



# The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 64, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2024

## Registration is now open for Children and Youth Programs, 2024 - 2025!

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 your children/youth by using the  
QR code or by visiting our website!



SCAN ME

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### Save the Date:

## Night to Unite on August 6

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

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

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

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

Contact Angie at [sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429.

#### 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. 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

9:30 a.m. Sundays

### Livestream

9:30 a.m. Sundays  
[www.StJohnsNorthfield.org](http://www.StJohnsNorthfield.org)



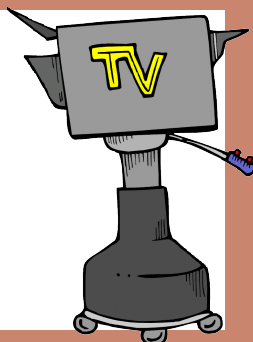
### Radio Broadcasts

9:30 a.m. Sundays  
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[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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your support of our ministry with youth and families here at St. John's. As I write this, I am fresh off of our annual summer youth trip. Alongside Kristin Partlo, I helped lead a trip to Camp Amnicon, where 37 of us (6 adults and 31 youth) spent the week camping and canoeing on the Flambeau and Brule rivers in Wisconsin. For 55 years, Camp Amnicon has been guiding people on wilderness adventure trips like ours to experience growth and grace in the wild places of God's creation.

If my memory serves me, this is my 6<sup>th</sup> trip through Camp Amnicon and as always, I found *this* trip to be full of meaning and spiritual growth.

The devotional theme for the week was centered around the "fruits of the Spirit." In Galatians 5:22, the Apostle Paul writes, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Each one of us was invited to consider which fruit of the Spirit is strong in our life, and then to consider which fruit could use some attention and focus during our week on the river. I wonder which ones you would have picked for yourself at this moment in time.

What I appreciated about this theme is that the fruits of the Spirit were not something we were supposed to produce (pun intended) throughout our time together. There was no external pressure to be more peaceful or kind or faithful to simply prove to others that we were connected to the Spirit of God. We were just invited each day to be on the lookout for these fruits among us – as a sign of the *Spirit's* work among us. As a sign of God's presence with us in the midst of all the joys and challenges that the wilderness can bring.

I saw deep *patience* in the Amnicon guide coming alongside a youth who was terrified of the water.

I saw *kindness* in a youth checking in on another's health and wellbeing during a rough day.

I saw *joy* in a group of people (who were strangers 5 days earlier) jumping hand-in-hand into Lake Superior, leading one to shout aloud "I've faced my fears this week!"

This isn't to overly glorify the trip and those of us on it. Don't get me wrong – there were parts of the trip that were hard. Really hard. There were moments when our worst selves came out at each other. Moments of personal challenges and inter-personal challenges.

But what I loved about this trip (and trips like it) is how a group of youth and adults, who don't always know each other well and sometimes are very different from each other, come together, face unpredictable challenges, and see how these fruits of the Spirit start to show up in ways and places we didn't expect. Glimpsing the fruits of the Spirit among near strangers in the wilderness leaves me wishing this way of seeing could be the norm among us in our everyday lives.

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."*

August 21, 2023  
Evelyn Estenson

## From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

Too often in our culture, it is too easy to retreat to our corners and *not* come face to face with each other and our differences – different gifts and different challenges, to see the abundance we have in each other. These annual trips always remind me how to see the gifts we have in each other and the transformational power of spending longer amounts of time together.

At the end of the week, each participant receives a gift from Camp Amnicon – a Chi-Rho necklace. The Chi-Rho is an ancient Christian symbol for community and Christ. It is comprised of two Greek letters. The Chi (rhymes with eye) is the cross shape, and the Rho (rhymes with go) is the P. Together they are the first two letters in *Cristos*, which means Christ. Early Christians would use the Chi-Rho as a way of identifying each other. In a world full of persecution and danger, a Chi-Rho meant they were safe with each other and that God was with them. It still means that today. The pendants are made of pewter, which is an amalgam of many different kinds of metals, just as our communities are formed of many kinds of people. You may see me wearing mine in worship from time to time.



