



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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DECEMBER 2022 / JANUARY 2023



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Advent and Christmas Worship & Events

Advent Fair

Wednesday, November 30, from 5:15-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 4 - Second Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Advent Vespers

Wednesdays, December 7 and 14, at 6:15 p.m.
Contemplative Worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 11 - Third Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program during Worship at 10:45 a.m.
(see page 8 for additional information)

Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24

Christmas Vespers at 3:00 p.m. (especially for families and children)
Christmas Candlelight and Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25

Christmas Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

(This will be a joint ELCA service hosted by St. John's
with Bethel Lutheran Church and St. Peter's Lutheran Church)
Christmas Dinner for All from 11:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 1

One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

WORSHIP SERVICES

See Page 2

LIVESTREAM

8:30 a.m. Sundays

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

RADIO BROADCASTS

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

KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM

kymnradio.net

TV BROADCASTS

NTV Channel 187

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

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

2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

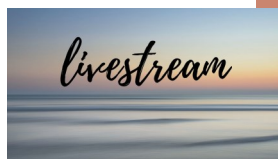
Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

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

Livestream

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



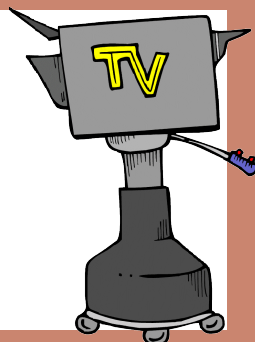
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2:00 p.m. Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

WELCOME STATEMENT

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

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

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

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



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

From Our Pastors

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Romans 12:2

Dear People of St. John's,

One of the most common questions I've gotten since being back from sabbatical is: are you glad you're back? The answer to that question is simple. Yes, I'm very glad to be back. I really have missed you and being part of the day-to-day ministries. And I am so, so grateful to have had that time away. I'm aware of what a rare opportunity it is to receive the gift of time and rest. Thank you for the opportunity to go on sabbatical.

As I have been reflecting on my sabbatical, a couple of things that surprised me. First - I had the opportunity to let go of daily details. I was present and enjoyed lots of activities and moments with my family and friends. But the noise of day-to-day thoughts simply turned off. It was quite startling actually, and I was a little afraid my brain wouldn't turn back on again, but it did thankfully. It needed rest. The primary thing that I learned from that is just how tired and worn out my brain and heart were. I suspect I'm not unique in that. I bet you're tired too.

The other most surprising part of sabbatical was just how transformative it was. To be honest, I was nervous about making sabbatical impactful and worthwhile. But I can honestly say that sabbatical has helped me to discover and make some of the most needed transformation in my life. It really felt like a time that (in the words of Paul) was the “renewing of my mind” and my heart.

Here's a snapshot of the transformation:

- I discovered a love for Pickleball. For years, I have struggled with getting regular exercise and now I am!
- Practicing meditating in silence for 10 minutes today. Using the app “Insight Timer”, I try to sit in silence for 10 minutes with the *only goal* of clearing my mind. Thoughts do enter in, but I try to just let them float by.
- I enjoyed reading the Bible...for fun. My goal was to read all 12 books of the Minor Prophets in the Old Testament and I did it! Using Enterthebible.org, I read some history and background on each book before I read it, which enriched my understanding of the Biblical story.

These practices have helped me see and feel the effects they can have on one's mental health and spiritual well-being. Don't get me wrong, these habits have waxed and waned, but they have also showed me that change is possible and that small transformations in one's life can have a big impact. I wonder – if there is a change you could make in your life, what would it be?

Alongside these new habits, my family and I had some wonderful unique experiences during this time. We went on a two-week trip to Scotland, where we discovered our love of Scottish culture, the abundant warmth and hospitality of Scottish people, sticky toffee pudding, and the roadside haggis coos.

Continued on page 14

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

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

Grief Care Resource:

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

Grief Booklets:

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



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.

Stephen Ministry

God Is Coming!

