



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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JUNE / JULY 2019



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WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays in June
9:30 a.m. Sundays in July

Congregational Picnic - Saturday, July 13

As part of the year-long celebration of the 150th Anniversary of St. John's Lutheran Church, you are invited to a good, old-fashioned congregational picnic!

**Join us on
Saturday, July 13
from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Way Park**

Picnic Lunch Served from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Chips, Salads, Cookies

Games, Fellowship & Fun will be Provided!

So, bring your family, friends, and maybe a lawn chair or two!

LIVE BROADCASTS
8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays in June
9:30-10:30 a.m. Sundays in July
KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM
kymnradio.net

TV BROADCASTS
NTV Channel 180
7:30 p.m. Mondays
7:00 p.m. Fridays

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays in June
9:30 a.m. Sundays in July

Nursery Hours

9:45-11:15 a.m. Sundays in June
9:15-10:45 a.m. Sundays in July

Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays in June
10:45 a.m. Sundays in July

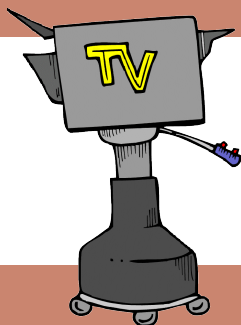
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TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays
7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 180



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...

Welcome to Emmanuel Kaghondi as Director of Ministry with Youth and Families

We are excited to announce that Emmanuel Kaghondi has accepted St. John's offer to serve as our next Director of Ministry with Youth and Families!

After multiple phone interviews, in April, Emmanuel was invited to visit St. John's to meet with staff, the hiring committee, and a group of youth and parents. He was well received and a job offer was made and accepted in early May.

Emmanuel is an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church of Tanzania who is currently finishing a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota in Music Education. He served in youth ministry since his own high school days and served in pastoral ministry in Tanzania until 2014, when he joined the teaching staff at Tumaini University Makumira in Tanzania. He came to the United States for a Masters in Music Education at the University of Texas-Austin. Emmanuel loves storytelling, collaboration, and "creating a space where lived experiences create a link between self-actualization and the spiritual life."

Emmanuel is married to Deborah, who is also an ordained Lutheran minister. They have two sons: Mercy (11) and Abner (2). Some of you may remember that they were guest speakers and preachers at St. John's in January 2018. They look forward to sharing their experiences and leadership with the St. John's church community.

Emmanuel will begin work July 1, pending visa authorization.

Many thanks to the Transition Team (Jenny Nystrom, Will Schroeer, Michele Knutson, Karen Fossum, Siri Lindell, Jack Rizzo, and Oden Hoff), Hiring Team (Jenny Nystrom, Barry Becker, Jon McBroom, Beret Froehle, Ainsley Nutt, Oden Hoff, Mia Becker), the Youth Board, and staff, who have all played a critical role in getting us to this exciting time!

Summer Worship Schedule

Summer worship services will be at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. This schedule will continue through September 8, EXCEPT for the month of July, when we will again have ONE service at 9:30 a.m. for that month.

After experimenting with one service in July last year, the Worship & Arts Board received a lot of positive feedback. Many members appreciated the opportunity to meet folks "from the other service" and enjoyed the energy of coming together. However total attendance (in comparison with previous years and compared to adjoining Sundays in 2018) was lower when the option of a second worship time was dropped, so we know that this change did not work for everyone. The Council of Ministers affirmed at their March meeting that we will continue with the July-only experiment for this coming summer.

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 this month last year.

We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."

June 30, 2018

Margaret Hayford O'Leary

July 18, 2018

Millie Berg

Stephen Ministry: About Caring Communities

In April, Rolf Jacobson, son of the St. John's congregation, gave a powerful adult forum. He spoke about churches as caring communities as one who had experienced such care when he dealt with a devastating cancer diagnosis. His father, Del, was our senior pastor at the time; Rolf was a high school student then and now is a Luther Seminary professor.

Here are some of Rolf's insights that caring Christians can draw on whenever they sense that another is in crisis:

- Understand that someone's traumatic pain may push others away.
- Consider that God trusts you and equips you to care for others.
- Know that Christian care is what to do and say when nothing you do or say can fix the pain.