I pray that the fruits of this trip will branch out into the lives of each participant and into the lives of our faith community – you. Many thanks to all the hands it took to make this trip possible and thank you for all the ways you support adventures like this one that shape us each year.

I close with the blessing spoken over us by Amnicon staff before we headed to the river and before we departed for home:

*Peace, before you  
Peace, behind you  
Peace, under your feet*

*Peace, within you  
Peace, over you  
Let all around you be peace.*

*With love,  
Pastor Jonathan*



## Save the Date - August 25 God's Work, Our Hands Sunday!

On August 25, St. John's will partner with our fellow ELCA Church, St. Peter's and Bethel, to participate in God's Work, Our Hands Sunday.



Following 9:30 a.m. worship, participants will participate in service project from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. around our Northfield community, such as helping at a Habitat for Humanity home build, working at a local CSA that donates food to our foodshelf, or having fun with clients at Laura Baker. Details are still pending - look for sign ups in early August!

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ELCA hosting a Sunday where congregations intentionally gather to serve their communities outside the walls of the church. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ - every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life - flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

## Weekly Pub Theology



This summer we will walk through the topics of Sam Wells' new book *Humbler Faith, Bigger God: Finding a Story to Live By*.

In this book, Sam Wells tries to speak to the skepticism and doubts of people by addressing tend difficult questions about

Christianity. Questions like:

- *Is Christianity just a fairytale for the young?*
- *Can faith and science co-exist?*
- *Why is there so much suffering in the world?*
- *Is Christianity just one faith path among many?*

Each week we will discuss these questions. Reading the book for each week is not a requirement, but it might help. If you would like to purchase this book, please reach out to Content Bookstore.

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

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

## Life and Growth

### Deaths

June 26, 2024

*Pamela Nerhus*

July 8, 2024

*Patricia Halsor*



### Radio Broadcasts in July

July 7, 2024

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

July 14, 2024

Given in thanksgiving to God  
for 40 years of marriage  
by Rebecca Judge and Anthony Becker.

July 21, 2024

Given in memory of Duane Benson  
by Marie Benson and family.

July 28, 2024

Given in loving memory of Marlene Engstrom  
by Duane Engstrom  
on the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their wedding day.

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

**Wednesday, September 11**  
**Connections Night**

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Afterschool Programming  
and Catechism

6:30 p.m.

Confirmation

**Sunday, September 15**  
**Welcome Fest**

9:45 a.m.

First Day of Sunday School

**Wednesday, September 18**  
3:45-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday Afterschool Programming  
6:15-7:30 p.m.

Confirmation

High School Youth Group

**Sunday, September 29**

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

3rd Graders Receive their CATechisms

**Wednesday, October 2**

4:00-4:45 p.m.

CAT Begins for Grades 3-5

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

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



### Children and Youth Ministries 2024-25 School Year Connections Night Wednesday, September 11

Parents, children, and youth, come reconnect after the summer and launch the 2024-2025 programming year. As a community we'll share information, questions and responses, and get a glimpse of the year to come. Snacks will be provided.

**Wednesday Afterschool Programming and Catechism at 6:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday Confirmation and High School Youth Group at 6:30 p.m.**

### 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!

## Wednesdays...

**ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids**, begins on Wednesday, Sept. 18.

**ROCK**, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K–5. Wednesday programs, for all grade levels, consists of an afterschool snack, recreation, Catechism, Kid's Club, music opportunities, art, and service projects.



St. John's, through Benjamin Bus, provides an afterschool bus to pick up kids from Greenvale, Bridgewater, and Spring Creek elementary schools and from the Middle school for Prairie Creek students who register for Wednesday

programs. Make sure to indicate on the registration form if your child would like to ride!

