



The

# Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MAY 2019



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## Congrats Class of 2019!

On Sunday, May 19, during the 10:45 a.m. service, St. John's will recognize our graduating High School Seniors.

After worship, the seniors and their families, along with the students' confirmation mentors will share lunch in St. John's Hall (from the Quarterback Club).

As a special gift from St. John's, each senior receives their own beautiful quilt!

Congratulations to the following seniors from St. John's:  
*Andrew Becker, Halvor Bratland, Creegan Croone, Erin Gunn, Elsa Hoff, Grant Huston, Willa Kmoch, Siri Lindell, Kuchceang Mangok, Logan Matson, Alison Nelson, Aidan Nutt, Anna Weber*

God's blessings on your future plans!

St. John's offers a college scholarship available to those attending an ELCA college. Contact Pastor Jonathan Davis or Angie Gehring if you would like more information.

**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays  
**FELLOWSHIP**  
9:30 a.m. Sundays

**LIVE BROADCASTS**  
8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays  
KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM  
[kymnradio.net](http://kymnradio.net)

**TV BROADCASTS**  
NTV Channel 180  
7:30 p.m. Mondays  
7:00 p.m. Fridays

## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays

### Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

### Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September - May

### Live Broadcasts

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

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

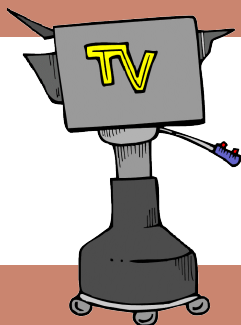


### TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 180



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

### WELCOME STATEMENT

*St. John's Lutheran Church is a community grounded in the promise of God's grace and called to extend Christ's welcome to all people. Every day, Christ meets us all just as we are, extending love to people of every age, race or ethnicity, physical appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, marital or relationship status, economic circumstance, educational achievement, political affiliation, or religious background.*

*While we do not always agree, we choose to walk and grow in faith together, believing that God creates diversity, and loves and welcomes us.*

*We warmly welcome you here.*

### Blessing Box at St. John's

*"Take something if in need; leave something when blessed."*



The congregation of St. John's continues to support the "Blessing Box", a mission that started in the fall of 2017. It is similar to the Little Libraries found around town except the Blessing box is filled with donated non-perishable food and personal hygiene products. The idea is that anyone who may be struggling can use the goods to make ends meet. The community is welcome to donate to the box being mindful of Minnesota's temperature changes. Donation Ideas (please check expiration dates): canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar, coffee, crackers, soap, mittens, toothbrush, baby items, such as diapers and pacifiers. The box is located in the drive-up on the north side of St. John's.

## From Our Pastors...

Dear friends in Christ,

In her new book, *Holy Envy*, Barbara Brown Taylor shares stories about teaching Religion 101 at Piedmont College and how studying other faiths has helped her to find God in her own Christian faith.

Each year, on the first day of teaching her students about Islam, she would invite them to write what they already know about Islam on the board. She says the answers each year were predictable: Terrorism, Muhammed, 9/11, Allah, ISIS, veiled women, Saudi Arabia, and the Qur'an. Few of Taylor's students (and us, I imagine) knew that Indonesia has the largest Muslim population, meaning the majority of Muslims are not Arab. Few knew that Muslims revere Jesus or that the Qur'an upholds the virgin birth and speaks more about Jesus' mother, Mary, than the New Testament.

Despite the fact that 38% of Americans know someone who is Muslim, members of this faith community continue to be religious strangers to many of us. Yet we live in this wonderfully diverse time where these religious strangers are also our neighbors. I know of two people who are Muslim, who regularly join us for worship a couple of times a year because they are family to St. John's members.

Therefore, I think it is a good idea for us to spend time learning about the faiths of others. Not only because it helps us to faithfully live into Jesus' summary of the law, "Love God and love your neighbor as yourself," but also because it fits right in with the theology of the Bible.

Throughout scripture, God works through religious strangers. In the Old Testament, there is the Canaanite King, Melchizedek, who blesses Abraham. Or Bithiah, Pharaoh's daughter, who rescues baby Moses. Or Ruth, the Moabite, who becomes the ancestor of King David. Or Cyrus, the Persian King, who ended the Babylonian exile. In the New Testament, there are the Magi, Persian star-gazers, who come to worship baby Jesus. Or the Roman Centurion, who recognizes Jesus as the Son of God on the cross.

