



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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OCTOBER 2023



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Tenth Graders to Affirm their Baptism

St. John's gives thanks to God that the following young people in our congregation have indicated their desire to publicly affirm their baptism by participating in the **Rite of Confirmation** on **Sunday, October 29**, at the **10:45 a.m. service**.

This rite follows a seven-year education and reflection program at St. John's beginning with Catechism (CAT) classes in grades three, four, and five; weekday and Sunday classes in grades six, seven, and eight; and classes, retreats, and a mentor relationship in grade nine.

The program concluded with a retreat on October 15. Please pray for these young people and their faith and life as they make this commitment and affirmation.

WORSHIP SERVICES

See Page 2

LIVESTREAM

8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

RADIO BROADCASTS

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

Livestream

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



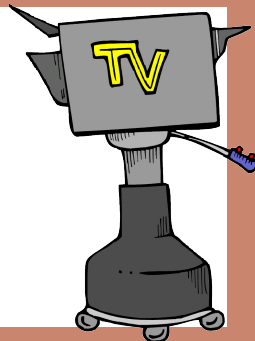
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7:30 p.m. Mondays
12:00 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Tuesdays
2:00 p.m. Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

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

Saints and Sinners – all the time. Every. One.

Dear Friends in Christ

There's a game my family loves called "Wavelength." It's one of those exercises in trying to read your team members' minds. Each round, there is a card that offers a pair of apparent opposites: *healthy food – junk food*; or, *common – rare*. Then the players guess where on the spectrum a given clue belongs.

If most of the world were to play this game with the terms "*sinner-saint*", we might imagine the world's villains and heroes on opposite ends, with ourselves somewhere in the muddy middle, but hopefully toward the "saints" side. In the world of politics and media, we seem hell-bent (there's a phrase!) on categorizing everyone famous as either a hopeless sinner or a messianic saint.

But in Lutheran theology we all belong at the extremes, all the time. We are sinners – turned in on ourselves, incapable sometimes of even seeing our own failings. AND, we are saints, claimed body and soul as God's own, loved by the Creator every bit as much as Jesus, God's beloved Son. 100% sinners. 100% saints. All our lives long.

Some people find this theology frustrating. After all, we wonder, shouldn't the church help assess who the good people are? Shouldn't faith help us move across the dial in one direction?

But the longer I live, the more liberating this theology is to me. God isn't sitting on high, deciding whether to be on my team or someone else's based on our performance. God sees *all* my faults, and loves me still. God knows *all* my potential, and rejoices in every moment that I also give grace to others. I don't need to worry about "backsliding," or live in constant fear of future regrets. I'll be a sinner until I die, and then I will be welcomed as a sheep of God's own fold, not because of me, but because of Christ.

To know this is to live freely, and in the company of every other sinful saint and saintly sinner, because God loves all of us all along the spectrum of our lives, and beyond it too.

Peace and love,
Pastor Pam

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

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

Grief Care Resource:

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

Grief Booklets:

"Journeying through Grief" is a resource 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."

October 24, 2022
Guenther Moesler

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 anti-Judaism that has never disappeared from public life. As we launch a year-long study of the New Testament in its Jewish context, the Adult Ministry & Education Board invites you to join us for a series of forums exploring the roots of Christian anti-Judaism on October 1, 15, and November 5. All forums will be held at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary between services. 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.

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. Thompson is Director of the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values and Community. Her work at St. Olaf focuses on 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.

Continued on page 5

November 5 is All Saints Sunday

This is the day the church particularly gives thanks for those who have gone before us in faith.

St. John's will remember by name those members who have died in the past year, ringing the bell, and lighting candles in memory of each of them.

St. John's also rejoices with thanksgiving at these new saints who have entered the baptismal waters in the past year.



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

Continued from page 4

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

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.

Life and Growth

Baptisms

September 17, 2023

Levi Ryan Little

son of Beth Hodnefield & Ethan Little

Deaths

September 16, 2023

Rev. David Hurtt



Radio Broadcasts in September

September 3, 2023

Given by Cindy Clauson
in honor of her family.