**Catechism for Grades 3-5** is part of our Wednesday afterschool program. Catechism begins on Wednesday, October 2. Watch for more details in the Children's weekly email.

**Mark your calendars!** 3<sup>rd</sup> graders receive their Catechism book on Sunday, September 29, at the 10:45 a.m.

**Confirmation for Grades 6-9** begins on Wednesday, September 18. Join us in Fellowship Hall (lower level) from 6:15–7:30 p.m. Watch for details in the Youth's weekly email.

If you are not receiving the Children's and Youth Weekly emails and would like to, please contact Julie at [children@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:children@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or Kristin Partlo at [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org) and we will add your email to our list.

## Get Involved with Youth Programming at St. John's

Would you like to help out on a regular or occasional basis with youth Wednesday night Confirmation and High School Youth Groups? Helping out with youth events and regular programming is a great way to get to know the young people in our congregation. Below are some ways you could help in ways big and small – all of which matter to the young folks.

### Wednesday nights

- Adult presence downstairs between dinner and programming
- Help setting up for confirmation, 5:45-6:00 p.m.
- Sharing game ideas
- Visiting to tell part of your story to youth

### Events

- Drivers
- Acquiring and preparing snacks
- Chaperones

Interested in helping out? Please contact Kristin Partlo at [youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org](mailto:youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org) or 507-645-4429. Thanks!

## Children and Youth

### Welcome Fest! Sunday, September 15

St. John's is excited to begin a new school year with children and youth!

Sunday school for children age 3 (by 9/1/24) to grade 5 starts with an open house on Sunday, September 15, at 9:45 a.m. in the lower level of St. John's. After the Open House, enjoy breakfast along with children's activities from 10:00-10:30 a.m.

Middle School and High School Youth Group will be hosting the breakfast.

### Summer Fun and Service Events for Youth

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

**What:** Romans & Christians  
**Who:** All Youth (Grades 6-12)  
**When:** Wednesday, August 21,  
evening - timing TBA  
**Where:** St. John's

### Summer Food Shelf Pop-Up Help

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

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



SCAN ME

## News and Updates



### A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD

*With gratitude*

The last days of summer are quickly approaching. St. John's will be busier than ever before we know it. How can you help? In so many ways. We are blessed with multiple opportunities to join together for fellowship and service. We are gardeners and groundskeepers. We are cooks and servers, dishwashers and sweepers. We are boards and committees and new member sponsors. We are Sunday service helpers. We are community volunteers.

*We are St. John's*

## Celebrating 10 years of Nathan Proctor's Music Ministry

This month marks ten years since Nathan Proctor began work as St. John's Organist and Director of Music, Worship & Arts. We don't have an exact count, but he has led our song in at least 750 worship services during that time, each one with careful planning, rehearsal, hymn selection, and bulletin editing. Each week we are blessed with his care in selecting music and hymns that deepen our worship and understanding of the Gospel.



On Sunday, August 18, at our 9:30 a.m. worship, we will celebrate with a pop-up choir, words of recognition, and special treats in coffee hour. If you can't be with us that day but would like to leave a card for Nathan, they can be directed to the church office for collection.

## School Supply Donations are Requested for LWR School Kits

Purchased supplies can be left in the cardboard School Bus in the Commons. Supplies will be collected in August and early September. Cash donations are also appreciated. Make checks to St. John's WELCA, and write school kits on the memo line. Checks can be left in the church office or the offering plate on Sundays. Our goal is to pack 200 kits, so many supplies are needed! Bags will be packed in September. LWR School Kit List:



- 70 sheet spiral notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose-leaf notebook paper
- 30-centimeter rulers, or rulers with cm on one side and 12 inches on the other
- pencil sharpeners
- blunt Fiskar scissors (Fiskar brand preferred as the other ones break easily)
- Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink) ink)
- box of 24 Crayola crayons
- 2 1/2" eraser





## Second Summer Choir Invitation

Our very first Summer Choir in June was great! We had almost 40 people join us that morning and welcomed several new voices to the balcony. We are going to do one more summer choir opportunity on August 18, where you can come sing with your friends or try out a choir for the first time. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the choir room to rehearse and then sing for the 9:30 a.m. service. Anyone is welcome to participate! You don't have to be in the St. John's Chorale to join us.

