



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 63, ISSUE 7

NOVEMBER 2023



## ECUMENICAL SERVICE

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### Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship

The 3 ELCA congregations of Northfield will again join together for worship on Wednesday, November 22. We will gather at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m. for a service of the word.

Our joint offerings will benefit the food shelf of the Community Action Center, and the Racial Equity Fund of the Minnesota Council of Churches, designated especially for indigenous communities in greater Minnesota.

A pop-up choir will sing two pieces. Any singers are welcome to join in by coming at 5:30 p.m. to rehearse together.

Pie fellowship will follow the service. Come Ye Thankful People Come!

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

*See Page 2*

#### LIVESTREAM

8:30 & 10:45 a.m.

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

#### RADIO BROADCASTS

8:30 a.m. Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM

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

#### TV BROADCASTS

NTV Channel 187

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

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

2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

## Join Us for Worship!

### Worship Services

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

### Livestream

8:30 a.m. Sundays  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)



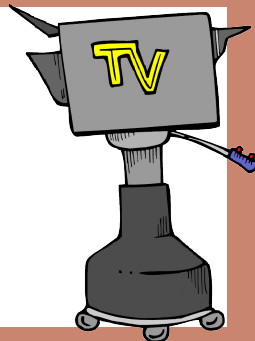
### Radio Broadcasts

8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays  
KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM  
[kymnradio.net](http://kymnradio.net)



### TV Broadcasts

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



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

### WELCOME STATEMENT

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

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

*We warmly welcome you here.*

### Blessing Box at St. John's

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



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

## From Our Pastors

*And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25*

I get asked all the time, “How have things changed since 2020 for your congregation?”

Most days, I think it might still be too early to answer that question. As we have seen a new surge of COVID this fall, it’s clear that for some people in our community, COVID-19 continues to disrupt life, even though it is less frightening for most of us than before.

The biggest change for many of us has been how we gather. For St. John’s, the pandemic didn’t mark the first time we had people listening to worship remotely. Our partnership with KYMN was long a lifeline for those who are homebound in our congregation. But over the course of 2020-2021, livestreaming became the regular point of connection for most of our congregation. And now, thanks to our fantastic A/V team that volunteer many hours of time to make Sundays and funerals available to others, it continues to be an option.

But we shouldn’t assume that having another option has no larger effect on the life of the congregation, or that it is all positive. As livestreaming becomes more *an* option rather than the *only* option for most of us, we have to ask: How is virtual worship different?

From a planning perspective, here are a few things we worship leaders have noticed:

### **It is more difficult to incorporate silence into remote worship.**

When we are all in the same room, just breathing, silence can feel worshipful and profound. But we know that on the radio or livestream, that stillness can feel odd, even “dead.” As people of prayer who can’t always put our longing for God into words, this feels like a loss.

### **Remote worship can lead us to believe that we are only recipients, rather than participants in God’s word.**

We are grateful for those of you who let us know that you are listening on Sundays from wherever you are – or after Sunday by “catching up” online. But for those who are present on Sunday mornings, your absence in the room is felt. You may not realize how much we as preachers and presiders need your nonverbal feedback and supportive presence in the room. You participate even when you are not at a microphone!

### **Remote worship does not challenge us to be mindful of our neighbors.**

OK, we know this might feel like a relief. Gathering with a lot of other people, including many you don’t know, can be uncomfortable. Odors, sounds, and movements of others can be hard to ignore. But we are not called by God to ignore our neighbors. God is not more pleased when you tune others out to focus on the Word. God calls us together – to listen, yes, but also to love and serve each other in the flesh.

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 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."*

November 10, 2022  
Elaine Feroe



## Stephen Ministry News

On October 3 a new group of St. John's members began six months of training to be caregivers for adults in our congregation and community. Eight women and two men will spend approximately 50 hours developing the skills and acquiring the tools they will use to be present with and support individuals in various difficult situations - from a sense of aloneness to facing serious illness or death. Next spring, following commissioning, they will join with St. John's current Stephen Ministers to be paired with care receivers referred by a pastor.

