



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 62, ISSUE 4

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2022

Fall Programming Begins...

Wednesday, Sept. 14 - Orientation for Wednesday Programs
for Grades K-12 and Parents

Sunday, Sept. 18 - Education Hour for All Ages

Wednesday, Sept. 21 -
Afterschool Programming
Confirmation and High School Youth Group

Inside this issue:

- 2 Worship Schedule
- 3 From Our Pastors
- 4 What is a Parish Nurse?
- 7 Online Registration for Children
and Youth 2022-23 School Year
- 8 Courageous Conversations
Continue this September
- 11 St. John's Red Barn Pizza Night
- 12 Summer Events Review
- 15 Have you ever wished for
improvement of the acoustics

Planning Our Future Together

You are invited to participate in a series of gatherings to be held at St. John's this fall. We hope to hear from everyone as we imagine how to build a bright future for our congregation and community.

This is a great time to do some thoughtful planning. We have all experienced such a disruption to our lives during the pandemic, and we learned new ways of doing things and formed new habits. It doesn't seem wise to assume that things will automatically return to pre-pandemic patterns. For example, we have found that some types of gatherings, done remotely or as a hybrid, allow additional people to participate. Our building isn't always set up to make that work as well as it could, but it seems like something we should continue.

As another example, we want to think about the best uses of our physical space. As community gatherings resume, could St. John's Hall and our kitchen be used in new ways? Do we have other spaces that could be used more

Continued on page 14

WORSHIP SERVICES

See Page 2

LIVESTREAM

8:30 a.m. Sundays

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

RADIO BROADCASTS

8:30-9:30 a.m. 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 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays thru September 11

8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays starting September 18

Livestream

8:30 a.m. Sundays

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org



Radio Broadcasts

8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net



TV Broadcasts

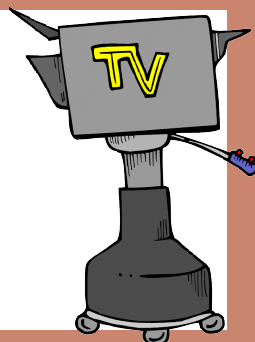
7:30 p.m. Mondays

12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays

2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

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

Dearest People of St. John's,

Thank you for the lovely blessing for me and for my time on Sabbatical during worship on July 10.

As many of you know, I begin a 3-month sabbatical on July 11. A sabbatical is an intentional time of rest, reflection, and rejuvenation, born from the Biblical tradition of taking sabbath. While not required of any pastor or congregation, ELCA congregations are urged to carve out these moments of rest and reflection both for the health of the pastor and for the health of the congregation. St. John's offers a sabbatical to its pastors every 6-years of service.

Thank you for granting me this time away. I know that this is a unique opportunity that is all too rare for the majority of people; I do not take this time for granted.

Many of you have asked what I will be up to during this time. My sabbatical will be anchored by a two-week trip to Scotland with my family and a 10-day trip to the Cayman Islands with a very dear friend. As I have mentioned before in a sermon, one of the most spiritually-filled and peaceful experiences for me is swimming deep in a body of water. On this trip, I hope to fulfill a life-long dream of scuba diving in the ocean. In between these adventures, I plan to spend time at home with my family, gardening and (hopefully) building a trellis for a new walking garden, reconnecting with old friends and colleagues, and finally tackling some of the half-read books on the nightstand.

While I am gone, Pastor Mark Rydberg will be assisting Pastor Pam with a number of pastoral responsibilities. While I am taking a break from pastoring during this time, I will still be out and about in the community. If we bump into each other, I would be glad to say hi. I just kindly ask that we not talk about St. John's or any other pastoral related matters.

And please know this - I will miss you. Yes, I am ready for and very much looking forward to this time away. But I also cherish the time and interactions with you each week. In conversations, I discovered that much of sabbatical feels like a time of fasting - intentionally taking a break from good and meaningful things that feed you, so as to be reminded of the gift and need for what one has lived without.

