



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 7

JULY 2026



Join us at Oddfellows Park  
1016 Forest Avenue

**NEW TIME: 4-6 p.m.**

All ages are welcome.  
Bring friends!  
Food & drinks provided.

Games include water games,  
cornhole, frisbee...

Hosted by the Adult Ministry  
and Education Board

## Inside this issue:

- 2 St. John's YouTube Channel
- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 Pub Theology in July
- 6 VBS/Summer Camp Options for  
Preschool-Grade 5
- 6 Registration for Children and  
Youth Programs in 2026-2027
- 7 New Director of Ministry with  
Youth & Families
- 8 Courageous Conversations  
2026-2027 Season
- 10 Summer Choir Invitation

## Thank You and Farewell for Kristin Partlo, Director of Ministry with Youth & Families Sunday, July 12, 10:30 a.m. St. John's Hall

Join us for a reception thanking Kristin Partlo for her three years of ministry with St. John's.



Kristin will be departing at the end of July to begin her pastoral internship at United Lutheran Church in Red Wing. Kristin has been a candidate for the ministry of Word and Sacrament and has only this last requirement to complete before ordination.

Kristin will be preaching at the 9:30 a.m. worship service, and afterwards we will gather in St. John's Hall to give thanks for her ministry with stories... and cake!

WORSHIP SERVICES  
Sundays  
9:30 a.m.

RADIO BROADCASTS  
9:30 a.m. Sundays  
KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM  
kymnradio.net

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

## Join Us for Worship!

### Summer 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. Sunday  
KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM  
[kymnradio.net](http://kymnradio.net)



### Video

St. John's YouTube Channel  
[www.youtube.com/@StJohnsNorthfield](http://www.youtube.com/@StJohnsNorthfield)



## [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,

*Six days a week we wrestle with the world, wringing profit from the earth; on the Sabbath we especially care for the seed of eternity planted in the soul. The world has our hands, but our soul belongs to Someone Else.*

– Abraham Heschel

During my pastoral internship many years ago, I remember listening to a group of pastors talk about how they thought about sabbath. Some of them were very disciplined about taking a day off, others stated they tried to be more flexible about their time based on their parish's needs. But one member of the group was adamant that Sundays were our sabbath; worship, he insisted, was the time when we rest with God's people, feeding on the word and the supper. He was insistent that the fact that we had responsibilities to lead worship should not mean that we think of it as work.

I could appreciate the beauty of this sentiment. I mean, I do have many moments on Sunday morning when I am fed in my spirit – by my colleague's preaching, by Nathan's leadership at the organ, by the beauty of the community gathered together. And, let's be honest. Leading takes energy. I usually need a nap on Sunday afternoons.

Pastors preach about sabbath, about the gift and command that believers rest on a regular basis; but we aren't always very good about modeling that rhythm. And the fact that about 48 weekends a year are spoken for is a commitment that affects the whole of a family's life too.

Pastoral sabbaticals are not just a recognition that pastors work hard; they are a way that the church chooses to live in the rhythm of God's care. While a pastor is away, doing some professional learning but also just being a human, the congregation also gets the space to move a little differently. Lay leaders can step up; some things might just go fallow for a few weeks; new voices can refresh how we hear the word.

I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to step away from late this month until October 18. My time will be a mix of learning, family connections, and renewing time with friends.

Starting July 24, I'll be doing conversational Spanish immersion at Proyecto Linguistico Quetzalteco in Xela, Guatemala. My 24-year-old daughter will be studying with me, and my husband will join us for the final week.

In August, all four of our immediate family will be hiking and exploring in the Oaxaca region of Mexico for one week.

In September, my parents celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Also in September, I'll be attending a reunion of the friends with whom I shared a house in the Lutheran Volunteer Corps 35 years ago.

In between events I'll be around Northfield. Don't hesitate to say hello – just know that I won't want to talk church for these 12 weeks. Pastor Jon will be my "filter" for any news that might come up that needs sharing before I return.

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](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 or 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.

# Stephen Ministry: Q&A

**How do I know whether a Stephen Minister might be appropriate for me or someone I am concerned about?**

If you are looking for a caring, confidential friend with whom you or that person can talk about the stresses of life, a Stephen Minister might be helpful. Common issues Stephen Ministers deal with include: the loss of a friend or loved one, illness, loneliness, moving, and a new baby.

