



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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JUNE 2024



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## Congrats Class of 2024!

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

The seniors will have roles in worship, along with a moment to celebrate and bless them. Following worship, seniors and 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:  
*William Becker, Erik Boehning, Natalie DeGrego, Madison Hansen,  
Mari Hanson, Thea Hanson, Nora Klaers, Simon Lippert, Ava Little,  
Evan Loe, Cora McBroom, Clara Menssen, Katherine Organ,  
Samuel Swedin, Jake Tanghe, Mason Vatter*

God's blessings on your future plans!

### WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30 a.m. Sundays

LIVESTREAM

9:30 a.m. Sundays

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

### RADIO BROADCASTS

9:30 a.m. Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM

[kymnradio.net](http://kymnradio.net)

### TV BROADCASTS

NTV Channel 187

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

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

2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

9:30 a.m. Sundays

### Livestream

9:30 a.m. Sundays  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)



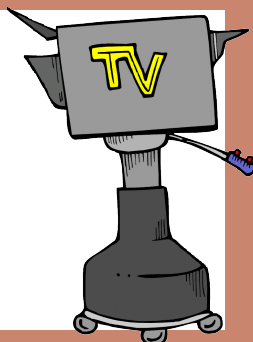
### Radio Broadcasts

9:30 a.m. Sundays  
KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM  
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### 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,

At the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Assembly, Bishop Hassanally lifted up this statistic:

In 2023, there were 330 pastoral vacancies in the ELCA that typically are filled by first-call (that is, new seminary graduate) candidates; in the same year, the church had 150 students starting the candidacy process.

What this means is that many congregations will need to think about doing ministry without a full-time ordained pastor at the helm. This scenario is not entirely new, especially in rural settings; but it in 2024 it is a new normal that is changing how the ELCA thinks about leadership and congregational life.

Here at St. John's, we are fortunate to have the size and resources to fund at least two pastoral positions. In today's ELCA, that scenario is increasingly uncommon. Yet we are also at a size where a lot of work has to be done by people other than pastors. There are simply too many homebound members, too many people who might go through a crisis, too many programs that need tending, too many people in need of pastoral care for the work to be done by pastors alone. It's not only a matter of economics; the work of the church is sometimes done best by people with different skill sets than your typical pastor.

Sometimes I hear people talk about whether "the church" showed up for them in a time of need. Here at St. John's, I'm grateful that "the church" shows up with many different faces, in many different ways, to care for one another. We have staff who bring a range of gifts and training to bear on their work. Stephen Ministers give hundreds of hours of time listening and praying with others. Adults and young adults serving with youth take time to lead small groups, chaperone mission trips, and share their own faith. Knitters make prayer shawls, with every stitch a petition for the wellness of the recipient. Cooks make a hot meal for those who might be too stretched in budget or in time to eat well otherwise. Women of the ELCA gather others for study and courageous conversations about the hardest questions of being a person of faith today. We are so blessed to have a community that does not consider faith to be a spectator sport.

"The Church" is the whole people of God. When YOU show up for one another, you are *being* St. John's for each other.

We as your pastors take our turn in listening, holding hands and praying in times of crisis; and we are charged with feeding you weekly from the Word and Jesus' table. But as we say at the end of communion every week: *You ARE the body of Christ. Go now, fed and forgiven, to BE good news for the world.* Thank you for being a people who show up for each other and for all God's beloved world.

## From Our Pastors



**Pastor Pam Fickenschner**



**Pastor Jonathan Davis**

## Prayer and Care Ministry

### Prayer Chain:

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

### Grief Care Resource:

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

### Grief Booklets:

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



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

June 23, 2023  
**Jean Schrader**

June 25, 2023  
**Max Williams**

June 30, 2023  
**Ann Ness**

## Stephen Ministers Lend a Listening Ear

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

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

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



## Summer Worship Schedule

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

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 8.



## Pub Theology Summer Theme: *Humbler Faith, Bigger God*

Beginning on June 3, Pub Theology will return to its weekly schedule (except for a few here and there), Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m.



This summer we will walk through the topics of Sam Wells's new book *Humbler Faith, Bigger God: Finding a Story to Live By*. In this book, Sam Wells tries to speak to the skepticism and doubts of people by addressing ten difficult questions about Christianity. Questions like: *Is Christianity just a fairytale for*

*the young? Can faith and science co-exist? Why is there so much suffering in the world? Is Christianity just one faith path among many?* Each week we will discuss these questions. Reading the book for each week is not a requirement, but it might help. If you would like to purchase this book, please reach out to Content Bookstore.