Once again, I am deeply grateful for this unique and generous opportunity. I plan to be back in the office on Monday, October 3, rested and refreshed for exciting years ahead at St. John's.

With love for each one of you,
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 for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.



The following St. John's members died in 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 12, 2021
Alvhild Sherve

August 19, 2021
Dorothy Ostlie

September 29, 2021
Beverly Nestingen-Lundeen

What is a Parish Nurse?

I have been asked this question many times since I started my work here at St. John's, so I thought it might be helpful to share with you.

Parish nursing is a growing specialty practice of professional nursing that is recognized by the American Nursing Association as Faith Community Nursing (FCN). Faith Community Nursing's focus is on intentional care of the spirit, whole-person health promotion, with the goal of preventing or minimizing illness. It is a ministry that is embraced by many different religions and Christian denominations as well as other faith traditions throughout the world. Parish nurses perform different services based on each congregation's needs. Here are some ways I help in our community at St. John's:

- Assess health needs of congregation members.
- Provide health education to individuals and groups.
- Make home, care center, and hospital visits as needed.
- Advocate for those who need help accessing resources in the community.
- Help strengthen the spiritual health of those going through crises.
- Assist in creating conversations around end-of-life care and other critical health care decision-making.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to talking with you.

~Sally Lindell RN, FCN



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

June 5

Given by Bob and Sandra Nyvall
in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

June 12

Given by Dick and Donna Werdahl
in honor of the 67th wedding anniversary.

June 19

Given in memory of Jim Bierman by family and friends.

June 26

Given by friends of St. John's.

July 3

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

July 10

Given in memory of Millie Berg by Dallas Berg.

July 17

Given by Marie Benson and family
in memory of Duane Benson on his 83rd birthday on July 21.

July 24

Given by Dale and Karen Schuette
in celebration of their 56th wedding anniversary on July 23.

July 31

Given by Chuck and Anita Hellie
in memory of siblings Greg and John Hellie and Ron Svard.

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.

Life and Growth

Deaths

May 28, 2022
Carole Nesheim

May 29, 2022
Gertrude Swanlund

June 7, 2022
Elvin Heiberg

June 12, 2022
Duane Kringen

July 20, 2022
Dale Gehring



Worship Schedule

Summer worship services
will be at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

This schedule will continue
through September 11.

Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during
will be on the following Sundays:
August 7 and September 4.

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

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

Online Registration for 2022-2023
Now Open

Afterschool Programming and Catechism Orientation
Wednesday, September 14, 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation Orientation
Wednesday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.

First Day of Sunday School
Sunday, September 18, 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Afterschool Programming
Begins Wednesday, September 21

First Day of Confirmation
First Day of High School Youth Group
Wednesday, September 21, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

3rd and 4th Graders
Receive their CATEchism Books
Sunday, September 25, 10:45 a.m. Service

CAT Begins for Grades 3-5
Wednesday, October 5, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

Children and Youth Ministries 2022-2023 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 9/1/22) to grade 5 starts with an open house on Sunday, September 18 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 21.

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K-5. Wednesday programs, for all grade levels, consists of an after-school 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 5. Watch for more details in the Children's weekly email.

Mark your calendars! 3rd and 4th graders receive their Catechism book on Sunday, September 25, at the 10:45 a.m.

Confirmation for Grades 6-9 begins on Wednesday, September 21. 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 Brehmer at Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or Emmanuel Kaghondi at Youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org and we will add your email to our list.

Online Registration for Children and Youth 2022-2023 School Year

Check out St. John's website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org or scan the QR code to register online for the 2022-2023 school year plus



information on how to volunteer for upcoming events and programs. We appreciate registrations turned in by September 7 for returning members. Visitors and new members are invited to register at any time during the year.

Please contact Julie Brehmer or Emmanuel Kaghondi at 507-645-4429 if you have questions regarding programming.

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
- Recreation Helpers - supervise kids in game areas
- 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-2nd
- 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 or 507-645-4429, if you have questions. Our thanks to you in advance!