**How are Stephen Ministers assigned?**

Assignments are based on who among Stephen Ministers currently without care receivers would be the best match for the individual. Care receivers are always assigned to a Stephen Minister of the same gender.

**How long will a care giver/care receiver relationship last?**

It depends on what the care receiver needs; every relationship is different. Some pairs meet for weeks and others meet for years.

**Do Stephen Ministers meet with couples?**

No. A Stephen Minister is a listening friend to one person. If both people in a relationship could benefit from a listening friend, both can request individual Stephen Ministers.

**Can I request a Stephen Minister for my teenager?**

Stephen Ministers pair with adults; they are not assigned to teenagers. To explore resources for teenagers, contact one of the pastors.

**Will I receive a Stephen Minister with expertise in my problem?**

Possibly although not necessarily. Care givers receive 50 hours of training on a wide variety of topics, but they are not professional therapists or counselors. What you receive from a Stephen Minister is a caring friend who walks with you and supports you as you work through the issues you are facing.

**How do I request a Stephen Minister?**

To request a Stephen Minister, please contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

Thank you so much for supporting your pastors with a sabbatical policy. Right now I can't wait for July 24 to come, but I know I'll be equally eager to return to this good work in October.

With joy and love,  
*Pastor Pam*

## Pub Theology in July

What is Pub Theology?



It is a 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 meet on Mondays, July 6 and July 20, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Flaherty's Northfield Lanes.

Topics vary and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the E-Voice, and in an email list.

If you'd like to be added to the Pub Theology email list, contact Pastor Jonathan at ([jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org))

### Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (August 2026 Edition):

July 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.

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

June 11, 2026

Carol V. Johnson



### Radio Broadcasts

June 7, 2026

Given by friends of St. John's.

June 14, 2026

Given in memory of Howard Thorsheim by David and Martha Brown.

June 21, 2026

Given in memory of Cora Koester (Vern's mom) by Vern and Joan Koester

June 28, 2026

Given in celebration of Lydia Quanbeck Moe's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by her 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](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org).



## Children and Youth

### Youth Can Help at the CAC Food Shelf Tuesdays, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

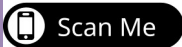
Summer is a great time to volunteer!

Sign up for a shift or two this summer with a friend or two, a parent, or on your own.

Up to three people can sign up each Tuesday.

If you have never worked at the food shelf, this is a great way to learn what it's like. Those of us who have volunteered the last two years have had a lot of fun helping our Northfield neighbors in a crucial service.

Scan the QR Code to sign up.



## Good Earth Village Brings the Fun of Summer Camp to Northfield!

When: August 3-6, 8:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Who: Kids completing grades K-5

Where: Bethel Lutheran Church

Cost: \$70 / camper (scholarships available)



Want to give your kids a faith-filled camp experience – without leaving Northfield? Good Earth Village Day Camp brings the energy, joy, and spiritual impact of summer camp to us!

GEV summer staff lead a week of songs, Bible study, worship, crafts, games, and connection—all designed to help children grow in faith, friendship, and love for the church. We are teaming up with Bethel, St. Peter's, and United Methodist Churches.

Register online at: <https://goodearthvillage.org/bethel-northfield/>

### Summer Camp for PreK too! Snowball Mountain Challenge! (VBS)

Who: For kids age 3 by 9/1/26 – age 5

When: August 3-6, 9:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m.

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church

Cost: \$15/Child, Max of \$30/Family

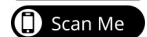
(Please let Julie know if you need help with the cost.)



Hosted by St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter's Lutheran Churches and United Methodist Church.

- **We need volunteers 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 for VBS**

Scan to QR Code to Register



Youth are welcome to help too!

If you are interested, please contact

Julie Brehmer, [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

## Registration for 2026-2027

Registration is officially open for St. John's youth programming next year, 2026-2027. Get signed up now so you don't need to worry about it in August.

Check out St. John's website at: [stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/](http://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.



## New Director of Ministry with Youth & Families Update

We are very excited to share that we have hired a new Director of Ministry with Youth and Families!

