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WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays
FELLOWSHIP
9:30 a.m. Sundays

Night to Unite on August 7

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 Mary Kelvie 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 and/or Mary can be reached by phone at 507-645-4429 or email at Christy: connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org
Mary: sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

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

TV BROADCASTS
NTV Channel 187
7:30 p.m. Mondays
7:00 p.m. Fridays

Join Us for Worship!

Summer Worship Services

8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays

Summer Nursery Hours

10:00-11:15 a.m. Sundays

Summer Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Sundays

Live Broadcasts

8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

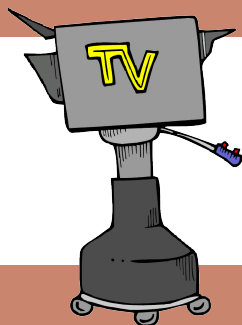


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

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."



St. John's Sunday school children are supporting a new mission at St. John's this year: "Blessing Box". 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 walking by 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: canned goods, pasta, flour, sugar, coffee, crackers, soap, mittens, toothbrush, baby items, such as diapers, pacifiers. The box is located in the drive-up on the north side of St. John's.

Update on Youth Ministry and Faith Formation

Dear Friends in Christ,

Pastor Pam and I wanted to give you an update on youth ministry and faith formation at St. John's.

First – the big picture. As we have shared before, the Youth Transition Team has been gathering to talk about what we want the future of youth ministry to look like at St. John's. On June 6th, this team hosted a gathering of about 44 adults for 2 hours to talk about the future of our children, youth, and family ministry. The evening was called *A Shared Story of a Future Hope*. Karen Gieseke, from Luther Seminary, was our facilitator, and she engaged us in enlivening conversations around *defining moments* in our life of faith. This led us to thinking deeply about what we hope for our children, youth, and families to experience as defining moments here at St. John's and in their walk of faith. During the gathering, Karen Gieseke shared this helpful insight:

"Typically our churches have seen youth as objects of mission, not agents of mission."

Too often we have tried to do ministry to children and youth, rather than with children and youth. Do we allow them to minister to us and impact our life and faith here at St. John's?

Overall, it was a very meaningful and insightful evening of learning and sharing stories and dreaming about what we hope for with children, youth, and families here at St. John's. As for next steps, the Youth Transition Team hopes to host a similar gathering with middle school and high school youth to learn about their impressions and experience here at St. John's.

From there, a potential timeline looks like this:

- 1) Fall 2018 - Discern and develop a new job description for Director of Youth Ministry
- 2) January 2019 - Publicize new job description and open the application process
- 3) Winter/Spring 2019 - Interview and hire

Second - youth ministry on the ground during the 2018-2019 school year. In light of our learning and conversations with parents and youth, we have been working hard on revisioning youth faith formation for this upcoming year. As a result, we are excited about some changes.

- **6th Grade Confirmation** - *Manna and Mercy*, a year focused on the story of Scripture
- **7th-8th Grade Confirmation** - Faith and Life Series on the following topics:
 - ◆ Faith and Science
 - ◆ Human Sexuality and the Relational Life
 - ◆ Ethics – Living Out Our Faith
 - ◆ Death and Dying

Continued on page 5

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."

August 15, 2017
Myron Solid

Stephen Ministry: The Do's and Don'ts of Visiting Hospital Patients

Parish Nurse Melissa Berthelsen recently met with St. John's Stephen Ministers to talk about hospital visitation. Since many of us make visits to friends and family who are hospitalized, St. John's Stephen Ministers thought it would be helpful to share some do's and don'ts for our training materials about visitation.

- Do arrange a visit a head of time. Hospital stays can include therapy, further testing and visits from others. It's important visit when it is convenient for the patient.
- Do look for signs on the patient's door about your visit. Perhaps you will need to where a mask or a gown. If the door is closed, knock before entering.
- Do be sensitive to others in the room. If there are medical personnel in the room, leave the room and return when they are finished.
- Do bring a chair to sit along side the patient rather than standing and hovering over so you can talk on eye level.
- Do touch the patient if you are comfortable with touch. Depending on the patient's condition, a strong embrace can be painful whereas a gentle touch on the shoulder or hand can be reassuring.
- Don't sit on the bed. This invades the patient's personal space and could be uncomfortable for them.
- Don't visit someone in the hospital if you are ill. Instead, send a card or make a phone call.
- Don't stay longer than thirty minutes. Hospital visits are brief with fifteen minutes being usual. If you are visiting someone seriously ill or immediately after surgery a brief five minute visit is appropriate.