Pool Party on August 3

Northfield area churches invited families to a Pool Party at the Northfield Outdoor Pool on Wednesday, August 3. Churches provided free food courtesy of the Knights of Columbus food truck.



Children and Youth

Youth Summer Events

Middle School

SonShine events are summer events organized by the three ELCA churches (St. John's, St. Peter, Bethel).

Follow Emmanuel's weekly updates for more details.

Sonshine III:

August 17 -

Your favorite Romans & Christians game.

Yes, the Romans & Christians game is back! On Wednesday August 17, St. John's incoming and outgoing middle school youth will be joining other Northfield area churches for a night of fun. If you like running around a big dark church, come and be a part of this over-the-top Romans & Christians game!

We'll meet at St. John's Church, along with youth from other Northfield churches, and will play from 7:00-10:00 p.m. with a pizza break in the middle.

Registration link to be sent soon!

High School Special!

August 26,

High School Youth are preparing for an amazing Lock-In night!

This event is for HS Youth and their friends. Expect a night of bounce house, a talent show, movie, social, and not sleep.

More info to come!

the **WOMEN'S** page



September

GATHERINGS

Baby Boomers
Saturday, August 27,
4:30-6:00
Julie Zdenek's home
2121 Ontario Ln

Breakfast Women's Group
Saturday, Aug. 13 and Sept.
10 9:00am, St. John's Library

Elizabeth Circle
2nd Thursday of the month
1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia Circle
2nd Wednesday of the
month
9:00am
Coffee and Conversation
10:00 Bible Study
St. John's Hall

Mary Circle
Friday, Sep. 9
1:00pm
St. John's Fireside Rm

Ruth Circle
2nd Thursday of the month
9:30am NRC
Parkview West Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)
2nd & 4th Thursday
10:00a Room 19

Knitters (World Vision)
2nd & 4th Tuesday, 10am
Kathy Vang 645-4849

Quilters
Thursdays
8:30a - noon, Fellowship Hall



COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS



moving ~ forward ~ together ~

Courageous Conversations continues this September

After a 2 year pandemic, renewed political and societal turmoil, and new awareness of past

transgressions toward communities of color, how do we move forward?

Our speakers will encourage us to find ways to understand our trauma caused by multiple and simultaneous events and to find ways to cope with the lingering pain and deep sorrow that individuals continue to experience. Through guided conversations, our hope is that our resolve will be strengthened to move forward together with renewed energy and resilience.

**September program: Mental Health
Thursday, September 15, 7:00pm via Zoom**

How do we move forward from the trauma, stress, loss and pain of the 2 year pandemic? Our speaker, Andrea Smothers, a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker in private practice in Zumbrota, MN, will lead us through steps to find resiliency and hope, and teach us how to talk about our trauma. Registration required: www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/courageous

Summer Women's Bible Study

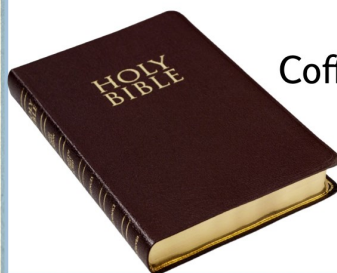
for all women of St. John's
led by Pastor Pam

August 18, 2022

9:30am
Coffee and refreshments

10:00am
Bible Study

St. John's Hall



Longing for Connection, Meaningful Friendships, Interesting Conversation?

Consider gathering with us in one of our small groups, tune in to our Courageous Conversation programs, and/or spend some quality time with our LWR ministries!

Questions? Contact: women.stjohns500@gmail.com

MAY PROGRAM

St. John's Women enjoyed a bus ride to Red Wing for a presentation of the He Mni Can-Barn Bluff Story Panels from the Prairie Island Indian Community of the Dakota Oyate. From there they embarked on a Lake Pepin cruise and catered lunch on the Riverboat "Pearl of the Lake." Be sure to attend our November program, as a spokesperson from the Prairie Island Indian Community will share how city officials and the native tribe members worked together to honor the spiritual and sacred spaces of the tribe on He Mni Can/Barn Bluff.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS

St. John's Women are compiling LWR School Kits in September. Our goal is 200. You can help supply the backpacks with the following items. Place them in the School Bus Box in the Commons between July 24 - Labor Day.

