



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 64, ISSUE 7

JULY 2024



NIGHT to UNITE!

Neighbors Joining Together

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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, and games.

Please let Angie Gehring know if you can provide/help with one of the following:

- making and/or distributing flyers
- setting out and/or putting away chairs and tables in the parking lot

Contact Angie at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429.

WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30 a.m. Sundays

LIVESTREAM

9:30 a.m. Sundays

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

RADIO BROADCASTS

9:30 a.m. Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM

kymnradio.net

TV BROADCASTS

NTV Channel 187

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

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

2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

9:30 a.m. Sundays

Livestream

9:30 a.m. Sundays
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org



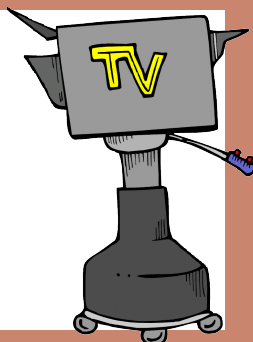
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7:30 p.m. Mondays
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2:00 p.m. Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

WELCOME STATEMENT

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

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

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

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



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

From Our Pastors

Dear Friends in Christ,

In this month of Independence Day and the celebrations that go with it, it seems like a good time to address the right relationship between our love of God and our love of country.

When you put it that way, the biblical answer seems obvious: love of God should always come before love of one's country. That doesn't mean we can't love our country – its land, its ideals, and its people – but as Christians we believe that love is formed in a certain shape, a shape which puts love of God and *all* God's creation before our particular loyalties to our own. Put another way, Christians can be patriotic to the extent that their love of country furthers their love of neighbor; nationalism, which assigns second-class status to people beyond one's country or in-group, prevents us from growing in love of neighbor.

Presiding Bishop Eaton recently endorsed a joint religious statement Christian nationalism, a phenomenon that has always been around but recently is claiming more space in our public life. The statement explains:

Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and national identities, distorting both the Christian faith and America's constitutional democracy. Christian nationalism demands Christianity be privileged by the State and implies that to be a good American, one must be Christian. It often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation. We reject this damaging political ideology and invite our Christian brothers and sisters to join us in opposing this threat to our faith and to our nation.
(ChristiansAgainstChristianNationalism.org)

Bishop Eaton further states:

"Christian nationalism identifies a human government with God's will and seeks privilege for Christians from the state. Lutherans teach that government should held accountable to God, but never identified with God's will."

The ELCA is continuing to develop its social statement on Faith and Civic Life, and encourages us all to engage in public life in ways that contribute to the welfare of our communities. But as Lutherans we are always mindful that good things like love and loyalty can be distorted by sin. When loyalty becomes idolatry, it is sin. When we identify human leaders and systems too closely with God's universal purposes, our faith is distorted. The statement against Christian nationalism and the ELCA's teachings urge us to reject ideologies that too easily identify our global faith with a narrow political ideology or particular ethnic perspective.

Being Christian and being American are not synonymous. This is why we don't sing national songs at St. John's. But we do pray for our nation, and others.

Continued on page 4

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis

Prayer and Care Ministry

Prayer Chain:

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



St. John's Congregation Helps Improve Comfort and Safety of Homeless Shelter Residents

The staff and residents of Ruth's House of Hope thank the St. John's congregation for their generosity in funding the purchase of new air conditioners for the shelter. Twelve AC units have been installed in the nine resident bedrooms and three offices.

We purchased an energy efficient model that uses ultra efficient inverter technology. They were easy to install and are attractive, smaller, adjustable to fit the windows better and match the color of window sashes. They're also much quieter and have an air flow of up to 20 feet. Rooms are much more comfortable and the problem of blown fuses has been eliminated. It's still too early to know what energy savings will be.