Winter's short, chilly days take a toll on us - our health, our spirit, and often our patience. Time with loved ones offers support, joy, and sanity. Our faith does, too, especially during this dark season. Of course we acknowledge God's presence all year: when we pray, when we gather for worship, in bread and wine. As people of faith we feel God with us wherever we celebrate and whenever we mourn. But at this time of year poignant hymns whisper the very good news that God actually shows up in our dark, disappointing, grimy lives: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"; "He Comes to Us as One Unknown"; "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming".

The gospels explain that God *came* to us - at night, in a cave, in anxious times - and as a baby! This shocking, child-friendly story feels almost like a dare. Do you doubt for even a moment that God will find you wherever you are? Are you worried that your needs are too great for God to step in and be with you? "Fear not!" the angels said. God is on the way. God knows you and what you need. God really is coming!

Stephen Ministers are trained to assure their care receivers that the God they yearn for is coming to them. It may be a God of peace and joy, a God of reconciliation and forgiveness, a God of unconditional love, or a God who is simply there in a crisis. How about you? Are you yearning for God? What kind of God do you need? If you or someone you know yearns to hear that God is coming, talk with a pastor at 507-645-4429 about connecting with a Stephen Minister.

Prayer Shawls

St. John's knitters create beautiful, soft shawls. These are made with prayer, and are a physical sign of the comfort and healing we want to surround people who are going through hard times. Do you want a prayer shawl for yourself or someone you care about? Please let our Parish Nurse, Sally Lindell, or one of our pastors know.



Radio Broadcasts

October 2

Given in celebration of the marriage of Cameron Judge-Becker and Gwendolyn Polich on Saturday, October 1.

October 9

Given by Ruth Anna and Van Miller in memory of Teddy Anne Miller.

October 16

Given in loving memory of Curtis Reed by Avis Reed and family.

October 23

Given in memory of Mary Beth Bremer by her family.

October 30

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

November 6

Given in memory of David Halvorson by Joan Halvorson and family.

November 13

Given in recognition of the work of the St. John's custodial staff by Shirley Falck.

November 20

Given in memory of Bob Scholz by Cora Scholz and family.

November 27

Given by Bruce and Audrey Moe honoring their daughter, Carolyn Moe Buzza, on the anniversary of her death on November 23, 2021.

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.

Poinsettia Orders

The Chancel Guild will be taking orders for poinsettias again this year. The flowers will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.



If you would like to order a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone or in celebration of Christmas, the order form will be available in the church office and on the website.

The last day to have your order form in is Sunday, December 11.

Life and Growth

Weddings

October 22, 2022

Allison Egge and Noah Krueger

Deaths

October 24, 2022

Guenther Moesler

November 10, 2022

Elaine Feroe



*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."*

December 1, 2021

Duane Benson

December 19, 2021

Mary Ingbritsen

December 30, 2021

Virley Brown

January 6, 2022

Beverly Mahachek

January 15, 2022

Jim Bierman

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule

December 4, 11, 18

January 8, 15, 22, 29

Toddler Time

December 4 and January 8

Wednesday After School Schedule

December 7, 14

January 11, 18, 25

Christmas Break

No Wednesday Programming
December 21 & 28 and January 4

No Sunday School

December 25 and January 1

Advent Fair

Wednesday, November 30 in St. John's Hall

5:15–7:00 p.m.

Article on page 11

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18, 10:45 am Service

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat on Holy Communion

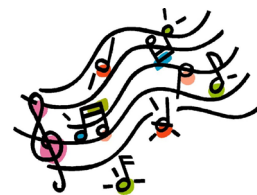
Saturday, January 28

9:00–11:00 a.m.

St. John's Hall

Kids! Would you like to be part of the Sunday School Christmas Program Prelude/Offering Music?

Sunday school children are welcome to participate in the prelude/offering music for the Sunday School Christmas program on December 18. We welcome solos or ensembles, short instrumental or vocal pieces. Please sign-up in the lower Commons or email Julie Brehmer, children@stjohnsnorthfield.org if your child is interested in participating.