September 10, 2023

Today's radio broadcast is given
in loving memory of Cora on her birthday &
Elmer Schultz and Ken Struss
by Marie Struss and Family.

September 17, 2023

Today's radio broadcast is given in memory
of Doris Ellingboe, mother of Karen Schuette,
by Gerri Licke and Patrice Nordstrand.

September 24, 2023

Today's radio broadcast is given
in loving memory of Bob Matta
by Marilyn Matta and family.

If you would like to
sponsor a broadcast (\$160),
please contact the church office
by phone at 507-645-4429 or email at
office@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember

Sunday School Schedule

October 1, 8, 15, 29

No Sunday School

October 22

Wednesday After School Schedule

October 4, 11, 25

No Wednesday Programs

October 18 - MEA Break

3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Catechism Starts
Wednesday, October 4, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

3rd Grade Catechism Retreat
Saturday, October 28, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Details in the Article at Top of the Page

Trunk or Treat!

During Sunday School on October 29
Details in the Article at Bottom of the Page

PJ Movie Morning

Monday, November 6

Details in the Article on Page 7

Advent Fair

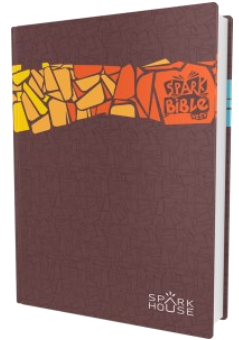
Wednesday, November 29, 5:15-7:00 p.m.

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3rd Graders to Receive Bibles

3rd graders and parents meet in St. John's Hall on Saturday, October 28, from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for a Retreat on the Word - An Introduction to the Bible.

This class will be a primer on the Bible for students who will receive their Bibles at the 8:30 a.m. service on Sunday, October 29. Please call or email Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either day.



Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/23) are invited to join the preschool Sunday School class. Toddler Time meets in Room 14. Parents are welcome to attend.

Here is the schedule for the year: October 1, November 10, December 11, January 14, February 11, March 10, and April 14.



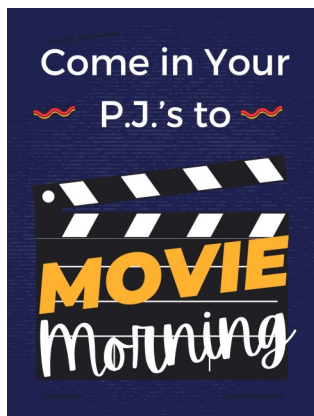
Trunk or Treat, October 29 during Sunday School, 9:45-10:30 a.m., at St. John's

Last year's Trunk or Treat was so much fun, we're doing it again this year. Kids are invited to dress in costume and trick or treat at a variety of decorated car trunks! Games and activities too!

Email Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you are willing to decorate your car trunk, or help with games and activities.

Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!

Kids 5th grade and younger are invited to come in their pajamas to movie morning at St. John's. Come for breakfast and stay to watch a movie. Feel free to bring friends!



Where: The Commons for Breakfast,
Movie in St. John's Theater
When: Mon. Nov. 6 – **NO SCHOOL DAY!**
Time: 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Children younger than kindergarten need to be accompanied by a parent. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Commons or call Julie at 507-645-4429. Parent help is appreciated. Let me know if you can lend a hand.

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 Bridgewater school (about a 5 minute time frame)
- Adults share a hobby/passion/interest with kids on Wednesdays

Sunday Mornings:

- Sunday School Team Teachers for Pre K-K
- Nursery Volunteers

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

Children and Youth



Confirmation Retreat for 10th Grade
Saturday, October 14
from 1:00-4:00 p.m.

This retreat is only for 10th grader students and not their parents.

A Confirmation Rally is in the Works

We invite parents and their youth to this event which is a collaborative effort by Northfield area churches to bring confirmation students and their parents together. Watch for more information.

Confirmation Breakfast
Saturday, October 28

Students, parents, and mentors will gather at 8:00 a.m. for pictures and service rehearsal followed by breakfast and presentation of projects.