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

## Kaitlynne Larson, ELCA missionary in Colombia, Visits St. John's on August 25

Do you know what a missionary does in 2024? It's probably not the stereotype you have in your mind (especially not if you've ever read the Poisonwood Bible).

ELCA Global Mission sends out individuals with a wide range of skills to do the word of accompanying our global partners in the name of Christ. In Colombia, that work has often taken the form of peace-making in this war-torn country.

Kaitlynne Larson is accompanying the Iglesia Evangelica Luterana de Colombia (IELCO). She works with the program Justicia y Vida, a program of the IELCO which promotes the protection and education of human rights and works toward the reconciliation of peace following the 50-year civil war, and the signing of the 2016 peace accord. She has been sponsored by St. John's since 2022.

Join us for worship on August 25, when Kaitlynne will join Pastor Pam for an 'interview sermon' to talk about how God holds us together with the global church in challenging times.

## News and Updates



### St. John's Seraphs Summer Softball Team

Join the fun! Come cheer our team on!

Here is the upcoming schedule:

#### Sunday, August 4

7:05 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 2  
St. John's vs. Bethel

#### Sunday, August 11

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



### Coffee Sales

Fair trade sales of coffee and more during  
will be on the following Sunday:  
August 4

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.

## News and Updates

### Meals on Wheels It's Sign-Up Time

St. John's is committed to delivering Meals on Wheels from Monday, September 9, through Saturday, October 5.

Meals on Wheels is a Northfield Hospital supported, volunteer organization dedicated to meeting the nutritional needs of the community through volunteer drivers.

Sign up online thru CCB at [https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/group\\_detail.php?group\\_id=97](https://stjohnsnorthfield.ccbchurch.com/group_detail.php?group_id=97).

If you aren't a CCB user, you may contact the church office to schedule your delivery date.

Printed out driver instructions/information will be available at the Welcome Desk in the Commons.

If you have any questions about volunteering, please contact

Andrea Hoff at 612-743-5767  
or [andrea.hoff37@gmail.com](mailto:andrea.hoff37@gmail.com)  
or

Cynthia Neubecker at 612-327-0169  
or [reduncan936@gmail.com](mailto:reduncan936@gmail.com)

Thank you for being a part of this important service to Northfield!



## Courageous Conversations: Not for Women Only

"Are you under the impression that Courageous Conversations is exclusive to women? Au contraire, mon ami! Courageous Conversations is for all St. John's members, St. John's friends, the wider Northfield community, and basically any warm body who wants to learn more about current social justice issues.

When we say "All are welcome" we mean ALL. And, your secret is safe with us if you're not of the female persuasion, but read

the Women's Page for its thorough monthly programming information! Turn to the August Women's Pages for a description of this year's Courageous Conversations theme: "We Belong to Each Other."



## Northfield Shares a Dinner August 25, 2024 | 4:00 p.m.

We invite Northfield residents to join us for this unique community celebration along Division Street in Downtown Northfield. We will gather for a free meal, share conversations, and enjoy family-friendly activities, and live entertainment. Registration opens on July 21 to Northfield Area residents.

Visit [northfieldshares.org](http://northfieldshares.org) for all details.



## Solar Update

St. John's solar project is nearly complete!



Crews from All Solar Energy working through June installed solar panels on portions of the flat roof over the Library, Commons, and St. John's Hall. The panels are ballasted so that no drilling in the roof membrane was necessary.

As of this writing (July 25), we are waiting for a final electrical part. Next steps after that will include Xcel's inspection and officially hooking up our array to the electrical grid.