A couple of residents comment:

Resident M - *"It is nice to walk into the house and have it cool when it is 90 degrees out and 100% humidity. I also like the air conditioner because it provides some white noise that helps me to fall asleep".*

Resident J - *" I like coming home from a long day at work helping others and turning my air conditioner on and my room cools so fast! Within minutes I am nice and cool and can prioritize what I have to do for the rest of the night. I also live on the third floor, which is always hot, but when I go into my room it is nice and cool. This air conditioner is very quiet.*

Your generosity has increased our comfort and safety significantly. Thank you for making the lives of our residents and staff better!

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

This month we will sing again:

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine

This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine

But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as high and true as mine

... So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a prayer for peace, for their land and for mine.

(This is My Song ELW 887)

Sustaining Grace

Capital Campaign Update

We did it!

We're pleased to announce, with tremendous gratitude, that our congregation has not only met the ambitious campaign goal of \$750,000, we have surpassed it, with total gifts and pledges totaling over \$1,050,000. Your generosity will allow us to accelerate investments in renewable energy, updating our facility, and extend greater benevolence into our community.



We're done!

Well, not quite yet. Good work lies ahead – things like determining the best long-term plans for the new parking lot, and installing, inspecting, and turning on our solar array (work began on Wednesday, June 12 – we hope to be capturing our own electricity by mid-August). We also have terrific opportunities to consider additional benevolence projects and other enhancements to our buildings.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has donated or pledged to this campaign – and if you'd still like to contribute, you can rest assured that your gifts will be devoted to sustaining grace within and beyond our church walls.

Weekly Pub Theology



This summer we will walk through the topics of Sam Wells' 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 tendifficult 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.

We will meet on Mondays from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at **various locations**.

Note: We will not meet Mondays, July 1 and 8.

If you would like to be added to our Pub Theology e-mail list, please reach out to Pastor Jonathan at jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

Life and Growth

Deaths

June 9, 2024
Connie Gunderson

June 10, 2024
Winnifred Alberg



Radio Broadcasts in May

June 2, 2024
Given by Gordie and Dodie Mickelsen
in celebration of
their 70th wedding anniversary.

June 9, 2024
Given in memory of Ed and Gen Sovik,
Martin Sovik, and Arne Sovik.
Twins Ed and Arne shared a June 9 birthday.

June 16, 2024
Given in memory of Louis & Lucille Vang,
Lana Hammer, and Harold Vang
by Kathy Vang.

June 23, 2024
Given by
Anthony Becker and Rebecca Judge.

June 30, 2024
Given by Steve Volkert
in celebration of Pete and Charleen Volkert's
wedding anniversary.

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

Summer Fun Events for Youth

Coming up for youth
from St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's:

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

Who: All Youth (Grades 6-12)

When: Wednesday, July 24, 3:00-6:30 p.m.

Where: We'll carpool from Bethel



What: Romans & Christians

Who: All Youth (Grades 6-12)

When: Wednesday, August 21,
evening - timing TBA

Where: St. John's

Summer Food Shelf Pop-Up Help

Youth and their adults can help stock shelves
at the CAC Food Shelf on most Thursdays
this summer with Kristin.

Each week we need 1-3 folks to help out.
Rising 6th graders and older. Interested?



Registration is now open for St. John's Children and Youth Programs for the 2024-2025 School Year

Check out St. John's website at: stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/. Click on "Children" or "Youth" to find out more about the programs available. Register by using this QR code or click on "Register" on our website.



Feed My Starving Children

Youth from St. John's, St. Peter's, and Bethel drove up to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children on June 20.



Senior Recognition Sunday

Sixteen high school seniors were recognized in worship on Sunday, June 2. Each graduate was presented with a quilt and celebrated with their families and staff at a luncheon afterwards.



Fun at VBS This Year!

We had a wonderful week at VBS this summer with the theme, "Camp Firelight"! Thank you to Bethel Lutheran Church and the Children's Ministry Director, Brenda Rabbe, for collaborating with St. John's this year.