- ✓ **FOUR** 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
- ✓ **ONE** 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters and inches
- ✓ **ONE** pencil sharpener
- ✓ **ONE** pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ✓ **FIVE** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers;
- ✓ **FIVE** black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- ✓ **ONE** box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ✓ **ONE** 2 1/2" eraser



St. John's Women

Visit our web pages: www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women



Like us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns"

Friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns

(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Correspondence: women.stjohns500@gmail.com

News and Updates

Weekly "Patio" Theology Continues In August and Returns to Pub Theology on September 12 & 26

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.

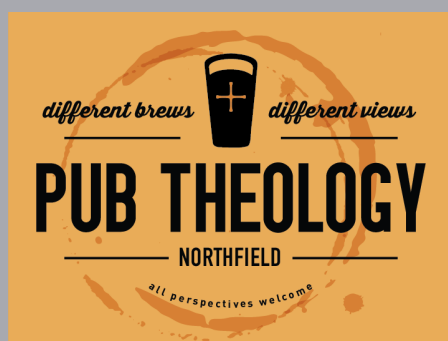
Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet on Mondays in August from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at **host homes**.

Meeting locations for the Mondays in September are in the works.

Each week, the topic will be different and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the E-Voice, and an email list.

Contact the church office (office@StJohnsNorthfield.org) to add your name to the email list.



Women of St. John's Visit to Global Health Ministries

Tuesday morning, June 28th, seven St. John's women traveled to Global Health Ministries in Fridley. They delivered 36 quilts, 32 hand knit baby blankets, 27 twin flat sheets, 73 pillow cases, many (250?) rolled bandages, and 4 white medical coats. The women stayed for 2 hours to volunteer. Marie Benson and Gerri Licke, who are retired nurses (pictured below), worked in the "fine sort" room where medical knowledge helps in sorting supplies. Dao Hella, Jean Wakely and Patrice Nordstrand worked in the linens area, checking and packing baby kits. Nancy Simpson Younger and Jane Rinehart scanned and labeled boxes of medical supplies that will be shipped to Lutheran hospitals and training schools in Liberia. All are pictured in the photo in the Global Health Ministries office area of the warehouse. Three of these women just joined St. John's. We appreciate their getting involved so quickly in St. John's WELCA outreach ministries!



Global Health Ministries is an independent Lutheran nonprofit that partners in 13 countries around the world. GHM specializes in capacity-building for Lutheran health systems in under-resourced countries, serving some of the most vulnerable people in the world. The GHM Fridley warehouse is in need of more volunteers. If you are interested, contact any of us for information, or go to ghm.org.

Meals on Wheels: It's Sign-Up Time

St. John's is committed to delivering Meals on Wheels from Sunday, 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.

If you aren't a CCB user, you may contact the church office to schedule your delivery date. Printed out driver instructions/information are also available at the Welcome Desk in the Commons. If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact Nancy Moe at 612-329-8979 or njm55057@gmail.com.



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

St. John's Red Barn Pizza Night

Pizza is always great, but enjoying it outside at the Red Barn with friends and family is always a little bit better. Join St. John's Adult Ministry & Education Board for pizza night at the Red Barn on Wednesday, August 10, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.



Each family will need to make their own reservations for the evening by contacting Red Barn either by phone at 507-664-0304 or online at their website www.redbarnfarmweddingsmn.com/about-4. Reservations can be made beginning at 4:00 p.m. on August 5.