But when it comes to our Muslim brothers and sisters, while they may seem like religious strangers, let us not forget that they are our religious family too. The Muslim faith traces its lineage all the way back to Father Abraham and Hagar, and their son, Ishmael. In the book of Genesis, not only does God promise to make a great nation out of Ishmael, but Esau (son of Isaac) marries Ishmael's daughter too. Christians and Muslims are both family and inheritors of God's promises – for the Bible tells us so.

As I write this, it is the middle of Holy Week – our most important week of the year. On May 5, the Muslim community will begin the month of Ramadan and fasting – one of their most important times of the year. Trusting that God is at work in the faiths of our neighbors, and excited at the opportunity to get to know one another's faiths better, Pastor Pam and I would like to invite you to learn more about Islam, by attending an Iftar dinner (the breaking of fast) and participating in an interfaith conversation, hosted by the Minnesota Council of Churches and local Minnesota Mosques.

Continued on page 4

## From Our Pastors



**Pastor Pam Fickenschner**



**Pastor Jonathan Davis**

## Prayer and Care Ministry

### Prayer Chain:

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

### Grief Care Resource:

Care Notes are one of the grief support resources at St. John's. Stop by the Commons to pick one up for yourself or for a loved one.

### Grief Booklets:

"Journeying through Grief" is a resource for those grieving the loss of loved ones. Contact one of the pastors if you would like a copy or if you would like to give a copy to a friend or family member.



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

May 17, 2018  
**Joseph Nesheim**

## Stephen Ministers Lend a Listening Ear

Many of us need help at various times in our lives. When dealing with difficult situations, we may seek help from pastors, friends, or health care specialists. Some may find it helpful to have a Stephen Minister, a caring Christian friend, who listens to their problems. Types of situations in which Stephen Ministers provide care include:

- death of a loved one
- facing our own death
- illness of a loved one
- personal illness
- financial stresses
- feeling guilty
- feeling lonely
- feeling worthless
- problems with family relationships
- separation from loved ones
- problems adjusting to a move / new environment
- birth of a child

These are just a few of the reasons people have sought assistance from Stephen Ministers. If you or someone you know needs care and support at this time, please call one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

Pastor Pam will be coordinating a group on Tuesday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m. in Rosemount. I will take a group on Thursday, May 23, at 7:30 p.m. in Bloomington. To sign up, please contact one of us, or sign up on our office doors.

Peace and love,

Jonathan

## St. John's Forums in May

### May 5:

***TEDxStJohns: Robert Nyvall - Joseph's Technicolor Dream Coat and Other Ways Plant Diseases Have Affected Culture (St. John's Hall)***

In a new forum series we are calling "TEDxStJohns", St. John's member will give a TED Talk style presentation on ideas or stories that are worth sharing. In this edition, St. John's member Robert Nyvall will share his expertise on plant biology and diseases and how human history and culture has been impacted by them.

### May 12:

***No Forum - Stewardship and Sunday School End of the Year Celebration***

See below for additional information.

### May 19:

***Brainstorming Session for St. John's Forum 2019-2020 (St. John's Hall)***

Over the past couple of years, the St. John's Forum has experimented with different forms of adult education. There have been thematic series, such as *How Lutherans read the Bible* and *A Conversation on Racism*. To provide multiple learning options, we offered at the same time *Manna and Mercy Small Group* and a Guest-Speaker Series. Members have also contributed their voices, stories, and questions with the TEDxStJohns Series and the Questions Box panel. On May 19, we are inviting you to a brainstorming session, where we will reflect on the past years and think about the future of this learning opportunity for adults. What do you want out of the education hour? Come share what's important to you for adult education at St. John's. Together, we hope to generate ideas for the St. John's Forum and adult education hour during the 2019-2020 program year.

### May 26:

***No Forum - Memorial Day Weekend***

## Let's Celebrate, Sunday, May 12!



Sunday school year with children's games and cotton candy!

St. John's is a vibrant community as a result of all ages sharing their many gifts. Each person who comes through the doors leaves a fingerprint somewhere: a coffee cup, a hymnal, pew, or bell; on the minds of children they teach, on the hearts of those hearing song and stories; by the sharing of a smile or touch. The print left by each person is unique and a gift to the St. John's congregation. Thank you.

