, better energy efficiency and carbon reduction, and the financial requirements for accomplishing these projects.

The following individuals compose this team: David Neuger (Worship & Arts), Gary Engstrom (Business Management), Steve Taggart (Property & Grounds), and Dean Schoeb (Stewardship), along with Pastor Pam Fickenscher and Facility Manager Steve Harner. Jeff McLaughlin from the Foundation Board is also assisting and advising.

The team is exploring solar panels on our roof; other energy efficiency improvements; and other projects such as hail damage repair that would need to be coordinated with such projects. We anticipate bringing a plan to the congregation near the end of August.

## August 13<sup>th</sup> - Celebration for the Ministry of Emmanuel Kaghondi, 10:45am, St. John's Hall



On Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, please join us in worship at 9:30 a.m. for a blessing and sending of Emmanuel Kaghondi and stick around for a coffee and cake celebration of his 4 years of ministry with us here at St. John's.

Emmanuel has accepted a position teaching music at the University of South

Florida in Tampa. His family is spending a few weeks in Tanzania before he begins his new position, and he will be home briefly to say good-bye to us in Northfield before beginning his teaching position.

In August of 2019, Emmanuel joined us as the Director of Ministry with Youth and Families, stepping into a ministry that we hoped would center around the values of *belonging* and *integration*. Little did we know that just 6 months later, COVID would come along and make this ministry incredibly more challenging. Nevertheless, fueled by Dr. Pepper and his unwavering commitment to *ubuntu* (an African philosophy of life that says "I am because we are"), Emmanuel held those values closely and carried on and carried us with his steady presence, his gentle kindness, and his big (and sometimes sly!) smile. He has been quite a gift to us and at just the right time. We will miss him.

### Help Us to say "Thank you" and "Farewell" to Emmanuel Kaghondi

As a gift to Emmanuel for his 4 years of service with youth and families, the Youth Ministry & Education Board invite you to write a word of gratitude, blessing, and goodbye to Emmanuel in a journal for him, that he can take with him. This journal booklet will be out in the Commons the next few Sundays and during the week - please stop by to write share any memories with him and words of appreciation!

## News and Updates

### Weekly Pub Theology Returns

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 on Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at **various locations**.

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

Below is the schedule as of July 27. Watch the E-Voice and Sunday bulletins for updated information.

**August 7**

Topic TBD, Contented Cow

**August 14**

Topic TBD, Contented Cow

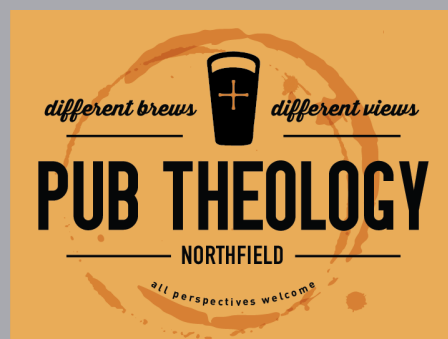
**August 21**

Topic TBD, Contented Cow

**August 28**

Topic TBD, Contented Cow

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



## News and Updates



### Summer Worship Schedule Continues Thru Sunday, September 10

This summer we will have one worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 10.

The fall worship schedule will resume on Sunday, September 17, with services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

was shaped and changed by these experiences and the people we met.

The drive home had a little more excitement than we expected. While still 4 hours away from our stayover in Cedar Rapids, we discovered that we needed not one, but two tires replaced on one of our vans on the Friday afternoon of a holiday weekend. This was more challenging than anyone expected. But thanks to the people at Delta Custom Tire shop in Quincy, MO, who stayed after hours to get us situated, we were back on the road by early evening! We were wonderfully exhausted and grateful to return home safely on Saturday morning.

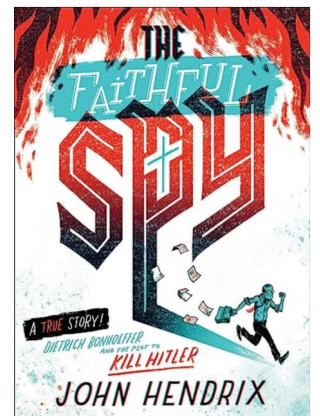


### Words from St. John's Library By Anne Sovik

Library Spotlight: The Faithful Spy

Luckily you don't need to be young to enjoy a young adult book. *The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the Plot to Kill Hitler* is a biography in graphic novel format. The author, John Hendrix, provides a comprehensive account of the life of German Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, his faith, and how it led him to participate in the plot to assassinate Hitler, a plot that eventually cost him his life. Hendrix also provides an in-depth look at the German resistance movement; Bonhoeffer did not act alone.

While the author doesn't skimp on historical detail (I learned a lot I hadn't known before) and gives source notes to authenticate facts and quotations, the book reads like a thriller. Hendrix's graphic approach and vivid illustrations enhance the account and make it accessible to young readers (and those not so young). Find it in the St. John's library on a display shelf or in the YA section.



## St. John's Forums this Fall: Exploring the Bible with Interfaith Sensitivity

Continued from page 5

*in the Balance: Life and Death Decisions in Light of the Jewish Tradition*, and *Who Renews Creation*, a Jewish sourcebook on environmental ethics.

### November 5

#### **Jason Ripley - Anti-Judaism and the New Testament**

This session explores the Jewish context and character of the early Jesus movement as a way of contextualizing the anti-Jewish rhetoric embedded within the New Testament. We will discuss Jesus' identity as a particular type of Jew who challenges other competing Jewish notions of the Kingdom of God in the face of Roman imperial rule. We will also examine several key New Testament passages that were later employed to justify hostility and murder of Jews across the centuries in order to sensitize us to the problems and to suggest possibilities for interpreting these passages today.

