



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 59, ISSUE 7

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2019

Fall Programming Begins...

Wednesday, Sept. 11 - Orientation for Wednesday Programs
for Grades K-12 and Parents

Sunday, Sept. 15 - Education Hour for All Ages

Wednesday, Sept. 18 -
Afterschool Programming
Confirmation and High School Youth Group
Wednesday Night Meals

Inside this issue:

- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 St. John's Forums in September
- 7 Fall Programming is Coming!
- 8 St. John's 150th Anniversary
- 10 Hearing Loop Update
- 10 Apple Sunday is August 25
- 11 Pub Theology Reads a Book
- 13 LWR School Kit and TORCH
College Gift Bag Donations
- 10 A Look at Accompany this Fall
- 16 Looking Ahead to October

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, vintage cars, music, and games.

Please let Christy Hall-Holt 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 can be reached by phone at 507-645-4429 or email Christy:

connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 & 10:00 a.m. thru Sept. 8
8:30 & 10:45 a.m. starting Sept. 15

LIVE BROADCASTS

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

TV BROADCASTS

NTV Channel 180
7:30 p.m. Mondays
7:00 p.m. Fridays

Join Us for Worship!

Worship Services

8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Sundays thru September 8
8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays starting September 15
(ASL Interpreter available at the second worship services on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of the month)

Nursery Hours

9:45-11:15 a.m. Sundays thru September 8
8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays starting September 15

Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays

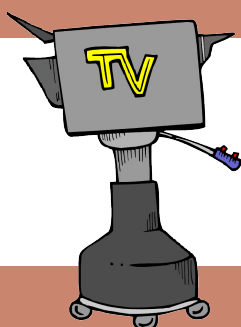
Live Broadcasts

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 180



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...

Collaborative Confirmation

As fall approaches, our minds always turn to Confirmation. At St. John's, our Catechism and Confirmation classes have evolved out of a pattern of teaching that was agreed upon more than two decades ago by the three ELCA congregations in Northfield.

Back then, Bethel, St. Peter's, and St. John's decided that our ministries are helped by having similar patterns of teaching. This keeps us as parents and students from taking a consumer mentality to fulfilling our baptismal promises. Rather than asking "What's the easiest/ shortest/ most popular program?", we encourage members to take the long view. What kind of young people do we want to form? How can we pay attention to kids' developing minds and social needs rather than just "getting it done"? The churches agreed to try to avoid competition in our programs; but at that time, they did not intentionally collaborate.

All three churches have adopted similar approaches to teaching the Bible and the catechism over the course of many years; but as time has gone on our curricula have each evolved a little differently. Last year the staff of the three churches began meeting to discuss whether it is time to begin collaborating more intentionally. We all face the same social forces that pull families away from church life both on Sundays and during the week. All of us worry that confirmation is not accomplishing the kind of deep formation in faith that we hope for. And, across the church nationally, new models are springing up, many of them moving away from confirming at 14 or 15 years old toward a more opt-in approach to affirming your baptism at any point in young adulthood. Since we all face similar challenges, we agreed that it's time to move forward together as we adapt to a changing world.

We still don't know the final endpoint of these conversations, but for the 2019-2020 year our collaboration will include two Northfield-wide events and a "J-term" curriculum that will offer kids four weeks of classes with one another at the three different church sites. These J-Term classes will be taught largely by members, not staff, of the three congregations.

We will kick off the year September 18 at the Northfield High School Auditorium. That Wednesday we'll be led by Professor Rolf Jacobson, who will tell his own story of being cared for by the church during his health crisis in high school. We look forward to reminding our youth that their calling as Christians goes beyond the walls of their individual churches, and to building community with each other.

These tweaks in programming are just the beginning of what we hope will be a long move toward deeper collaboration with our fellow Lutherans. We will continue to ask the big questions about what best equips young people for living out their faith in this changing world, and how we can be the church together in that task. In a world where competition tends to be the primary model for group interaction, we are excited to see the church model something different, which better embodies the Gospel we proclaim.

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 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 3, 2018
Robert "Bob" Gelle

August 21, 2018
Richard "Dick" Dahlin

Stephen Ministry: Care During Times of Transition

August and September are months of transitions. As the end of summer approaches in August, there are thoughts of final summer getaways. With the arrival of September, summer turns to fall. Calendars fill up with school, work, volunteer, and family activities. Some parents may be adjusting to having children back in school or sending children off to college. Some may be adjusting to living in a new town or starting a new job.

