



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER 2023



Hello Fall

## Inside this issue:

- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 St. John's Forums this Fall
- 6 Children and Youth Ministries 2023-2024 School Year
- 7 Farewell to Emmanuel Kaghondi
- 8 Courageous Conversations
- 10 Facilities Sustainability Work
- 10 Wednesday Nigh Meals Return
- 12 Welcome to Kristin Partlo - New Director of Ministry with Youth & Families
- 16 Fall Worship Schedule

## Key Fall Dates

**September 10**

*Installation of Kristin Partlo, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*

**September 13**

*Orientation for Wednesday Programming / St. John's Chorale Rehearsals Begin*

**September 17**

*Welcome Fest / Change to Fall Worship schedule at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.*

**September 20**

*Afterschool Programs, Wednesday Night Meals, and Confirmation Classes Begin*

**September 24**

*Ministry Fair between Services*

**October 22**

*MEA Fall Break - No Sunday School*

**October 29**

*Reformation Sunday / Affirmation of Baptism for 10<sup>th</sup> graders*

**November 5**

*All Saints Sunday*

**November 29**

*Advent Fair*

**December 10**

*Advent Music Sunday*

**December 17**

*Children's Christmas Program at 10:45 a.m.*

**December 24**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Service at 10:00 a.m.  
Christmas Eve Worship at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.*

**December 25**

*Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 a.m.  
Christmas Day Dinner in St. John's Hall*

### WORSHIP SERVICES

*See Page 2*

### LIVESTREAM

*9:30 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 3 & 10*

*8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sept. 17 & 24*

### RADIO BROADCASTS

*9:30 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 3 & 10*

*8:30 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 17 & 24*

*KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM*

*kymnradio.net*

### TV BROADCASTS

*NTV Channel 187*

*7:30 p.m. Mon. / 7:00 p.m. Fri.*

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

*2:00 p.m. Wednesdays*

## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

9:30 a.m. Sundays, September 3 & 10  
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m., Sundays, September 17 & 24

### Livestream

9:30 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 3 & 10  
8:30 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 17 & 24  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)



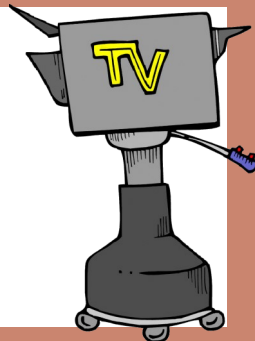
### Radio Broadcasts

9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 3 & 10  
8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 17 & 24  
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,

Grief is a tricky and unpredictable thing. It shows up in ways and in moments when we don't expect it.

This summer, I was on a church mission trip to Nashville with middle and high school youth, and a group of us walked right into grief we didn't expect or know was there. We were volunteering at a summer program for youth, and we were assigned a number of tasks to do in order to make the space ready for the children to show up the following day. Tasks like moping the floors, cleaning the tables, etc. But one task stood out – we were asked to take painted rocks and place them around a newly planted tree in the backyard. This was given to us as an ordinary task among the others.

But then the leader of the program, Ms. Toni, told us what the tree was about. The tree had been planted in loving memory of 9-year-old Hallie, who was killed in the school shooting in Nashville this past March. Hallie's mom had been a volunteer at this summer program, and so they felt the need to do something to honor Hallie's life. Thus, the tree and the rocks handed painted by the children.

After learning this, our high school youth treated this moment with the sanctity it deserved – gently choosing a painted rock, carefully walking it outside, and thoughtfully placing it around the base of the tree. It took us all of 2-minutes to do, but when the task was over, no one moved. There was a palpable sense that this ordinary request was in fact a holy ritual that we, as strangers, had been invited into. Feeling like something was missing – that we couldn't just go from this moment to cleaning out the closet – we asked Ms. Toni if we could pray a blessing around this tree. She said yes.

We all circled around the tree, reach out our hands to the people next to us, and we prayed. It felt a bit awkward and beautiful all at the same time, but it also felt very, very right. When the prayer ended, Ms. Toni was weeping. She said, "I didn't expect you all to do that. These past few months have been so awful and so hard, and we haven't taken a moment to stop and pray and grieve. Thank you."