Information for the evening:

- They accept checks or cash only.
- Bring your own seating, tables, blankets; they have picnic tables which are on a first-come basis.
- Bring your own napkins, utensils, and other eating essentials as well as side dishes, desserts, beverages.
- You take everything home with you to dispose of, including the pizza box. Bring your own trash bag.
- You have 1/2 hour window for arrival. For example if you reserve a 6:00 p.m. time slot, you must arrive between 6:00 & 6:30 p.m.
- Order upon arrival and then stay and enjoy your time at the farm.

We hope to see you at the Red Barn . . . Look for the St. John's signs!!!

Another Summer Supper August 21

On July 20, twenty-three members of St. John's gathered at three different homes for a Summer Supper and an opportunity to share a meal and conversation. There will be another opportunity to get in on the fun as Adult Ministry & Education is organizing another chance on Sunday, August 21, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This is a fun way to connect and reconnect with members of our church community.

If you are interested in either hosting or attending a Summer Supper please sign up in the Commons or online in CCB (information to the link for that connection can be found in the E-Voice). Adult Ministry will organize the groups and give guest information to the hosts and the hosts will be connecting with the guests so that all can share in the meal preparation.

This is a great way to end the summer; enjoying a meal with old and new friends from St. John's

News and Updates

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals is in their fifteenth season this summer. Recitals are held during the Wednesday noon hour from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. with the following schedule:

Wednesday, August 3

Lawrence Archbold and Bill Peterson
All Saints Episcopal Church
419 Washington St.

Wednesday, August 10

Nathan Proctor
St. John's Lutheran Church
500 3rd St. W

Wednesday, August 17

Noah Klein
First United Church of Christ
300 Union St.

Some recitals will include a free-will offering to defray publicity expenses.

For more information, contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357 or email rkcollman@msn.com.

News and Updates

Knights of the North Castle VBS This Summer!



Christikon Campers and Chaperones

High School youth were in Montana for Christikon Camp. They took a Mountaineers backpacking trip in the world's most lovely country. They spend their first and last nights at the main camp. But the rest of the time was spend hiking through mountain wilderness. In the midst of the exhilaration of high country camping, they continued to search for God in their energy, endurance, backpacks and sleeping bags.



Night to Unite on August 2



St. John's again hosted 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 included a picnic style meal along with emergency vehicle tours and games.



Camp Amnicon Review

June 19-24, Middle School youth and 2 chaperones went to Camp Amnicon for a canoeing trip. This was a "Heroes" trip this year, which means youth were involved in service projects while paddling down the Namekagon/St Croix Riverway. We saw many deer, two bears (one with a baby in the tree), eagles, tortoise nests, huge fish like sturgeons and bass. We also survived wild flies, mosquitos, and thunderstorms.

We had great time swimming, cooking our meal, playing, and canoeing while making stops to clean the sites and take care of nature. Many skills and friendships were nurtured. And God was everywhere; from a tipping canoe to a swinging sleeping hammock. Our youth and our adults both grew in friendship and grew personally. Every day began with a morning devotion and each evening closed with a bible study and group discussion.

We thank all of you for your prayers and support for youth and family ministry. Also, a special thanks to Elisha DeGrego for giving a week of her time to chaperone. This is her third time accompanying our youth on their trip.



News and Updates

Valley Grove Ice Cream Social

The Adult Ministry & Education Board hosted an ice cream social at Valley Grove Church on June 21.

Dozens of St. John's members enjoyed treats and tours together on a beautiful summer solstice evening.

Jeff Sauve led a cemetery tour chock full of stories about area residents from the last 150 years, and Gary Wagenbach introduced us to the prairie restorations happening around the preserve.



Prayer and Care Ministry



Upcoming American Red Cross Blood Drive

St. John's hosted several American Red Cross blood drives during 2021.

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
Tuesday, September 27, 1:00-6:00 p.m.
in St. John's Hall.

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

Planning Our Future Together

Continued from page 1

effectively or for new purposes? Even the parking lot might be reimagined as a potential resource. We know many share the desire to use energy and resources as efficiently as we can.

As the Church Council has discussed our future, we see we need to think carefully about our mission and ministries to do successful long range planning. We need to understand our local demographics and other community trends. And we need to hear from you. What are your dreams for St. John's? How can we serve our congregation and our community? How can we do better at promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity?

