



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2025

Registration is now open for Children and Youth Programs, 2025-2026!

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



SCAN ME

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Night to Unite on August 5

St. John's will again be hosting our annual Night to Unite celebration. This is 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:

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

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

WORSHIP SERVICES

9:30 a.m.

LIVESTREAM

9:30 a.m.

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

RADIO BROADCASTS

9:30 Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080AM/95.1FM

kymnradio.net

TV BROADCASTS

NTV Channel 187

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

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

2:00 p.m. Wednesdays

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

9:30 a.m., Sundays

Livestream

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



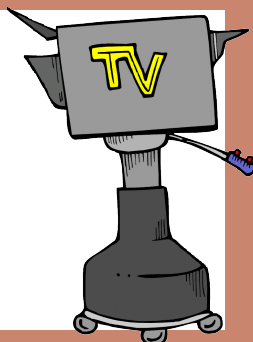
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2:00 p.m. Wednesdays
7:00 p.m. Fridays
NTV Channel 187



www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

WELCOME STATEMENT

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

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

We warmly welcome you here.

Blessing Box at St. John's

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



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

From Our Pastors

Dear people of St. John's,

As I write this article, I am just a few days away from our summer youth trip to *Christikon* in McLeod, Montana. By the time you are reading this – we will be back! *Since 1951, Christikon has been a special place for spiritual growth and renewal with friends, old and new; an intentional Christian community where all are welcome, chosen, cherished, and loved.* This year, 29 youth from St. John's, St. Peter's, and First UCC will venture out to the mountains of Montana together.

I am guessing this is my 12th summer youth trip over nearly 20 years of ministry. If you have ever been on a trip like this (either as a youth or a chaperone), you know how powerful and life-shaping they can be. I have watched trips like this fuse youth groups together into caring communities, help individuals grow in confidence and faith, and ignite life-long friendships. Sometimes it can be hard to put into words the impact a trip like this can have – but for those who were there, you can just feel the difference it makes.

In recent years, there is new evidence of the difference outdoor camp ministry can have on the lives of young people. A study called *Sacred Playgrounds* determined that the most effective camps had the following traits:

- **Faith-Centered:** Faith teachings and practices are intertwined in all camp experiences
- **Participatory:** Participants learn and grow through active, kinesthetic activities, that are multi-sensory and new experiences.
- **Safe Space:** Camp includes physical and emotional safety, where participants described camp as a place where they could be themselves without fear of judgment or ridicule.
- **Relational:** The camp experience is framed in an intensely relational environment that includes living together, meeting new people, practicing reconciliation, and encountering the other in face-to-face interaction.
- **Unplugged:** Camp exists in a set apart location that provides physical and emotional distance from environments that participants consider normal, which can provide perspective on the places participants left behind and to which they will return.

When a camp has these traits, the empirical impact on young people is significant. Campers experience an increase in self-confidence, willingness to try new things, and a more positive outlook on life. Spiritually, many youth have a deeper sense of the importance of a faith community, a stronger sense of God's presence in their daily life, and an increase in devotional practices and faith conversations.

Campers usually say they are going to camp to have fun, to be outdoors, and to be with friends. But there is so much more going on in the background and underneath. Participants, young and old, are growing in confidence and connection with themselves, with others, and with God in ways that can be hard to see in the moment but that have a shaping effect over time.

Continued on page 5

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenschner



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 last year in this month.

August 5, 2024
Carol Solid

August 6, 2024
H.B. "Bernie" Renander

August 15, 2024
Joanne Dahlin

August 17, 2024
Wayne Eddy

We list them so that we can remember these loved ones and their families in prayer "with reverence and affection."

Continual Giving

Please check out the WELCA corner to see the baskets of collection needs to continue our work for others!

"Current Needs List" for Ruth's House:

- Extension cords
- Gallon freezer bags
- Lysol wipes
- Night lights
- Packing tape

See donation options in the baskets under The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America bulletin board.

Thanks for all you do!