Nick Gilbert, currently from Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, MN, will be joining our staff on July 20th. Nick has 14 years of youth ministry experience, with a significant focus in developing leadership among youth. We found Nick to have a relaxed and calming presence with a highly relational personality. We are really excited to welcome him to the team!

Many, many thanks to our hiring committee: Eden Kaiser, Alysa Toov, Suzy Taggart, and Peter Becker Nelson, along with a few youth - Micah Hassanally, Charlotte Cox, and August Randall. This was many, many hours of work and I am so grateful for all that they put into this process.

Here's a little more info about Nick:



Nick Gilbert grew up in Shoreview, MN. He was raised in the Lutheran Church at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Circle Pines. After spending 2 years at the University of Minnesota, he discovered his passion for youth ministry and transferred to Bethel University where he received his Bachelor's degree in Youth Ministry in 2012. Nick loves to find new

and creative ways to present faith in a relatable fashion. Nick is known for his love of games (board, video, card, etc.) his extensive knowledge of movies and TV shows, and his easy-going nature. Nick lives in South Saint Paul with his wife, Cassandra, and their dog Luna. Cassandra is an early childhood educator at Visitation School in Mendota Heights.

I hope you will help us in giving Nick a very warm welcome when he arrives in July!

Of course, this excitement is mixed with many emotions as we give thanks for Kristin Partlo and her ministry over the past three years. We will have a chance to show our appreciation for Kristin on Sunday, July 12, and she will be with us on staff through Sunday, July 26.

## 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 28

8:20 p.m., Babcock  
*St. John's vs. St. Dominic White*

#### Sunday, July 5

No Game

#### Sunday, July 12

6:00 p.m., Sechler 1  
*St. John's vs. Emmaus*

#### Sunday, July 19

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

#### Sunday, July 26

6:00 p.m., Sechler 1  
*St. John's vs. Northfield Community Church*

#### Sunday, August 2

7:10 p.m., Sechler 1  
*St. John's vs. The River*

#### Sunday, August 9

*Make Up Week or Just for Fun Tournament*  
*\*\*If this is a makeup week,*  
*the Just for Fun Tournament moves*  
*to Sunday, August 16.*



# the WOMEN'S page

# July 2026



**Global Health Ministries**

**HELP BUILD A BABY KIT...or Two...or Three!**  
 Sunday, August 2  
 10:30 - St. John's Hall

The whole congregation is invited to join in on this fun, as we assemble 200 infant kits to help Global Health Ministries reach their goal of 20,000 kits this year. All materials will be provided. Each kit has 6 items, so it shouldn't take us long if we all pitch in and help!



Newborn Kits

## SIX ST. JOHN'S WOMEN ARE WELCA TRIENNIAL BOUND

Andi Carlson, Jo Franklin, Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Mary Hoff, Jane Rinehart, and Julie Zdenek will be attending the national WELCA Triennial in Des Moines July 16-19. It is a time to connect, learn, get inspired, worship together and just have a great time! Julie and Mary are first time attendees and were awarded grants from St. John's WELCA to attend. The September & October Women's Pages will feature some of the highlights of the conference.



**The Best Deal in Town!**



On the first Sunday of each month, you'll find Dawn Tommerdahl and Mary Ellen North outside St. John's Hall selling Equal Exchange items. Check out the prices! You can save lots of money by buying them there rather than on-line or in local stores.

Here's a sampling of some of our prices compared to others:

**Equal Exchange Coffee -**  
 St. John's WELCA - \$8.00 - \$10.00  
 Local markets - \$13.00

**Equal Exchange Chocolate -**  
 St. John's WELCA \$4.00  
 Local markets \$5.69

**Thistle Farms handsoap -**  
 St. John's WELCA - \$9.00  
 On-line \$14.99 plus shipping

**Thistle Farms hand lotion -**  
 St. John's WELCA - \$9.00  
 On-line \$15 plus shipping



**COURAGEOUS**

**CONVERSATIONS**

**THE TIME IS NOW**

The time is NOW for supporting our neighbors: for building coalitions, for strengthening nonviolent resistance, and for protecting the earth. In our ninth year, Courageous Conversations speakers will continue to share their wisdom on how to build community that is more peaceable and just-for all. We welcome you wholeheartedly to join our conversations.