On Sunday, May 12, between services, all are invited to St. John's Hall in celebrating and thanking everyone for sharing their special gifts and leaving their special touch on the church and community. The Stewardship Board is serving cake and refreshments. The Children's Board is celebrating the end of the

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

March 26, 2019

Marjorie Kilber

April 4, 2019

Elizabeth Trangsrud

April 5, 2019

Robert Vargas

April 18, 2019

Audrey Pleschourt

April 26, 2019

Eulalie Smestad



### Radio Broadcasts

**April 7, 2019**

Given in memory of  
Allen Swedin  
by family and friends.

**April 14, 2019**

Given by  
Sharon Bishop.

**April 21, 2019**

Given in loving memory of  
Don McRae  
by Marilyn McRae Raadt and family.

**April 28, 2019**

Given in memory of  
Loretta Siler  
by family and friends.

If you would like to  
sponsor a broadcast (\$160),  
please contact the church office  
by phone at 507-645-4429 or email at  
[office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Children and Youth

### Important Dates for Children to Remember!

#### Sunday School Schedule

9:45-10:30 a.m.

May 5	Sunday School Toddler Time
May 12	Intergenerational Event for All Ages in St. John's Hall

#### ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

May 1	ROCK
May 8	ROCK
May 15	ROCK

### Summer Nursery Schedule

Starting on Sunday, May 26, the Nursery will be providing childcare only at the 10:00 a.m. worship service during the summer months.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in the Nursery, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer.

### Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/18) and our preschool Sunday school class, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler Time.

Jenny Nystrom leads the children in song, games, crafts, and story time.

Toddler Time meets at 9:50 a.m. in Room 14 (lower level).

The last Sunday of the programming year is May 5.

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

## Summer Camp for Ages 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades

Summer is just around the corner and with summer comes great outdoor experiences!

This year, kids are invited to participate in these Summer experiences:

- **June 10–13: VBS is at St. John's!**

- Ages 3-Grade 2 (completed)**

Blast off with the first VBS to land on the moon! *To Mars and Beyond* will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. Registration forms are available in both the upper and lower Commons and online at [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org). The cost is \$15 per child with a \$30 family limit. (Scholarships Available)



- **June 23–28: Good Earth Village Pathfinders**

- Grades 3-5 (completed)**

Campers blaze new trails in their faith as they explore what it means to follow Christ, meet new friends, serve others, and learn more about God's creation through hikes in the woods and spending time with their on-site naturalist. Campers stay in the Hilltop Cabins. For more information and registration go to [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) and click on Summer!

- **June 26-28: Settlers**

- Grades 2-4 (completed)**

Three exciting days and two fun nights make for the perfect camp experience for younger campers. Your child will make new friends and grow in faith through fun, action-packed days. This camp also introduces campers to elements of our week-long camp such as Cabin devotion time, Canteen, and campfire worship. Campers stay in Log Lodge. For more information and registration go to [www.goodearthvillage.org](http://www.goodearthvillage.org) and click on Summer!

## We Need Many Volunteers for VBS "To Mars and Beyond!"

- Crew Leaders – lead a small group of children to various stations
- Station Leaders and Assistants – lead music, crafts, games, Bible storytelling, snacks
- Decorating and Prep – prior to VBS
- Help with Registration on Monday, June 10
- Nursery Care

Please contact Julie Brehmer at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429 or fill out the Volunteer page in the Registration packet if you are willing to help.

## Middle School Youth Group

Our May schedule:

- May 5: Meet in the Youth Room between services one more time this school year for treats, highs and lows, and to discuss the topic - Does the book of Revelation describe how the world will end?
- May 12: The celebration of the end of programming for the school year! We will gather in St. John's Hall for fun and games; and enjoy cake in honor of volunteer appreciation!

## High School Youth Group

- May 1: Service project field trip! Deliver a special May Day care package to home-bound members of St. John's! You will meet at St. John's and travel by carpool for personal delivery!
- May 8: Meet in the Youth Room to wrap up the end of the year and discuss confirmation projects with Pastors Pam and Jonathan.
- May 15: Meet in the Commons at 6:15 p.m. to walk to Hogan Brother's for ice cream to celebrate the end of the year.

## Confirmation for Grades 6-8

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- May 1: Meet in the Undercroft to finish up the Manna and Mercy book, ending with the chapter titled: "Will God's Dream Come True?"
- May 8: Enjoy watching a short musical performance in St. John's Hall, followed by a meeting with your small groups to have a debrief of this past year.
- May 15: Special end of the year event! Meet in the Commons to walk with your class to a location to be determined for a special treat!