From the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board

In an effort to be transparent with the donations made on behalf of the St. John's congregation, our July designations include:

- \$1,000 to Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund with the flooding in Texas on our minds.
- \$1,000 to Hope Center. It is on the front line for Rice County. Their mission is to create zero tolerance for sexual and domestic violence through Healing, Outreach, Prevention, and Education. Hearing of the successful collaboration with the police and attorneys dealing with these issues we invited Erica Staab, the Executive Director, to inform us of their work. It was beneficial.
- \$500 to the Minnesota Council of Churches/Healing Stories who takes on the responsibility to educate a wider community by sharing stories of indigenous natives, takes. and the responsibility to educate a wider community by sharing stories of Indigenous Natives, African-Americans, and other people groups as they seek to humanize the fight against racism.



Are you stressed or going through a particularly difficult time? If so, you are not alone, and you may benefit from a caring listening ear. St. John's Stephen Ministers have been trained to walk with those who are facing a challenge in life, whether it be of mind, body, or spirit.

If you or someone you know could benefit from the support of a Stephen Minister, call one of the pastors (507-645-4429).

Welcome Fest! Sunday, September 14

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

Sunday school for children age 3 (by 9/1/25) to grade 5 starts with an open house on Sunday, September 14, 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.

Second Summer Choir Invitation

Thank you to everyone who sang for our summer choir on June 15!



We will have another opportunity to sing together on Sunday, August 24. We 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! No long term commitment required. You don't have to be in the St. John's Chorale to join us. Youth are welcome to join!

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

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

People of St. John's, thank you for supporting trips like this. They make a big difference in people's lives and faith life. As one youth has said recently, St. John's has given them opportunities they would have never had without St. John's.

We can't wait to tell you stories from *this* trip!

Peace and love,
Pastor Jonathan

Life and Growth

Baptisms

July 20, 2025

*Aidan James Thoma
Son of Corin and Kyle Thoma*



Radio Broadcasts

July 6, 2025

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

July 13, 2025

Given in honor of
Shirley Falck's 92nd birthday
by her family.

July 20, 2025

Given in celebration of the
30th wedding anniversaries of
Lydia & Dagfinn Moe and
Rob Quanbeck & Dawn Tommerdahl.

July 27, 2025

Given in loving memory of Marlene Engstrom
and in celebration of Duane and Marlene's
wedding anniversary on June 24th.

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

Wednesday, September 10
Connections Night

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Afterschool Programming
and Catechism

6:30 p.m.

Confirmation

Sunday, September 14
Welcome Fest

9:45 a.m.

First Day of Sunday School

Wednesday, September 17
3:45-5:30 p.m.

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

High School Youth Group

Sunday, September 28

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

3rd Graders Receive their CATEchisms

Wednesday, October 1

4:00-4:45 p.m.

CAT Begins for Grades 3-5



Registration Opens August 4 for Children and Youth Programs for the 2025-2026 School Year

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



SCAN ME

Children and Youth Ministries 2025-2026 School Year Connections Night Wednesday, September 10

Parents, children, and youth, come reconnect after the summer and launch the 2025-2026 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 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? Volunteering 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 make a difference for everyone involved.

Wednesday nights

- Provide 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 507-645-4429 or youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thanks!

Wednesdays...

ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids, begins on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

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 1. Watch for more details in the Children's weekly email.

Mark your calendars! 3rd graders receive their Catechism book on Sunday, September 28, at the 10:45 a.m.

Confirmation for Grades 6-9 begins on Wednesday, September 17. 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 or Kristin Partlo at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org and we will add your email to our list.

Get Involved with Children's Programming at St. John's

Parents, grandparents, high school and middle school youth! Please consider how you can help partner in faith by volunteering with children's programs this year. We try to create opportunities that are easy to commit to and can fit into busy schedules.

Wednesday afternoons:

- Snack Servers - help serve snacks on Wednesdays for our after-school programming, 3:45-4:00 p.m.
- Youth! Lead games and assist with other activities during our programs.

Sunday Mornings:

- Sunday School team teachers for all grades
- Nursery volunteers during the worship services

Please contact Julie Brehmer at children@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429, if you have questions. Thanks!

Children and Youth

Summer Fun and Service Events

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

What: Romans & Christians

Who: All Youth (Grades rising 6-12)

When: Wednesday, Aug. 20, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Where: St. John's, Fellowship Hall

No cost, just bring yourself and a flashlight (even though it won't be that dark).

