



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 64, ISSUE 5

May 2024



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

**LIVESTREAM**  
8:30 a.m.

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

**RADIO BROADCASTS**  
8:30 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

## Coming This Summer! Camp Firelight! (VBS)

When: June 10-13, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Who: Kids entering Kindergarten - Grade 3 (2024-2025 school year)

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church

Cost: \$15/Child, Max of \$30/Family (Please let Julie know if you need help with the cost.)

Register by scanning the QR Code.



SCAN ME

### We need volunteers for VBS!

- **Crew Leaders** – lead a small group of children to various stations
- **Station Assistants** – stations include music, crafts, games, Bible storytelling, science
- **Decorating and Prep** – prior to VBS
- **Nursery Care**

Youth are welcome to help too! If you are interested, please contact Julie Brehmer, [Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:Children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

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

### Livestream

8:30 a.m. Sundays  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)



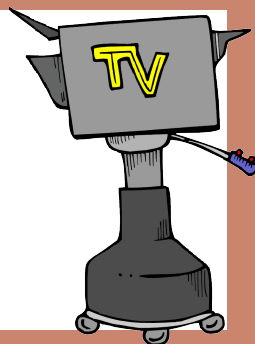
### Radio Broadcasts

8:30-9:30 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.

## From Our Pastors

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's been a really fun and meaningful season in youth ministry at St. John's. Sometimes it is simply amazing how the pieces weave together, and these past few weeks with the youth have been just that. A combination of interfaith dialogue and service work have been revealing how their lives and learning are tied up with the broader congregation and people across the globe in beautiful ways.

*Colossians 1:15 – “Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”*

The Greek word for image is εἰκὼν from which we get our English word icon.

After spending the weeks of Lent learning about words and imagery used to describe God, we turned to learning about another kind of image, the Greek Orthodox icon, as we began our time centered on interfaith dialogue.

Each year, we try to have a series in Confirmation and High School Youth group that is centered around interfaith dialogue. We lean into the belief that religious diversity is a gift of God from we which can learn. God can and does speak to us through people of other faith traditions, which can deepen our own connection to our Christian faith.

This year, in early April, we spent a week of Confirmation and High School Youth group learning about the Greek Orthodox Christian tradition, followed by a trip the next week up to St. George Greek Orthodox Church. The Orthodox Church was still in the season of Lent and we got to experience one of their Wednesday Lenten services. The welcome we received was warm and compassionate. The cantor took time with us to explain worship – how it would be similar and different from our worship, and after worship the priest sat with us for 30 minutes answering our questions and teaching us about the Greek Orthodox tradition. We learned about the role icons play in their faith tradition, the way the architecture of the Sanctuary speaks to their theology, and the unique traditions they have around Holy Communion – like using only the center of a loaf of bread and soaking it in the wine. We learned a lot and invited the people of St. George's to come and visit us sometime!

Continued on page 4

## 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.



*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."*

May 8, 2023  
**Tom Fjelde**

May 21, 2023  
**Ronald Detlie**

May 22, 2023  
**Jaron Johnson**

May 25, 2023  
**Gary Hagen**

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

*The invisible becoming visible...*

This trip and encounter with the Greek Orthodox tradition was especially meaningful because of the service project we would do the following week. The very next week, through the encouragement of Mary Hoff, and the work of Kristin Partlo and Pastor Pam, we had an opportunity to participate in an intergenerational service project called *Ray of Life*. During this project, youth and adults together built solar panel boxes, which are able to provide light and charge a cell phone for people without any electricity. Thanks to an anonymous donation, we were able to purchase and build 30 solar power boxes that will be shipped and hand delivered next month to people living in war-torn Ukraine. Eastern Orthodox Christianity is the primary faith in Ukraine. The faith we got to learn about the week before is the faith of many who would receive these Ray of Life boxes in Ukraine.



St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to walk with those who are facing a challenge in life, whether it be of mind, body, or spirit.