If you would like to be added to our Pub Theology e-mail list, please reach out to Pastor Jonathan at [jdavis@stjohnsnorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@stjohnsnorthfield.org).

## Sacred Sites Tour

There are 10 people from Saint John's signed up for the sacred sites tour. It will be Saturday, June 1, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We will meet at Bethel Church at 8:30 a.m. to share rides. We will join others at Church of Saint Peter in Saint Paul.



Our first site is Fort Snelling in Saint Paul, then Dakota Internment Camp and finish at Pilot Knob Hill.

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

May 13, 2024

Elaine Hope

May 23, 2024

Karin Norgaard



### Radio Broadcasts in May

May 5, 2024

Given in memory of Ann Ness  
by the Elizabeth Circle.

May 12, 2024

Given in honor of Shirley Tollefson  
from her four daughters.

May 19, 2024

Given in memory of Duane Benson  
by Marie Benson  
on what would have been  
their 58<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

May 26, 2024

Given in memory of  
Sandra "Sam" and Jim Wilson.

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



**It's been a great school year!**

Thank you, parents.

We are so grateful for your support of our children's programs at St. John's and for volunteering to lend a hand. It means so much!

**Thank you to our fantastic Sunday school volunteers:**

Stephanie Bennett, Sue Brockman, Brian Evenson, Arielle Loy, Edy McLaughlin, Jenny Nystrom, Jennifer Paulson, Melissa Pellinen, and Suzy Taggart.

**Thank you to our wonderful Wednesday crew:**

Pastor Pam, Pastor Jonathan, Kristin, Arielle, Green, Michael, and our middle school helper, Jonah Brownlee, plus our Bus Angels, Terrence Hassanally, Jenn Paulson, Melissa Pellinen, and Amy Tacheny.



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

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

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

**Where:** St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Register by scanning the QR Code.

### We need volunteers for VBS!

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

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

## A New Addition!

From the old cedar benches, that were once part of St. John's playground area, the wood was recycled, and made into a beautiful planter box.

Facility Manager, Steve Harner, sanded the old boards and Brian Evenson designed and constructed the planter. Thank you, Steve and Brian! A fun planting project for St. John's children!



## Summer Fun Events for Youth

Youth from St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's get together in the summer months for some fun and service work. Here are the dates and times we've nailed down so far. More details to come closer to the events.

### **What: Feed My Starving Children**

Who: All Youth (Grades 6-12)

When: Thursday, June 20, exact time TBA (4:30ish start)

Where: We'll carpool and will send out an RSVP as the date gets closer

### **What: Apple Valley Aquatic Center (rain back-up of bowling)**

Who: All Youth (Grades 6-12)

When: Wednesday, July 24, 6:00-8:00 p.m. (tentative timing)

Where: We'll carpool and will send out an RSVP as the date gets closer

### **What: Romans & Christians**

Who: All Youth (Grades 6-12)

When: Wednesday, August 21, evening - timing TBA

Where: St. John's

### **What about the scavenger hunt?**

We don't have one planned as of right now, but if Kristin Partlo hears from enough people who want to have a scavenger hunt in Northfield again this year, we'll see what can be done.

### **Summer Service Opportunities**

Just a heads up that it is our intention to offer pop-up service opportunities on a regular(ish) basis this summer. They will be announced via email, but if you'd like to receive text invitations, please let Kristin know.



## Thank you, Giada!

Thank you to our Nursery caregiver, Giada, for spending the school year with the littlest ones at St. John's.

We wish her a wonderful summer break. She returns to St. Olaf this coming fall.

## Children and Youth



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

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

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

Visit

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





# the WOMEN'S page



## WELCA Cannon River Spring Conference 2024

### Gatherings

#### Baby Boomers

Watch eVoice for info of a mid  
Summer meet up

#### Women's Breakfast Group

Second Saturday 9:00a

June, July, August

Fireside Room

Elizabeth Circle

Lydia & Paul Circle

Mary Circle

Off for Summer

See you in September

#### Wellspring

(for 30-50 somethings)

Monday, June 10, 6:30-8:00p

St. John's Library

#### Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

See bulletin for Summer dates

2nd & 4th Thursday

10:00am St. John's Library

#### Knitters (World Vision)

Off for the Summer

See you in September

#### Night Knitters!

1st & 3rd Wednesday in June

6:00p, St. John's Library

Off July/August

#### Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays, 9:00a - noon,

Fellowship Hall



St. John's Women hosted 140 women from 39 churches in our Cannon River Conference on May 11th.