If you or someone you know is in pain or struggling with a past decision or a challenge ahead and might benefit from time with a Stephen Minister, contact one of our pastors at 507-645-4429.

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

We will continue to offer livestreaming and radio, and we are so grateful that those who *need* to connect remotely can. .... AND, we hope you will join us in person, as often as you can. Your presence, your *matter* matters!

Peace and love,

*Pastor Pam*



## 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.

*Elaine Feroe  
 Jerry Bothun  
 Gordon Jorgenson  
 Ruth Hansen  
 Steve Nelson  
 Katie Creighton  
 Gloria Porter  
 Gerhard Knutson  
 Bill Talen  
 Jennifer Bothun  
 Tom Fjelde  
 Ronald Detlie  
 Jaron Johnson  
 Gary Hagen  
 Jean Schrader  
 Max Williams  
 Ann Ness  
 Evelyn Estenson  
 Rev. David Hurtt  
 Jim Bronson  
 Rev. John Quam  
 John Barber  
 Betty Stromseth  
 Lester Gunderson*

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

*Levi Ryan Little*

## Life and Growth

### Baptisms

September 17, 2023  
*Levi Ryan Little*  
 son of *Beth Hodnefield & Ethan Little*

### Deaths

September 24, 2023  
*Jim Bronson*

October 4, 2023  
*Rev. John E. Quam*

October 7, 2023  
*John Barber*

October 15, 2023  
*Betty Stromseth*

October 22, 2023  
*Lester Gunderson*



## Radio Broadcasts in October

### October 1, 2023

Given by Ruth Ann and Van Miller in memory of Teddy Anne Miller.

### October 8, 2023

Given by Imogene Nelson and family.

### October 15, 2023

Given by Mark and Terry Rydberg in celebration and gratitude for 50 years of marriage.

### October 22, 2023

Given in memory of Mary Beth Bremer by John Bremer.

### October 29, 2023

Given by Merilyn Calcutt in memory of her daughter, Lori.

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

### Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember

Sunday School Schedule  
November 5, 12, 19  
*No Sunday School November 26*

Wednesday After School Schedule  
November 1, 8, 15, 29  
*No Wednesday Programs  
November 22 - Thanksgiving Break*

PJ Movie Morning  
Monday, November 6  
Details in the Article on Page 6

Advent Fair  
Wednesday, November 29, 5:15-7:00 p.m.  
Details in the Article on page 10

Sunday School Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 17  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service  
Details in the Article on page 7

### Annual Northfield All ELCA Gathering for Middle & High School Youth and Parents Wednesday, Nov. 1, 6:15-7:15 p.m. Bethel Lutheran Church

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 details coming soon, but for now, know that our speaker will be Louis Epstein and we will enjoy music from Louis & Dan and the Invisible Band.

## Come in your PJs to Movie Morning!

Kids 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Julie know if you can lend a hand.



## Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/23) are invited to join our PreK-K Sunday school class for Toddler Time. Jenny Nystrom leads the children in song, games, crafts and story time.

Toddler Time meets at 9:45 a.m. in Room 14 (lower level). November's Toddler Time is Sunday, November 12.



## 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](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429, if you have questions. Our thanks to you in advance!



## Tenth Graders Affirm their Baptism

On Sunday, October 15, the 10<sup>th</sup> graders retreated to prepare for their affirmation of baptism. Pictured above are, from top left, Owen Brownlee, Sam Froehle, Kate Sand, Kristin Partlo, (front row) John Malecha, Kailee Little, Osiris Perez (not pictured Syd Swedin).

On Sunday, October 29, these 10<sup>th</sup> graders affirmed their baptism at the 10:45 a.m. service.



## Let's Go Bowling!

Monday, November 6 is a **NO SCHOOL DAY** so we're heading to the bowling alley!

**Who:** Grades 6-12, Friends are always welcome!

**Where:** Flaherty Northfield Lanes, Hwy 3, Northfield

**When:** Monday, November 6 - **NO SCHOOL!**

**Time:** 12:00–2:00 p.m.

**Cost:** \$12.00/youth for 2 games and shoe rental

Please sign up online or on the bulletin board in the Commons or downstairs by the Youth Room.