Many thanks to all who gave so generously so that we could immediately start on this project without a loan! Once the project is complete, St. John's can apply for the 30% federal rebate authorized by the Inflation Reduction Act.

All Solar Energy has offered St. John's members a \$1,000 rebate plan; if you install solar with them on your own home, you receive a \$1,000 rebate, and St. John's will also receive \$1,000 back!



## SummerWorship Schedule Continues Thru Sunday, September 8

This summer we will have one worship service at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 8.

The fall worship schedule will resume on Sunday, September 15, with services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

## News and Updates

### Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals opens their seventeenth season this summer.

Recitals are held during the Wednesday noon hour from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. with the following schedule:

**Wednesday, August 7**

Noah Klein  
Valley Grove Lutheran  
9999 155th St. E, Nerstrand

**Wednesday, August 14**

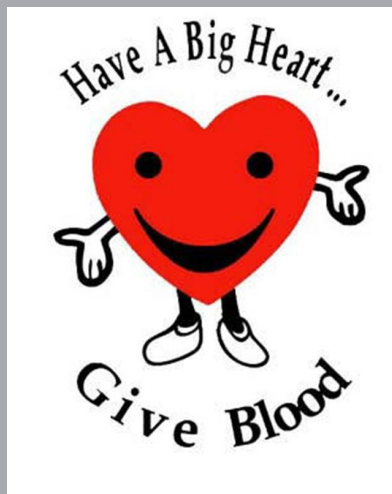
Stephen May  
First United Church of Christ  
300 Union St.

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

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



## News and Updates



### Make a Difference, Save a Life.

St. John's has hosted several American Red Cross blood drives already during 2024. Just one unit of blood has the potential to save 3 lives.

There is always an ongoing need, and we invite you to consider making a difference by donating blood.

**Upcoming Blood Drive**  
Monday, September 16, 2024  
12:00-6:00 p.m.  
in St. John's Hall

You can sign up online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-733-2767.

## Healthy Community Initiative

Healthy Community Initiative helps recruit for AmeriCorps positions to serve the youth of Rice County. These members do great work in our community, keeping kids engaged and on track in school.

We would love your help sharing information about two great job opportunities for the upcoming school year: **Math Corps** and **Promise Fellows**. Please share with anyone you know who may be interested, and if you have other ideas on how to get the word out about these positions, please let us know!



### Math Corps

Are you looking for a way to stay engaged in the community? Do you like spending time with young kids? Become a tutor with Math Corps! There are several openings for the upcoming school year in elementary schools in Rice County. This is a great, flexible position for people of all ages with multiple options between 10 and 35 hours per week. You don't need to be a mathematician - you will be tutoring basic elementary math skills and will have training and support.

Benefits include a stipend every two weeks (up to \$1000) and an educational award (up to \$5,176) that can be transferred to a family member if you are over age 55. Health insurance and child care assistance are available for full-time members.

Candidates must be 18 years or older, be a U.S. citizen and have a H.S. diploma or GED. Must have an interest in connecting with young people and helping them thrive. For more information, go to:

- [healthycommunityinitiative.org/ameri corps](http://healthycommunityinitiative.org/ameri corps)
- Or email [ameri corps@healthyinitiative.org](mailto:ameri corps@healthyinitiative.org)

### Promise Fellows

Do you know a young person looking for a job this fall? There are many openings for AmeriCorps Promise Fellows in Rice County. Promise Fellows work with middle school and high school students keeping them engaged and connected. This 35 hour per week position can be an excellent opportunity for a year of service or for someone figuring out what they want to do next while building a resume.

There are many benefits of service with AmeriCorps, including an educational award upon completion of \$5,176. This money can be applied to existing loans or future tuition, room and board. During service, Promise Fellows earn a stipend of \$1,067 every two weeks. Promise Fellows are also eligible for health insurance, child care assistance and student loan forbearance.