Rite of Affirmation of Baptism Sunday
October 29, at the 10:45 a.m. Service

the WOMEN'S page



Gatherings

Baby Boomers
Saturday, Oct 7, 4:30-6:00
Lori Skoglund's home
2001 Michigan Dr.

Women's Breakfast Group
Saturday, Oct. 14, 9:00am
St. John's Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle
Thursday, Oct 12, 1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia Circle
Wednesday, Oct 11, 9:00am
Coffee and Conversation
10:00 Bible Study
St. John's Library

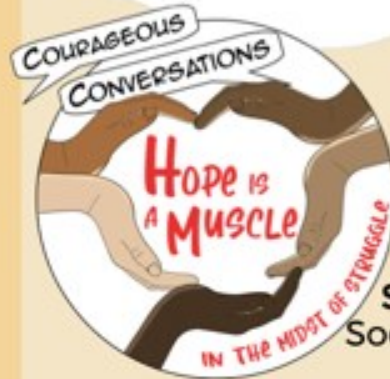
Mary Circle
Friday, Oct 13, 1:00pm
St. John's Fireside Rm

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 & 3rd Wednesday
6:00-8:00pm
St. John's Library

Quilters
Thursdays, 9:00a - noon,
Fellowship Hall



COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

October 5th, 7:00pm
St. John's Hall

**Sexual and Gender Minorities:
Social Justice and the Importance
of Family Support**

Elliott Kunerth, MSW, LGSW, strengths based therapist at Illumé North, Duluth; gender diverse trainer; trauma informed care; social justice advocate.



Laurie Sieve, mental health RN, Allina; retired faculty at St. Catherine; DNP; LGBT Health Policy and Practice certificate; Elliott's mom.



Mission Morning
mocha, muffins, & missions

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL MISSION MORNING!

Thirty St. John's women met on August 26 to prep and bundle gifts for Lutheran World Relief, and Global Health Ministries.

They bundled 53 Baby Care Kits, tore and rolled 66 bandages, tied and pinned 4 quilts, and prepared all the items needed for School Backpack Kits. Our elementary Sunday School children will fill the back packs for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to all who participated. Mission Morning has been a great way to meet new friends at St. John's.

SAVE THE DATE
Annual Christmas Carol Luncheon
Saturday, January 6, 2024, 11:30-1:00
Ruth's On Stafford





For the People

A world premiere comedy by Native voices by TY DEFOE and LARISSA FASTHORSE directed by MICHAEL JOHN GARCÉS
Guthrie - McGuire Proscenium Stage

October 7 - November 12, 2023

"April Dakota has big dreams of opening a wellness center on Franklin Avenue to serve the Indigenous community in her Minneapolis hometown. She's counting on a grant from the Franklin Avenue Task Force — a group of well-meaning Native elders and leaders — to make it happen. But her presentation goes sideways and her proposal is rejected, forcing her to make a snap decision that puts her dream and the community she loves at risk. Thankfully, the Task Force pulls together to help April fight for the future of Franklin Avenue and the people who call it home. Created in partnership with the local Indigenous community, this Guthrie-commissioned satire examines the myriad facets of contemporary Native life with humor and joy."

Anyone interested in going? Contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli, ladylynneg@gmail.com, or 562.237.3781 BEFORE October 15.



GUTHRIE
THEATER



New opportunities...

EVENING KNITTERS

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00pm
St. John's Library



Knitting baby hats, sweaters, and blankets for Global Health Ministries

Contact Jill Enestvedt for details on **either** of these new gatherings:
jillenestvedt@gmail.com

(507) 645-9330



...for connection
at St. John's

THE NEXT GENERATION OF CIRCLES ARE FORMING AT ST. JOHN'S!

WELCA has a long history of gathering women in Circles for fellowship, study, reflection and outreach. New groups are being planned this fall. Come and join us!



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

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

Correspondence: women.stjohns500@gmail.com

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

THANKOFFERINGS

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women, beginning in the early 1800's when women formed "mite" societies, collecting pennies for the support of church projects and missionaries. Women of the ELCA continue to give with thanks for blessings received. And we are so grateful.