So what is a caring Christian to do? Accept God's call to go and be present anyway. Listen and love.

And what is a caring Christian to say? "I love you," "God loves you," and "God is in this somehow."

St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to offer presence, care, and a listening ear as representatives of the congregation. If you or someone you love needs more care than you are able to provide, contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429 about a Stephen Minister's support.

Death of Renée Marsh (Daughter of Pam Schwandt)

Renée Marsh, beloved daughter of Pam Schwandt, died on Saturday, May 11, one day before Mother's Day.

Her ashes will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington D.C. Two memorial gatherings in her name are planned, but not yet scheduled, one in Great Falls, Montana, and the other in Lampasas, Texas.

She was afflicted by breast cancer, and since April 2017 was under medical treatment for it at Walter Read National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

She was 55 and was born on April 23, 1964, in Missoula, Montana.

Her immediate survivors are her husband Patrick, and their children, Mercedes, Benjamin, Katie, and Sophia. They can be contacted at:

- 1099 Skyline Drive, Annapolis, Maryland, 21409
- Patrick's e-mail address is: patrickmarsh73@gmail.com

They would welcome notes from the folks she and Patrick met in Northfield, and from other friends of Pam.

May God bless the memory of Renée Marsh and Pamela Schwandt.

Wednesday Night Pizza & Fellowship

The Adult Ministry & Education Board has planned two Wednesday night pizza events for St. John's.

- Wednesday, June 19, at Red Barn Pizza, Northfield
- Wednesday, Aug. 14, at Berne Wood-Fired Pizza, West Concord



On June 19, we will begin to gather at 5:30 p.m. at Red Barn Pizza. Bring your plates, utensils, beverages, and a blanket or table/chairs. (We will have a couple tables available as well). There will be music by Matt Browne beginning at 5:30 p.m.

On August 14, we travel to Berne Wood-Fired Pizza near West Concord at the Zwingli United Church of Christ; we will begin gathering at 5:00 p.m. Berne Wood-Fired Pizza is a fundraiser for the Zwingli United Church of Christ, Berne, MN. All profits go to support the church and chosen charities. They will have music entertainment by two live bands beginning at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. As we get closer to the date we will provide more information and maps for traveling to Zwingli United Church of Christ.

We hope that you will join for these two wonderful opportunities to gather together during the summer months.

Fruit Sunday Celebrations

It's a sure sign summer has arrived when St. John's begins it's Fruit Sunday Celebrations!

June 9: Rhubarb Sunday

July 14: Berry Sunday

August 25: Apple Sunday

Can you aid with any of special fruit Sundays? Can you bring in flowers or help with the Saturday before? Or can you help on Sunday with the last minute details of making coffee, plating the desserts, serving, cleaning up, making coffee? Of course, we also need people to make the delicious desserts. Sign ups are available in the Commons, online thru CCB, or by contacting Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org or by calling 507-645-4429.

Summer Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during the summer will be on the following Sundays: June 9, July 7, and August 11.

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

Life and Growth

Baptisms

May 5, 2019

*Zachary Richard Monson
son of Holly and Mark Monson*

May 12, 2019

*Thomas Allen Ohland Toov
son of Alysa and Mark Toov*

Deaths

May 7, 2019

John Lygre

May 16, 2019

Solveig Bailey

May 17, 2019

Brynhild Rowberg



Radio Broadcasts

May 5, 2019

Given in loving memory of Sawyer Garlie and in celebration of his brother Lincoln Garlie's birthday on May 22.

May 12, 2019

Given by Mark and Terry Rydberg in memory of their fathers Mel Rydberg and Paul Tollefson whose birthdays were May 4 and May 7.

May 19, 2019

No broadcast available.

May 26, 2019

No broadcast available due to worship services being held in St. John's Hall.

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

Online Registration is Open for the 2019-2020 Programming Year!

Go to St. John's website:
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Click on
Congregational Life,
then Children and Youth Registration.

Summer Nursery Schedule

During June, the Nursery will be providing childcare only at the 10:00 a.m. worship.

During July, the Nursery will be providing childcare during our only worship service at 9:30 a.m.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer in the Nursery, feel free to contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers who helped with Children's Ministries this year!

We couldn't do great programming without YOU!