We'll have pizza and snacks and several rounds of Romans & Christians. Never played? We'll explain all the rules, but it's a little like Sardines, but with a twist.

What: Lunches at Hogan Brothers

Who: All Youth (Grades rising 6-12)

When: Wednesdays at Noon

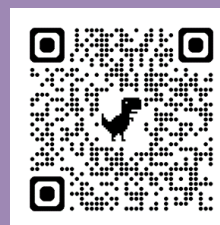
Sign up: No need, but maybe check in with Kristin.

No goals other than eating and spending time together - plus, everybody needs to eat! Bring some cash and join us!

Summer Food Shelf Pop-Up Help

Youth (parents are welcome) can help stock shelves at the CAC Food Shelf on most Thursdays this summer with Kristin from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Each week we need 1-2 folks to help out. Sign up on your own or with a friend, sibling, or a parent. Rising 6th graders and older. Interested? Sign up here :



Celebrating 150 years
of **St. John's Women**
the Women's page

1875-2025



August Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Back in September

Elizabeth Circle

On Break for the Summer

Back in September

Lydia & Paul Circle

On Break for the Summer

Back in September

Mary Circle

On Break for the Summer

Back in September

Wellspring

(GenXers)

On Break for the Summer

Back in September

Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, August 9, 9:00 a.m.

Fireside Room

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursday, August 28, 10:00 a.m.

St. John's Library

Evening Knitters

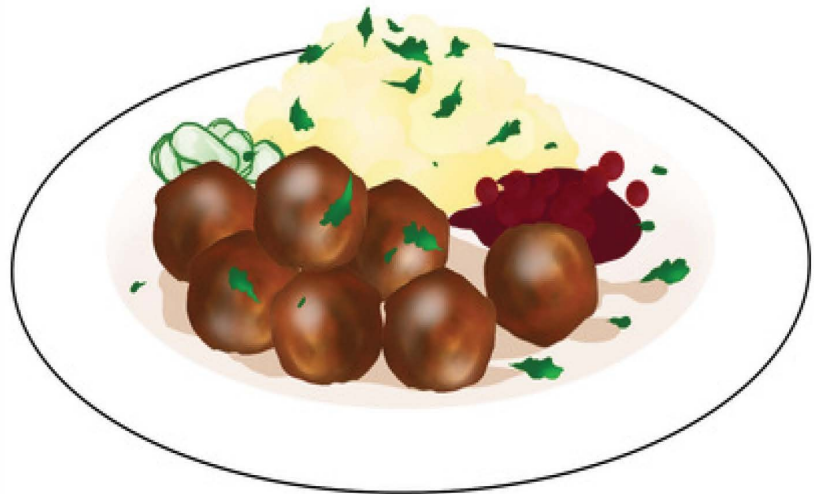
Back in September

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays

9:00am - noon

Fellowship Hall



"Just Like in the Old Days" Meatball Supper Wednesday, September 24 5:15-6:15 p.m.

To celebrate our 150th anniversary, St. John's WELCA will host a good old-fashioned meatball supper for one of our Wednesday Night Meals. We are inviting the whole congregation to this dinner.

If you'd like to volunteer to bring jello salads, brownies, help serve, clean up, wash dishes, etc., please sign up at this [link](#), use CCB, or contact Pamela Groves-Gaggioli.



Like & Friend us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns" @ Kvinner St. Johns