If you know of someone who could benefit from a Stephen Minister, call one of the pastors (507-645-4429) or Jo Franklin (720-281-5107).



## St. John's Forum in May 9:45-10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

### May 5

*Exploring the Bible with Interfaith Sensitivity: Jason Ripley - Is the New Testament Anti-Jewish? The Letters of Paul.*

This session explores aspects of the broad question, "Is the New Testament anti-Jewish?" Special attention will be given to Paul's letter to the Romans, addressed to a mixed community of Gentile and Jewish followers of Jesus in the center of the Roman empire, facing challenges across religious, cultural, social, and political issues. We will explore how Paul engages the questions "Has God abandoned the Jewish people - and what might the implications be for Gentile followers? Can Jewish followers of Jesus still keep the Torah commandments? Must Gentiles? Does following Jesus entail rejecting Judaism?"

Jason Ripley is currently chair of the religion department at St. Olaf. A New Testament scholar specializing in the Gospel of John, he teaches courses on biblical interpretation and regularly leads students on study-abroad programs. His publications address topics of religious violence, gender, and reinterpretation of the Hebrew Bible in early Judaism. He has been attending St. John's Lutheran Church since 2020.



## Summer Worship Schedule Changes Begins May 26

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, we will have one service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 8.

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

April 5, 2024  
*Elouise Quinnell*



### Radio Broadcasts in April

April 7, 2024  
Given in memory of Gert Brosz  
by Wil Brosz.

April 14, 2024  
Given in loving memory of Don McRae  
by Marilyn McRae Raadt and family.

April 21, 2024  
Given by a friend of St. John's  
in celebration of Earth Day.

April 28, 2024  
Given in memory of Staff Sgt. Paul Tollefson  
whose 100<sup>th</sup> birthday would have been May 7  
by Shirley Tollefson and daughters  
Paulette Tollefson, Karen Ferrel,  
Terry Rydberg, and Nancy Peterson.

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**  
May 5 & 12

**Wednesday After School Schedule**  
May 1, 8 & 15

**3rd and 4th Grade Catechism Retreat**  
Saturday, May 4  
9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Last Day of Sunday - Year End Event!**  
Sunday, May 12  
9:45-10:30 a.m.

**Last Day of Wednesday Programs  
Going to the YMCA**  
Wednesday, May 15

### Northfield Week at Good Earth Village along with Bethel and St. Peter's Churches June 23-28

Good Earth Village offers camps for grades 2-7 with 2 or 5 night options (depending on grade).

Use code NORTHFIELD24 for an additional \$100 off a full week or \$50 off a half week as a "campership" from St. John's.

Visit  
<https://goodearthvillage.org/northfield>  
for details or contact Julie or Kristin with questions.

## Parents! You are Invited to a Conversation around Children, Youth, and Family Ministry at St. John's

The Children and Youth boards, along with staff, have been reflecting on what matters the most for and about children and youth ministry at St. John's as a way of visioning for the future. Now we would like to hear from you about your family's experience. There will be two opportunities to share your thoughts:

- Wednesday, May 1, at 6:15 p.m. in the Fireside Room (main level).
- Sunday, May 5, at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall (lower level) during children and youth programming.

We hope you'll join us!

## Sunday School Celebration Sunday, May 12

Come and celebrate the last day of Sunday school! The celebration will take place in the lower level of St. John's from 9:45-10:30 a.m. with the theme, "Mother Earth".



If you are interested in helping with activities, contact Julie Brehmer at [children@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:children@stjohnsnorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429.

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

St. John's children in grades K-5 are invited to the Northfield YMCA on Wednesday, May 15, for our End of Year celebration! The Wednesday after school buses will pick up at the elementary schools as they normally do. Once kids have arrived at St. John's, the bus will take us to the "Y". All kids are invited even if you did not participate in Wednesday after school programs.