Summer Camp for Ages 3 – 5th Grades

Summer is just around the corner and with summer comes great outdoor experiences!

This year, kids are invited to participate in these Summer experiences:

- **June 10–13: VBS is at St. John's!**

- Ages 3-Grade 2 (completed)**

Blast off with the first VBS to land on the moon! *To Mars and Beyond* will help kids discover the wonders of God's universe. Registration forms are available in both the upper and lower Commons and online at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. The cost is \$15 per child with a \$30 family limit. (Scholarships Available)



- **June 23–28: Good Earth Village Pathfinders**

- Grades 3-5 (completed)**

Campers blaze new trails in their faith as they explore what it means to follow Christ, meet new friends, serve others, and learn more about God's creation through hikes in the woods and spending time with their on-site naturalist. Campers stay in the Hilltop Cabins. For more information and registration go to www.goodearthvillage.org and click on Summer!

- **June 26-28: Settlers**

- Grades 2-4 (completed)**

Three exciting days and two fun nights make for the perfect camp experience for younger campers. Your child will make new friends and grow in faith through fun, action-packed days. This camp also introduces campers to elements of our week-long camp such as Cabin devotion time, Canteen, and campfire worship. Campers stay in Log Lodge. For more information and registration go to www.goodearthvillage.org and click on Summer!

Get involved with Children and Youth Ministries!

For children and youth to feel connected to their church, it's important for them to build relationships with at least 5 adults, other than their parents. Please consider volunteering with children and youth programming this fall with Sunday Morning or Wednesday programming. We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities.



Please talk with Julie Brehmer or check out the volunteer opportunities in the registration packet. **P.S.: High School students** – talk with Julie about how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Summer Events for Middle and High School Youth Here in Northfield and the Twin City Area

June

The Sandwich Project!

Middle school youth are invited to join Bethel youth and friends in making sandwiches for the homeless of Minneapolis. The goal is 500 sandwiches! This project will be followed by a trip to DQ for ice cream and group discussion/reflection on the giving and receiving of blessings. Friends are invited! Watch for a future email about signing up!

When: Wednesday, June 19

Time: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Place: Bethel Lutheran Church, then Northfield Dairy Queen, Hwy 3

Cost: \$5 toward the sandwich making, plus \$ for ice cream

July

Sky Zone and Pizza!

Middle school youth join Bethel youth and friends on a trip to Sky Zone, followed by a pizza lunch!

When: Wednesday, July 10

Time: 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Place: Meeting place, Sky Zone location, and pizza place details to be sent in a future email

Cost: TBD

Movie Night Event!

Middle and High school youth are invited to St. John's Theater for a movie and snacks! Watch for a future email announcing what movie will be showing!

When: Friday, July 12

Time: 7:00 p.m.-end of movie

Place: St. John's Theater

Cost: Free!

August

Feed My Starving Children

Middle School youth are invited to join Bethel youth and friends to Feed My Starving Children to help package food for hungry children all over the world.

When: Wednesday, August 21

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (tentatively)

Place: Meeting place and FMSC location to be announced in a future email

Cost: TBD

Watch for reminders and further details about the events listed on this page and more, in future emails throughout the summer!

Children and Youth

Summer is Finally Here!

It's time for our middle school and high school youth and chaperones to embark on camping adventures in the great outdoors of God's creation! We pray for their safe travel!

Middle School Trip to Camp Amnicon

Leaves Northfield on Sunday, June 23, headed to South Range, WI, for white water canoeing and camping along the beautiful Flambeau River. They will return home on June 28.

16 Middle School Campers:

Lillian Almen, Will Becker, Natalie DeGrego, Rhett Garlie, Gabriela Gilpin, Edy McLaughlin, Emmett Norrie, Emmett Peterson, Joran Peterson, Vassar Price, Marissa Vatter, Mason Vatter, Gus Welbaum, Louise Welbaum, Marion Williams, and Max Williams.

4 Adult Chaperones:

Barry Becker, Pastor Jonathan Davis, Elisha DeGrego, and Anna Weisenburger.

High School Trip to Camp Christikon

Leaves Northfield on Saturday, July 20, headed to Billings, MT, for hiking and camping in the majestic Rocky Mountains. They will return home on July 28.