None of us expected this national tragedy and communal grief to come so close to us, but there it was – right in front of us. I doubt any of us who were there will forget that moment for a long time. There was a very real sense that God was present in that unexpected and sacred moment.

In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." I hear in this that God makes holy our grieving spaces and promises to meet us there.

Grief often surprises us. Not all grief is so tragic as what we encountered in Nashville. But any grief is real and important. And it pleads for our attention. Grief is always all around us, but especially in a season of transitions like this one – as parents are sending their children off to school for the first time or the last, as new and old jobs

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."*

September 13, 2022  
**Otto Reitz**

September 19, 2022  
**Arlene Sivanich**

September 24, 2022  
**Romulus Busa**



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

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

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

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

start or end, or as some trudge through the task of clearing out a loved one's home to get it ready for market.

When our grief shows up unexpectedly, or when you stumble into someone else's grief, I think our bodies and souls long to do something about it. When that happens, I invite you to do what you can to stop and take a deep breath, and find a way to mark the moment. Maybe that means saying a prayer, or lighting a candle, or simply putting your hand over your heart. Grief is hard, and it can also be very sacred at the same time, because God promises to be with us in that moment.

Peace and love,  
Pastor Jonathan

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

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

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

### October 1

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

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

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

### October 15

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

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

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

Continued on page 13

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

August 21, 2023

Evelyn Estenson



### Radio Broadcasts in August

August 6, 2023

Given in celebration of what would have been Ruth Hansen's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in August.

August 13, 2023

Given by Anita and Chuck Hellie in honor of their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on July 20.

August 20, 2023

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

August 27, 2023

Given in appreciation for our pastors and staff from a grateful member.

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 and Youth to Remember

Online Registration for 2023-2024  
Now Open

Afterschool Programming and  
Catechism Orientation  
Wednesday, September 13, 6:00 p.m.

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

First Day of Sunday School  
Sunday, September 17, 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Afterschool Programming  
Begins Wednesday, September 20

First Day of Confirmation  
First Day of High School Youth Group  
Wednesday, September 20, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Graders  
Receive their CATEchism Books  
Sunday, September 24, 10:45 a.m. Service

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

## Children and Youth Ministries 2023-2024 School Year

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

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

**After the Open House**, enjoy breakfast along with children's activities from 10:00-10:30 a.m. in St. John's Hall.

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

### Wednesdays...

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

**ROCK**, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K-5. Wednesday programs, consists of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism (grades 3-5), Kid's Club (K-2), music opportunities, art, and service projects.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Wednesday afternoons:

- Snack Servers - help serve snacks on Wednesdays
- Bus Angels - check children on the bus at one of the elementary schools (about a 5 minute time frame)
- Adults share a hobby/passion/interest with kids on Wednesdays

### Sunday Mornings:

- Sunday School Team Teachers
- Nursery Volunteers

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

## Farewell to Emmanuel Kaghondi

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, we gathered to bless and say farewell to Emmanuel Kaghondi. Emmanuel has been with us for 4 years, helping to lead our youth and family ministries through COVID and into a more connected future. Many thanks to Angie Gehring, the Youth Board, Ted & Tricia Peterson, Doug Johnson, and all the other volunteers who helped make it a celebratory send off!



## Children and Youth

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

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

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

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



# the WOMEN'S page

## Gatherings

### Baby Boomers

Saturday, Sep. 2nd, 4:30-6:00  
Julie Zdenek's home  
2121 Ontario Lane

### Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Sep. 9, 9:00am  
St. John's Library

### Elizabeth Circle

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

### Lydia Circle

Wednesday, Sep. 13, 9:00am  
Coffee and Conversation  
10:00 Bible Study  
St. John's Hall

### Mary Circle

Friday, Sep. 8, 1:00pm  
St. John's Fireside Rm

### Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

2nd & 4th Thursday  
10:00a St. John's Library

### Knitters (World Vision)

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 10am  
Kathy Vang 645-4849

### New Night Knitters!

1st Wednesday  
6:00-8:00pm  
St. John's Library

### Quilters

Thursdays, 9:00a - noon,  
Fellowship Hall



## COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

September 14, 2023 7:00pm

St. John's Hall

Finding Common Cause Across  
Religious Differences: a Voice for our  
Neighbors in Need  
at the State Capitol



**Leah Patton**, executive  
director of Joint Religious  
Legislative Coalition  
(JRLC); Public Policy and  
Strategic Messaging  
professional.