So this fall, we will hold 4 open meetings, hoping that everyone is able to attend at least one. We will organize our discussions into 4 general areas: intentional building of relationships, using our facilities as a resource for mission, engaging the wider community, and stewardship of our planet and our financial resources. You will also be able to submit your ideas in other ways.

We will compile our collective thoughts, find areas of consensus and new ideas to investigate, and bring a report to the annual meeting. Then, we will convene a special workgroup to do some deeper study and bring recommendations that include both current needs and long term planning. The Church Council doesn't know exactly where this will lead, but we are confident that by working together and letting the Spirit guide us, we will find exciting paths to follow. Won't you help us plan our future?

Introduction to "Life in the Time of COVID"

In 2021 the Faith & Health Board began thinking of inviting members to share stories in a project called "Life in the Time of COVID." At that juncture, we thought that after nearly two years the pandemic would soon peter out and that our stories would help bring healing and closure. That has not happened. Our dance with coronavirus continues.

Realizing that we continue to deal with the impact of COVID, Faith & Health extends an invitation through the summer and fall for additional "Life" stories from persons of all ages. Stories can run from a single paragraph to several pages. We welcome both single episodes or longer narratives for posting on the St. John's website.

The original purposes of the project remain the same: our stories are potent medicine for processing the events of the last nearly three years when our lives have been upended by a series of crises - health, environmental, social. Stories shared draw our community closer together. Setting down our stories in writing brings creative release. Please sample the stories shared so far and then write your own! It will create a legacy for future generations.

Have you ever wished for improvement of the acoustics of St. John's Hall?

For over a year, the Church Council and Boards have been working on plans to improve the hearing environment in St. John's Hall. An



Acoustic Improvement Committee confirmed the need to tame the excessive reverberation in the Hall, which makes talking and listening very challenging.

An acoustic engineering firm has provided specifications for taming the reverberation. Of two project bids, we are focusing on the proposal of Twin Cities Acoustics. The wall treatment will cost \$44,000, and ceiling baffles, if needed, may add another \$24,000 to the project. The church can use some of the balance of Grace Overflowing Capital Funds but the project will likely move ahead only if the church can identify additional sources of funding.

If you are interested in knowing more about the project, and possibly making a contribution to this initiative, please contact Pastor Pam or congregation president Rod Christensen. Ideally, we will be hoping to identify interest by the end of August.

Northfield Rotary Youth Exchange Seeking Host Families

Is your family curious about other countries and cultures? Whether your family is small or large, with children young or old, you might be just right for hosting a Rotary Youth Exchange student this year; all it takes is a desire to welcome someone to your community and home.



Northfield Rotary Youth Exchange is seeking host families for inbound high school students from Norway, Uganda, Spain, Belgium, Faroe Islands, and Germany. Families host one student for 3-4 months while the student attends Northfield High School. As our exchange program starts up again since the start of the pandemic, it is an opportunity for our community to extend a welcome to these special students coming to Northfield.

Learn about the program at northstaryouthexchange.com, northfieldrotary.org, or contact Youth Exchange Officer Jesse Steed at 507-301-6785 or jessested@edinarealty.com.

St. John's Staff

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Associate Pastor

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Rod Christensen

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EMAIL

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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

A New Picture Directory for St. John's is in the Works!

Do you ever see people and wonder what their names are?

Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with a name?

Are you a new member and wish you had something to help you put names with faces?

Help is on the way!

We are producing a new pictorial directory!

We are partnering with Universal Church Directories for this important project. They are providing the directory at no cost to our church. Each participating family will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory and have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family & friends.

Watch for additional information this fall. Please participate!
Our directory won't be complete without YOU!



Photography Dates:

Monday, October 17 - Friday, October 21

Tuesday, Nov. 8 - Saturday, Nov. 12

Hours of Photography:

2:00-9:00 p.m. weekdays

and 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Saturday