### Here's the plan:

- 3:40 p.m.: Bus leaves for the "Y" from St. John's (the bus will be on east side by the playground)
- 4:00-5:15 p.m.: Kids can play either in the gym or in the pool – bring your swimsuit!
- 5:15 p.m.: Parent pick up at the YMCA

Parents, let Julie know if you are willing to chaperone!

**Why do we do this?**  
**"To care for each other as we learn to  
live Christian lives together"**  
**Wednesday Night Programming**  
**Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m.**

**May**

**Middle School Confirmation**

(Grades 6-8)

The middle school confirmation class continue to explore what it looks like to live and care for each other as we live Christian lives together.

May 1 Faith & Money (Fellowship Hall)

May 8 Faith & Money (Fellowship Hall)

May 15 End of Year Finale!

**High School Youth Group**

(Grades 9-12)

The high school will return to meeting in the Youth Room to connect, check in, enjoy some snacks, and explore questions about God, faith, and our lives. Wednesdays through May 15 in the Youth Room.

**Sunday Morning Youth Group**  
**(Grades 6-12)**  
**9:45-10:30 a.m., Youth Room**

On Sunday mornings during the school year, all youth are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 a.m. for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion. Each week we get a little practice using our Bibles and practice telling our shared story as a community of God's children. May 1, 8 & 15.

**Mentor & Mentee Meetings**

Working one-on-one with youth is a meaningful experience that we take seriously. The first Sunday of each month is designated as a Mentor/Mentee Sunday. If necessary, mentoring pairs can make arrangements that fit their schedule.

**Mentee**  
**Mentor**

Service Project Events are also meant to put our faith into action and to enhance the Mentor/Mentee relationship. Opportunities for community events will be in the E-Voice, The Voice, and on the St. John's website.

Mentor/Mentee Sundays Coming Up: May 5

**Children and Youth**

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Bridge Event**

As 5<sup>th</sup> graders prepare to move to the middle school next year, they'll have lots of questions.

They will also be moving from Children's programming at St. John's to Youth programming.

Likewise, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are finishing up a big year of changes.

On Wednesday, May 29, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. we'll get together with pizza, games, and a chance for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to connect around this time of transition.

**Senior Recognition  
Sunday, June 2**

On Sunday, June 2, we are excited to continue our annual tradition of recognizing our High School Seniors, to surround them with our prayers and blessing for whatever is ahead for them.

The seniors will have roles in worship, along with a moment to celebrate and bless them.

Following worship, seniors and the families and mentors are invited to a luncheon in St. John's Hall.

**3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Catechism Retreat,  
Saturday, May 4**

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders, along with their parent(s), are invited to attend a retreat on the Sacrament of Baptism,

Saturday, May 4, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.  
(Site to be determined)

Please contact Julie Brehmer,  
[children@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:children@stjohnsnorthfield.org),  
if you are unable to attend.



# the WOMEN'S page

## May Gatherings

**Baby Boomers**  
Saturday, May 4, 4:30-6:00p  
Fran Wood's home, host  
1706 Humphrey Ct.

**Women's Breakfast Group**  
Saturday, May 11, 8:00a  
WELCA Spring Conference

**Elizabeth Circle**  
Thursday, May 9, 1:30p  
St. John's Library

**Lydia & Paul Circle**  
Wednesday, May 8, 9:30a  
Coffee and Conversation  
10:00 Bible Study  
St John's Library

**Mary Circle**  
Friday, May. 10, 1:00p  
St. John's Fireside Room

**Wellspring**  
(for 30-50 somethings)  
Monday May 13, 6:30-8:00p  
St. John's Library

**Knitters (Prayer Shawls)**  
2nd & 4th Thursday  
10:00am St. John's Library

**Knitters (World Vision)**  
1st & 3rd Wednesday, 10a  
Kathy Vang's home  
414 Waterwheel Dr. Dundas

**Night Knitters!**  
1st & 3rd Wednesday  
6:00p, St. John's Library

**Quilters & Bandage Rollers**  
Thursdays, 9:00a - noon,  
Fellowship Hall

**COURAGEOUS**

**CONVERSATIONS**



**"I Am A Prisoner Of Hope"**  
Samuel LotegeLuaki  
Thursday, May 2nd, 7:00 pm

"I Am a Prisoner of Hope" was written at a time when political divisiveness, polarization, extremism, hate crimes, xeno-phobia, and violence are increasing at an alarming rate. The racial inequality and injustices that led to the Civil Rights Movement have not been fully remedied.