Need a ride?  
Contact [women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com)  
or call Pam Groves-Gaggioli (562) 237-3781



## TRIENNIAL - PHOENIX!

Six St. John's women will be flying  
to Phoenix for the Triennial  
Gathering, September 21-24.

Jo Franklin  
Pam Groves-Gaggioli  
Alison Kavanaugh  
Gerri Licke  
Patrice Nordstrand  
Jane Rinehart (deligate)

The women will carry six quilt  
tops and backs (prepared by St. John's quilters) to the  
convention for in-kind gifts, as well as \$200 worth of gift cards  
from WalMart and Target.

The triennial will host 14 speakers, preachers, and Bible  
teachers from all over the U.S. and we look forward to hearing  
from our attendees when they return.



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

**Friend us @** Kvinner St. Johns (Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

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

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



## 2023 Southeastern Minnesota Women of the ELCA Convention

September 30th 2023

First Lutheran Church, Redwing

Registration: \$25 (deadline 9/15)

### "Beginning Anew... Again... and... Again!"

"...for God's compassions never fail. They are new every morning..."

Lamentations 3:22-23

8:30 Registration, coffee, vendors

9:15 Business meeting

General meeting with guests and speakers

"Voices from the Field - Stories of Beginning Anew"

11:30 Lunch, vendors, fellowship

12:30 Gathering, installation of new officers

Worship with communion

2:30 Closing of convention and Sending blessing

Questions: Kathy Bolin (507)292-0277; bolin1948@gmail.com

Sharon Northouse (507)471-4796; borniniowa@gmail.com

**\*Registration forms are at the St. John's Women bulletin board\***

**St. John's 2023-2024 Women of the ELCA Executive Board** began the year's work in earnest at their last meeting.

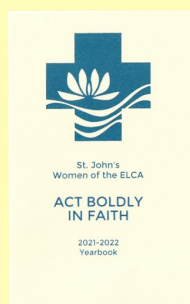
Courageous Conversations is returning for another year of exciting programs. See St. John's Women bulletin board for details.

Our Discipleship committee is working hard to meet and get to know women who are new to our congregation, encouraging our small groups, and staying in touch with the women students at St. Olaf who are recipients of the ELCA Leadership Scholarship.

Under the leadership of the Missions committee, we've been hauling carloads of quilts, baby kits, personal care kits, hospice kits, school kits, rolled bandages, knit baby sweaters and caps to warehouses in the Cities, for distribution all over the globe. Prayer shawls & baptism blankets are filling the closets to be given when needed.

Pick up your annual WELCA yearbook (available at the St. John's Women bulletin board) for more information.

Here's to another exciting year!



## It's that time of year again!

### Back-to-School with LWR Backpacks

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

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

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



### LWR School Kit list:

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

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

### Pencil Sharpeners

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

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

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

**Crayola crayons**, box of 24

**Eraser**, 2 1/2 inch



## News and Updates

### Meals On Wheels Thank You, Volunteer Drivers

Meals on Wheels is an organization supported by the Northfield Hospital that is dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of the community by delivering meals to those in need.

Meal delivery relies on volunteers, and each year during September and early October, St. John's has committed to providing drivers who pick up packaged meals from the hospital and deliver them to various apartments and homes around Northfield.

Thanks to our many generous members, who have helped us meet our goal of filling the volunteer driver slots for this year!