While transitions can be exciting and exhilarating, they can also bring feelings of loneliness, sadness, and anxiousness. There are times when transitions challenge our ability to cope with daily living. At times like this it can be helpful to talk with someone about these changes. St. John's has fifteen Stephen Ministers who can provide care during times of transition.

If you or someone you know would benefit from visiting with a Stephen Minister, please contact one of the pastors at 507-645-4429.

Introducing St. John's Prayground

St. John's Children's Board is trying out a new concept - a Prayground. The Prayground is a place in the front of the Sanctuary by the Baptismal Font where young children are welcome to experience worship in a different way.



Preschool activities include books, coloring books, drawing materials, and soft toys. Parents are asked to sit near their children when using the Prayground. Thank you for celebrating that God put the wriggles in children and we welcome their sounds and activity!



St. John's Pizza Evening at Berne Wood-Fired Pizza

Zwingli United Church of Christ
23148 County Highway 24
West Concord, MN 55985

Feeling bad that you missed St. John's Pizza evening at Red Barn Farm? Wipe away those tears - the Adult Ministry & Education Board has another summer pizza opportunity for you.



The Adult Ministry & Education Board invites you to make a short road trip to Zwingli United Church of Christ seven miles east of West Concord on Wednesday, August 28, for wood-fired pizza and music. Check out the web site for more information: www.bernepizza.org. It's a

45 minute drive from St. John's to Zwingli UCC. One carpool will depart from the St. John's parking lot at 4:30 p.m., another at 5:15 p.m.

Need a ride? Have an extra spot in your vehicle? Email Marilyn Calcutt or Rob Quanbeck.

St. John's Forums in September

September 22:

Creation Care: Climate Crisis with Professor Ann Gothman (Sanctuary)

How does climate change affect sustainability? What is the impact of climate change? How does climate change affect development? How does climate change affect us? What is the solution? The Benevolence & Social Concerns and Adult Ministry & Education boards have been meeting to jointly sponsor some adult forums to address these questions and the many others that we all have about Sustainability and Climate Change. A series of topics have been selected and will be covered over the course of six months. Leading the first Forum on "Climate Crisis" will be Anne Gothmann, Assistant Professor of Physics and Environmental Studies at St. Olaf College where she teaches an interdisciplinary global climate change course

September 29:

Learning to Pray (Sanctuary)

At a Pub Theology in July, a group of St. John's members thought it would be good if we had an adult forum on prayer and learning to pray. So here it is! Who taught you how to pray? Perhaps it was a parent or a grandparent or a pastor. Or perhaps no one ever taught you how to pray. Prayer is a central component of the Christian life and, yet, it can also be hard to know how to pray or even uncomfortable when asked to pray out loud and for others. In this forum, Pastor Jonathan will lead some teaching and discussion around prayer and how it might become a deeper part of our individual life and our congregational life.

Life and Growth

Radio Broadcasts

June 2, 2019

Given in memory of
Roger Hand
by his family.

June 9, 2019

Given in memory of
Omar and Margery Otterness
by the Otterness Children.

June 16, 2019

Given in loving memory of
Bob Gelle
by Jane Gelle and family.

June 23, 2019

Given in loving memory of
Gloria Ann Raadt
by Paul Raadt and family.

June 30, 2019

Given in memory of
Yvonne Jorgenson
by Gordon Jorgenson.

July 7, 2019

Given by
friends of St. John's.

July 14, 2019

Given by Shirley Falck
in gratitude for the numerous volunteers
who contribute their time and talents to keep
St. John's functioning smoothly.

July 21, 2019

Give in memory of
John Hellie, Greg Hellie, and Ron Svard
by Chuck and Anita Hellie.

July 28, 2019

Given in memory of
Milo Quinnell
by his wife and family.

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

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Children and Youth to Remember!

Online Registration for 2019-2020
Now Open

Wednesday Programming Orientation
Catechism Orientation
Wednesday, September 11, 6:00 p.m.

Open House for Preschool 1
Wednesday, September 11, 5:45 p.m.

Confirmation Orientation
Wednesday, September 11, 6:00 p.m.

First Day of Sunday School
Sunday, September 15, 9:45 a.m.

First Day of Middle School Youth Group
Sunday, September 15, 9:50 a.m.

ROCK, Wednesday Afterschool Programming
Begins Wednesday, September 18

First Day of Confirmation
First Day of High School Youth Group
Wednesday, September 18, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

4th Graders Receive their CATechism Books
Sunday, September 29, 10:45 a.m. Service

CAT Begins for Grades 4-5
Wednesday, October 2, 4:00-4:45 p.m.

Online Registration for Children and Youth 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 school year plus information on how to volunteer for upcoming events and programs. We appreciate registrations turned in by August 25 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.