LotegeLuaki, a St. John's member, will offer insight into the

assumptions, attitudes, fears, and greed that have led to some of these current problems. Hope is seen as the driving force that sustains people through horrific circumstances and propels them to seek a better situation. We are thrilled to host a member of our own congregation, on such a timely topic, completing our 2023-2024 "Courageous Conversations: Hope is a Muscle" program year.



## FAIR TRADE COFFEE and MORE at St. John's

- a little history... by Dawn Tommerdahl

St. John's has been selling fair trade coffee for nearly forty years! Equal Exchange (EE) was founded in 1986 as a social enterprise to strengthen the relationship between international food growers and US consumers. Its first product was Nicaraguan coffee, imported during the US embargo imposed against the Sandinista government. Over the next few years, EE staff established relationships with democratically run farmer groups in Central America and Africa, eventually joining the European Fair Trade network, thus gaining even wider access to farmer cooperatives.

About that time, having learned about Equal Exchange through St. John's Women of the ELCA (WELCA), Thelma Nitz (Lee) urged the WELCA board to partner with EE. With the board's blessing, she placed a coffee order and set up shop - and the rest is history!

Thelma's daughters moved to Northfield, Carolyn Nitz (1991), and Chris Anderson (2007) and joined the family coffee crew. Kathy Shea joined the team (2008) and brought in EE sales of chocolate. Equal Exchange sales continue to this day, on the first Sunday of the month. Dawn Tommerdahl and Mary Ellen North sell coffee, tea, hot cocoa mix and chocolate bars - and more....

Ten years ago, St. John's women added Thistle Farms (TF) products as well as coffee. Thistle Farms is a nonprofit social enterprise dedicated to helping women survivors recover and heal from prostitution, trafficking, and addiction. Survivors are given a safe place to live, a meaningful job making Thistle Farms products, and lifelong support.

You support these social enterprises through your purchases. We round up prices to make it easier to give change. The small amount of profit generated by the mark-up each year is donated to non-profits in our community.

(continued on next page)



**Fun facts about Fair Trade and More sales at St. John's:**

☺-Our gray cash box, originally a tackle box – has been in use since Thelma began coffee sales nearly 40 years ago.

☺-Thelma was ahead of her time: not until 1996 did EE and Lutheran World Relief collaborate to make selling fair trade products easier for congregations. For almost 20 years EE made a donation to LWR for each bag of coffee sold in Lutheran congregations.

☺-Ethiopian coffee has been our bestseller for years. It was added to the coffee selection as a way to remember the story from Acts 8 of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch.

☺-Pastor Pam and the founder of Thistle Farms, Rev. Becca Stevens, overlapped at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

☺-Lauren Baske Davis' (Pastor Jonathan's wife) cousin works at Thistle Farms in Nashville. Last summer youth from St. John's and other congregations got a tour of Thistle Farms and ate lunch in the café run by women in the program while they were in Nashville on their mission trip.



Equal Exchange



Thistle Farms

**Courageous Conversations Book Club**

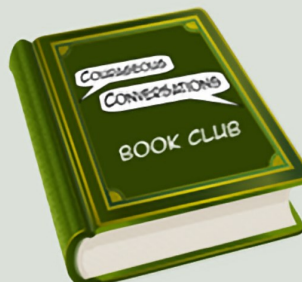
Via Zoom

Thursdays 4:00-5:30pm

To request the Zoom link go here:

Women.StJohns500@gmail.com

For current reading material and dates go to [www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/courageous/book-club](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org/courageous/book-club) or scan here:



**Strengthening Hope**

Cannon River Conference

Women's Spring Event

Saturday May 11, 2024

Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, PhD

Keynote speaker at 2023 WELCA Triennial  
Author of "Love Without Limits" and "Outlaw Christian"



8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration/Coffee  
9:00 - 11:45 a.m. Business meeting and Speaker  
12:00p.m. Lunch  
Registration Fee \$15 (includes lunch)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help St John's WELCA in hosting the Cannon River WELCA conference. We host this event once every 8-10 years.