17 High School Campers:

Gunnar Benson, Thea Benson, Nicholas Boehning, Ada Gabert-Nicholson, Clayton Garlie, Prescott Garlie, Ellie Hall-Holt, Oden Hoff, Peder Lindell, Kaylee Malecha, Peter Neeb, Ainsley Nutt, Jeanette Pelletier, Apolline Philippe (French exchange student hosted by the Hall-Holt family), Mary Rizzo, Nolan Stepka, and Carl Welbaum.

4 Adult Chaperones:

Erik Lindell, Christy Hall-Holt, Nick Neeb, and Emmanuel Kaghondi (St. John's new Director of Ministry with Youth and Families)

St. John's 150th Anniversary



St. John's 150th Anniversary Celebration Events

We invite you to **mark your calendars** for these special anniversary events:

Saturday, July 13

We will get outdoors together and celebrate with a family friendly social event.

October 26-28

Our **Capstone Event** will include something for everyone... kids, neighbors, history buffs, and people who just love to get together, share food, and celebrate.

Grace Overflowing Creative Arts Group with Laura Baker Services

This summer, Laura Baker invites St. John's members to the Laura Baker campus! Please join us for the following Creative Arts Groups:

Karaoke & Art Night!

Wednesday, June 12, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Laura Baker Assembly Room, 211 Oak St.

Come ready to make music and make art! You can sing, enjoy others' karaoke performances, make art, or just come to enjoy time with the community.

Summer Art Night!

Wednesday, July 17, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Laura Baker Assembly Room, 211 Oak St.

Let's celebrate summer! Create art individually and collaboratively with your neighbors!

150 Pints for 150 Years American Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

St. John's is hosting blood drives on **Monday, August 19, from 1:00-7:00 p.m.** and **Thursday, October 24, from 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.** in St. John's Hall. Donors can schedule appointments for this drive by: contact Bonnie Peterson at 218-686-8769, or call 800-733-2767, or go to RedCrossBlood.org.

150 pints for 150 years! You may donate at any site convenient for you. To have your pints counted, send an email to St. John's at 150anniversary@StJohnsNorthfield.org with your donation date and site. RapidPass is a way to complete your pre-reading and health history. Donors have 3 options to get their pass: online from their laptop, On-the-Go (the mobile version of RapidPass will allow users to complete their pass on their personal mobile device), or at the blood drive touchscreen tablets are available for donors to complete their pass while in the registration area.

Please look for the Give Blood Cards at the Welcome Desk for locations and times of American Red Cross blood drives in the Northfield area.



“Hearing Loop Project” Approved by Council

The St. John’s Church Council has approved installation of a “hearing loop” in the Sanctuary of the church. Installation is likely to begin late in the summer as part of our 150th Anniversary activities.

Churches have long understood that hearing-impaired members feel increasingly isolated as they lose their hearing. Many members stop coming to church services due to frustration and disappointment. St. John’s wants to make sure that all of our members can look forward to hearing fully the Good News and participating in worship!

We know this hearing loop project is a priority for many members, and they have requested the opportunity to contribute to the effort. Lead gifts from a St. John’s member and another from a friend of the congregation have already provided \$4,500 in initial funding, and the Council is anticipating that additional gifts will help to meet the cost of the \$12,500 project. You can speak with a pastor about a donation, or use a church offering envelope, noting “Hearing Loop Project” on the check.

A “hearing loop” is not new technology. It involves installing (“looping”) a thin wire around a venue and using it to transmit the signal from the sound system. Once you walk into the looped area, the sound transmits directly to your telecoil-equipped hearing aids.

Telecoil or “t-coil” technology is a common feature on hearing aids, but many people don’t realize that their hearing aids already have this technology, or don’t know how or when to use it. Telecoil technology can make a dramatic difference in one’s ability to hear clearly and understand dialogue. The telecoil in a hearing aid functions as a wireless antenna that delivers customized sound directly to the listener’s hearing aid. The sound quality through the t-coil system is strong and clear, greatly improving the listening experience. First, you need to know if your hearing aids have a t-coil built into the circuitry. Your audiologist can tell you if your hearing aids have t-coils built in and can activate the t-coil. You can then turn it on manually or have it come on automatically when it detects a telecoil signal.