Hospitals do not share when St. John's members are hospitalized, so call the church office if you, a friend, or a family is hospitalized so our pastors can arrange a visit. If a visit from a Stephen Minister would be helpful, contact one of our pastors (507-645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (507-645-8445).

If you are stressed or are going through a difficult time, you may also benefit from a caring listening ear.

St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to offer this kind of support.

Please call Joan Halvorson (507-645-8445) or one of the pastors (507-645-4429) to request a Stephen Minister if you feel this could make a difference for you.

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

- **9th Grade Confirmation** - Attend High School Youth Group and Meet with mentor throughout the year

Alongside these changes to our Confirmation program, we have also been working closely with high school and middle school youth, in effort to build up a robust High School Youth Group that will meet on Wednesday nights and a Middle School Youth Group that will meet on Sunday mornings.

All of this is to say, a lot has happened with children and youth ministry this past year and a lot is happening this year! Thanks to remarkable support from parents and the rest of the congregation, as well as the St. John's staff, no major programming was dropped last year and we launched new mission trips, with the highest attendance in years! And in light of last year and our learning together, small changes and experiments are being piloted, and a new future is being discerned and envisioned.

I know this can feel like a long and slow process for some of you. But I really do believe that the slow, patient work we are doing will help us to be faithful to our children and youth in seeing them as the *agents of mission* that they are in this place.

Thanks for all the ways you support this work.

In peace and gratitude,
Pastor Jonathan

Apple Sunday is August 26!

Search for your favorite apple recipe, whip it up and bring it to St. John's for our Annual Apple Sunday on August 26.



Whether you bring an apple dessert or not, everyone is welcome to enjoy all the delicious creations at 9:30 a.m. in St. John's Hall.

If you can bring an apple dessert and/or help with serving, setup/cleanup, please sign up in the Commons.

Questions? Contact Christy Hall-Holt at connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org or Mary Kelvie at sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org or call the church office at 507-645-4429.

Life and Growth

Baptisms

July 22, 2018

Owen Brownlee

Jonah Brownlee

Jacob Brownlee

Children of James and Rachel Brownlee

Deaths

June 30, 2018

Margaret Hayford O'Leary

July 18, 2018

Millie Berg



Radio Broadcasts

July 1, 2018

Given in memory of Edgar Larson
by Helen Larson and Family.

July 8, 2018

Given in celebration of
David and Pat Halsor's 62nd
wedding anniversary on July 12th.

July 15, 2018

Given in memory of Milo Quinnell
by Elouise Quinnell and Family.

July 22, 2018

Given in honor of Chuck and Anita Hellie's
50th wedding anniversary.

July 29, 2018

Given in gratitude to
St. John's Stephen Ministers.

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

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

Online Registration for 2018-2019
Now Open

Wednesday Programming Orientation
Catechism Orientation
Wednesday, September 12, 5:30 p.m.

Open House for Preschool 1
Wednesday, September 12, 6:00 p.m.

Confirmation Orientation
Wednesday, September 12, 6:15 p.m.

First Day of Sunday School
Sunday, September 16, 9:45 a.m.

First Day of Middle School Youth Group
Sunday, September 16, 9:50 a.m.

ROCK, Wednesday Afterschool Programming
Begins Wednesday, September 19

First Day of Confirmation
First Day of High School Youth Group
Wednesday, September 19, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

2018-2019 Registration

Online Registration for Children and Youth 2018-2019 School Year!

Check out St. John's website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org where you will find all the forms needed for registering children and youth for the 2018-2019 school year plus information on how to volunteer for upcoming events and programs. We appreciate registrations turned in by August 26 for returning members. Visitors and new members are invited to register at any time during the year.

Please contact Julie Brehmer or Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429, if you have questions regarding programming.

Dive in on August 1!

Northfield area churches invite families with children in 5th grade and younger to our Annual Pool Party at the Northfield Outdoor Pool on Wednesday, August 1, from 5:00-7:30 p.m.



The cost for admission is \$3.00 per person or you may use your pool pass. Churches will be providing free food at the event so come eat, swim, and enjoy!

(This event is canceled if the pool closes due to weather.)

Is your 3 year old starting Sunday School?

Children who are three years of age by 9/1/18 are welcome to begin Sunday School this fall!

Parents are invited to bring their preschooler to an Open House on Wednesday, September 12, at 6:00 p.m. to meet the teachers and get acquainted with their classroom before Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 16.