Please consider helping make this event a success by signing up to bring muffins, cookies, set tables, etc. at this QR code link. The planning committee thanks you in advance for your help! (An email with more specific instructions will be sent to you when you sign up.)



@ Julie Zdenek's home

For materials and info:

Thursdays, 9:00-10:15a.m.  
May/June Schedule:  
May 9 June 13  
May 16 June 20  
May 23 June 27



✂ In Kind donations: women's period products collected for Rice County Community Action Center Food Shelf

**REGISTRATION FORM** (bring registration and check to the church office before May 6)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

FOOD ALLERGIES OR SPECIAL DIET NEEDS \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ CITY OF CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

Make registration checks (\$15) payable to: SE MN Women of the ELCA

## 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  
Chicken Pot Pie

Wednesday, May 8  
Taco Boats

*Wednesday Nights Take a Break  
During the Summer.  
Meals resume on September 18.*



## Multiplying Gifts Through Sustaining Grace

Sustaining our environment. Sustaining our community. Sustaining our mission partners through benevolence. Sustaining Grace!

By now you likely already know that we are in the midst of a capital campaign to raise much needed funds to advance our mission. If you are one of the more than 60 people who have already pledged to the Sustaining Grace Campaign, we thank you for generously sharing your gifts. **If you have not yet had the opportunity to pledge, we encourage you to do so by May 15! Why that date you ask? Because all new pledges or increased pledges that arrive by May 15, will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000 by an anonymous donor who felt so highly about the Sustaining Grace Campaign that they wanted to incentivize us all to give or increase our giving.**



Your giving will multiply your impact in numerous other ways as well. When we accomplish all of our expressed sustainability goals over the next three years, St. John's will save enough coal to fill up St. John's Hall from floor to rafters. We will serve as leaders in modeling the way to make a positive difference on our environment for all those who surround us.

We will also be in a position to save half a million dollars or more over the next 25 years. That is money that can go directly toward building upon our mission as a congregation. Freed up dollars will enhance our worship services, nurture our children & youth programs, extend our outreach to better serve our community neighbors with food, housing, transportation, and support for a variety of social service partners, both in Northfield and throughout the world.

So, we ask you to give enthusiastically to the Sustaining Grace Campaign. All monies raised through this campaign will go directly to improving our sustainability and advancing our mission. All expenses for conducting this campaign have been generously covered by your fellow congregation members so you can be assured that your dollars and all matched dollars are going toward the specific needs and opportunities identified by your Congregational Council.

You should already have received additional information and a pledge card in the mail. Please prayerfully consider how far you can stretch your gift beyond your annual giving to make this initiative extraordinary. If you need the information again, please call or stop by the church office. When you have made a decision, you can either mail your pledge card to the church or drop it in the offering on Sunday mornings. We are so appreciative of your consideration and support.

Don't forget to pledge by May 15!



## Ray of Life

Youth and adults at St. John's Lutheran Church spent Wednesday evening, April 17, constructing solar kits that will provide light and power to refugees in and near Ukraine.

The project, known as Ray of Life, is the vision of a West Virginia-based nonprofit New Vision Renewable Energy. The technology, a 4-pound box that can charge a cell phone and provide a nightlight even in a Ukrainian winter, was developed by John Prusa, whose own family were refugees from Eastern Europe in the 1960's. New Vision trains local community members in manufacturing and partners with churches, schools, and other organizations to send these kits to places around the world. That could be a developing community where an electrical grid doesn't exist, or a community where the infrastructure has been destroyed by war.