We want to thank especially the hearing-impaired members of St. John’s who have been patiently urging improved service for many years. We hear you . . . loud and clear!

If you would like to contribute to installing the hearing loop at St. John’s, you may designate gifts to the “Hearing Loop Project” through July 15.

News and Updates

A Confirmation Project: Adirondack Chairs in the St. John’s Courtyard

Each year, we invite the 10th grade Confirmants to pick a Confirmation project that connects a passion they have with their faith.

This past year, St. John’s member Carl Welbaum has been working hard on a project we can all enjoy - new Adirondack chairs for the St. John’s courtyard.

Carl has a passion for woodworking and has been working with his great-uncle (a retired Lutheran pastor) on building these chairs that create a comfortable place for those coming to visit loved ones in the columbarium or those simply looking for a place to sit in the sun on summer afternoon.

Stop by the courtyard to check out Carl’s gift to this congregation. Many thanks to Carl for such a beautiful addition to a sacred space.



News and Updates

Confirmation and Youth Programming – Looking Back and Looking Ahead

On Wednesday, May 15, our Confirmation classes closed out the year with a walk to Hogan Brother's for ice cream. Emmanuel Kaghondi and his family were able to join us! This event marked the end of a new year for Confirmation. This year we experimented a bit by shuffling around the classes and content of Confirmation.

Our 6th grade class spent the year learning the overarching story of scripture by reading and discussion Daniel Erlander's book *Manna & Mercy*. The 7th and 8th grade classes spent the year learning about different topics within the context of faith. We started out talking about Faith and Science, followed by a series on Faith and Human Sexuality. Later in the year (while navigating multiple snow days!), we touched on the topics of Faith and Ethics. The final series was Death and Dying, which included a field trip to Bierman Funeral home.

Completely new this year, the 9th grade confirmation class was included in High School Youth Group. During this time, the high school youth asked and discussed critical faith questions and worked on service projects for our community. Together, they prepared college care packages for our freshman college students from St. John's and students in the TORCH program. They packaged grab 'n go kits (with snacks and a gas card) for youth at The Key in Northfield, worked on quilts for local homeless youth, and delivered May Day Care Packages to some of St. John's homebound members. Many thanks to Emerson Clay, St. Olaf College student, for his work this year with our high school and middle school youth.

We are excited about the changes we made this past year and how we can build on them in this next year!

Spend June 18 at the Landscape Arboretum with St. John's

We have had enjoyable trips to the State Capital and to the Swedish Institute in the past and on June 18 we invite you to join us on a trip to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. We will leave St. John's at 9:30 a.m. and plan to return by 3:30 p.m. Our hosts for this trip will be Robert and Sandra Nyvall.



Upon arrival at the Arboretum there will be a time to investigate displays near the main building before we gather for a "Flower Pot Lunch" in the Azalea Room. This will be our own private space for discussions and fellowship. At noon we will all board the tram for an hour guided-narrated tram tour highlights collections, display gardens and demonstration areas within their 1200+ acres, offering insights into the Arboretum's fascinating history and research. There will again be time for some personal time in the gardens or shopping at the Arboretum store before boarding the bus to return to Northfield.

Cost for the day will be \$60; this includes the bus, admission to the Arboretum, lunch in a private room, guided-narrated tram, and a 10% discount in the Arboretum Store. Sign-up in the St. John's Commons on Sundays, June 2 and 9. This trip will be limited to 35.

Farewell to the Fellowship Hall Floor!

On Monday, June 17, we will begin replacing the 100-year old wood floor of Fellowship Hall. The wood has deteriorated over the years and the Properties & Grounds Board has planned demolition of the old floor and pouring of a new concrete foundation underneath it for this month. This project is one of our 150th Anniversary capital projects.

Volunteers are needed on Monday the 17th beginning at 8:00 a.m. for the work of taking out the old floor. Wear work clothes and closed-toed shoes for this work.

Sunday, June 16, we will have one last coffee hour on the old floor downstairs (pending repair of our elevator). Join us as we say good-bye to the floor that served so many generations so well!