And, thank you to our wonderful VBS volunteers from St. John's: Stephanie Bennett, Madelynn Bennett, Lauren Blumhoefer, Jonathan Davis, Charlotte De Vries, Kristi Harms, Arielle Loy, Imogen Jackman, Marin McBroom, Izzy Rudser, Maddy Rudser, and Greta Skoglund.



Looking ahead to September...

September 11: Orientation for Wednesday programming for Children and Youth

September 8: Worship changes to 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

September 15: Sunday morning programs begin

September 18: Wednesday after school programs begin

News and Updates

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals opens their seventeenth 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

James Bobb

Boe Memorial Chapel, St. Olaf College

Wednesday, July 10

Jay Zoller

St. John's Lutheran Church, 500 Third St. W

Wednesday, July 17

Richard Collman

Skinner Chapel, Carleton College

Wednesday, July 24

John Schultz

Bethel Lutheran Church, 1321 North Ave.

Wednesday, July 31

Joanne Rodland and Donna Paulsen

United Methodist Church, 1401 S. Maple St.

Wednesday, August 7

Noah Klein

Valley Grove Lutheran
9999 155th St. E, Nerstrand

Wednesday, August 14

Stephen May

First United Church of Christ
300 Union St.

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

Come to the Movies!

You are invited to St. John's for the premiere showing of the new Disney Descendants movie "The Rise of Red".

Peder Lindell, son of Erik and Sally Lindell, is one of the cast members and will be at St. John's for the showing.

When: Saturday, July 13

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Snacks will be served. Hope to see you at the movies!



Second Summer Choir Invitation

Our very first Summer Choir in June was great! We had almost 40 people join us that morning and welcomed several new voices to the balcony. We are going to do one more summer choir opportunity on August 18, where you can come sing with your friends or 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.

Questions? Contact Nathan Proctor at music@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



Fruit Sunday on July 28 Following Worship in St. John's Hall

Do you enjoy indulging in desserts that feature fruit or a combination of fruits? Do you love to bake or create delectable fruit sweets such as cobblers, pies, cakes, bars, crisps, tarts, cookies, or sorbet? Fruit

Fruit Sunday is July 28th!



Sunday provides the opportunity for both!

Sign up to bring a favorite fruit dessert of your choosing (homemade or store-bought) to share with everyone and/or show up hungry and ready to eat! Join in the fun of sampling mouth watering treats while visiting with friends and perhaps even swapping recipes! Watch for the sign-up poster and CCB link in the E-Voice and Sunday bulletins coming this July to get involved in helping with this scrumptious event!

Questions? Contact Angie at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429.

Out'n About: Conversations with Minnesotans July 22

The next Out'n About Speaker Event will be held on Monday, July 22, in St. John's Hall from 9:00-11:30 a.m.

The first speaker of the day will be Deeann Lufkin one of the founder of CannonBelle Cheese from Kenyon. Deeann is a retired Air Force Reserve Weather Officer and her last assignment was with the Hurricane Hunters. She is now making CannonBelle Cheese and there will be opportunities to taste this cheese at our event.

The second speaker is Sally Sudo who was born to Japanese parents in Seattle in 1935 and turned six around the time of the Pearl Harbor bombing. She will share her memories of the forced relocation to Japanese internment in Idaho.

Register for this July 22 event by emailing outnabout022@gmail.com or calling 507-301-9094. Cost is \$15 and payable the day of the event (cash or check only). The \$15 include speaker, coffee/treats, and Hideaway Vault bag lunch.

News and Updates

St. John's Seraphs Summer Softball Team

Join the fun! Come cheer our team on!

Here is the upcoming schedule:

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

the WOMEN'S page

June Field Trip to Global Health Ministries

By Margie O'Loughlin

Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Mid Summer meet up
August 3, 4:30
Fairfield Inn

Women's Breakfast Group

Second Saturday 9:00a
June, July, August
Fireside Room

Elizabeth Circle

Lydia & Paul Circle

Mary Circle

Wellspring

Off for Summer
See you in September

Knitters (World Vision)

Night Knitters!