Parents: Please drop off and pick up at the bowling alley. If your youth need a ride or financial assistance to participate, give Kristin a call at 507-645-4429. Parent or high school chaperones are needed and much appreciated.

## Children and Youth

### St. John's Children's Christmas Program Sunday, December 17

St. John's Children's Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 17, at the 10:45 a.m. service.

The program, "The Christmas Gift" is performed by children in preschool–grade 5.

If your child is unable to participate please notify his/her teacher or email Julie Brehmer at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

### Solos or Ensembles for the Christmas Program

Sunday school children are welcome to participate in providing music during the offering for the Sunday School Christmas program on December 17.

We welcome solos or ensembles, short instrumental or vocal pieces. Please sign-up in the lower Commons or email Julie at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) if your child is interested in participating.



# Gatherings

## Baby Boomers

Saturday, Nov. 4, 4:30-6:00  
Carol Breimhorst's home  
424 Brand Ave., Faribault

Women's Breakfast Group  
Saturday, Nov 11., 9:00am  
St. John's Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle  
Thursday, Nov. 9, 1:30pm  
St. John's Library

Lydia Circle  
Wednesday, Nov. 8, 9:00am  
Coffee and Conversation  
10:00 Bible Study  
St. John's Library

Mary Circle  
Friday, Nov. 10, 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's home  
414 Waterwheel Dr. Dundas

New Night Knitters!  
1st & 3rd Wednesday  
6:00pm, St. John's Library

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

## COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

Thursday, November 2nd 7:00pm

Please join us for our November 2nd Courageous Conversations: "Hope and Resilience in Occupied Palestine." Kris Ducett, Director of Bright Stars of Bethlehem, will share stories of inspiring young people from DAK University of Arts and Culture, founded by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, a Palestinian Lutheran theologian and author. UPDATE: Within hours of Ducett's return from ten days in Palestine/Israel, our world was changed.



Along with our Bright Stars friends, we are heartbroken, and mourn the loss of thousands of Palestinian and Israeli lives. Please come to hear Ducett's stories and updates on this crisis, and hear how we might BE the hope for these Bright Stars of Bethlehem and all of Palestine/Israel.

## The Great Lutheran Bake-Off! Saturday, December 9th, 10:00am

Home-made cookies are such a treat at Christmas time! Here's an opportunity to share your home-baked Christmas cookies with those in our congregation that are home-bound or in retirement centers. Bring a dozen or two to the Fellowship Hall on December 9th @ 10 am. Stay, if you can, for the fun of boxing up the cookies and enjoy Christmas music & chatting with friends. We are also looking for volunteers to help deliver all the goodies. Any questions, call, email or text Pam Groves-Gaggioli.



## REMINDER:

Bring your Thankofferings to our November 2nd Courageous Conversations program, or use the envelopes at the Women's bulletin board, and drop it in the offering plate, or bring it to the church office. Make your check to WELCA, memo line: Thank Offering.



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







## JUST LOVE

Seven St. John's women were fortunate enough to attend the 2023 WELCA Triennial in Phoenix, AZ. We felt blessed to be able to attend, inspired by the speakers, educated in the sessions and bubbling with new ideas! Minnesota was well-represented as

three of the worship leaders were from our state! Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, Reverend Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy and Reverend Angela T. !Kabeb. Here is a recap of the general worship and plenary sessions. Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, author of *Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the "Rules"* and *Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions* held her audience in rapt attention as she challenged us with thoughts such as:

*"An enemy is a person whose story you have not heard."*

*"Judging a person by a single story is a failure to love."*

*"It shouldn't have to happen to you to matter to you."*

*"Not disability, but able-ism."*

*"Love is the possibility of impossibility."*

*"Jesus looked beyond the nuclear family to call all, family; he busts the barriers and widens the we."*

*"When you have annoyed the heck out of everyone then you have dilated your love enough."*

See what I mean?? She packs a powerful punch and this is just from two of her talks, more to come on her topic of hope, but alas I have run out of room to expound further! We will be highlighting another speaker on next month's "Women's Page."

Next Triennial will be in Des Moines, IA. Mark your calendars for July 2026 and join in on this experience!