Christmas Books Available

St. John's Library has many wonderful Christmas and Advent books and are available for parents and children to check out - some will be on display in the library and others will be downstairs by the Nursery.



Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/22) and our preschool Sunday school class, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler time. Jenny Nystrom leads the children in song, games, crafts and story time. Toddler Time meets at 9:50 a.m. in Room 14 (lower level).



Here is the schedule for the year:
December 4, January 15, February 12,
March 12, April 23.

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat

Third graders, along with their parent(s), are invited on Saturday, January 29, from 9:00–11:00 a.m. for a Catechism retreat on the Sacrament of Communion at St. John's.

If you are unable to attend, please contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12) Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30 p.m. Outdoors/St. John's Hall

We meet to connect with each other and explore what it means to live a life rooted in Christ. Each week's activities will alternate between interest-driven faith discussions, BIG questions, service projects, and casual hangout times to foster communityship with one another in the guidance of adults and supporting parent volunteers.

December

December 7 Advent vespers - *Community Ministry*
December 14 Advent vespers - *Community Ministry*
December 21 *Community Ministry*
December 28 No Programming - Christmas Break

January

January 4 Ethics
January 11 Ethics
January 18 Ethics
January 25 Ethics

Sunday Morning Youth Group 9:45-10:30 a.m.

On Sunday mornings, during the school year, all youth (Grades 6-12) are invited meet in the Youth Room at 9:45 a.m. for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion! Other youth adults and church members are encouraged to attend for intra and inter-generational connections. These gatherings will be led by Emmanuel Kaghondi and other adults.

Mission Trips June 25-30, 2023

Next year, we are working with CSM Mission partner to plan for two missional experiences in Nashville, TN, for both Middle School and High School youth groups. The tentative dates are June 25-30 (leaving Saturday, June 24, and coming back July 1). The plan is to leave Northfield together (HS & MS) and split into two separate missions at Nashville. In the ecumenical spirit we have invited the First UCC and St. Peter's Lutheran Church youth to join us again this year. The cost of the trips and more details to come soon!

Children and Youth

Mentor & Mentee Meetings

Working one-on-one with youth is a very meaningful experience that we take seriously.

The first Sunday of each month is normally designated as a M & M Sunday but otherwise, mentors and mentees can make an arrangement that fits your schedule.

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.

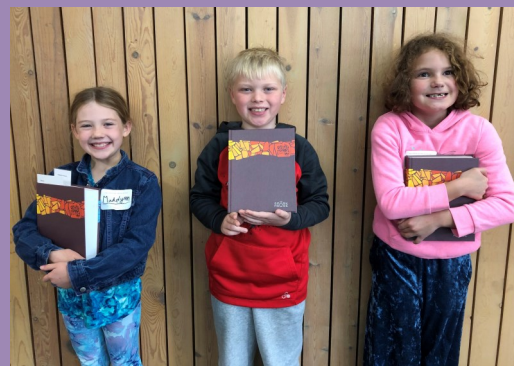
Tentative calendar

December 4
January 1

Blessings and congratulations to our 3rd Graders who received their Spark Bibles in October!

3rd Grade Bibles are purchased using money from the Johnson Memorial Bible fund.

Maddy Rudser
Soren Judge
Frances Jackman



Children and Youth

St. John's Children's Christmas Program December 18

St. John's Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 18, at the 10:45 a.m. service.

The program, "Christ the Savior is Born" is performed by children in preschool – grade 5.

If your child is unable to participate please notify his/her teacher or email Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



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.

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

Wednesday Confirmation Youth Groups

Youth are encouraged to attend on Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:30 p.m. as part of Confirmation program. These gatherings will be led by Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Pastor Jonathan Davis, and Emmanuel Kaghondi. We continue to invest in community building among our Youth, exploring aspects of *UBUNTU* - an African worldview centered around the interconnectedness of humanity, nature and God. Our hope is to create a space where youth can grow in faith with friends under the guidance of awesome faithful mentors. We aim to have fun and care for one another while learning to live Christian lives together.