**Judy Swanson**, long-time member of St. John's, was honored at the Cannon River Conference on May 11, 2024. She designed the Cannon River Conference logo & banner that was adopted and has been used for many years. Judy explains the meaning behind the design:

"What a glorious symbol we women of the ELCA have adopted. The beautiful water lily that gracefully cranes and dances upward through the water, toward the sunlight, while always anchored in nourishing soil, and thriving in and depending on the waters around it.

So too, do we live in water - our baptismal waters. So too, are we led in the light and made beautiful by God's grace. There we bask in God's love which nourishes and sustains us all of our lives. So too, are we anchored, firmly rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ."

(continued on following page)



### Spotlight Bible Study

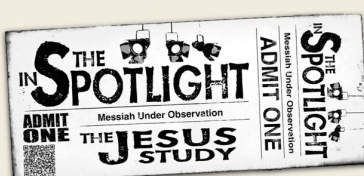
#### Summer Schedule:

June 13, 20, 27

July 11, 18, 25

August 1, 22, 29

Subject to change, watch  
eVoice for updates





"We can rightfully claim this lovely flower as our own. The white water lily is found along lake shores all over the state of Minnesota. In particular the American Lotus Lily grows in shallow lakes and marshes along the Mississippi River, specifically between Saint Paul and the Iowa border. That's our area - the rivers, valleys, fields, pastures and woodlands of Southeastern Minnesota synod.

The five water lilies represent the five conferences of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod - Blue Earth River, Cannon River, Minnesota River, Root River and Zumbro River."

She also designed the national WELCA logo:



"Our logo - with a cross, water and a white lily - Identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church as stated in Matthew 28:19, "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

This logo is used on the WELCA website, posters, banners, stationary and articles of clothing! WELCA even sells jewelry with Judy's design on it! Judy was gifted a silver necklace with the WELCA logo on it for all her work on these two beautiful designs.



## HOPE-filled Cannon River Conference

### Prep includes:

- 1 dedicated conference committee
- 60 St. John's volunteers
- 2 Thrivent grants

### Add in:

- An inspiring theme: Strengthening Hope
- An enthusiastic speaker: Dr. Jacqueline Bussie
- Good food
- Neighbors from Conference churches

### Stir:

- Until enthusiasm begins to bubble & new ideas are set.

### Spread:

- Evenly out over a morning and let the flavors meld together.

### Result:

- A sweet respite of 140 women participants smiling, listening intently, communing and conversing.
- Finished off with 83 pounds of feminine products donated to CAC and monetary donations to Good Earth Village, Campus Ministries - Mankato and Winona, Laura Baker School and Bethlehem Olivewood Hearts.



**A Heartfelt Thanks** to the 40 St. John's members who participated in the WELCA Mission Morning on Saturday April 20th, and to others who donated cash, supplies, and applied for Thrivent Action Grants. As a result of your time and generosity babies will have a better chance to thrive (50 Baby Care Kits were packed for Lutheran World Relief), hospice patients and others will have supplies for personal hygiene (64 hospice kits were assembled for Global Health Ministries and 50 personal care kits for LWR), 6 more families will have the warmth of a quilt, and GHM will be able to ship 100 more rolled bandages to hospitals. It was truly a morning of God's Work Our Hands.



## News and Updates

### St. John's Seraphs Summer Softball Team

Join the fun! Come cheer our team on!

Here is the upcoming schedule:

#### **Sunday, June 2**

7:05 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2  
*St. John's vs. Methodist*

#### **Sunday, June 9**

6:00 p.m., Babcock  
*St. John's vs. St. Dominic Johnnys*

#### **Sunday, June 16**

9:15 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 1  
*St. John's vs. Canvas*

#### **Sunday, June 23**

6:00 p.m., Babcock  
*St. John's vs. Trinity Blue*

#### **Sunday, June 30**

6:00 p.m., Babcock  
*St. John's vs. Hosanna*

#### **Sunday, July 7**

No Game

#### **Sunday, July 14**

7:05 p.m., Babcock  
*St. John's vs. River Church*  
8:10 p.m., Babcock  
*St. John's vs. Emmaus*