Web pages:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women

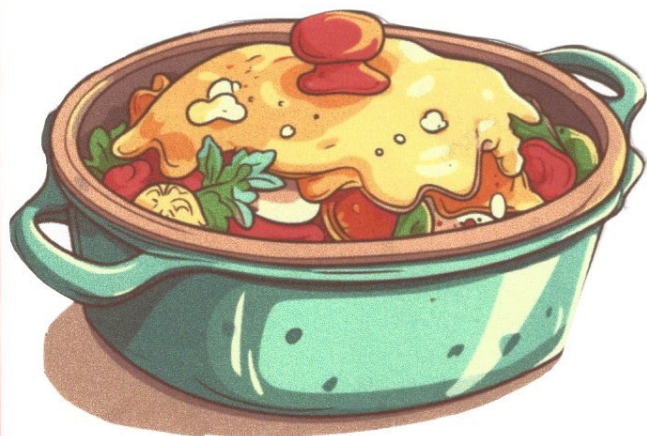
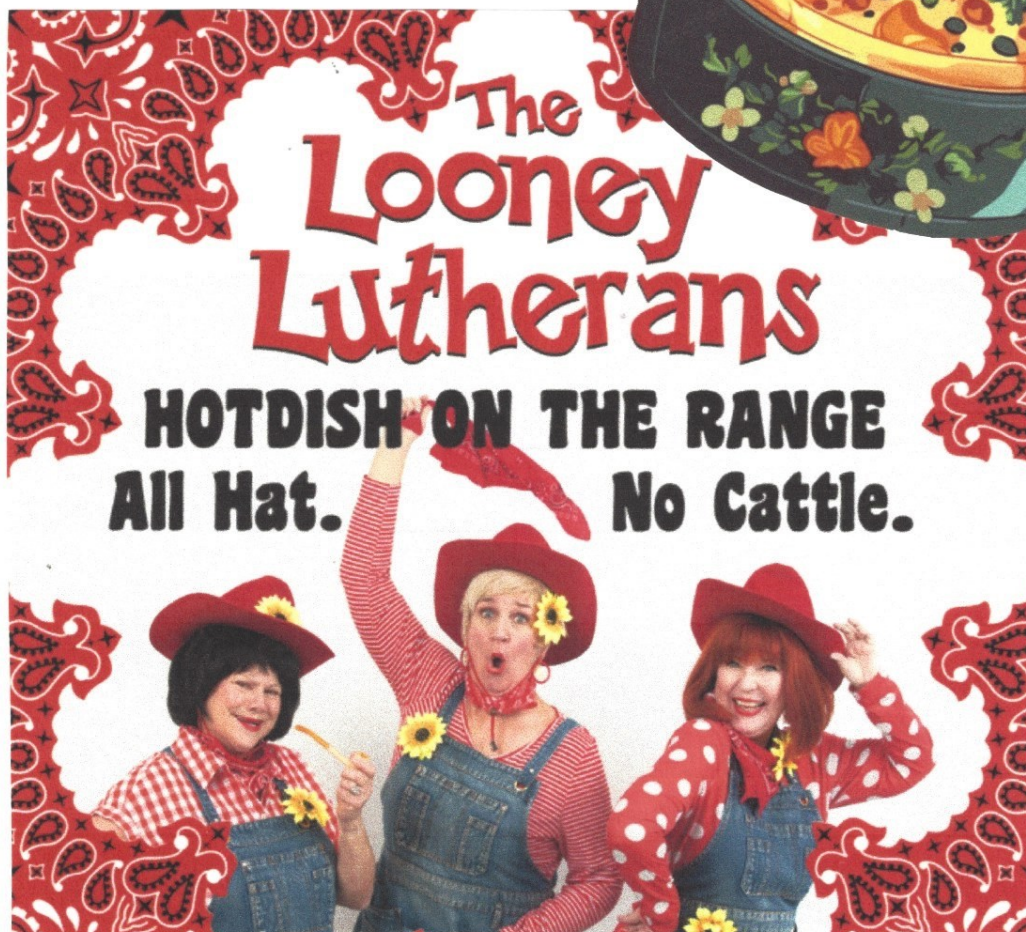
Contact:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com

Mark Your Calendars!!

WELCA'S 150th Birthday Bash & Hotdish Hoedown

featuring



Saturday, October 11

11:00 - 1:30pm

Tickets will go on sale September 7

\$15.00 presale/\$20.00 at the door

News and Updates



Make a Difference, Save a Life.

St. John's has hosted several American Red Cross blood drives already during 2025.

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 15
12:00-6:00 p.m.
in St. John's Hall

You can sign up online
at www.redcrossblood.org
or by calling 1-800-733-2767.

Thank You for Your Designated Offerings!

One of the important ways St. John's supports our local and global mission partners is through your "pass-through" designated offerings. Additional gifts to benevolence from our regular operating offerings are also designated regularly by our Benevolence & Social Concerns Board.