Confirmation (Grade 6-8) Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30 p.m. Outdoors/Fellowship Hall

Large group teaching of the story of scripture using *Manna and Mercy* Bible Curriculum. M&M curriculum is based on a book by Pastor Dan Erlander. It presents the whole story of salvation with a contemporary lens.

Topics:

December

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| December 7 | Advent Vespers - Community Ministry |
| December 14 | Advent Vespers - Community Ministry |
| December 21 | Community Ministry |
| December 28 | No Programming - Christmas Break |

January

This year St. John's in a collaboration with St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Bethel Lutheran Church, and First United Church of Christ will be offering a J-Term. January is a chance for Christian youth in Northfield to come together and explore a variety of topics through the lens of faith.

J-Term offered classes this year:

- *Faith and Sports*. Location: St. John's Lutheran Church
- *What's Your Brand?* Location: St. Peter's Lutheran Church
- *Digital storying Your Faith*. Location: St. John's Lutheran Church
- *In the News!* Location: St. John's Lutheran Church
- *Luther and Les Weis*. Location: Bethel Lutheran Church
- *Exploring Our Faith Through Art*. Location: St. John's Lutheran Church
- *Book club: The View From Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg (Online)
- *Yoga*. Location: Bethel Lutheran Church
- *Justice and Faith*, Location: First UCC

Trunk or Treat Photos!

Sunday, October 30, 2022



the **WOMEN'S** page

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & CAROLS

Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Dec. 3, 4:30-6:00
Jean Wakely's home
419 Divison St S. Suite 202

Women's Breakfast Group

2nd Saturday, 9:00am
St. John's Library

Elizabeth Circle

2nd Thursday, 1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia Circle

2nd Wednesday, 9:00am
Coffee and Conversation
10:00 Bible Study
St. John's Hall

Mary Circle

2nd Friday 1:00pm
St. John's Fireside Rm

Ruth Circle

2nd Thursday
NRC
(contact Sharon Bastien)

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

2nd & 4th Thursday
10:00a Room 19

Knitters (World Vision)

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

Quilters

Thursdays
9:00a - noon, Fellowship Hall



After the two-year pandemic, St. John's Women plan to host their annual Christmas luncheon. Carol Benson, with guest musicians, will delight us with a musical program.

Thursday, January 5th ❖ 11:30-1:00 ❖ Ruth's on Stafford ❖ \$20

Reserve your spot by December 29. Sign up at the St. John's Women bulletin board or email: women.stjohns500@gmail.com



With the suspension of monthly in-person programs, we've not had our November Thankoffering opportunity for two years.

Our yearly Thankoffering gift helps support the good work and mission of the Women of the ELCA.

Our January luncheon and program will be the first in-person WELCA gathering since March 2020. We are thankful and grateful for God's sustaining work in and through us.

We will take the opportunity to give our Thankofferings on January 5th.

Community Action Center

Operation Joy season is here. As well as monetary donations, several churches are donating handmade quilts and pajamas. St. John's Women will donate 50 quilts.

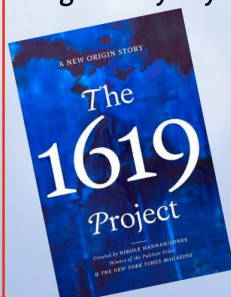


Courageous Conversations IN-PERSON!

February 2: Gina Washburn, local justice advocate, will share what's happening with immigration at our southern border.

March 2: In recent years the alignment between right-wing politics and Christianity has taken on a new intensity in a movement called "Christian Nationalism." Pastor Rolf Olson, presenter, will delve into this disturbing national development

Courageous Conversations Book Club's next read: "1619 Project: A New Origin Story" by Nikole Hannah-Jones



St. John's Women

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



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

Friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns

(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Correspondence: women.stjohns500@gmail.com

Advent Wednesdays: Hope and Expectation

We will gather on Wednesdays, December 7 and 14, at 6:15 p.m. for a quiet service of poetry and prayer. Our themes of hope and expectation will bring together Scripture, contemporary poetry, and the music of Advent. Join us for 30 minutes in the Sanctuary to let the waiting and hope of the season sink in.