If you have question, please call St. John's at 507-645-4429 and speak with Julie Brehmer.



Fall Programming is Coming!

- Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 16, for children age 3 (by September 1, 2018) - grade 5 from 9:45-10:30 a.m.
- Toddler Time: Children who are 2 by 9/1/18 and preschool children, along with their parents, are invited to "Toddler Time". Once a month during the Sunday school hour, our little ones sing songs, talk about a favorite Bible story, play games, make crafts, and meet new friends.
- ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program for children in kindergarten - grade 5, begins on Wednesday, September 19. Bus transportation will be offered from the Northfield Elementary schools to St. John's so kids can jump right into Wednesday's fun!
- Catechism, (CAT) for 4th and 5th graders begins in October! Orientation for Catechism will be held on Wednesday, September 12, at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.
- Confirmation: Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall (For additional information please see the pastors' article on page 3)
- Middle School and High School Youth Groups (see sidebar)

Get involved with Children's and Youth Ministry at St. John's!



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 programming this fall on a Sunday Morning or Wednesday afternoon/evening. We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities. Please talk with [Julie Brehmer](#) or [Angie Gehring](#) at 507-645-4429 or check out the volunteer opportunities in the registration packet.

P.S.: High School students - talk with Julie how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Children and Youth

Middle School Youth Group Sundays

When:

Sundays, 9:50-10:30 a.m.

Where:

Youth Room (Lower Level)

Who:

6-8th grades

What:

A casual time to connect with each other!



High School Youth Group Wednesdays

When:

Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Where:

Youth Room (Lower Level)

Who:

9-12th grades

What:

A casual time to connect with each other!

News and Updates

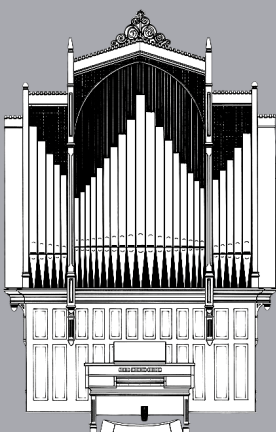
Bible Study Lunch Organ Recital Wednesday, August 8



Beginning at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Pam will lead a study on prayer, after which Lydia Circle is offering lunch, following that, Joanne Rodland is guest artist at St. John's Organ for Northfield's Summer Organ Concert series.

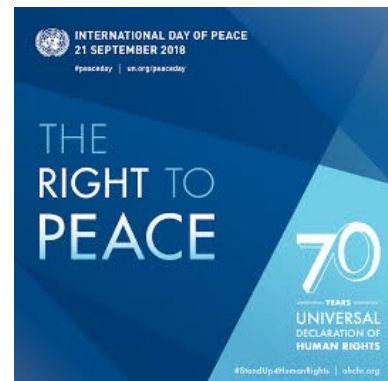
This event is open to the congregation.

Please RSVP for the free lunch.
Sign ups in the Commons,
or call Marilyn Calcutt 507-645-2814
or email at merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com.



Northfield 16th Community Celebration of the International Day of Peace

The Northfield Human Rights Commission and the Department of Political Science will host the 16th community celebration to mark the United Nations International Day of Peace, which is celebrated around the world every September 21. This year's Peace Day celebrates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "The Right to Peace - The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70."



The event is scheduled for Friday, September 21, 6:30-9:00 p.m. in Severance Great Hall. It will begin with a reception and a formal commemoration of the United Nations International Day of Peace. A variety of speeches, presentations, Arts Peace Award, musical and other performances will follow to celebrate the theme.

The event is supported by the Harold Stassen United Nations Lecture-ship Fund of Carleton College, and sponsored by the Northfield Human Rights Commission, the Northfield Arts Guild, the Union of Youth, the School District, Healthy Community Initiative, the Northfield City Council and all the citizens that work for peace in the Northfield Area.

If you wish to be part of the planning and preparation, call Mar Valdecantos 507-645-9603 or Judith Stoutland at 507-645-7842.

Staying Local...Going Global

It's that time again:

Back -2- School Supplies



This year, in honor of our 150th anniversary, St. John's will combine our annual school supply kits with two programs: TORCH and LWR.

The TORCH program provided supplies for those Northfield High School graduates entering college, who are traditionally under-served, including first-time generation college students, low-income youth, and students of color.

Lutheran World Relief delivers backpacks to K-12 grades in third world countries, globally.