For members who receive print offering envelopes, there are prompts to give to some organizations in certain seasons:

- January: Global Mission - This includes our missionary in Colombia and our partner congregations in Colombia and Tanzania
- March: Minnesota Food Share offerings are all passed forward to the Community Action Center's food shelf work in Northfield and Faribault
- May: Lutheran World Relief - LWR operates throughout the globe providing both crisis relief as well as ongoing development efforts
- November: ELCA World Hunger - This churchwide fund supports efforts to eliminate food insecurity both domestically and abroad.

In the past 12 months St. John's have given as follows:

- **\$12,450** to the Community Action Center
- **\$9,835** to ELCA World Hunger
- **\$7,806** to Lutheran World Relief

Thank you for the amazing impact you have on our world through this generosity!

Fruit Sunday August 24

Mark your calendars for a well-loved summer tradition at St. John's - Fruit Sunday! Come enjoy an array of delicious fruit desserts during our coffee & fellowship hour, and perhaps share a recipe!

We'll need several desserts, and we invite you to sign up to bring any fruit dessert of your choice - it can be cobbler, crumble, pie, cake, cookies, tarts, bars, pastry, sorbet, etc. It can be homemade or store-bought. We also need a few helpers for serving, and clean-up - many hands make light work, AND it's fun!



To sign up, email Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org, write your name on the paper sign-up in the Commons on Sunday, or sign up using the CCB link found in the weekly E-Voice.



Remaining Games of the Summer Softball Season

Sunday, July 27
8:10 p.m., Babcock
St. John's vs. Trinity Blue

Sunday, August 3
7:05 p.m., Sechler Park, Field 1
St. John's vs. Emmaus

Sunday, August 10
Just for Fun Tournament

Lunch Providers are Needed for Habitat for Humanity Building Crews this Summer



Rice County Habitat for Humanity is looking for support for the work site crews again by providing lunches on the following dates: August 7, 12, 14, 16, 19, 23, 26 & 30.

Habitat provides the serving utensils, bottled water, and electrical hook-ups. Sign up on their website at <https://www.habitatricecounty.org/Volunteer>.

Everyone who comes to the site will need a waiver ONCE a year which can be completed on the website. If you have any questions, contact Jodi Wagner at jodi@habitatricecounty.org or 507-403-7868. Thank you for your support!

News and Updates

Pub Theology in August

What is Pub Theology?

It is a conversation around questions of faith, God, Jesus, the Bible, current events, and culture.

No fancy theological or biblical knowledge needed in order to participate. Just bring your questions, thoughts, and experiences.

We will meet Mondays

from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

(Watch the Sunday bulletin and E-Voice for dates and locations.)

Topics vary and will be published ahead of time on Facebook, in the E-Voice, and in an email list. If you'd like to be added to the Pub Theology email list, contact Pastor Jonathan.

Contact Pastor Jonathan

(jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)

to add your name to the email list.



News and Updates

A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD

On Giving & Receiving

“Freely you
have received;
freely give.”

Matthew 10:8

*This fall, look for
stories from members
on the blessings of
both giving and re-
ceiving at St. John's*

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)
- box of 24 Crayola crayons
- 2 1/2" eraser

Greeters are Needed for Sunday Mornings

Greeting those who come into our building for worship on a Sunday morning with a friendly smile or some helpful assistance really does make a difference in creating the warm and welcoming environment we want to provide here at St. John's as people of faith. I have heard several stories from those who were new that being warmly greeted when they came here for worship was part of the reason they wanted to return to St. John's. We always want our visitors and members to have a feeling that they belong.

Please consider giving "greeting" on a Sunday morning a try! No prior experience is needed, and you can do greet by yourself, or with a friend or spouse, or with children. It's not difficult or time consuming - simply arrive 15-20 minutes prior to service, put on a name tag, and stand either by the Commons area doors or the Southwest doors by the library. You can leave the door area when service begins, so you will not miss worship. We've had several wonderful repeat volunteers for greeting, and we'd be thrilled to see a few more new names on our hospitality sign-up list! You can sign up in CCB with a link found in the E-Voice, or on the sheet posted on the bulletin board near the office. You can also contact Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

More Ushers are Needed

Having ushers is so important to our worship at St. John's! There are many ways one can serve their church community, and this is one of those ways in which help is now needed and would be so greatly appreciated. Ushering is a one Sunday per month commitment. Subs can be found if a scheduling conflict or other issue arises. No prior experience is necessary. Ushers receive instructions and "on the job" training from others who are experienced. This fall, we are in need of the following:

- 1 more usher for the 2nd Sundays of the month at the 10:45 a.m. worship
- 2 more ushers for the 3rd Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m. worship
- 1 more usher for the 3rd Sundays of the month at the 10:45 a.m. worship

If you attend Sunday services fairly regularly, please consider ushering as one of the ways that you can serve.