St. John's Community Christmas Dinner Sunday, December 25 11:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., St. John's Hall

This year we are delighted to be hosting a free Christmas day dinner open to all in our community! The meal begins following Christmas Day worship. You are invited to share in this wonderful event in the spirit of Christ's love and generosity!



To make this event a success, we need lots of helpers and food donations! **Watch for paper sign-ups beginning Wednesday, November 30, at the Advent Fair.** Paper sign-ups will continue to be available on Sunday mornings and at the Wednesday Night meals during December. You can also **sign up ANY-TIME in CCB** in the **Christmas Dinner 2022** Group under "Needs", or contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Watch for the sign-up link in the weekly E-Voice.

News and Updates

St. John's Advent Fair Wednesday November 30

Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, November 30, in St. John's Hall.

Come enjoy our Wednesday Night Meal and Advent activities for all ages.

We encourage you to bring friends.
The more the merrier!

Time:

5:15-6:15 p.m.

Wednesday Night Meal

5:45-7:00 p.m.

Advent Fair Activities

Can you help with Advent Fair?

- Dinner - set-up, serve, or clean-up
- Help with crafts/shops
- Food demonstration – show how to make your favorite Christmas treats

Fair trade sales of coffee, tea, and chocolate will be available.

Contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



News and Updates

Pub Theology Schedule

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 the following Mondays
from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Locations to be determined.

December 5

December 19

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

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



Make a Difference, Save a Life.

St. John's hosted several American Red Cross blood drives during 2022. 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

Thursday, January 12, 1:00-6:00 p.m. in St. John's Hall.

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



Habitat for Humanity Home Builds St. John's Volunteer Day Saturday, February 25, 2023

Five homes are being built for families in Faribault and Habitat for Humanity needs our help!

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.

Saturday, February 25, is St. John's "volunteer day" for the home build projects. If you can help with **construction** (must be at least 18 years old), **provide lunch**, or be a **site host** volunteer, you can sign up at the Habitat for Humanity website habitatricecounty.org. At the website you'll also find more details about the partner families and see pictures of the building progress. Beginning in December there will be paper sign-ups on Sunday between worship services.

If you have any questions or would like to help with the sign-up table between services contact Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Habitat for Humanity urges that all volunteers and lunch providers sign-up, rather than show up spontaneously, to help keep things organized and running efficiently. Thank you!

St. John's Forums in December

December 4

Introduction to All Creation Sings (9:45 a.m., Sanctuary)

Worship and music are essential to our experience of God, and every generation finds new words and melodies to explore the wonders and mysteries of faith. *All Creation Sings*, the beautiful purple hymnal in our pews, was published in 2020 as a supplement to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. We've already learned many of the hymns, and in this forum David Sims (Music Development Manager, Augsburg Fortress) will explain its development and introduce us to the liturgies, prayers, laments, and hymns that help us join our voices with the creation God so marvelously made.

December 11

Poetry of Advent (9:45 a.m., St. John's Hall)

St. John's members Nancy Simpson-Younger and Paul Gleason recently discovered their shared background in early modern religious poetry and have generously offered to share their joint interest with us during the season of Advent. Nancy and Paul will introduce us to the poetry of George Herbert and the Psalm translations of Philip Sidney and Mary Sidney Herbert that help anchor us in the themes of Advent, this season of waiting. Join us for this opportunity to get to know Paul and Nancy better, as well as their shared love of modern religious poetry.

St. Olaf Choir Scheduled to Sing at St. John's on Sunday, January 15

We welcome the St. Olaf Choir and its director, Dr. Anton Armstrong, to worship services on Sunday, January 15.