#### **Sunday, July 21**

8:10 p.m., Babcock  
*St. John's vs. St. Dominic Johnnys*

#### **Sunday, July 28**

8:10 p.m., Babcock  
*St. John's vs. St. Dominic White*

#### **Sunday, August 4**

7:05 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2  
*St. John's vs. Bethel*

#### **Sunday, August 11**

6:00 p.m., Babcock  
*St. John's vs. Life 21*

## St. John's Building Tour Sunday, June 9 following Worship (10:30 a.m.) Meet in the Commons

Have you ever wondered about the location of various rooms in our church such as the Sunday school classrooms, the youth room, Fellowship Hall, the game room, the choir and music rooms, or the even the 42 seat movie theater and what they look like? Are you interested in viewing and learning more about the numerous works of art we have decorating our spaces? Or in seeing the rope that's pulled to ring the giant bell on Sunday morning? Would you like to know where all of those hallways and stairs in our building lead?



All who are curious are invited to join Pastor Pam on a tour of our spacious, multi-level church building! An elevator is available to access all 3 levels.

## St. John's Summer Suppers are Back

The Adult Ministry & Education Board will organize gatherings of 6-10 people connected with St. John's for Sunday, July 21, and Wednesday, July 24.

Summer suppers are a relaxing way to grow your connections in the congregation over a meal in the home or backyard of the hosts.

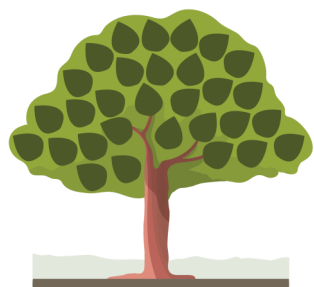
Look for sign-up opportunities for both hosts and guests in early June.





## Sustaining Grace

We are pleased to announce, with gratitude and in celebration, that through the exceptional generosity of our congregational members and friends we have not only reached our campaign pledge goal, but far surpassed it.



Our goal, as approved by the congregation in August 2023, was \$750,000. Our current pledges have surpassed our goal, and we already have \$320,000 on hand to begin work.

Our church leadership will identify additional projects for benevolence, and within our building, we will be able to enhance our existing projects, as well as make improvements more quickly than we had planned.

It is a joy and an honor to be a part of this congregation. We thank you for your generosity, and we look forward to seeing the short- and long-term results from the Sustaining Grace Campaign as we seek to extend God's grace into our world in the years ahead.



## Summer Choir Invitation

This summer you are invited to two summer choir opportunities. Come see your friends and try out a choir for the first time. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the choir room to rehearse and then sing for the 9:30 a.m. service. Anyone is welcome to participate! You don't have to be in the St. John's Chorale to join us.

- Sunday, June 23
- Sunday, August 18

Questions? Contact Nathan Proctor at [music@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:music@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## News and Updates



## Make a Difference, Save a Life.

St. John's has hosted several American Red Cross blood drives already during 2024.

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

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

### Upcoming Blood Drive

Friday, June 21, 2024

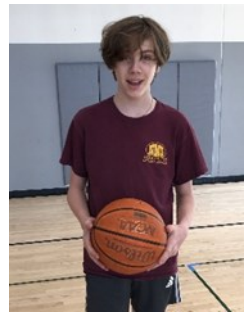
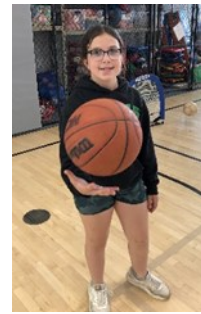
12:00-5:00 p.m.

in St. John's Hall

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

## News and Updates

Here are a few photos of the Wednesday Afterschool program's end of year event at the YMCA.





## St. John's Music Interns

The music internship program at St. John's began in 2013 with an idea to have paid singers from St. Olaf College sing with the St. John's Chorale. The hope was that these singers could contribute to the music making of the choir, but the choir itself could offer hands-on vocational training to these future music educators, church musicians, and soloists. The program has been steadily continuing for ten years. In the 2023–2024 season we had four interns with the Chorale and one with our handbell choir, Rejoice Ringers.

While most of their work happens behind the scenes in our weekly rehearsals or in the balcony on Sunday mornings, this program has truly been life-giving to music at St. John's. It's exciting to see these students become a part of our choir family each year. In addition to adding their voices to the Chorale, they can also experience conducting, accompanying hymns and anthems, and singing solos. Our congregation has strong ties with the music at St. Olaf (going way back to the days when F. Melius Christiansen was organist), and my hope is that this program allows us to continue that relationship.