Please contact Angie at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you are interested. Thank you!

What Exactly Do Ushers Do?

These important, yet easy tasks: lighting and distinguishing candles in the Sanctuary, ringing the big bell 5 minutes before worship begins, passing out bulletins as people arrive, assisting those who need help finding a seat, reserving pews for baptisms or other occasions, counting people in the Sanctuary for the attendance sheet, passing the collection plate during the offering, dismissing people from the pews for communion, tidying up the pews after worship, and collecting the Welcome sheets from the pew books for the office. Ushers also provide an extra set of eyes during worship, in case someone needs help or an incident occurs that needs attention.

Shared Ministry is Collecting Potluck-Style Salad Recipes

Can you help by sharing a favorite salad recipe? Why, you might ask? Each year, salads are an important part of our community Christmas dinner, and we'd like those who sign up to bring a salad to have easy idea options on hand. We'll collect them from you, and then print out copies for the taking at the sign-up table during Advent. It can be ANY type of salad: pasta, bean, potato, rice, quinoa, fruit, tomato, coleslaw, waldorf, etc. Whatever recipes you think others would enjoy that aren't overly complicated to make.

To submit a salad recipe, you can either drop them off at the Welcome Desk or email them to Angie at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org. Thank you!

News and Updates

Meals on Wheels It's Sign-Up Time

St. John's is committed to delivering Meals on Wheels from Monday, September 8, through Saturday, October 4.

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.

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
or

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

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



News and Updates

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals opens their eighteenth season this summer.

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

Wednesday, July 30

Brian Carson
First United Church of Christ
300 Union St.

Wednesday, August 6

Joanne Rodland, Organ
Donna Paulsen, Piano
United Methodist Church
1401 S. Maple St.

Wednesday, August 13

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

A free music class for babies and toddlers led by Arielle Loy, a trained Suzuki Early Child Music Educator.

Join us for music, movement, stories, and the opportunity to connect with other parents!



Suzuki Kids

- For children, ages 0-3 with an adult
- Thursdays at 4:00 pm, starting October 2nd
- St. John's Lutheran Church
- Email arielleloy@gmail.com with questions

a FREE music class for babies and toddlers!



ELCA Holds Churchwide Assembly

At the time this edition of *The Voice* is published, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be commencing in Phoenix Arizona, meeting from July 28 - August 2. The ELCA has a Churchwide Assembly every three years for the purpose of electing churchwide officers, considering matters of governance, and adopting churchwide memorials and social statements. Lay and rostered voting members are elected at synod assemblies the preceding year.

This year's assembly will include elections for Presiding Bishop. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was first elected in 2013 and has served two six-year terms. She is not running again. The assembly will begin with an ecclesiastical ballot in which any ordained pastor of the ELCA may be nominated. In addition, 8 candidates have been pre-identified.

The church will also be electing a new Churchwide Secretary. This position, which may be held by a layperson or a rostered person, serves as the "recording officer" of the church, guiding governance and legal matters.

In addition, voting members will be considering recommended changes to the ELCA Constitution, recommendations from the Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church, and 34 different memorials. The memorials cover many salient concerns of our time, including the church's witness in a time of authoritarianism, concern for immigrants, justice for Palestine, child and vulnerable adult protection, and updates to the church's statements on end-of-life decisions and abortion.

Updates for the assembly's actions will be at www.elca.org. You're invited to pray for the assembly and its many important decisions.

Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (September 2025 Edition):

August 15

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

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OFFICE HOURS

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

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

*Join Us for
Summer Worship*

SUNDAYS STARTING
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, MAY 25
THRU SEPTEMBER 7
9:30 A.M.