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades:

- May 1: Ask a Pastor night! Here is a chance to ask Pastor Jonathan or Pam questions about topics discussed this year or any faith topics in general!
- May 8: Enjoy watching a short musical performance in St. John's Hall, followed by small group meeting time for a debrief of the past year.
- May 15: Meet in the Commons at 6:15 p.m. to walk to Hogan Brother's for ice cream to celebrate the end of the year.

## Children and Youth



### 9<sup>th</sup> grade Mentor and Mentee Meeting

**Sunday, May 5  
9:45 - 10:30 a.m.**

Meet with your confirmation mentor between services for the last designated Sunday faith talk.

### YMCA End of Year Celebration for K-5<sup>th</sup> Grades

All St. John's children in grades kindergarten - 5<sup>th</sup> are invited to the Northfield YMCA on Wednesday, May 15, for our end of year celebration!

We'll be boarding our Wednesday after school bus to take to the "Y". Even if you did not ride our bus during the school year, you are welcome to hop on board.

#### Here's the plan:

- 3:45 p.m.: Bus leaving St. John's for the Y - meet the bus on the east side of the building by the playground.
- 4:00 p.m.: Snack at the Y
- 4:15-5:15 p.m.: Kids can play either in the gym or in the pool. Kindergarteners need an adult with them in the pool.
- 5:15 p.m.: Parent pick up at the YMCA

A YMCA permission form is needed for each child to participate. They will be available in the lower commons. Parents - If you can help chaperone, please email Julie at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## St. John's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



### St. John's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Events

We invite you to **mark your calendars** for these special anniversary events:

#### Sunday, July 14

We will get outdoors together and celebrate with a family friendly social event.

#### October 26-28

Our **Capstone Event** will include something for everyone... kids, neighbors, history buffs, and people who just love to get together, share food, and celebrate.

## Summer Worship Schedule Changes Begin May 26

This summer, expect a lot of changes around St. John's as we spruce up our Sanctuary and as the City of Northfield refurbishes 3<sup>rd</sup> street. As with 2018, our worship schedule will move around as well.

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, services will be at 8:30 and 10 a.m. This schedule will continue through September 8, EXCEPT for the month of July, when we will again have ONE service at 9:30 a.m. for that month.

After experimenting with one service in July last year, the Worship & Arts Board received a lot of positive feedback. Many members appreciated the opportunity to meet folks "from the other service" and enjoyed the energy of coming together. However total attendance (in comparison with previous years and compared to adjoining Sundays in 2018) was lower when the option of a second worship time was dropped, so we know that this change did not work for everyone. The Council of Ministers affirmed at their March meeting that we will continue with the July-only experiment for this coming summer.

From Monday, May 20, through Saturday, June 1, our Sanctuary will be painted. In order to do this work most efficiently there will be no worship in that space for Sunday, May 26, or for any potential funerals or weddings during the days between.

The City of Northfield is re-paving Third Street through the summer, beginning with the section closest to St. John's in May and finishing in our area by mid-July. We believe that both sides of our parking lot will still be accessible every weekend, but be prepared to go around to the west side of the lot to enter.

## Creative Arts Group

Join us for the next Creative Arts group as part of the *Grace Overflowing* anniversary campaign at St. John's on Wednesday, May 8, from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in St. John's Library. This will be an art night to celebrate spring. Make art individually and contribute to a collaborative piece. Come willing to meet new people, try something new, and make art together.

These monthly groups focus on building relationships through shared art and music experiences. Please join us and support this effort to build community between church members and your LBSA neighbors. No previous art or music experience required for any of these sessions!

## St. John's Jubilate and Laudate Choirs Spring Musical

Join us on Wednesday, May 8, at 6:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall for the musical. Come hear the story of Zacchaeus in the musical "Hurry on Down" by Donald Marsh.

Enjoy the St. John's Wednesday Night Meal and stay for the musical!

## Learn about Islam and Support Our Muslim Neighbors

The lunar month of Ramadan, the Muslim version of Lent, falls May 5 to June 5 this year. Marked by fasting during daylight hours and nightly gatherings of family and community at sunset to break the fast, this holy month for our Muslim neighbors is also marked by a tradition of hospitality.

The Minnesota Council of Churches has offered cooperative Iftar dinners throughout the Metro area during Ramadan the past several years. These dinners offer Christians a chance to visit a mosque or Muslim community center and share in the tradition of breaking the fast. In a time when anti-Muslim sentiment is still prevalent, this offers us an opportunity to extend ourselves to our neighbors.