These supplies are needed for both projects:

- 70-sheet wire-bound college-ruled note-books
- 30 centimeter ruler, or ruler with inches and centimeters
- Pencil sharpeners
- Blunt Fiskar scissors
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Black or blue ballpoint (*no gel*) pens
- Box of 24 crayons
- 2 1/2" eraser
- Small denomination gift cards (Target, coffee or gas)
- Highlighter
- Microwave popcorn
- Earbuds - less than \$5
- Laundry detergent

Drop off gift cards for TORCH in the church office. Place other supplies in the School Bus box in the Commons.

Monetary gifts can be made to WELCA for LWR supplies and to St. John's for TORCH supplies.



News and Updates

"We Love Northfield" Serve Day is Saturday, August 11

Join people from area churches as a tangible way of giving back to Northfield and building a more caring and connected community.

Then enjoy a free lunch together downtown provided by HEART. Let's partner to make this day great!

Register online at:
[We Love Northfield Registration](#)
Or, click on the "Sign Up" link on the "We Love Northfield" Facebook page.
For more information, contact Steph Helkenn at shelkenn@rejoicenorthfield.org or 612-702-8061

8:30 a.m.
Check-in at
Cannon Valley Theater/Canvas Church
(Parking lot old K-Mart)

9:15 a.m.
Depart for projects

12:00 noon
Free lunch downtown Northfield
provided by HEART

**WE LOVE
NORTHFIELD**
SATURDAY, AUGUST 11
SERVE DAY

News and Updates

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

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

Wednesday, August 1

Stephen May
First UCC, 300 Union St.
Johnson & Son/Schlicker/Rutz, III, 53 ranks

Wednesday, August 8

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

Wednesday, August 15

Janean Hall and Larry Archbold
Skinner Chapel, Carleton College
Rutz 2018, IV, 48 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 rcollman@msn.com.

Accompany: What's In Store for Newcomers and Welcomers/Sponsors at St. John's This Fall?

Accompany is the entry point for newcomers to St. John's. Based on the ancient catechumenate, it is grounded on the assumption that becoming part of a church is both a spiritual process as well as a relational one. We expect that we all will be "re-formed" by your presence with us.

What will *Accompany* look like this year?

- Begins Sunday, September 23, with a kick-off dinner, and culminates with a community welcome worship during a service around Easter in April
- Brings newcomers and longer-time members together approximately every other Sunday between services for coffee, treats, and time together
- Invites the sharing of life experiences, asking questions, and reflecting on scripture through *lectio divina*

Have you been wanting to find out more about St. John's? Do you have questions about this? Please get in touch with Pastors Pam or Jonathan, or Christy Hall-Holt to talk about *Accompany*.

Email Christy at connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org or call the church office at 507-645-4429.

Beginning Experience - Class for the widowed, divorced or permanently separated

Do you know someone who is suffering from the loss of a love relationship due to death, divorce or separation? Someone who seems "stuck" in the cycle of grief? Beginning Experience of Rochester is an International Ministry offering a program called "Coping with Life Alone". These weekly classes are presented by those who have suffered life changing losses themselves and are willing to share their experience.

"Coping with Life Alone" is a ten session class meets weekly beginning on Tuesday, August 7 - October 10, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church, 810 3rd Ave SE, Rochester, MN 55904. The sessions focus on such topics as the grief process, changes in family and other relationships, trust, and coping with life as a single person.

Contact Beginning Experience Rochester by calling 507-261-8248 or emailing beminnnesota@gmail.com or visit www.-beminnnesota.-org to start an amazing healing process for yourself or to encourage someone you love to step beyond grief and pain.

44 Baby Care Kits Packaged and Sent off!

On June 20, ten St. John's women gathered in Fellowship Hall to assemble and pack 44 Baby Care Kits. They were delivered to the LWR warehouse in South St. Paul that same day, and were shipped to new mothers in need all around the world. Thank you to all who donated either needed items or their time and talents for these kits!



We will continue to collect items for another shipment later this year, so please keep an eye out for gently used baby clothing you may find during those summer garage sales!

- T-shirts, sizes 6 months - 24 months are especially needed
- Pajama sets or gowns (without feet), sizes 6 to 24 months
- Soap (Gentle, 4 or 5 oz bars)
- Cloth diapers

Items can be placed inside the Baby Care Kit basket in the Commons.

If you have questions about donations, or would like to donate your help with packing the next time we assemble kits, please contact: Angie Gehring at angiejgehring@gmail.com



News and Updates

Children, Come to the Table!

When is my child ready to take
Holy Communion?
When is anyone really ready?