In 2013 when John Ferguson, as Interim Director of Worship, Music & Arts, introduced this idea, the funding was made possible from a small amount from the estate of Dr. Alice Hanson. Dr. Hanson was a distinguished professor of music at St. Olaf as well as a devoted member of the Chorale. She embodied this connection between St. John's and St. Olaf. Now years later, this program continues through ongoing financial gifts to the Alice Hanson Education Fund, named in her memory. I am grateful for the gifts given to this fund and welcome any future gifts that help us continue this program.

### Music Interns for the 2023–24 season are:

Taylor Dirks, soprano  
Abby Carter, alto  
Jeremiah Knudson, tenor/organ  
Ian Carter, tenor (2024)  
Will Fecko, handbells

With thanksgiving,  
*Nathan Proctor*  
*Director of Worship, Music & Arts*

## News and Updates



### Fields of Promise: Sally and Peder Lindell share about their time in Ethiopia

Sally and Peder Lindell were able to travel to the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia in January of 2024 with a non-profit called Fields of Promise that works with orphans and the visually impaired.

Join us for a short time of sharing stories and hearing about children and blind students in need of monthly sponsorship as well as other ways you may get involved and enjoy some photos from their trip.

To learn more, visit [www.fieldsofpromise.org](http://www.fieldsofpromise.org).



## News and Updates

### Sunday Hospitality

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

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

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



### Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during will be on the following Sunday:  
June 2

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.

## "HOPE IS A MUSCLE" Affirmations A Land Acknowledgment Thank You to St. John's from the WELCA Board

The inspiration for our monthly Courageous Conversations took seed in 2017, as our country was facing deep divisions and a disturbing resurgence of hate crimes. We felt the need to resist these forces by raising awareness and activism around justice issues, and amplifying the voices of those who have been marginalized. Hearing these stories over the past seven years has often inspired us to act, though these actions can feel small and inconsequential. It is a rare gift to get a glimpse of real impact as we did a few weeks ago.



Our April Courageous Conversations speaker was Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, on the topic, "From Trauma to Triumph, a Lakota Perspective." Dr. Kelly, a Lutheran pastor and theologian, spoke of how her Native spirituality and her Christian upbringing and faith were complementary and intertwined. She shared her struggles as well as pride in becoming the first native woman in the ELCA to earn a PhD in theology. As the Q&A began, a young woman from another town stepped up to the mike and thanked the speaker in the Dakota language. Then, in English, with great emotion and a hand over her heart said, "You have spoken to my soul." She briefly shared her struggle with her faith and identity as an adopted child brought up in a very conservative white church. In reclaiming her native identity, she walked away from the church that no longer spoke to her. It was clear that Dr. Kelly's weaving of the Lakota spirituality with her Christian faith was a profound awakening for her.

She later returned to the microphone to thank St. John's for the Land Acknowledgment sign that had greeted her and her sister at the door, and for including that acknowledgment in the opening welcome. She said that she had been to many churches and had never seen or heard such a statement...and that they had never felt so welcomed.

This was followed by a St. John's member who stepped up to the microphone to share her story about her grandmothers and others in her ancestry who had endured great suffering and loss at the boarding schools, and whose genealogy records tied her to the speaker.

These riveting testimonials were a wonderful, visceral affirmation for the power of small actions. By amplifying voices that have too often been silenced, and acknowledging past harm (with a sign and a statement), we give space for "the other" to be heard, and in the process we allow ourselves to be changed (you could have heard a pin drop in a roomful of 92 people!).

There is much work yet to be done, but we are grateful to be part of a women's group...and a whole congregation...that is not afraid to use muscle to bring hope for a better world.

*St. John's Women of the ELCA Executive Board*

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

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



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

What to expect:

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

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

## Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (July 2024 Edition):

June 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.

## News and Updates

### Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

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

### Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

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

### Director of Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

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

### Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Kristin Partlo

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

### Facility Manager

Steve Harner

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

### Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

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

### Music Staff

Green Bouzard - Jubilate Choir

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

Arielle Loy - Children's Music Director and  
Early Childhood Specialist

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

David Sims and Will Fecko - Directors of

Rejoice Ringers

### Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

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

### Parish Nurse

Sally Lindell

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

### Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring

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

### Congregation President

Dan Franklin

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



St. John's  
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO 36  
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

## Summer Worship Schedule

We will have one service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 8.