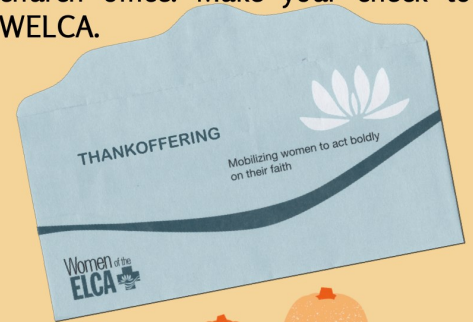
Thankofferings support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Our foremothers would be amazed to see what that covers these days!

WELCA's ongoing ministries include online and printed communications channels, justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders throughout the women's organization, our constant work in support of congregational and synodical women's organizations, the administration of grants and scholarship programs, and so much more.

How Thankofferings work

Many women set aside small amounts at home throughout the year and then bring together their gifts with those of the other women in November.

Bring your Thankoffering to our November 2nd Courageous Conversations program, or use the envelopes at the Women's bulletin board, and bring your offering to the church office. Make your check to WELCA.



News and Updates

St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Let's get together for Dinner -
Come, share a meal!

All are welcome, it's a fantastic time for
fellowship for ALL ages!

Supper is served from 5:15-6:15 p.m.
in St. John's Hall.

Free will offering appreciated!

Wednesday, October 4
Taco Boats with the Fixins

Wednesday, October 11
Mostaccioli with Salad

Wednesday, October 18
No Meal - MEA

Wednesday, October 25
Baked French Toast with Sausage and Fruit



Annual Fall Church Yard Clean Up Saturday, October 14, 2023 8:00 a.m.-Noon

The Property & Grounds Board needs help cleaning up the church yard. We will be happy to assign you a task! Please bring gloves, rakes, brooms, clippers, hedge trimmers, dandelion diggers, leaf blowers, tarps, leaf bags or baskets. Garden trailers and trucks are needed for transporting yard waste to the Northfield Compost Site.

Attention: New COVID Vaccine

As the seasons change and we will be spending more time indoors, it is important to protect yourself. The FDA has approved a reformulation of the COVID vaccine by Pfizer and Moderna which more closely targets the current circulating variants. This will provide better protection against serious consequences of COVID. In addition to the seasonal flu shot the new COVID vaccine is recommended by the CDC for everyone over 6 months but it's especially important for all older adults.



WelcomeFest Recap

During Welcome Fest on Sunday, September 17, the St. John's youth and the Youth Board hosted a pancake breakfast for everyone with games and activities for the younger ones. It may have not been visible to everyone, but the kitchen was full of youth and their parents making and serving the pancakes and sausage, prepping the fruit, serving the drinks and prepping the tables.



A New Look to the Lower Level!

This summer changes took place to the Youth area of St. John's.

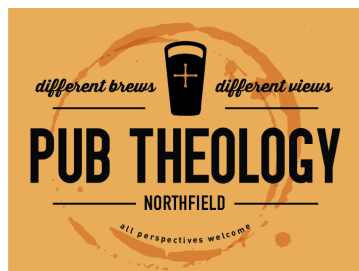
Boy Scout Erik Boehning, son of Scott and Frances Boehning, created an Eagle Scout painting project updating rooms in the lower level. He and a group of volunteers painted the Game Room, Fellowship Hall, and the hallway in the youth wing. Thank you!

Plus, the Youth Room received new couches! Many thanks to the Foundation and other gifts that made this possible.



Pub Theology in October

What is Pub Theology? It is weekly conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture. No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.



We will meet on Mondays, October 2 and 16, 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) to add your name to the email list.

News and Updates

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Kristin Partlo

youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Facility Manager

Steve Harner

facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

Green Bouzard - Jubilate Choir

jubilatechoir@StJohnsNorthfield.org

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

arielleloy@gmail.com

Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Parish Nurse

Sally Lindell

parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring

sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Congregation President

Kathy Shea

kathleen.louise.shea@gmail.com



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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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

WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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



**ANNUAL FALL
CHURCH YARD
CLEAN UP**

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 14
8:00 A.M. - NOON
IF RAIN, OCTOBER 21**

Many hands make light work!