As Lutherans we believe that the sacraments are gifts of God not dependent on our understanding or preparation to be effective as gifts of grace.

At St. John's we urge parents to bring their children to the table every week, whether they receive a blessing or the bread and wine. Parents may use discretion based on their own piety and family situation as to when a child receives the bread and wine, but there is no minimum age.

Age appropriate materials are available for discussing communion with your child from age 4 and up. Contact Pastor Fickenscher or Pastor Davis if you are interested in having your child commune for the first time.

the WOMEN'S page

August 2018

LWR Field Staff Says "Thank You!" to LWR Quilters



Ahmed Oudou is a driver for Lutheran World Relief in Niger.

He has the honor of distributing quilts and watching the gratitude on the faces of recipients who have very little. Ahmed wants LWR quilters to know why what they do matters, from someone who has seen tremendous needs being met. He knows for a fact that LWR distributes much more than just quilts.

Ahmed said, "If I could be in their place, it would be such an honor to learn how to quilt, and even more so to use those skills to serve the most vulnerable people. The quilts provide comfort, particularly to women, while restoring the respect and dignity of the most vulnerable people in the world. □ □ □ →

"I pay tribute to their courage and self-sacrifice to provide the dignity and hope for the thousands around the world."



INTRODUCING
OUR 2018-2019
PROGRAMMING
THEME

COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS

Become
aware,

and emboldened as we have conversations facilitated by nationally known speakers, and educators, about issues in our world and in our community, on topics like ecology, race, social justice, exploitation of women and children, poverty, and more.

All programs open to the public.
Watch for dates and times.

STAYING LOCAL/GOING GLOBAL: BACK -2- SCHOOL SUPPLIES

This year St. John's is adding the local TORCH program to our annual LWR school kit/backpack program. TORCH provides support to at-risk Northfield students attending college. Lutheran World Relief sends our completed backpacks to K-12 students in third world countries, globally.

TORCH



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Information and shopping lists can be found elsewhere in the August VOICE, or you can pick up a flyer in the Commons.

YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TO SEW!

St. John's Women make and ship hundreds of quilts every year! It's one of our most active, and vibrant ministries. You can be part of it, because they need you:

1. **Donate sheets** - slightly used, full-to-king sizes
2. **Laundry & iron fabric** - in your own home, at your own time
3. **Cut fabric squares** - in your own home, at your own time - rotary cutters are available Contact Sue Sharrow (507) 301-3083 sue_sharrow@msn.com

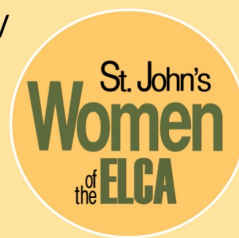
Visit our web page:

<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



LECACY OF A ST. JOHN'S WOMAN

By Shirley Keltto

The Women's Board continues, in observance of the 150th Anniversary of St. John's congregation, its monthly feature of women. These women, in innumerable situations and locales, have lived out their faith and service. This month Bobbie Shefveland (translates "rocky and stony place") Maakestad (tr. "seagull place").



Bobbie was born in Battle Creek, Michigan and subsequently lived in Olivet, MI, Iowa City, Springfield, Ohio, Waukesha, Wisconsin and Northfield – places where her father attended graduate school and taught. Bobbie, herself, graduated from St. Olaf.

When asked what has led and guided her throughout her 90 years of life, without any hesitation, she replied "the ministry of healing." "Wherever I lived, I always had a prayer group." Here in Northfield, she has a prayer group of about seven women who meet weekly. "Those prayers may not be answered for 50 years and the prayers of healing cover many facets of life," she explains.

She married John Maakestad whose professional life was spent at St. Olaf, teaching in the Art Department. However, Bobbie states that his foremost passion was as a naturalist and their home attests to that. Surrounded by trees, lots of trees, birds flit and chirp in and out of their feeders, chipmunks and squirrels eat the seeds that have fallen on the ground, and the intrusive raccoons come out at night to try to destroy the feeders.

A special place for John and Bobbie was Holden Village, the mountains and hiking, a refuge

They joined St. John's in 1967 where Bobbie taught confirmation, served terms on the church council and filled in as secretary between tenures of the regular secretaries.

Causes important to Bobbie:

- +saving the Valley Grove Church from being torn down, eventually getting the church listed on the natural registry
- +demonstrating in Washington, D.C. against the Iraq War and 12 years standing in Bridge Square at noon on Saturdays
- +demonstrating in New York City against nuclear proliferation and
- +marching, recently, in Northfield against the separation of immigrant families at the Texas border.

