



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 5

MAY 2026



2026 Class of

Congratulations Graduates!

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

High School Senior Recognition Sunday - May 31

On Sunday, May 31, 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 their families and mentors are invited to a luncheon in St. John's Hall.

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

Congratulations to the following seniors from St. John's:

*Owen Brownlee, Sam Froehle, Kailee Little,
 John Malecha, Clara Nelson, Osiris Perez,
 Kate Sand, Sydney Swedin*

God's blessings on your future plans!

RADIO BROADCASTS
 8:30 a.m. *Sundays*
 KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM
kymnradio.net

LIVESTREAM
Sundays
 8:30 a.m.
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Livestream

8:30 a.m. Sundays
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org



Radio Broadcasts

8:30 a.m. Sunday
KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM
kymnradio.net



Video

St. John's YouTube Channel
www.youtube.com/@StJohnsNorthfield



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

WELCOME STATEMENT

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

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

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

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



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

From Our Pastors

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's May!

This is that time of year when it feels like the days are extra-long and still they fly by. One parent I know began to refer to it as "May-cember," because for people tied to school schedules the procession of end-of-year concerts, ceremonies, and commencements can feel like the spring version of the winter holidays.

In the midst of all of these events that the secular calendar brings, it can be easy to lose the thread of our church calendar. Where are we exactly, in these latter Sundays of the Easter season? And what difference does Pentecost make when it falls on Memorial Day weekend?

As much as our lives are driven largely by the rhythms of school changes and weather-related opportunities, the church invites us in this season to a different kind of growth. On May 24 we pray that the Holy Spirit's unsettling breezes would work on us, and on Trinity Sunday we remember that God's life is relationship itself.

When our rhythms are disrupted, it can be easy to feel like we are just staying afloat, but not really moving in a purposeful direction. Our spiritual lives can feel like that too, even though there's no set "progression" God expects us to make. Let me suggest some activities that might help the frantic rhythms of Minnesota summer from wearing away at your spiritual growth this season. None of them take much time, though if you have bigger chunks of time, you could sink into each of these for a whole day if you wanted.

- (5 minutes) Return to Scripture. It can be as simple as committing over the summer to starting or ending your day with the daily devotionals available at St. John's.
- (5 minutes) Return to creation. Take 5 minutes each day to simply noticing what is happening in creation's cycles. Take a picture or write it down.
- (5 minutes or more) Return to reflection. Meditate on where forgiveness and mercy showed up in your life today.
- (however much time you want...) Return to your neighbors. If you did any new advocacy, service or giving to your neighbors during January's time of dire need, think about how you could make that connection a regular part of your life now. There's never a bad time to strengthen connections in your community.

The Spirit blows where it will, and we can seldom predict where it will move. But we can expect that God continues to move and guide us into places of life and growth. Whatever else changes in your life over the next month, think about small practices to listen for the Spirit's blowing.

In peace and joy,
Pastor Pam

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

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

Grief Care Resource:

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

Grief Booklets:

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



Stephen Ministry

On Sunday, April 26, the following newly trained group of Stephen Ministers was commissioned at St. John's:

Cheryl Buck, Chuck Cannon, Julie Cannon, David Nitz, Rhonda Reece, Craig Schultz, Kathy Shea, Jeff Wood

They join current care givers available to meet regularly, one-on-one, with adults who could benefit from time with someone prepared to listen, pray together, and simply be present. 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).

Lifting Voices Very First Choir Concert Saturday, May 2, 1:00 p.m., FiftyNorth

Join us for "Travelin' Tunes" under the direction of Kristin Kivell with the support of Dan Kallman at the piano. Lifting Voices, a new choir in Northfield for people living with dementia, their care partners and volunteer singers, has been rehearsing since January. The group looks forward to sharing their music and stories with the community. Admission is free; donations are welcome.