The project's link to Minnesota is Dave Nonnemacher, a Duluth resident whose connections in Ukraine and Moldova have put these kits into the hands of people who need them. Nonnemacher has personally traveled to the area annually since March 2022, shortly after the war began.

Thanks to Mary Hoff for connecting St. John's with Ray of Life. An anonymous donor provided a gift that funded the costs of the boxes, which will be accompanied by water filters when they are shipped later this spring.



## News and Updates

### Pub Theology in May

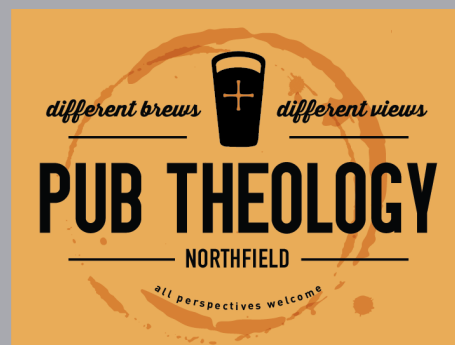
What is Pub Theology?

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,  
May 6 & 20  
from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

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

### Welcome to St. John's!

We welcomed the following new members on April 21!

*Dan & Cahrene Dimick*

*Marina, Soren & Leo Edlund*

*Scott & Elise Helland*

*Marv & Rose Kormann*

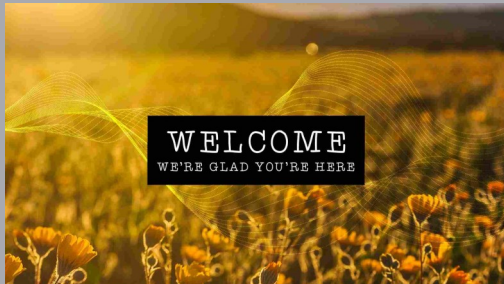
*Marshall & Diane Melbye*

*Ben, Debra, Harper & Theo Miller*

*Margie O'Loughlin*

*Steve & Rhonda Reece*

*Beth Wessen*



## St. John's Chorale Works with Composer Rene Clausen

On Wednesday, March 20, the St. John's Chorale had the opportunity to work with world renowned composer and conductor Rene Clausen.

Clausen was the conductor of the Concordia Choir at Concordia College, Moorhead, MN for 35 years. He retired in 2021 and now lives in the south metro. The Chorale was preparing two of his pieces: "Set Me as a Seal" and "All That Hath Life and Breath Praise Ye the Lord" that were shared in worship on Easter Sunday. During the hour he spent with the choir, Clausen shared musical insights about each piece as well as the personal stories of what was happening in his life when he composed them. The rehearsal was very moving and helped everyone gain a better understanding of the character and spirit of each piece.



## Habitat for Humanity Home Builds in Northfield

Homes are being built for Partner families in Northfield this year. Partner families are selected by three main criteria: a need for housing, the ability to partner with Habitat in sweat equity (building with the volunteers on their own house or the house of another partner family), and the ability to pay an affordable mortgage when the build is complete.

Habitat for Humanity will be looking for helpers with these home builds this spring. "St. John's Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Day" will be Saturday, May 18.

If you'd like to check out the website to learn more, go to [habitatricecounty.org/volunteer](https://habitatricecounty.org/volunteer).



## From the Church Council

On March 7, the ELCA Council of Bishops – the elected leaders of the 65 synods of the ELCA - met and approved a statement calling for a permanent bilateral cease-fire in Gaza (see below).

At their March and April meetings the Church Council discussed how to educate the congregation about the statement and whether to affirm it. At their April meeting they voted (7 yes, 4 abstaining) to affirm the statement.

The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is adding its voice to the growing group of faith leaders urgently calling for a permanent bilateral cease-fire in Gaza. We urge President Joe Biden, our legislators, and all who lead and make decisions on behalf of the United States to do everything in their power to bring an end to the current suffering and lay the foundation for lasting peace with justice.