-Pam Groves-Gaglioli  
President, St. John's Women



## 205 LWR School Kits!

Thirty-seven St. John's kids packed 205 school kits for Lutheran World Relief! 4th and 5th graders, paired with younger students, worked as teams to fill backpacks with school supplies.

These quotes were overheard during the fun:

*"This is really fun; we can pack these bags really fast and help someone at the same time!"*



*"Wish I was getting all this nice new stuff!"*



*"This kid is going to be really happy with this cool tablet."*



*"It's neat thinking about the kids who will be getting all these new things!"*

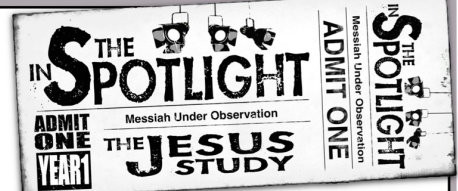


## "Knowing Christ Jesus"

On October 8th of this year Pastor Pam preached on a text from Paul's letter to the Philippians: *"More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."* (Phil 3:8). Pastor Pam's message was that "IT" - *this whole faith thing* - is all about knowing Christ. It's not about anything you've earned or attained. All that is rubbish compared to knowing Christ.

I think the best way to get to know someone, is to go on a journey with them. Let's take a journey together, with Jesus in the Gospels, where he is center stage and in the Spotlight.

*"Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."* (-Jesus, Matt. 11:29)



On Zoom,  
(& maybe Hybrid)  
Beginning  
in Advent

email for info:  
Women.StJohns500@gmail.com

## News and Updates

### St. John's Advent Fair Wednesday November 29

Everyone is invited to St. John's Advent Fair on Wednesday, November 29, in St. John's Hall.

Come enjoy our Wednesday Night Meal and Advent activities for all ages.

We encourage you to bring friends.  
The more the merrier!

**Time:**

5:15-6:15 p.m.  
Wednesday Night Meal  
5:45-7:00 p.m.  
Advent Fair Activities

**Can you help with Advent Fair?**

- Dinner - set-up, serve or clean-up
  - Help with crafts/shops
  - Food demonstration – show how to make your favorite Christmas treats
- Fair trade sales of coffee, tea, and chocolate will be available.

Contact Julie Brehmer if you have questions at 507-645-4429 or [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org).



## St. John's Forums 9:45-10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

**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.

**November 12**

***Meleah Follen, Healthy Community Initiative's "Youth Engagement and Northfield Community College Collaborative" Director will present.***

Healthy Community Initiative has collaborated on more than 30 initiatives in Rice County. Through TORCH they helped 500+ low income students in grades 6-12 to graduate achieving a 98% graduation rate in 2022. HCI assisted 40+ mobile home residents with young children to improve safety and energy efficiency, hosted 34 Mental Health First Aid training events in 2022 to identify and respond to mental health concerns. HCI connected 100+ family, friend, and neighbor child care providers to First Aid/CPR and other training. HCI secures grants for services.

**November 19**

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS)**

Did you know...

- That LIRS is celebrating 80+ years of providing services and a sense of home to immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees?
- That LIRS is the largest national faith-based nonprofit, with 1,000 partners and 50,000 volunteers?
- That LIRS has welcomed more than 750,000 newcomers to the U.S since 1939?
- That LIRS reunited more than 8,000 children and families in 2022?
- That St. John's is considered a Cornerstone Congregation as a major donor?

Come learn more from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service representative Jon Buuck, LIRS Senior Philanthropic Advisor.

Continued on page 11

# Planning Our Future Together

Continued from page 10

## December 3

### **Kelli Podracky, Executive Director of the Northfield Union of Youth**

Come hear Kelli Podracky, Executive Director of the Northfield Union of Youth, provide detailed information about the vital youth services provided for our Northfield youth, and answer questions about The Key, during the December 3 forum.

The Key is the longest running youth-run youth center in the nation! It is a life-giving community and a safe place for youth to connect with each other, caring adults, and their community. The Key is open 2:30- 9:30 p.m. during the school year, and 2:00-9:00 p.m. during the summer. Free meals and access to resources are available every day on a self-referral basis for all youth.