If you are interested in attending an Iftar dinner you must register individually online:

<http://www.mnchurches.org/respectfulcommunities/interfaithprogramming/takingheart>

Pastor Pam will take a group to Rosemount on **Tuesday, May 7**, (leaving St. John's at 6:15 p.m.)

Pastor Jon will lead a group to Bloomington on **Thursday, May 23**, (leaving at 6:30 p.m.)

## The Southeastern MN Synod will be Electing a New Bishop at its Next Assembly May 31-June 1.

In preparation, there are opportunities to hear from the seven candidates lifted up at conference assemblies:

- Monday, May 13, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at St. John's in Waseca
- Tuesday, May 14, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at United Redeemer in Zumbrota
- Thursday, May 16, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Zion in Stewartville

Any ELCA member may attend these sessions, and we encourage you to do so!

## 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, May 1**  
Pizza Burgers and Salad

**Wednesday, May 8**  
Fried Chicken Dinner with Salads

**Wednesday, May 15**  
Chef's Choice



## News and Updates



**We give a special heartfelt  
"Thank you!"  
to the following  
St. John's members  
for graciously taking time to  
share their faith and connect  
with their 9<sup>th</sup> grade mentees as  
they journey toward receiving  
the Rite of Confirmation  
next fall on October 13**

*Julie Becker  
Peter Becker-Nelson  
Sherry Benson  
Bruce Blomberg  
Scott Blomberg  
Karen Canedy  
Amber Damm  
Matt Garlie  
Shawn Hansen  
Andrea Hoff  
Rebecca Judge  
Dale Kimber  
Jon McBroom  
Saul McBroom  
Katherine Norrie  
Nancy Ordahl-Kmoch*

Mentors are invited to attend  
the confirmation breakfast with their mentee  
on Saturday morning, October 12  
in St. John's Hall.

## Shared Ministry at St. John's Welcomes Angie Gehring into Co-Coordinator Role

Angie Gehring has expanded her youth support responsibilities at St. John's to include assuming the role Mary Kelvie formerly occupied. This means Angie will be the main contact for funeral receptions, and will collaborate with Christy on coordinating Sunday Hospitality, Summer Fruit Sundays, and other upcoming events like Night to Unite in August.

Christy will continue to help to welcome people who are new, connect St. John's people through the Accompany newcomer gatherings, and match people up with meaningful service opportunities. Here is a shorthand version:

### Angie: Plan, Schedule, Communicate

Primary Contact for:

- Funeral Hospitality
- Shared Ministry Event Planning and Scheduling
- Creating Signups (Bulletin Boards and Online)

Angie can be reached at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

### Christy: Connect, Facilitate, Welcome

Primary Contact for:

- Wednesday Night Meal
- Newcomer Welcome and Accompany
- Lifting Up Service Opportunities and Equipping for Service

Christy can be reached at [connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

## Thank You...

### Thank you Wednesday Volunteers!

May 15 is the last Wednesday for afterschool bus service and children's programming! A great big thank you to our Wednesday afterschool volunteers this year:

- St. John's Members: Sue Brockman, Rachel Brownlee, Angie Gehring, Erik Holleque, Amy McBroom, Betsy McLaughlin, Emily Westerback
- St. Olaf Students: Monique, Anna
- Middle School: Lily Almen, Emmett Norrie, Marissa Vatter

### Thank you Nursery Volunteers!

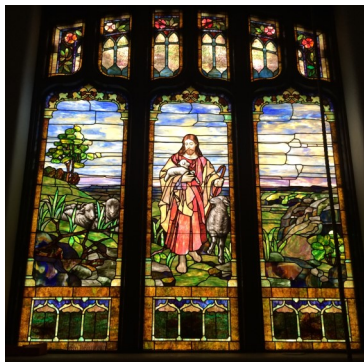
Many thanks to our Nursery Volunteers who help with our littlest ones during Sunday worship services at St. John's. Thank you to Hanna Anderson and Erica Anderson, St. Olaf students, who served in our Nursery, and Amy McBroom who coordinates our Nursery volunteers throughout the year.

## Reflection on Youth Field Trip in April

On April 7, middle school and high school youth took a field trip to Trapped Puzzle Rooms in St. Paul, followed by enormous helpings of ice cream at Nelson's ice cream parlor! Both groups successfully beat their escape room time challenge, and then enjoyed a fantastic sugar high!