Advance Care Planning Open House Wednesday, May 6, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Northfield Library, Bunday Room

At this open house session, trained Advance Care Planning facilitators will be available to answer your questions and individually assist you in starting, completing, revising, and/or notarizing your health care directive.

A health care directive is a document for putting your health care wishes into writing in the event you are incapacitated in the future. This is a way to make known your values and goals for care, and to gain peace of mind (and a thumbs-up from family members and medical providers!)



Adults of all ages are welcome. Feel free to bring your own blank or partially-completed health care directive; blank documents will also be available. This event is free.

Facilitated by the Northfield-based End of Life Choices Collective.

Please Join Us on a Mindful Walk

The Faith & Health Board is pleased to invite the congregation and friends to a mindful walk at Hauberg Woods in Northfield. This gentle



walk, approximately one mile in length, will focus on being present in the moment and observing the natural world, and will provide an opportunity for quiet contemplation in the spirit of community. Comfortable clothing and sturdy footwear recommended, as this is an unpaved path.

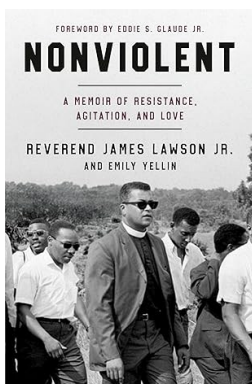
Date: Thursday, June 4, from 7:00-8:15 p.m.

Rain date: Friday, June 5 (same time)

Please register by June 1 on CCB or on the sign-up sheet in the Commons. If you have any questions, you may contact Faith & Health Board member Debra Miller at debra.ehret@gmail.com.

This date doesn't work for you? No worries! If there is sufficient interest in this event, the Faith & Health Board will schedule another mindful walk in the late summer or fall.

St. John's Courageous Conversations Book Group Summer Discussion



We invite you to join our summer discussion of *Nonviolent: A Memoir of Resistance, Agitation and Love* by the late Reverend James Lawson, Jr. and Emily Yellin. The group will meet every two weeks: May 7 & 21, June 4 & 18, July 2, 16 & 30, and August 13 on Zoom.

Books are available for purchase at Content Bookstore in Northfield. Please contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com to sign up and receive the reading plan and Zoom link.

Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (June 2026 Edition):

May 15

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

Life and Growth

Baptisms

April 12, 2026

Tyson Michael Gorg
Son of Morgan and Kolt Gorg

April 12, 2026

Bailey Michael Wayne Laabs
Son of Ava Little and Joseph Laabs

April 19, 2026

Lyla Lynn Kehret
Daughter of Brenda and Joshua Kehret



Radio Broadcasts

April 5, 2026

Given in loving memory of
Ruth & John Ferguson
by friends of St. John's music ministry.

April 12, 2026

Given in honor of Ann Nicholson's birthday
from her loving family.

April 19, 2026

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

April 26, 2026

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

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.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children to Remember

Sunday School Schedule
May 3, 10

Wednesday After School Schedule
May 6

Kid's Night Out! Grades K-5
Friday, May 1
5:30-8:30 p.m.

Last Day of Wednesday Programs
Wednesday, May 6
We are going to the YMCA!

Last Day of Sunday School
End of Year Event
Sunday, May 10
9:45 a.m.

5th and 6th Grade Bridging Event
Wednesday, May 27

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

On Sunday mornings during the school year, all youth are invited to meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 a.m. for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion.

Each week we get a little practice using our Bibles and telling our shared story as a community of God's children.

Youth Group will meet on Sundays, May 3 and 10.

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

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

When: Friday, May 1
Who: K – 5th graders
Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Where: St. John's Hall
Admission: A snack/family to share with the group.



Friends are welcome!

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or across from the Nursery. Questions? Contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

YMCA End of Year Celebration for K-5th Grades

St. John's children in grades K-5 are invited to the Northfield YMCA on Wednesday, May 6, 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 Brehmer know if you are willing to chaperone!