The Key is run by NUY's Key youth board and is democratically elected by youth. They hire and review all staff as well as make programming and policy decisions about The Key. It's a place to do art on the walls, sit and relax, get help with homework, play music, connect with friends, and to find resources to organize and mobilize about needs in the community around mental health, homelessness, social activism, arts access, food access, and so much more.

## November Special Offering ELCA World Hunger

This month there is a special envelope for contributions to ELCA World Hunger. Realize that ELCA World Hunger works with and through ELCA congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S Virgin Islands, overseas Lutheran churches, and other partners to reach communities in need. They provide health clinics, microloans, water wells, animal husbandry, community meals, and advocacy, etc. Your contributions to ELCA World Hunger help provide sustainable solutions that get to the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Your support makes a difference. Please consider a gift to ELCA World Hunger during the November appeal. Use the specially marked envelope in your packet or use St. John's online donation system. Make checks payable to St. John's, noting ELCA Hunger Appeal on the memo line. Thank you.

## 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, November 1**  
Enchilada Bake with Salad

**Wednesday, November 8**  
Chicken Pot Pie

**Wednesday, November 15**  
Sloppy Joes with Chips

**Wednesday, November 22**  
*No Meal - Thanksgiving Break*

**Wednesday, November 29**  
Advent Fair Meal



## News and Updates

### St. John's 2023 Community Christmas Day Dinner is Around the Corner!

The planning process for the Community Christmas Day Dinner event hosted by St. John's has begun!

To help make this wonderful dinner that is free and open to all successful, many volunteers and food donations will be needed.

**Watch for opportunities to sign-up beginning November 29** at the Advent Fair, continuing until Christmas.

**Thrivent Members:** If you are a Thrivent member, consider helping by applying for a Thrivent Action Grant that can be used to help pay for the turkeys and other expenses. Anything will be greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions, please contact Angie Gehring at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org), or call the church office.



## Stewardship Message

Fall is a time of planning. Here at St. John's we believe that we have a future with hope. You should have received materials in the mail about the 2024 giving campaign, including a giving chart and a pledge commitment card. Commitment Sunday is November 19, 2023. We ask you to thoughtfully and prayerfully share your written giving intention on November 19. Together we really do have A Future With Hope.

Members can make a pledge using a pledge card, or you may respond electronically on the website, or using the QR code.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Kristy Harms (chair of the Stewardship Board), or Leah Garlie (Finance Manager).



Your time and talent have so much value to St. John's.

## Update from the August Congregational Meeting

At the end of August the congregation authorized moving forward with a capital appeal to raise funds for solar panels and other facility projects that will increase our energy efficiency and sustainability for the future.

Since then, several things have happened:

- We have accepted a bid from All Solar Energy for solar panels on St. John's Hall that will provide an estimated 40% of our electricity into the future. Federal rebates will cover about 30% of the total costs of \$179,000. We expect that installation can happen later in the year in 2024.
- We continue to receive bids for the parking lot, lower level flooring and other projects that will be part of the appeal.
- We have received an extensive set of energy saving recommendations from Enerchange, an agency that provides free assessments to non-profits.
- We have begun a more intensive assessment of our HVAC system through BEA, which works with Xcel Energy to troubleshoot systems like ours. We anticipate their recommendations will shape what we can accomplish with the appeal.
- The Benevolence Board has reached out to a dozen nonprofit partners to explore ways that 10% of our appeal can benefit their work in our community and around the world. The Board will begin choosing recipients in November.
- We are excited for this moment that provides so many opportunities to both save money in the long run and steward our planet. If you would like to be part of planning this appeal, please reach out to Pastor Fickenscher or President-Elect Dan Franklin.

## Land Acknowledgement

At the beginning of this year, the boards were asked to discuss issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Members of the Faith & Health Board believed that St. John's should have a land acknowledgement statement. We were then asked to create one.