Jason Ripley is a scholar of the New Testament, specializing in the Gospel of John. He teaches courses on the Bible and biblical interpretation and regularly leads students on study-abroad programs. His publications center on empire-critical readings of the New Testament, engaging topics of religious violence, gender, and reinterpretation of the Hebrew Bible in early Judaism. He has taught at St. Olaf College since 2005 and has been attending St. John's Lutheran Church since 2020.

We are excited to welcome these scholars to share their insights with us as we embark on a year of exploring ways to move beyond this difficult legacy. Look for other opportunities to engage in further study throughout the year.

## Congregational Finance Update

- Offering received through the end of June is 42% of our \$966,500 offering budget. At the halfway point in the year we would hope to see this number at 46%. This puts us more than \$41,000 behind budget, slightly worse than what we reported in April.
- Expenses are on target at 48% of budget; in order to avoid another year-end deficit, the Council will begin to review budgets, potential cuts, or other ideas for savings in the second half of the year.
- The cost to repair hail damage to the roof will be covered by our property insurance.

## News and Updates



### **Make a Difference, Save a Life.**

St. John's has hosted several American Red Cross blood drives already during 2023.

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**

Monday, September 18

1:00-6:00 p.m.

in St. John's Hall

You can sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-733-2767.

## News and Updates



### Season Two of the St. John's Seraphs Summer Softball Team

Join the fun! Come cheer our team on!

Here is the upcoming schedule:

**Sunday, August 6**  
6:00 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 1  
*St. John's vs. Cornerstone*



### Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during  
will be on the following Sunday:  
August 6.

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

## Assisting Ministers Wanted!

Have you ever seen an assisting minister read in worship and thought, "I want to try that!" Or have you ever heard an assisting minister pray in worship and thought, "I could never do that!"? Well, guess what? You can! And you *are* capable of it too! Having people from the St. John's congregation be assisting ministers each week is one of our greatest joys in worship. We believe it is important to have a variety of voices and gifts and prayers in worship – especially children and youth! If you (or your child or grandchild) have ever wondered about being an assisting minister, but weren't sure how to go about doing it, please reach out to Pastor Jonathan at [jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org) to be on the Assisting Minister list of people we reach out to throughout the year. We will help you all along the way so that it can feel like a joyful and meaningful experience.

## Call for Volunteers to Count Offering

The Business Management Board is looking for additional volunteers to join the counting team. It's a great way to share your time and talents in short increments, and as your schedule allows. Counters are responsible for accurately and confidentially accounting for total offering and attributing gifts to each donor. Counters meet each Sunday for 45-60 minutes, starting at 10:45 a.m. in the summer or at 11:45 a.m. when there are two services. Each counting team includes three people and volunteers generally serve once every 4-6 weeks, with a monthly schedule determined by volunteer availability. If you are interested, please contact Jane Rizzo ([jane.a.rizzo@gmail.com](mailto:jane.a.rizzo@gmail.com)). Thank you!

## Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (September 2023 Edition):

August 15

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

## Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is a great way to support the on-going ministry of St. Johns, even when you are out of town or unable to worship in person. To sign up for electronic giving, contact Leah in the church office at (507) 645-4429, or by email: [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org). "I give electronically" cards are now available in the pew racks, so you can show your support during the Sunday morning offering.

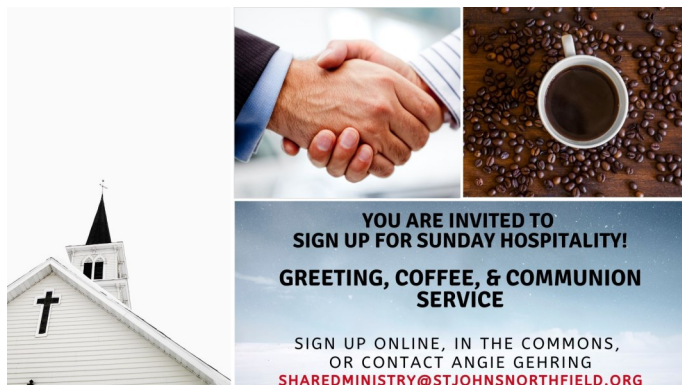


## Sunday Hospitality

Who doesn't enjoy having a treat while visiting with friends, fellow church members, and guests?

If you can share a dozen or so treats, or would like to help with the serving or clean-up on any particular Sunday, you can either sign-up in CCB (a direct sign-up link can be found in the weekly E-Voice) or contact Angie Gehring at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

It's a fun way to help foster connections among people and provide a welcoming atmosphere!



## St. John's Staff

### Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

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

### Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

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

### Director of Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

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

### Facility Manager

Steve Harner

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

### Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

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

### Music Staff

Green Bouzard - Jubilate Choir

[jubilatechoir@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:jubilatechoir@stjohnsnorthfield.org)

Arielle Loy - Children's Music Director and

Early Childhood Specialist

[arielleloy@gmail.com](mailto:arielleloy@gmail.com)

### Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

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

### Parish Nurse

Sally Lindell

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

### Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring

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

### Congregation President

Kathy Shea

[kathleen.louise.shea@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.louise.shea@gmail.com)



**St. John's**  
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**WEBSITE**

[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

## Summer Worship Schedule

During the summer, we will have one service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 10.