Northfield Week at Good Earth Village June 21 – 26 for Children in Grades 2-6

Here are the camp options:

Discover Camp for kids in Grades 2-4, June 24-26
Seekers Camp for kids in Grades 3-4, June 21-26
Stargazers Camp for kids in Grades 5-6, June 21-26



For Northfield Week use sponsorship codes:

NORTHFIELD26FULL for Seekers and Stargazer Camps, sponsorship of \$100

NORTHFIELD26HALF for Discover Camp, sponsorship of \$50

You may also use GEV Discount Codes:

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

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

5th and 6th Grade Bridge Event

As 5th 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, 6th grade students are finishing up a big year of changes.

On Wednesday, May 27, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. we'll get together with pizza, games, and a chance for 5th and 6th graders to connect around this time of transition.

Coming this Summer to Northfield!

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

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

Who: Kids completing grades K-5

Cost: \$70 / camper (scholarships available)

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

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

More information and registration coming soon!



Summer Camp for PreK too! Snowball Mountain Challenge! (VBS)

Who: For kids age 3 by 9/1/26 – age 5

When: August 3-6, 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church

Cost: \$15/Child, Max of \$30/Family

(Please let Julie know if you need help with the cost.)

Hosted by St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches and United Methodist Church.

- **We need volunteers 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 for VBS**

Youth are welcome to help too!

If you are interested, please contact

Julie Brehmer, children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Scan to QR Code
to Register



Scan Me

Children and Youth

Final Youth Events of the Year

Sunday, May 3
Last Youth Group

Wednesday, May 6
Confirmation and High School Youth Group
Final Finale

Sunday, May 21
Senior Recognition Sunday



Suzuki Kids

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

a FREE music class for
babies and toddlers!



the WOMEN'S page



May Gatherings

Baby Boomers

May 2nd, 4:30-6:00pm
Jean Wakely's home
419 Divison St S. Suite 202

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, May 14th, 1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia & Paul Circle

Wednesday, May 13th,
9:30am Coffee 10:00am Study
St. John's Library

Mary Circle

Friday, May 8th, 1:00pm
Fireside Room

Wellspring

(GenXers & Millennials)

Tuesday May 5th, 6:30-8:00pm
St. John's Fireside Room

Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, May 16th, 9-10:30am
Fireside Room

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Every Thursday through May 21st
11:00-Noon
Zdenek home: 2121 Ontario Ln

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

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

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays
9:00am - noon
Fellowship Hall

Web pages:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women

Contact:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com

Like us & Friend us on Facebook:

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



Triennial Gathering - "I Am Worthy" July 16-19, 2026
Des Moines, IA



Registration is still open

Six women are registered from St. John's. Contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli for information.



CHANGING THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER TAKES A VILLAGE.

We are grateful for the Women of St. John's as a successful and prolific WELCA chapter in our denomination. We provide a place where all women can be informed of local and national peace and justice issues, find small groups for fellowship and spiritual growth, and give back by producing life-saving kits and products for disaster relief around the globe. We are changing the world together.

THANK YOU! ...

...Justice committee for another great year of Courageous Conversations. This group worked to secure informative and passionate speakers, who inspired us to change our world for the better.

...Discipleship Committee and all our circle and small group leaders: for providing St. John's women another year of fellowship and Bible Study. They were also responsible for planning & coordinating the Welcome evenings for the new members of the church, the Scandinavian Meatball Dinner, the Birthday Bash & Hotdish Hoedown & the Women's Christmas Carols Luncheon.

...Stewardship Committee who planned and implemented two successful Mission Mornings, plus quilting and knitting each week. Several times this year a carload of women, with donated supplies, volunteered at the Global Health Ministries headquarters in Fridley.

...Publicity Committee for posters, year books, bulletins, Womens Pages, communications and publications.