News and Updates

St. John's Members Attend Iftar Dinners

In May, two groups of St. John's members attended interfaith events calling "Taking Heart," sponsored by the Minnesota Council of Churches. Local Islamic centers and mosques welcome Christians to take part in the breaking of the Ramadan fast, and a time of conversation and learning about Islam. This year Ramadan, which follows a lunar calendar, stretches from May 5 to June 4.

On May 7, nine St. John's members went with Pastor Fickenscher to the South Metro Islamic Center in Rosemount, a former bowling alley that now serves as a place of prayer and a community center for Muslims throughout the southeast Metro. We were one of at least four different church groups that joined in the evening, which was facilitated by young members of the congregation.

They shared with us an overview of the five pillars of Islam as well as an overview of notable Muslims in American history. A Q & A time allowed people to submit written questions such as "What do Muslims believe about Jesus?" and "Does Islam have a coming-of-age ceremony?" Every table had local hosts mixing in with the visitors, so that we could ask further questions and ask about how faith plays out in our lives. Our hosts hailed from places like Pakistan, Egypt and Somalia. Many were first generation immigrants who had always lived in North America.

When the sun went down, everyone broke the fast with dates and water, and then proceeded to the place of prayer for brief prayers (guests could either take part or observe). Then we all shared in a delicious feast of Near Eastern food from Holy Land caterers. Conversation flowed freely as people made connections around shared interests and common connections in the Metro area. At one table, two high school seniors talked about finishing out the school year and taking Advanced Placement exams while refraining from food and water during daylight hours. At another, a STEM school principal invited St. John's member Dave Zdenek to come talk about meteorology with his students next year. Dave reports "it was the best meal I've had in the month of May!"

On May 23 another group went with Pastor Davis to Masjid Ar-Rahman in Bloomington. The experience was quite similar to the one in Rosemount. There was an overview of Islam with a Q & A time. Many of the questions centered around what Muslim's believe about Jesus and the role of women in Islam. One thing our group observed was some of the cultural similarities between the Muslim evening prayers and our Christian worship service: a number of people came in late and a number of cell phones rang, with the owners rushing to silence them. While there were a number of young adults present, we learned that Islamic communities also struggle with how to keep young people connected and involved in the faith and faith community. One young adult said Mosques take up a similar tactic as churches - make it fun and have food.

As is often the case, our similarities were greater than our differences and our differences were a gift in expanding our boundaries and understandings of what a life of faith can look like. We hope to continue to offer these experiences in the future so that more can share in this experience!



the WOMEN'S page

SUMMER GATHERINGS

Baby Boomers

Mid Summer Soirée-
Saturday, July 20, 4:30
"Reunion" 501 Division St

Breakfast Women Group

Saturday, June 11, 9:00am
at The Tavern
Saturday, July 13 & Aug 10 TBD

NO SUMMER MEETINGS ~

Elizabeth Circle
Lydia Circle
Mary Circle
Ruth Circle

Knitters (Prayer Shawls) & Quilters

Contact Sue Sharrow for
Summer dates: 301-3083
sue_sharrow@msn.com

Knitters (World Vision)

Contact Kathy Vang for
Summer dates: 645-4849

Women's Day at Good Earth Village

HerStory: How We Fit In To God's Story

Saturday June 29th, 2019
9:00am-4:00pm
25303 Old Town Drive Spring Valley, MN

Keynote Speaker: TBD

Workshops: Memoirs, Prose & Poetry, Movement & Nature

Register at: goodearthvillage.org/womensday \$30

Contact Marilyn Calcutt for registration info and
car pooling: 645-2814 or merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com



Check the **St. John's Women Bulletin Board** for upcoming activities and Fall programming.

2019-2020 Annual Yearbooks will be available late August.

SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION CONVENTION

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019
8:00am-4:00pm, \$25
Trinity Lutheran Church
609 Lincoln Ave. So.
Owatonna, MN
Registration deadline: Sep. 2

Contact Marilyn Calcutt for
registration info and car pooling 645-2814 or merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com

Presenters:

Jo Marie Morris - Jeremiah Program
Karen Voris - Churchwide Message
Habibo Haji - Serving Our Children
Pr. Kevin Doely - "Laugh for Life"

St. John's Women Summer Executive Board Meetings

June 3, 8:15-10:15
July, No meeting
August 5, 5:15-10:15

Visit our web page:

<https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/women/>



like us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns"
friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns
(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Correspondence: women.stjohns500@gmail.com
Publicity: Julie Zdenek



The Library at St. John's From the Adult Ministry & Education Board By Genevieve Quarberg

If summer is your favorite reading time, consider being part of a **Summer Reading Group** that will read three novels and get together to discuss each one on one day in the month. First we will read *Little Faith* by Nicholas Butler, a Wisconsin writer, and discuss it on Wednesday, June 21. In July we will read *The Road Back to Sweet Grass* by Linda LaGarde Grover, a Minnesota writer and professor of native American studies at the UMN at Duluth, and discuss it on Wednesday, July 17. In August we will read *Tinkers* (2010 winner of Pulitzer Prize) by Paul Harding and discuss it on Wednesday, August 21. Participants will determine time of day for meeting in the St. John's Library.

If you want to participate, contact one of the Library Committee members:

- Anita Hellie at ahellie@charter.net
- Genevieve Quarberg at davidquarberg@hotmail.com
- Norma Gilbertson at njgilber@gmail.com
- Marilyn Calcutt at merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com

If you want to order *Little Faith* by Nicholas Butler, contact Marilyn immediately. All the books are available in the Northfield Public Library.

During the summer months, the books on display will be novels, memoirs and biographies. To browse for those books on the shelves note that the novels are on the far left and memoirs and biographies are in the 900 section on the far right. There are writers who portray their 'listening for God' through characters' involvement or struggle with religion, or through Biblical allusions and quotes, and that can become the reader's own 'listening for God.'

Look for children's books displayed in the Library and on the shelves. We are so fortunate to have a collection of some of the finest of children's books. Be a 'reading-together family' and check out many books during the summer months.

Bible Study on the Book of Esther Led by Pastor Pam on Wednesday, August 21, 10:00 a.m.

Join us on Wednesday, August 21, at 10:00 a.m. The bible study will be followed by potluck salad luncheon. Bring your favorite salad, or simply bring yourself. There is always enough food for everyone.

Questions? Contact:

- Marilyn Calcutt at 507-645-2814 or merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com
- Anita Hellie at 507-301-3609 or ahellie@charter.net

News and Updates



Weekly Pub Theology Returns

Beginning on Monday, June 10, Pastors Pam and Jonathan are excited to launch weekly Pub Theology again!

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 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at **Froggy Bottoms**. Feel free to invite family and friends, neighbors, and strangers.

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

Contact Pastor Jonathan (jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org) to add your name to the email list.

News and Updates

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals opens their thirteenth season this summer. Recitals are held during the Wednesday noon hour from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. with the following schedule:

Wednesday, July 3

No Recital

Wednesday, July 10

Joanne Rodland

St. John's Lutheran Church, 500 Third St. W
Dobson Organ, II, 26 ranks

Wednesday, July 17

Brian Carson

Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College
Holtkamp Organ, III, 90 ranks

Wednesday, July 24

Noah Klein

United Methodist Church, 1401 S. Maple St.
Gabriel Kney Organ, II, 27 ranks

Wednesday, July 31

Bill Peterson (Pomona College, CA)
All Saints Episcopal, 419 Washington St.
Reuter Organ, II, 9 ranks

Wednesday, August 7

Stephen May

United Methodist Church, 1401 S. Maple St.

Wednesday, August 14

Janean Hall and Larry Archbold
Bethel Lutheran, 1321 North Ave
Holtkamp Organ, II, 13 ranks

Some recitals will include a free-will offering to defray publicity expenses.

For more information,
contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357
or email rkcollman@msn.com.

Foster Parents Needed for Kids

(May 3, 2019) - Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) is seeking foster parents for children and youth in need. If you have a special heart for children, consider becoming a foster parent.

Changes in child welfare practices and the rise of parental drug abuse have contributed to the increased need for foster families. According to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, on an average day there were approximately 10,050 children in foster care in Minnesota in 2018, up from 9,900 the previous year.

Children in foster care have experienced trauma. They need a safe home and supportive adult relationships to succeed, a key factor that helps children develop resiliency, according to Harvard University researchers.