They will lead us in worship and sing anthems at several places in our worship services.

This is a long-standing and deeply beloved tradition at St. John's as we welcome the choir back to the place of its birth and as we are blessed by their wonderful leadership and music.



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!



Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during
will be on the following Sundays:
December 4 and January 8.

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



News and Updates

It's Easy! Direct a Holiday Gift to St. John's!

If you are an eligible member of Thrivent Financial, don't forget to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars.®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program is directed to our ministry among youth and to the Women of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until March 31, 2023, to direct any remaining 2022 Choice Dollars.

But St. John's Lutheran Church needs your support now - this year. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

Don't let Choice Dollars expire. (Note: Eligibility is based upon premiums and contract values - not all members of Thrivent are eligible).



From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

I also went on 10-day trip to the Cayman Islands with one of my best friends. I fulfilled a life-long dream of becoming scuba certified, exploring a whole new world beneath the surface of the ocean. And what a joy it was to get to visit St. John's members, Ruth and Ronnie Anglin, there too! Through their generous and kind welcome, we got to swim with stingrays and experience bioluminescence (which will definitely be a sermon topic someday. Listen for it!).

All in all – I am still discovering the fruits from my sabbatical time this summer. Ask me in a few months and I'm sure I'll have some more insight. But for now – thank you. This was a gift I'll never forget.

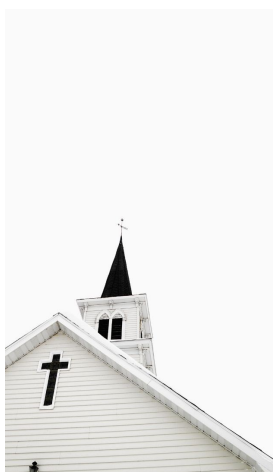
With peace and love,

Pastor Jonathan



Acoustic Improvements in St. John's Hall

The St. John's Church Council approved a bid to make acoustic improvements in St John's Hall, with the goal of better acoustics for conversation and fellowship in this room that is a key resource for our congregation and the whole community. \$13,000 has been pledged so far toward this project, and designated gifts are now being accepted, with a goal of raising at least half of the project's \$44,000 cost. Gifts should be designated to "acoustic project."



**YOU ARE INVITED TO
SIGN UP FOR SUNDAY HOSPITALITY!
GREETING, COFFEE, & COMMUNION
SERVICE**

SIGN UP ONLINE, IN THE COMMONS,
OR CONTACT ANGIE GEHRING
SHAREDMINISTRY@STJOHNSNORTHFIELD.ORG

Stewardship Appeal 2023

If you already pledge your financial support to St. John's, we thank you and urge you to continue your support. We also urge you to consider increasing your existing pledge. If you haven't pledged before, we urge you to consider making a first-time pledge; writing down a goal helps make it happen!

As our budget committee considers important decisions about next year's worship, programming, maintenance, and benevolence, we still need to receive many more responses in order to be confident.

If you give electronically through automatic transfer, please review your giving, and let us know your 2023 intent, even if it is to remain the same. Your generosity is heart-warming and assures continuation and growth of the missions of St. John's. In thanksgiving, your Stewardship Board.

If you haven't volunteered to get involved in the amazing work that happens here at St. John's, think about what you might like to know more about, and what you might want to be involved with. Your time and talent have so much value to St. John's.

Your Stewardship Board

Annual Meeting Reports

For all those who are submitting information for the Annual Report, please turn your report in by Monday, December 19, and mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 29 (watch future publications for more details regarding the annual meeting).

Year-End Giving

Year-end giving typically provides an outsize portion of St. John's annual budget. If you have not yet been able to contribute in 2022 and can at this time, your gifts to our operating funds will be much appreciated! Mailed checks need to be postmarked by December 31. Online gifts can be given by December 28 at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (February/March 2023 Edition):

January 15

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

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WEBSITE

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OFFICE HOURS

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

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



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 29, 2023