Dennis & Jane Rinehart,  
Bob & Pat Tabery, Cindy Clauson,  
Mary Hoff, Chuck & Anita Hellie,  
Jim & Judy Cederberg, Peter & Lori Skoglund,  
Scott & Elaine Nesbit, David & David Nitz,  
Ronnie Anglin & Ruth Smestad Anglin,  
Gary & Elizabeth Wicks,  
Richard & Jane Nelson,  
Paul & Maribeth Beck, and  
Ted & Tricia Peterson.

Thank you to Peter Skoglund,  
Cynthia Neubecker, and Jerry Ugland for  
providing support to the volunteers by being  
a contact person for those with questions.

Watch for opportunities to  
sign up again next fall!



## Facilities Sustainability Work

Over the summer, a dedicated group of leaders has shepherded our planning to make investments in St. John's facility that will promote financial and environmental sustainability over the years ahead.

We have explored solar and geothermal energy options as well as a number of other technologies and innovations that can reduce our carbon footprint as well as our energy costs.

To this end, the Council authorized an engineering assessment of our HVAC systems to determine if geothermal is a viable option for the future. In addition, we are working with EnerChange, a state-funded agency that performs energy audits for nonprofits and recommends projects to maximize our efficiency.

We are learning about government rebates for projects we have already completed – such as the tankless water heaters that replaced our obsolete water heater in May – as well as potential tax rebates for future projects that would reduce the costs to us by as much as 30%.

At the time of this writing, there are still questions we haven't answered, but we are confident that with the congregation's support we can move forward with investments that would improve our stewardship both of this historic building and of the planet around us.

Gary Engstrom (Business Management Board)  
Jeff McLaughlin (St. John's Foundation Board)  
David Neuger (Worship & Arts Board)  
Dean Schoeb (Stewardship Board)  
Steve Taggart (Property & Grounds Board)  
Pastor Pam Fickenscher  
Facility Manager Steve Harner  
Congregation President Kathy Shea

### Wednesday Night Meals Return September 20, from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall

All are welcome to enjoy delicious food and fellowship at this freewill offering community meal!

Fall 2023 Wednesday Night Meal Dates: September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 25, November 1, 8, 15, 29, December 6, 13.

Dessert is provided by the donations we receive, and can be either homemade or store bought. If you'd like to donate a dessert (any treat you'd like to share), bring it to the church kitchen by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, or it can be dropped off days prior, labeled for Wednesday Night Meal. Interested in assisting with meal set-up or clean-up? We love helpers! Contact Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org) if you'd like to volunteer!

## Update from St. John's Foundation

The St. John's Foundation gratefully announces the receipt of two major gifts. The first, from John Ferguson, will be used to establish the Ruth & John Ferguson Fund for Music, which will provide support to expand our music ministry.

The second is a bequest from Donald Nelson, who, while not a member of our congregation, found value in our community and mission. His gift will be used to support worship and environmental initiatives.

These gifts build upon a twenty-five-year history of generosity expressed by past and current friends of our congregation. They also bring us to an investment balance of well over a million dollars. This endowment should annually generate over \$50,000 to extend our congregational mission, within our four walls, and into our greater community.

Questions about the Foundation can be directed to Jeff McLaughlin, the Foundation's current president, at [jeff.mclaughlin@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.mclaughlin@gmail.com). If you would like to make a gift to the Foundation in addition to your ongoing support of our church, those can be designated alongside your usual donations.

We appreciate these gifts, your support, and look forward to supporting our church in the years ahead.

## News and Updates

### Pub Theology in September

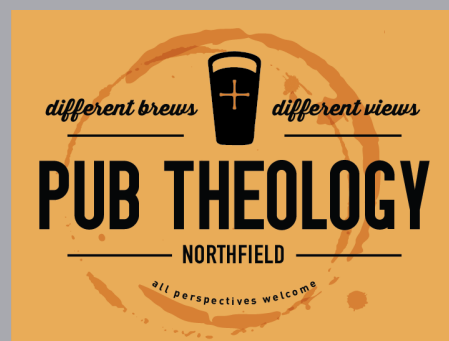
What is Pub Theology?

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 Monday, September 18, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at The Contented Cow.

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.