And her concerns are the environment, poverty, the U.S. prison system, education, gerrymandering, racism, the devaluation of the rule of law, and the diminishing standing of the U.S. worldwide.

For her 80th birthday, Bobbie wrote and published a daily devotional book,

Faith Hope Love. The book can serve as a daily meditation for the reader. Or the reader can read it as prose, feeling the heart and soul of what has served Bobbie in her years of Christian love and prayer.

News and Updates

Thank You for Leaving Your "Thumbprint" on St. John's!

Stewardship Board member Mary Hoff cut cake to share with members in appreciation for their unique gifts of time, talent and prayers.

We *Live Generously*, we *Give Joyfully*!



News and Updates



Weekly Pub Theology Continues in July

What is Pub Theology?

It is weekly conversation led by Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan 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.

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

IN THE LIBRARY at ST. JOHN'S you will find many books that you can use as a family to talk through some of the anxieties raised by news of the world around us. Stories about other children who have faced wrenching family separations during immigration or children who have endured events or situations that called forth their resilience, courage and resourcefulness can give comfort and hope to children now.

Picture books you might like are *Escaping to America*, a *True Story* by Rosalyn Schanzer who tells of her ancestors who escaped from a small town in Poland during the first World War, or more recently, the story of a Vietnamese family who came to America after the Vietnam War. *A Different Pond* is written by Bao Phi, who was born in Vietnam and raised in the Phillips Neighborhood of South Minneapolis, and illustrated by Thi Bui. *A Ride on Mother's Back* reminds us that babies need to be close to a member of their families, so close they move simultaneously. Another Minnesota writer was connected to the people in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a region of Yugoslavia, during that war in the 1990s. Her book *My Palace of Leaves in Sarajevo*, illustrated by Herbert Taus, is a series of letters from a girl in Sarajevo and a boy in Minnesota. And another Minnesota writer, Jackie Brown, has written *Little Cricket*, about a Hmong girl, who with her grandfather and brother were separated from her mother and grandmother in the process of immigrating to Minnesota. This is a chapter book, as good for reading aloud as are picture books.

Hatchet, by Gary Paulsen (another Minnesota writer) has been read and loved by grade school kids (and their teachers) for many years. This is a story of a 13-year-old who lives through a plane crash in Canada and who must depend upon himself to survive. For younger children who are afraid of thunder, there is the delightful *Thunder Cake* by Patricia Polacco, who got the story from her Russian immigrant grandparents.

Creeksiding speaks to interests in sustainable environment, nature and earth-moving machines! It is a true story of the restoration of a creek in the Driftless area of Iowa, written by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and illustrated by Claudia McGehee. The last book also takes place in Iowa, on a farm, in a summer. Written by Jim Heynen (a Minnesotan), *Being Youngest* is the story of two kids who are just being kids, dealing with siblings and adults, getting into adventures together.

Even though you can, of course, read any one of these books alone, each is also good for reading aloud, together. That's kind of the theme thread throughout them - - - it's good to have a friend.

From Bread for the World:

Many factors contribute to the state of hunger both in the U.S. and abroad. Among the complex and varied and often interconnected causes of hunger are --



Poverty -- Poverty is the main cause of hunger in the world. This is true in rich and poor countries alike. It is true no matter whether people live in urban or rural areas. Most people who are hungry are living in extreme poverty, defined as income of \$1.25 per day or less.

Job Instability -- In the U.S. and other high-income countries, hunger is mainly caused by poverty that results from a lack of jobs or because jobs pay too little. Hunger rates rise when the national or local economy is in a slump. People lose jobs and cannot find work. Once the economy improves some people continue to struggle to find work. For example, people who have been in prison face wide-scale discrimination that makes it difficult for them to find jobs once they reenter their community. In single-parent families, the parent may not be able to take a job or work enough hours because of no child-care options.

Climate Change -- Despite having contributed little to cause climate change, the poorest developing countries are already experiencing the effects. Climate change is damaging food and water security in significant ways. Feeding everyone on earth would be challenging enough without climate change. The global population is expected to swell to more than 9 billion by the end of the century. With only slight increases expected in available farmland, agricultural production must increase by 70 percent to keep pace with population growth.

Read more about causes of hunger at www.bread.org. Urge our Representative and Senators to invest in and protect key programs that will end hunger and reduce poverty in the U.S. and around the world.

*I was hungry and you gave me food.
Matthew 25:35*

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