## In celebration of 150 years of Grace Overflowing, St. John's is offering a commemorative reproduction of the Good Shepherd Window, designed by John Walters.



Reproductions are for sale between services Sundays in conjunction with the Sesquicentennial celebration of artists through May 15. They will again be for sale the weekend of October 24, during the capstone weekend. Cost is \$20.

## News and Updates

### Welcome to St. John's All Newcomers!

We're glad to have you worshipping with us and becoming part of this community!

The newcomers listed below will be introduced during worship on May 5.

Afterward they will enjoy a Welcome Luncheon with sponsors/welcomers and church staff, catered by our own Pat Fick and Kristy Harms.

Look for newcomers' pictures in the Commons display case, and give them a warm St. John's welcome.

Thank you!

*Carol Egly*

*Cynthia Neubecker*

*John & Michelle Kramer Prevost*

*Meredith Stolte*

*John & Amanda Tracy  
Elizabeth, John, and Noah*

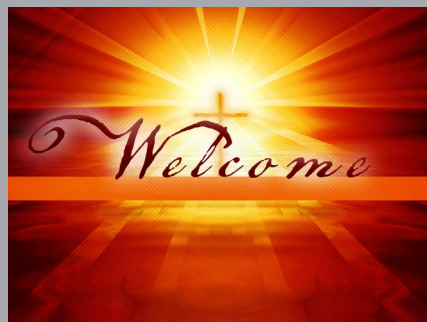
*Peter & Lori Skoglund*

*Erik & Alli Skoglund  
Ella and Greta*

*Scott & Candace Godfrey  
Eleanor and Arthur*

*Rebecca Vargas*

*Delores Gustafson*



# the WOMEN'S page



## May Gatherings

### Baby Boomers

Saturday, May 4, 4:30-6:00  
Jennifer Edwins' home  
106 Nevada

### Breakfast Women's Group

Saturday, May 11, 8:30a  
St. John's Fireside Rm

### Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, May 9, 1:30p  
Gretchen Hardgrove's home  
117 Orchard Street

### Lydia Circle

Wednesday, May 8  
Fellowship 9:00a  
Bible Study 10:00a  
St. John's Hall

### Mary Circle

Friday, May 10, 1:00p  
Barb Eaves's home  
1315 Thye Parkway

### Ruth Circle

Thursday, May 9, 9:30a  
Parkview West Fireside Rm

### Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursday, May 9 & 23  
10:00a Room 19

### Knitters (World Vision)

Tuesday, May 14 & 28, 10am  
Kathy Vang 645-4849

### Quilters

Mon. May 13 & Thu. May 16  
8:30a - noon, Social Hall

## NOTE DAY AND TIME CHANGE!

Friday, May 3rd, 2:00pm  
St. John's Hall

### ME TOO:

### Sharing our stories, Healing old wounds

Jenny Nystrom will speak on the topic of child sexual abuse, and sexual harrasment. Stephen Ministers and counselors will be on hand to facilitate discussion.

*For women only.*

## COURAGEOUS

## CONVERSATIONS



## SPRING CLEANING?

Quilters sure could use clean bed sheets (double/ queen/king), flat or fitted, solid color or print.

White sheets are used to make bandages for Global Health Ministries

Fabrics of cotton or cotton/polyester/flannel (1/3 yard) are good for quilt tops.

Drop off all items in their respective baskets under the Women's bulletin board

## PACKING BABY KITS!

(watch for date, TBD)

We need:

8-9 ounce bath-size bars of gentle soap, any brand like Dove, in original packaging; no hotel-size bars or smaller bars

Infant size socks, 3 month up to 24 month size. (Can sometimes be found at the Dollar Store in brand names like Gerber for 2pr. for \$1.00)

If shopping garage sales for gently used baby items, look for baby gowns or sleepers, baby sweatshirts with hoods, and lightweight cotton t-shirts in infant baby sizes up to 18-24 months,

Baby socks (if not too worn or stained)



## Visit our web page:

<https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/women/>



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

friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns

(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Correspondence: [women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com)

Publicity: Julie Zdenek



## New Books in the Library at St. John's From the Adult Ministry & Education Board By Genevieve Quarberg

It's more fun to add new books to the library than to weed out books! This month we have five books to highlight: **Women Rowing North**, Navigating Life's Currents and Flourishing as We Age by Mary Pipher; **Whence and Whither**, On Lives and Living by Thomas Lynch; **The Universal Christ**, How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For and Believe by Richard Rohr; **Short Stories by Jesus**, The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi by Amy-Jill Levine; and a children's book, **Who Counts?** 100 Sheep, 10 Coins, and 2 Sons by Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, and illustrated by Margaux Meganck.