Candidates must be 18 years or older, be a U.S. citizen and have a H.S. diploma or GED. Must have an interest in connecting with young people and helping them thrive. For more information, go to:

- [healthycommunityinitiative.org/ameri corps](http://healthycommunityinitiative.org/ameri corps)
- or email [ameri corps@healthyinitiative.org](mailto:ameri corps@healthyinitiative.org)



## Amnicon

Thirty-one youth from St. John's, St. Peter's, and Bethel, plus six chaperones, spent a week in July canoeing, camping, learning, and laughing on the Brule and Flambeau rivers through Camp Amnicon.



## News and Updates



**Exploring God in creation, growing faith in community, engaging the world as followers of Jesus**

This summer, five of St. John's youth attended Good Earth Village Bible Camp in Spring Valley, MN.

Those attending: Claire Gallagher, Frances Jackman, Imogene Jackman, Anders Loy (pictured), and Iris Pellinen.





# the WOMEN'S page

AUGUST  
2024

## Gatherings

**Baby Boomers**  
Mid Summer meet up  
August 3, 4:30  
Reunion restaurant  
(outdoor courtyard)

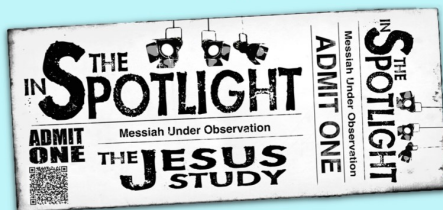
**Women's Breakfast Group**  
Second Saturday 9:00a  
June, July, August  
Fireside Room

**Elizabeth Circle**  
**Lydia & Paul Circle**  
**Mary Circle**  
**Wellspring**  
Off for Summer  
See you in September

**Knitters (World Vision)**  
**Night Knitters**  
Off for Summer  
See you in September

**Knitters (Prayer Shawls)**  
See bulletin for Summer dates  
2nd & 4th Thursday  
10:00am St. John's Library

**Quilters & Bandage Rollers**  
Thursdays, 9:00a - noon,  
Fellowship Hall



August Schedule: 1, 15, 22, 29  
Thursdays, 9:00 am  
Zdenek's home  
2121 Ontario Ln  
Zoom available on request:  
women.stjohns500@gmail.com



## Courageous Conversations

September 2024-May 2025

Our theme and mission for the 2024/2025 year is "We Belong to One Another." In a time of unprecedented division in our country, we feel called to examine how people can move forward together despite our differences. Our speakers will bring deep experiences in governance, storytelling, journalism, art-making, human rights, and environmental activism. It will take our collective wisdom to begin building a community that is more peaceable and just for all.

### September/October Programs:

#### "Faith in Democracy?"

##### September 12: "Repairing the Beloved Community"

Kathryn Lozada, ISAIAH organizer, will speak on building bridges towards racial, economic, and climate justice.



Angela Denker

##### October 3: "Christian Nationalism"

Angela Denker, ELCA pastor and nationally known author of "Red State Christians" will discuss the growing popularity and influence of American white Christian Nationalism, especially its influence on the upcoming presidential election. Co-sponsored by St. John's Adult Ministries.



### Your 2024-2025 Executive Board



(left-right) Jane Rinehart, Jennifer Edwins, Janet Lotegelowaki, Julie Zdenek, Alison Kavanaugh, Beth Wessen, Margie O'Loughlin, Pam Groves-Gaggioli, Michelle Kramer-Prevost, Mary Hoff, Jo Franklin (all wearing our Women of the ELCA shawls!)  
Not pictured: Dawn Tommerdahl and Sara Bright

## Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (September 2024 Edition):

August 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.

## 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!



## 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 available in the pew racks, so you can show your support during the Sunday morning offering.

## 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 - Alleluia Choir 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

Dan Franklin

[d47franklin@gmail.com](mailto:d47franklin@gmail.com)





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**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

## Summer Worship Schedule

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

This schedule will continue through Sunday, September 8.