You can help change the world by supporting the Women of St. John's. WELCA relies solely on donations which we count on to purchase quilt and kit-making materials, and for shipping. Your donations also provide honorariums for our monthly Courageous Conversations speakers. Lastly, we use donations to support the national WELCA, Ruth's House, Community Action Center, and other local and state-wide charities. You can support us through checks (made out to WELCA, via offering on Sundays). You can set up a recurring gift through PayPal (see QR code) or you can designate gifts to WELCA through St. John's new PushPay giving app (see QR code). As always, the most rewarding gifts are those we receive by rubbing shoulders with this great group of women!



PushPay



PayPal



MISSION MORNING REPORT: Though the electrical power went out all while assembling our kits, God's light never faltered!! We enjoyed our special speakers - Heather and Jesse - who recently made the long journey to Madagascar, where Heather's father has served as a medical missionary. (Jesse is Nan Winsell's son.) Heather was born in Madagascar. Her parents, Dr. Tim and teacher Bonnie Rietz (Austin, Minnesota) served with Global Health Ministries there in the 1970s. Tim is still on the board. Three summers ago the whole Rietz family went back to Madagascar to bring supplies and share the experience with all their children and grandchildren.

We appreciated seeing their photos and hearing first-hand of Global Health Ministries' work in that country. The 31 people in attendance were able to pack 50 newborn kits, 50 baby kits, 60 hospice kits, 60 personal care kits, assemble 2 quilts, and roll 147 bandages. Though the power remained out for most of the morning, "people light" and laughter were bright as we accomplished this important work. The kits were delivered to GHM and to Lutheran World Relief.

– Rhonda Reece



“Connecting is the word for the day. You already are connecting in conversation and smiles. Before today, there has been food preparing, coffee, making, room set up, hauling everything upstairs, comparing costs, buying, creating with reused materials, securing all the supplies, washing, ironing, sewing, and knitting at home and at weekly gatherings, storing, organizing, reporting, communicating, and we will haul again downstairs and haul again out to cars. Carefuls of kits and volunteers headed to the Global Health Ministries headquarters and Lutheran World Relief Distribution Center. That’s a lot of connecting.” – Nan Winsell



News and Updates

Pub Theology in May

What is Pub Theology?

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

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

Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We meet on Mondays, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
(Watch the Sunday bulletin and E-Voice for dates and location.)

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

If you'd like to be added to the Pub Theology email list, contact Pastor Jonathan at (jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)



You are Invited to Sunday Fun Day July 19, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Oddfellows Park

All ages gathering for fellowship, food, and fun.

- 3:00 p.m.: Games/Activities (water balloons, frisbees, corn hole, etc.!))
- 4:00 p.m.: Song and Supper



Menu provided:

- BBQ: Hamburgers, Hot dogs, Vegetarian option
- Beverage: Lemonade, Water
- Cookies & Bars

This event is joyfully sponsored by the Adult Ministry & Education Board and the Children's Ministry & Education Board.

Hope to see you and St. John's friends of all ages there!

Your Voice, Your Choices: 911, and the Plan You Need Now Thursday, May 21, 4:00-5:15 p.m. The Weitz Center at Carleton College

The Faith & Health Board would like you to be aware of this community educational opportunity. Brought to you by Northfield Hospital + Clinics and End-of-Life Choices Collective (a local group that encourages and facilitates Advance Care Planning), this event will explore what happens when you call 911 and how to protect your medical care wishes in a medical emergency.

Speakers include Brian Edwards, Emergency Medical Services Chief at Northfield Hospital + Clinics, and Mary Carlsen, MSW, LISW and Mary Carlson, RNC AGNP, Advance Care Planning Facilitators from End-of-Life Choices Collective. Free and open to the public.

If you have questions, please send them to eolchoices@gmail.com.

Together for Health, A Celebration in Support of the Work of HealthFinders Collaborative May 16, 5:30-9:00 p.m., Faribault Ice Arena

Our community is at its best when we show up for one another. In recent months, we've seen neighbors supporting neighbors in so many ways.