As members of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, we are elected to lead one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3 million members in more than 8,700 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. We are compelled to advocate, pray, and act by the social teachings of our denomination, and by our belief - rooted in Scripture - that all people are made in the image of God.

We mourn the loss of 1,200 precious lives in Israel on October 7 by the actions of Hamas and the trauma for those 250 others who were taken hostage. We mourn the loss of over 30,000 precious lives in Gaza - including tens of thousands of women and children - who have died in Israel's military action since then and the trauma that ripples outward from this loss. We grieve the deaths of more than 400 Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel since October 7 as the circle of violence expands and makes casualties of yet more civilians.

Too many have suffered. Too many lives have been lost. Strong U.S. leadership is needed to help bring a comprehensive permanent cease-fire and lasting peace. Our country's leadership is needed to support human rights and the Geneva Conventions, to resume funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and to provide greater access for humanitarian relief in Gaza, as well as to advocate for the immediate and safe return of the hostages and release of political prisoners, for affirmation of both Israel and Palestine's right to exist, and for a path forward that disrupts cycles of violence. Mindful of the rise in hate targeted at people across complex intersections of race, ethnicity and religion - worldwide and nationally - we exhort our legislators, leaders and neighbors to oppose hate in all its forms, and we recommit ourselves to partnership in that same work.

Jesus taught: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). We affirm that all our neighbors, near and far, are children of God and made in God's image, and we are praying for President Biden, our legislators and all decision-makers. May God give us and our leaders everything necessary to meet the needs of this critical moment, particularly peacemaking.

## 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

Friday, June 21, 2024

12:00-5:00 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

## 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!



## Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during will be on the following Sunday:  
May 5

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.

## Easter Egg Hunt 2024

Thank you to everyone who donated candy and helped with the Easter Egg Hunt this year at St. John's. Special thanks to our Easter Bunny, Jonah Brownlee.



## Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (June 2024 Edition):

May 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.

# Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts at St. Olaf College

The Lutheran Center for Faith, Values & Community and the Nourishing Vocation Projects at St. Olaf College would like to invite you to this year's Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts from Monday, July 29 through Wednesday, July 31, St. Olaf College.

This year the conference will combine signature CWTA musical experiences with innovative and imaginative work being done by both the Nourishing Vocation Project and Nourishing Vocation with Children, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Char Rachuy Cox.

What to expect:

- Inspiring worship ~ A pick-up choir under the direction of Dr. Anton Armstrong.
- Networking
- Music Reading Sessions
- Arts Encounters
- Daily plenaries
- Theology-in practice through child-attentive, arts-enriched, user-ready ministry ideas for you to take home and implement.
- Nourishing conversations

You can look forward to all this and so much more! St. Olaf College looks forward to welcoming all participants to The Hill and hopes you will mark your calendar for CWTA 2024. Registration can be found at our website, <https://wp.stolaf.edu/cwta/>, starting January 16.



## Thank You from WELCA

A heartfelt thanks to the 40 St. John's members who participated in the WELCA Mission Morning on Saturday, April 20, and to others who donated cash, supplies, and applied for Thrivent Action Grants.

As a result of your time and generosity babies will have a better chance to thrive (50 Baby Care Kits were packed for Lutheran World Relief), hospice patients and others will have supplies for personal hygiene (64 hospice kits were assembled for Global Health Ministries and 50 personal care kits for LWR), 6 more families will have the warmth of a quilt, and GHM will be able to ship 100 more rolled bandages to hospitals. It was truly a morning of God's Work Our Hands.

## News and Updates

### 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)

### Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

*Kristin Partlo*

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

*David Sims and Will Fecko - Directors of  
Rejoice Ringers*

### 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

*Dan Franklin*

[d47franklin@gmail.com](mailto:d47franklin@gmail.com)



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**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

## **Summer Worship Schedule Change Begins May 26**

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, we will have one service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 8.