Mary Pipher draws on her own family experiences as well as a clinical psychologist and cultural anthropologist as she relates stories of many women in many different situations in **Women Rowing North**. As a seventy-year-old woman she says, "If we can keep our wits about us, think clearly, and manage our emotions skillfully, we will experience a joyous time of our lives."

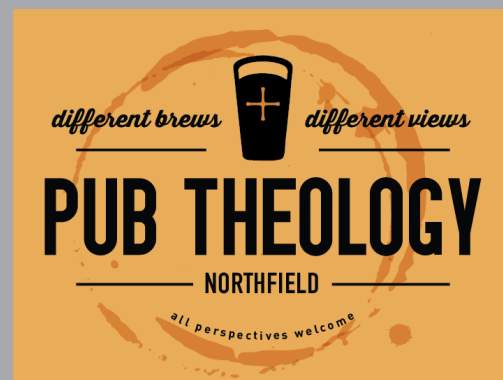
One could wish to grow old as Thomas Lynch has, with a sense of God in a life edged with doubts, a memory that includes humor with grief, and a glorious gift of putting all that in words that surround the reader and take one into a conversation. **Whence and Whither** is a book to be read slowly, perhaps a book you will want to own.

Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest has written many books, but **The Universal Christ** must surely be his best, another book you may want to read slowly so you can absorb all its riches. (You may also want to read Ephesians for its close connection to what Rohr is saying. For those of you who participated in the Gather studies of the Gospel of John, you would be delighted with Rohr's many references to John.)

Amy-Jill Levine is a practicing Jewish theologian who teaches the New Testament at Vanderbilt Divinity School. In **Short Stories by Jesus** she dives into each parable, using her knowledge of Jewish history, especially at the time of Jesus, of languages, of extensive reading of Christian and Jewish theologians and her clear and understandable writing. She is like a bridge between the Old and New Testaments.

In the book **Who Counts?** Livine, Sasso, and Meganck have written a rare good book about 3 of those parables Jesus told. And they become easy even for small children to understand that everybody counts!

## News and Updates



### Pub Theology Schedule

*During the month of May,  
Pub Theology will be our two gatherings  
for Iftar Dinners (see page 9).*

*We hope you will consider joining us  
for these opportunities to learn  
about our neighbors' faith.*

*Regular Pub Theology will resume in June*

What is Pub Theology?

It is conversation led by  
Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan  
around questions of faith, God, Jesus,  
the Bible, current events, and culture.  
No fancy theological or biblical knowledge  
needed in order to participate.

Just bring your questions, thoughts,  
and experiences.

Feel free to invite family and friends,  
neighbors, and strangers.

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

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

## News and Updates

### Palestine / Israel

Learn the truth about the conflict between Palestine and Israel.

Bring your questions and articles for a discussion of the conflict.

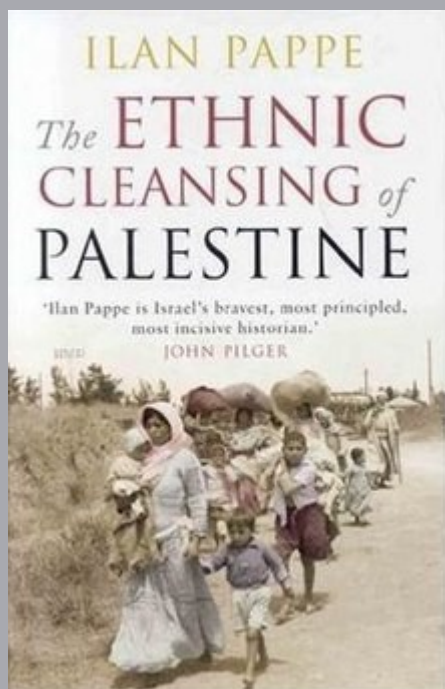
This will be followed by a book discussion, but it is not necessary to have read the book. Please join us, all are welcome!