## Accompany Program Fall Session Begins Sunday, October 1

Accompany is St. John's approach to welcoming newcomers to our faith community through gatherings that provide information, connection with others, and spiritual reflection, along with a sponsor who provides friendly support. If you are new to St. John's, we invite you to join us! Accompany meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Undercroft on the following Sundays: October 1, 8, 15, and November 5, 12, 19. If you would like to sign up for the fall session, please contact Angie Gehring at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## News and Updates

Join Us for  
Fall Worship

SUNDAYS STARTING SEPTEMBER 17  
8:30 A.M.  
10:45 A.M.

### **Summer Worship Schedule Continues Thru Sunday, September 10 and Fall Worship Schedule Begins Sunday, September 17**

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

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 10.

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

## **Welcome to Kristin Partlo New Director of Ministry with Youth & Families**

St. John's member and seminary student, Kristin Partlo, has accepted the position of Director of Ministry with Youth & Families! Kristin brings a knowledge of and a passion for the people of this congregation and the life of the Church. Many of us know Kristin from her leadership in worship over the years. After a 20-year career in academic librarianship, Kristin is a student at Luther Seminary in the Masters of Divinity Distance Learning program and a candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA.



About this new role Kristin writes, *"As a member of St. John's with two children in this age range, a good deal of my heart and attention are already engaged in questions of belonging and participation for youth. More generally, I have long been passionate about helping all people feel like their unique participation matters in community and worship. It would be a joy to put this inclination to work with more focus and intention with the youth of St. John's and their families."*

Kristin will begin this position on Tuesday, September 5, and she will be installed during worship on September 10.

### **2023 St. John's Ministry Fair Sunday, September 24 9:30-10:45 a.m. St. John's Hall**

Have you ever wondered about all of the amazing work that goes on behind the scenes at St. John's? Would you like to learn more about the variety of opportunities to get involved? There is something for everyone! Come to St. John's Hall between the services to enjoy a beverage and a treat while checking out the displays, gathering information, and talking with group leaders, board members, and volunteers about what each ministry has to offer!

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

Continued from page 5

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

### November 5

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

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

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

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

## News and Updates



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

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

Just one unit of blood has the potential to save 3 lives.

There is always an ongoing need, and we invite you to consider making a difference by donating blood.

#### **Upcoming Blood Drive**

Monday, September 18

1:00-6:00 p.m.

in St. John's Hall

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

## News and Updates

### Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during  
will be on the following Sunday:  
September 3

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



## Assisting Ministers Wanted

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

## Call for Volunteers to Count Offering

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

## Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (October 2023 Edition):

September 15

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

## Electronic Giving

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

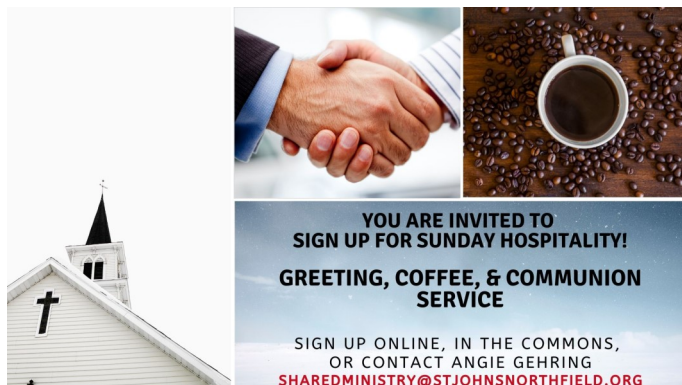


## Sunday Hospitality

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

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

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



## St. John's Staff

### Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

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

### Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

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

### Director of Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

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

### 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)

### Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

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

### Parish Nurse

Sally Lindell

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

### Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring

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

### Congregation President

Kathy Shea

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



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NORTHFIELD MN

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
500 Third Street West · Northfield MN 55057

**PHONE**

507-645-4429

**EMAIL**

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

**WEBSITE**

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

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

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

## **Worship Schedule**

We will have one service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays September 3 & 10.

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

*Join Us for  
Fall Worship*

SUNDAYS STARTING SEPTEMBER 17

8:30 A.M.

10:45 A.M.