**Our Courageous Conversations team is excited to present the theme for our 2026-2027 season:**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. -Romans 13:11 NRSV

**COURAGEOUS**

**CONVERSATIONS**



"We are faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now." MLK, Jr.

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." Mother Theresa.

# Ruth's House

We continue to support Ruth's House and Sara's House every month. Donate items in the bin at church or on your own.

- Laundry detergent
- Household Cleaners
- Toilet paper
- Tissues
- Paper towels
- Twin size bedding
- Twin size mattress protectors
- New pillows

Sights you might see on Thursday mornings from 9:00-12:00.



*Come, join in the fun supporting local and world wide venues with our cozy beauties!*



**Web pages:** [www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women](http://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women)

**Contact:** [women.stjohns500@gmail.com](mailto:women.stjohns500@gmail.com)



**Like us & Friend us on Facebook:**

"Women of St. Johns" @ Kvinner St. Johns

## News and Updates

### Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals opens their nineteenth 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 8**

Nathan Proctor  
St. John's Lutheran Church

**Wednesday, July 15**

Students of the Lutheran Summer Music Academy  
Christiansen Music Hall, Studio A.  
St. Olaf College

**Wednesday, July 22**

Noah Klein  
First United Church of Christ  
300 Union St.

**Wednesday, July 29**

Richard Collman  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
418 E. Sumner St.

**Wednesday, August 5**

Megan Engel  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
1321 North Ave.

**Wednesday, August 12**

Stephen May  
Skinner Memorial Chapel, Carleton College

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

For more information, contact Richard Collman at 507-645-1357 or email [rcollman@msn.com](mailto:rcollman@msn.com)

## Summer Choir Invitation

This summer you are invited to two summer choir opportunities. Come join your friends or try out the 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, July 19
- Sunday, August 23

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



### Free Summer Concerts: Lutheran Summer Music Festival Season

Lutheran Summer Music is thrilled to announce its 2026 season, featuring over 40 free concerts, recitals, and worship services open to the public.

Hosted at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, through July 19, this season offers a vibrant lineup of musical experiences, also shared online via Live from LSM—bringing this summer's transformational work to audiences around the world.

Highlights this season include a guest appearance by [Cantus](#), a series of events dedicated to the music of J.S. Bach — in the [St. Matthew Passion](#) — and music celebrating the United States Semiquincentennial.

View all events and reserve free tickets at [LSMacademy.org/calendar](https://LSMacademy.org/calendar).

## Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is a great way to support the on-going ministry of St. John's, even when you are out of town or unable to worship in person. To sign up for electronic giving, contact Leah in the church office at 507-645-4429, or by email: [office@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:office@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

"I give electronically" cards are available in the pew racks, so you can show your support during the Sunday morning offering.



## Summer Ushers

Having ushers is so important to our worship at St. John's! There are many ways one can serve their church community, and this is one of those ways in which help is now needed, as a few of our ushers are absent for the summer months. Please consider if you can help usher a couple of times this summer for our 9:30 a.m. worship. You will be with others who are experienced who will guide you. It isn't difficult, and will be greatly appreciated.

**What Exactly Do Ushers Do?** These important, yet easy tasks: lighting and distinguishing candles in the Sanctuary, ringing the big bell 5 minutes before worship begins, passing out bulletins as people arrive, assisting those who need help finding a seat, counting people in the Sanctuary for the attendance sheet, passing the collection plate during the offering, dismissing people from the pews for communion, tidying up the pews after worship.

Contact Angie at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org) if you are interested. Thank you!

## St. John's Staff

### 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)

### Music Ministry

*Nathan Proctor*

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

### Music Staff

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

*Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir Director and  
Early Childhood Specialist*

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

*David Sims - Director of Rejoice Ringers*

### Office Manager / Finance Manager

*Leah H. Garlie*

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

### Faith Community Nurse

*Sally Lindell*

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

### Shared Ministry Coordinator

*Angie Gehring*

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

### Custodian Associate

*Arturo Rosas*

### Facility Manager

*Steve Harner*

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

### Congregation President

*Paul Beck*

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



# St. John's

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[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



The Church Office and  
Building will be closed on  
Friday, July 3,  
and  
Saturday, July 4.