"Foster parents provide that stable, supportive home environment, teach life skills, and model positive relationships with others. They recognize that children come from all different backgrounds and may have been raised with different values," explained Tim Ollhoff, LSS Therapeutic Foster Care program director.

Tim added that children need foster parents who can take time to listen, help them sort through problems, and establish positive relationships in the family and community. Foster parents can be single or married. Following are some of the characteristics of foster parents that serve children and youth best, according to the Minnesota Department of Human Services:

- Foster parents are flexible and can adapt to changing situations.
- Foster parents show love and care for children despite behavioral challenges.
- Foster parents are able to discipline consistently and with patience.
- Foster parents have a healthy sense of humor.

LSS Therapeutic Foster Care is a highly supportive, trauma-informed service that provides nurturing foster homes with therapeutic supports geared to the specific needs of each child. If you would like to provide stability and support to a foster child or sibling group, please contact Twin Cities area LSS Foster Care Coordinator Brianna Roskam at 612-879-5345. You can find more information on fostering with LSS Therapeutic foster care services at fostercaremn.org. Lutheran Social Service will also offer an information session on foster care on Thursday, May 16, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Ramsey County Library in Roseville.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota began in 1865 when a Lutheran pastor and his congregation opened an orphanage for children near Red Wing in southeastern Minnesota. Today, with 2,300 employees and 8,000 volunteers, Lutheran Social Service supports one in 65 Minnesotans through services that inspire hope, change lives and build community. Statewide, the organization seeks to foster safe and supportive homes for children, restore health and wellness in families, empower people with disabilities to live the lives they imagine, and promote health, independence and quality of life for older adults. For comprehensive information about the work of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, visit www.lssmn.org.

From Bread for the World: Food Insecurity



In the U.S. 11.8 percent of households - 40 million people - were food insecure in 2017. The rate for households with children continued to be significantly higher at 15.7 percent. Overall, 12.5 million children lived in food insecure households in 2017. Rates for African American and Latino households are nearly double the national rate. Data have not been released on Native Americans and Alaskan Natives.

For most people, the best solution to hunger is a good job. But the wages of low-income workers have not increased in decades. Bread for the World and its members advocate for policies that would improve job opportunities for low-income workers. Giving undocumented immigrants legal protection, for example, would allow them to get better jobs and contribute more to the U.S. economy. Similarly, providing targeted support to people returning from jail or prison and addressing employment discrimination would give formerly incarcerated individuals a chance to earn enough to provide for themselves and their families.

Federal support programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); school meals; and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program help millions of families to put food on the table every day. These programs, while critically important, are often insufficient to meet a family's nutritional needs. In any case, they are designed to meet immediate needs on a temporary basis and do not replace longer-term solutions such as living-wage jobs, affordable housing or other systemic factors affecting hunger, such as racial discrimination and gender bias. Ending food insecurity will require strong political commitment and a comprehensive approach to address hunger's root causes. (See hungerreport.org)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture measures food security on the household level and releases data annually in a report titled "Household Food Security in the United States." The 2017 report was released Sept. 5, 2018. Low food security is defined as the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate food or not knowing the source of the next meal. Very low food security is defined as disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake through such actions as cutting portion sizes or skipping meals entirely (See bread.org)

Call to Reflection on Gun Violence

The ELCA calls the church to a "60 Day Journey Toward Justice in a Culture of Gun Violence" beginning June 16 this summer. A guide to prayer, Scripture and church teaching will offer activities for each day. Paper copies will be available at church but the full guide is best accessed online at <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Addressing-Social-Concerns/60-Days>

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OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Save the Date: Night to Unite on August 6

St. John's will again be hosting our annual Night to Unite celebration. This is a part of a national program that encourages neighbors to come together on the first Tuesday in August to strengthen community and increase the safety of neighborhoods.

The celebration will include a picnic style meal along with a bouncy tent, emergency vehicle tours, vintage cars, live music, and games.

Please let Christy Hall-Holt or Angie Gehring know if you can provide/help with one of the following:

- showing/giving rides in your interesting vehicles
- singing and playing instruments or setting up music
- making and/or distributing flyers
- setting out and/or putting away chairs and tables in the parking lot

Christy Hall-Holt

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