*The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*  
by Ilan Pappé

"This book is not formally dedicated to anyone, but it is written first and foremost for the Palestinian victims of the 1948 cleansing. Many of them are friends and comrades, many others are nameless, and yet since I learned about the Nakba I have carried with me their suffering, their loss, and their hopes" - Ilan Pappé

Tuesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

For more information call:  
Darlene Hand at 507-645-5078



## Lutheran World Relief Helps Farmers Help Themselves

Drissa Banihou thought the land his family had worked for 25 years was dead. Four of the 10 acres he had farmed in the community of Tchériba, Burkina Faso in West Africa had borne no crops in five years of drought. Drissa wondered how he was going to support his wife and two young children. But now his land has come back to life.

With the help of Lutheran World Relief and its partners, Drissa was introduced to a series of trainings about growing sesame, a high-value, resilient cash crop that grows in places where many other crops fail. Despite a huge increase in production in Burkina Faso over the last decade, those involved in producing and marketing sesame were not benefitting from the lucrative international market because they were not growing large volumes of high-quality sesame.

Lutheran World Relief helps farmers like Drissa grow, market, and export sesame. "We learned so many things about planting and harvesting," Drissa said of the instruction he received from local farmers trained as agricultural extension agents. The hands-on instruction covered everything from plowing and harvesting to cleaning the sesame and developing new storage techniques.

This support has made a huge difference to Drissa's family. Not only can he pay for school for his children, he plans to build a better storage warehouse for the sesame, which will allow his extended family of farmers to store and sell it for a higher price.

The local village is also seeing benefits from bountiful harvests. Because other farmers are earning more money from greater yields, more children are going to local schools, and the parents are buying more school supplies and uniforms — all a domino effect on the local economy.

The potential will only grow over the life of this five-year project. It is expected to impact 500,000 people directly and indirectly by working with farmers, agricultural cooperatives, buyers, exporters, and others to increase their ability to meet export quality standards and sell sesame for higher prices in more lucrative markets.

Your support of farmers like Drissa transforms lives. During our May appeal, please consider a gift to Lutheran World Relief to provide training, tools, and support to farmers around the world working to lift their families out of poverty. Use the special envelope provided with your pledge envelopes or donate through online giving. Thank you.

# From Bread for the World

We Can End Hunger by 2030 if elected officials:



- Support adequate federal funding for programs that help low-income communities. Anti-hunger programs such as SNAP and WIC help families deal with a job loss or crisis. Efforts to reform Medicaid should ensure that vulnerable families do not lose health care access.

- Support strong foundations for families, individuals and workers. Ensuring that everyone has access to good jobs, a livable minimum wage, and strong benefits lays a strong foundation for our workers. In addition, having access to quality education, affordable housing, health care, and asset and credit building opportunities empowers families and individuals to become financially independent.

- Support fair and equitable tax policy. Tax reform legislation should strengthen and expand earned income tax credits and child tax credits, and narrow the widening inequality between top and bottom earners. Tax policies should prioritize low-income workers so they can earn more, save more, and build assets for the future. Legislation should not increase taxes for low-income workers.

- Support comprehensive immigration policy. Immigration is a hunger issue on both sides of the border. Reform should both address the push factors that lead people to migrate from their home countries and, for those already here, prioritize family unit, human dignity, work opportunities, and responsible pathways to U.S. citizenship.

- Support a fair and equitable criminal justice system. Mass incarceration perpetuates hunger and poverty. Sentencing reform and support for individuals returning from incarceration, e.g. jobs, affordable housing, and programs such as TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), will lower recidivism as well as hunger and poverty.

In Minnesota 1 in 8 children and 1 in 10 women live in poverty. An individual must earn \$16.53 per hour to provide for a family, yet, the minimum wage is \$9.86 (large employers) and \$8.04 (small employers). People of color in Minnesota are 4 times more likely to live with hunger and poverty.

N.B. In an offering of more than 140 letters to our Representative and Senators, in March, members of St. John's advocated for a global initiative to speed up progress on child nutrition and elimination of hunger.

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**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

## **From the Faith & Health Board: American Red Cross Blood Drive**

On Thursday, May 16, from 1:00-7:00 p.m., the American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at St. John's. Here are a few reasons why you should consider donating blood:

- Every day in the U.S., roughly 41,000 blood donations are needed. That means nearly every two seconds someone needs blood.
- Blood products are essential for the treatment of accident victims, surgical and sickle cell disease patients, those receiving cancer treatments, premature babies, and others.
- Every donation may help save up to three lives.
- Patients are counting on us to donate blood.

There will be a table in the Commons on Sundays, May 5 and May 12, or more information or to schedule an appointment.



**American  
Red Cross**

**GIVE  
BLOOD**  
SAVE A LIFE