We gathered many statements, both religious and secular, and from nearby and far away. We spent hours discussing these statements. Board members then each wrote their own statements, which were discussed in turn. We decided to rewrite these statements with greater brevity and clarity and to choose a final wording. We hope that a brief statement will more likely be read and reread, and we hope that our statement will encourage learning and reflection. The Church Council accepted our final draft, which is:

***St. John's Lutheran Church stands on the ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute Band of the Dakota Nation. We respect and are grateful for the generations of native people who have cared for this land.***

We also submitted this explanation for our website and *The Voice*:

- What is a Land Acknowledgment?  
It is a formal statement that recognizes Indigenous Peoples as traditional stewards of the land and respects the enduring relationship that exists between these groups and their traditional territories.
- Why a Land Acknowledgment?  
This is one step toward reconciliation, respecting and honoring the Indigenous history which started long before European and American explorers and settlers came to this area. This is a shift toward understanding the truth about our past and invites us to learn more about Indigenous history and culture. Recognition is one step in a long reconciliation process that becomes more meaningful through relationship and action.

The ELCA is providing relevant educational opportunities through the Truth & Healing movement at:

<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Ethnic-Specific-and-Multicultural-Ministries/Indigenous-Ministries-and-Tribal-Relations/Truth-and-Healing-Movement>

Reconciliation is a journey. St. John's has already taken numerous steps on this path, with speakers, readings, discussions, and visits to important sites. We pray that this land acknowledgement will be another step towards healing and wholeness.

*Dennis Rinehart, on behalf of the Faith & Health Board*

## News and Updates

### Operation Joy

Operation Joy is a community-wide gift sharing program of the Community Action Center and is set to take place on December 6. CAC's goal is to provide a joyful holiday experience for all children in our community.

The best way to support this goal is through monetary donations.

Donations are used to purchase gift cards so families can select gifts their children will enjoy the most.

In keeping with tradition, families will receive a blanket.

Children will also receive a new book, donated generously by Content Bookstore and their customers.

If you would like to support Operation Joy, donations can be made by:

Going online at  
[communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy](https://communityactioncenter.org/operation-joy)

or

Send a check directly to:  
Community Action Center  
c/o Operation Joy  
1651 Jefferson Parkway, Suite HS-200  
Northfield, MN 55057

**Donations are appreciated by November 17.**



## News and Updates

### Pub Theology in November

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, November 6 and 20, 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](mailto:jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)) to add your name to the email list.



## We want your Snapshots!

The Evangelism & Communications Board is working on updating the photos on the website on the website and we need your help. We are looking for photos of the exterior of the building, pictures of the Sanctuary, and pictures of events. Photos can be submitted to [photos@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:photos@StJohnsNorthfield.org). All photographed children and adults will be contacted for approval before photos are used publicly.

## 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! Contact Jill Enestvedt for more information ([jillenestvedt@gmail.com](mailto:jillenestvedt@gmail.com) or 507-645-9330).

## Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during will be on the following Sunday:  
November 5

If you need items other times during the month please contact Dawn Tommerdahl at [dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com) or 701-238-5038.



## Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:  
Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.  
The Voice (December 2023 Edition):  
November 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.

## Electronic Giving

Electronic giving is great way to support the on-going ministry of St. Johns, 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 now available in the pew racks, so you can show your support during the Sunday morning offering.



## Sunday Hospitality

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

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

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



## News and Updates

### Senior Pastor

*Pam Fickenscher*

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

### Associate Pastor

*Jonathan Davis*

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

### Director of Children's Ministry

*Julie Brehmer*

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

### Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

*Kristin Partlo*

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

### Facility Manager

*Steve Harner*

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

### Music Ministry

*Nathan Proctor*

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

### Music Staff

*Green Bouzard - Jubilate Choir*

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

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

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

*David Sims and Will Fecko - Directors of  
Rejoice Ringers*

### Office Manager / Finance Manager

*Leah H. Garlie*

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

### Parish Nurse

*Sally Lindell*

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

### Shared Ministry Coordinator

*Angie Gehring*

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

### Congregation President

*Kathy Shea*

[kathleen.louise.shea@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.louise.shea@gmail.com)



**St. John's**  
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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**PHONE**

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**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



**Reminder!**  
**Daylight Savings Ends**  
**Sunday, November 5**

Set clocks back one hour  
at 2:00 a.m.