Tickets are free and you will be asked to consider making a donation, but the event is first and foremost about community, presence, and celebration! Register at: <https://www.healthfindersmn.org/together>. Contact dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com if you have questions or for more information!

From the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board

May is the month we highlight our quarterly mission partner, Lutheran World Relief.



As described on their website, "At Lutheran World Relief, we envision a future where all people in every corner of the world can live full dignified lives." Founded by Lutherans in the U.S. at the end of World War II, LWR works to reduce global poverty by partnering with communities in need and they provide humanitarian assistance during disasters such as climate crises or civil war, regardless of race, religion, or nationality.

Due to the shutting down and dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in 2025, the need for services by LWR is even greater. Please consider a donation to Lutheran World Relief in May.

Organizations that the B&SC has designated money to thus far in 2026: Northfield CAC (Northfield Supporting Neighbors and Food Shelf), HealthFinders, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, Northfield Union of Youth (The Key).

Age-Friendly Northfield Lyft Transportation Project

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 6
Last Meal of the Season
Sloppy Joes

Wednesday Night Meals take a break during
the summer and will resume on
Wednesday, September 19.

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

Palm Sunday Faith Action at the State Capitol



St. John's members (l to r) David Bright, Sara Bright, Jane Rinehart, Patsy Ophaug and Pam Groves-Gaggioli gather with thousands of other Christians to worship at the State Capitol on Palm Sunday.

On Palm Sunday about 200 Northfielders, including over 50 St. John's members, traveled to the State Capitol to join nearly 10,000 Christian Minnesotans for a Palm Sunday procession and worship service. Participants gathered at Central Village Park, then joined a large group of clergy leaders in a mile-long procession on University Avenue. At the Capitol grounds clergy from various denominations offered prayers, scriptural readings, and words of commitment to a faith rooted in love, justice, and care for all our neighbors. A choir of members from several Black churches from Minneapolis and St. Paul sang songs of praise and encouraged participants to join in the refrains. It was a joyful event filled with inspiring words, music and song, waving palms, and signs of biblical themes of compassion, mercy, and justice.

Another 3,000 Minnesotans attended similar events in Rochester, St. Cloud, Duluth, Fargo-Morehead, and Mankato. There were also gatherings in major cities in 16 other states.

Here are some personal reflections from St. John's members who attended the Palm Sunday event:

When we first gathered at the park, there was a brief time of prayer and singing. I had a feeling of this being a blessed event. I especially remember singing, "Put one foot in front of the other, and lead with love."

-Jane Rinehart

Kin-dom's coming up the street, babes in strollers, the aged with canes, long-haired and lean youth, a coffee shop of a mixed brew crew of energies to renew the world. I see in this sea of humanity, hope for healing and helping instead of harming and hurting.

At the top of the hill, the Capitol gleams where the set-in stone status quo of power meets the power of love.

A choir voices praise, and so raises our spirits high ... we stand under the same gift of the same sun, the same sky, the same vision for a more just society.

-Rev. Chris Engstrom

It was a beautiful renewal of faith. We are following a true path.

-John Nelson

We found the Palm Sunday walk very meaningful. The imagery was stunning - walking toward a center of power, waving palms and connecting it to the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. It's a collection of metaphors with enough tension to make you think about the fact that it was not merely a protest against what we feel is ugly but a stance for what is right and good. It was about being part of a community that was diverse but simple in expressing its identity. At times it was unfamiliar prayer, at times it was joyous singing or shaking the hand of someone whose faith expression was different than yours. Sometimes it was meeting old friends. Altogether, it was about acknowledging how faith announces hope in Jesus. Thank you all for your work.