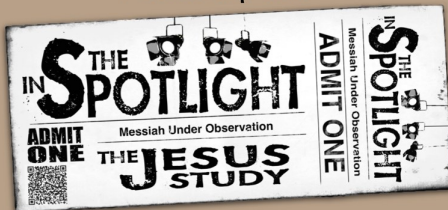
Off for Summer
See you in September

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

See bulletin for Summer dates
2nd & 4th Thursday
10:00am St. John's Library

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays, 9:00a - noon,
Fellowship Hall



July Schedule: 11, 18, 25

August Schedule: 1, 15, 22, 29

Thursdays, 9:00 am

Zdenek's home

2121 Ontario Ln

Zoom available on request:
women.stjohns500@gmail.com



Seven of us set off on an adventure the morning of June 6th to Global Health Ministries in Fridley. We loaded up two vehicles with quilts, knit baby blankets, bags of rolled bandages, and hospice kits.

Located in an industrial area, the 12,000 square foot GHM warehouse is a lively place. There were upwards of 50 dedicated volunteers working today; the woman who helped me pack quilts for shipping said she'd hardly missed a Tuesday morning shift in 16 years.

GHM is a non-profit organization that strengthens health systems around the world by providing medical equipment and supplies, supporting community-based primary health care programs, and consulting on administrative and leadership development. GHM is at work in India, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and 10 African countries. Through their networks, they distribute much-needed relief to Lutheran churches managing hospitals and clinics in under-resourced areas.



After signing in and getting our bearings, we split up according to interests for our two-hour volunteer shifts. Jane fine-tuned her hospice kit-making skills. Each hospice kit contains supplies for end-of-life comfort care including a wash cloth and towel, comb, petroleum jelly, rubber gloves, a nail clipper, and band aids wrapped in a pillow case.

The warehouse manager showed Pam how to fill medical supply orders from the floor-to-ceiling shelves of inventory. Partner clinics and hospitals submit requests for items needed to GHM. The items are boxed and sent by container ship to ports around the world.



Retired nurses Gerri & Marie, sorted medical supplies together.



The warehouse manager shared a story with us as we were leaving. He'd asked a mission doctor recently which supplies he most appreciated. Surprisingly it wasn't expensive medical equipment, but boxes of gauze bandages. These are in such short supply that the gauze bandages are washed and reused, on average, seven times before they start to fall apart.

Our earth is such a crowded place, with resources distributed so unevenly. Whether you're an active participant in one of St. John's crafting groups or not, consider joining a future field trip to GHM. Watch The Voice for information about an opportunity this fall.

Our volunteer group left to right: Marie, Margie, Mary, Nancy, Jane, Pam, and Gerri.



First UCC Hosts Speaker on Palestine

On Monday, July 8, at 10:00 a.m., at First UCC, join a discussion with Jeff Halper on what is going on in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel today and what should happen tomorrow. Sponsored by Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel. Coffee and other refreshments will be served. This even is free and open to the public.

Jeff Halper is an Israeli-American Jew, an anti-colonial anthropologist, who has been teaching in Israel since 1973, and is the head of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD). His latest book is Decolonizing Israel, Liberating Palestine: Zionism, Settler Colonialism and the Case for One Democratic State (London: Pluto, 2021). To review a recent article, go to: <https://www.counterpunch.org/2024/01/24/belligerents-or-criminals-terrorism-in-a-world-without-peaceful-redress/?utm>

Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (August 2024 Edition):

July 15

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

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.

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

News and Updates

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

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Facility Manager

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jubilatechoir@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir Director and

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David Sims and Will Fecko - Directors of

Rejoice Ringers

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WEBSITE

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OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Summer Worship Schedule

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

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 8.