-Ralph Yernberg



"The procession was led by Black clergy from churches across the Twin Cities, representatives of the Black Church Power organization in partnership with ISAIAH Minnesota. The purpose of the protest was to reclaim Christianity for justice and compassion." – Margie O'Loughlin

Palm Sunday Faith Action at the State Capitol



I think this is a critical moment for the church and people of faith to take a stand against authoritarianism and Christian Nationalism, and to show a commitment to love our neighbors. Participating in the Palm Sunday action felt like an important step. It was empowering to march, sing and chant with an intergenerational, multicultural and ecumenical crowd of thousands!

-Jo Franklin

I felt a swell of hope that, if we work together, we can make a difference.

-Rod Christensen

Gathering in St. Paul on Palm Sunday with other people of faith has lifted my spirit and renewed my determination to call out cruel policies and actions as both immoral and destructive to the fabric of our democracy.

-Leif Knecht

“As the Palm Sunday Service neared its end, a group of kids were led into position on the Capitol steps. They lifted up a canvas banner on which they had painted, “Love



never fails”, from 1 Corinthians 13:8, and decorated with their “Palm” [Sunday] prints. I looked up the scripture when I got home and was reminded that love in this context is patient and kind. It is not self-serving. It is defined more as a persistent action than a feeling: a call to press on with love.”

-Margie O’Loughlin

The biggest take-away moment for me was when the audience was led in chanting, “We will not turn back!” I continue reflecting on what this means for me personally, as the cold winds of winter 2026 give way to spring. I want to, need to, remember what it means to live my life with the word “neighboring” as an active verb. Does that resonate with you? In what way or ways were you changed by what you witnessed during Operation Metro Surge?

-Margie O’Loughlin

We know ISAIAH's work for racial, economic and climate justice must continue, and we know many St. John's members will pray, participate in events, volunteer, write messages, have conversations, study, vote, and donate as they are able. Our local leadership group will focus on selected ISAIAH activities where we can have the best impact by participating as a group. We hope to continue an active conversation at St. John's about how we are called to meet these times. We want that conversation to be faith-based and led by the Spirit. It can be political (about problems and solutions) without being partisan (about candidates and political parties). Please join us for forum after worship on June 7, where we will discuss the OBBBA (“One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) of 2025, which will affect so many more of our neighbors beginning Oct. 1.

We want to hear from you!

Rod Christensen, Ron Hebensperger, Carrie Dauner,
Elise Helland, Erik Holleque, Kristi Wermager

In light of the upcoming 250th anniversary of our nation’s founding, Rev. Chris Engstrom is concerned that Christian Nationalists will try to claim Patriotic songs to support their vision of Christianity. She wrote alternative lyrics to “My Country ‘Tis of Thee” to make it more inclusive of other faiths.

Our country ’tis of thee
We sing for liberty
One common song.
Welcome diversity,
Stand for equality,
Celebrate unity
Be kind and just.

Our country ’tis with thee
We cease our slavery
To greed and hate.
We’ll debate what to do
Ways that we can pursue
Seeing the promise through
To help and heal.

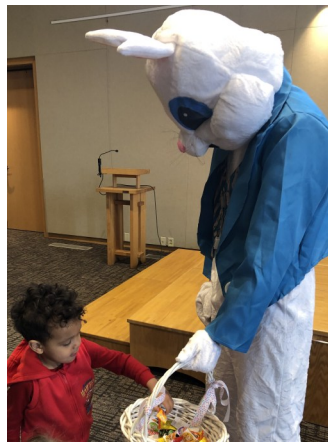
Ancestors’ faith inspire
Voices to join the choir
In songs of hope.
Hope to be hunger free
With opportunity
In strong community
To learn and grow.

Our country, ’tis from thee
We receive beauty free
From shore to shore.
We’ll strive for cleaner air,
Water, and soil to share,
For all the children here
To play and thrive.

Rev. Chris Engstrom

Easter Egg Hunt 2026

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.



**Easter Breakfast
Sponsored by St. John's Youth**



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OFFICE HOURS

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

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

*Join Us for
Summer Worship*

SUNDAYS STARTING
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, MAY 24
THRU SEPTEMBER 13
9:30 A.M.