Is your 3 year old starting Sunday School?

Children who are three years of age by 9/1/19 are welcome to begin Sunday School this fall!

Parents are invited to bring their preschooler to an Open House on Wednesday, September 11, at 5:45 p.m. to meet the teachers and get acquainted with their classroom before Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 15.

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



Sunday School Begins September 15

Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 15 from 9:45-10:30 a.m. Classes are for children who are age 3 (by 9/1/19) through grade 5. Sunday school is located in the lower level of St. John's. Register by going to St. John's website, www.StJohnsNorthfield.org. Please email Julie Brehmer, children@StJohnsNorthfield.org, if you have questions.

Catechism for Grades 4-5 Begins in October

4th and 5th grade students at St. John's will begin Catechism starting on Wednesday, October 2. CAT class meets in the lower level from 4:00-4:45 p.m. (snack is included). CAT meets 12 Wednesdays throughout the school year.

4th graders receiving their Catechism book on Sunday, September 29, at the 10:45 am service:

Wyatt Norrie, Jonah Brownlee, Tegan DeGrego, Michaela Gummow, Jacob King, Trevor Volkert

Please contact Julie Brehmer if your child would like to ride the St. John's afterschool bus on Wednesdays to CAT. The bus picks up at Sibley, Bridgewater, Greenvale and at the Middle School for PCCS kids.

Fall Programming is Coming!

- Sunday School begins on Sunday, September 15, for children age 3 (by September 1, 2019) - grade 5 from 9:45-10:30 a.m.
- Toddler Time: Children who are 2 by 9/1/19 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 18. Wednesday programs consists of an afterschool snack, Kid's Club, music opportunities (Alleluia and Jubilate Choir), art, and service projects. 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 11, at 5:30 p.m. in St. John's 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 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
- Recreation Helpers - supervise kids in game areas
- Bus Angels - check children on the bus at one of the elementary schools (about a 5 minute time frame)
- Kid's Club assistants for grades K-3rd from 4:45-5:30 p.m.
- Adults share a hobby/passion/interest with our 3rd-5th graders - **just one Wednesday**, 4:15-4:45 p.m.

Sunday Mornings:

- Sunday School team teachers
- Rotation Sunday School station leaders (1-3 Sunday commitment)
- Nursery volunteers
- Music volunteers

Please call Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429, if you have questions. Our thanks to you in advance!

Children and Youth

Feed My Starving Children

St. John's Middle and High School youth are invited to join Bethel and St. Peter's youth and friends to Feed My Starving Children to help package food for hungry children all over the world.

When:

Wednesday, August 21

Time:

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Place:

Meeting at Bethel to Carpool



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!

St. John's 150th Anniversary

ST. JOHN'S 150th ANNIVERSARY YEAR

PLEASE PLAN TO CELEBRATE WITH US!

OCTOBER 24 – 27



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24 - St. John's Hall (Or anyplace this summer)
10:00 A.M. – 7:00 P.M. Blood Drive (Help us reach 150 Pints!)



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 - St. John's Sanctuary
6:30 – 8:30 P.M. Silent Movies with John Ferguson at the organ!
Sing-along after intermission. Refreshments will be served.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 – St. John's Hall & Oak Lawn Cemetery
9:00 Joe Shaw and Jeff Sauve – History of St. John's
9:00 Continuous showing of "From Our Mother's Arms" movie
10:00 Deanne Lagerquist – The Norwegian Connection
11:00 Cemetery Tours – Walking History of St. John's Members
Bag lunch provided
5:00 Pre-Dinner music
5:30 Free Congregational Dinner with music (Please register)
6:30 Dessert & Program



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 – St. John's Sanctuary & St. John's Hall
150th Celebration between services – Pumpkin Sunday!
Please bring a pumpkin treat to share

150 Pints for 150 Years American Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

St. John's is hosting blood drives on **Monday, August 19, from 1:00-7:00 p.m.** and **Thursday, October 24, from 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.** in St. John's Hall. Donors can schedule appointments for these drives by contacting Bonnie Peterson at 218-686-8769, or call 800-733-2767, or go to RedCrossBlood.org.

150 pints for 150 years! You may donate at any site convenient for you. To have your pints counted, send an email to St. John's at 150anniversary@StJohnsNorthfield.org with your donation date and site. RapidPass is a way to complete your pre-reading and health history. Donors have 3 options to get their pass: online from their laptop, On-the-Go (the mobile version of RapidPass will allow users to complete their pass on their personal mobile device), or at the blood drive touchscreen tablets are available for donors to complete their pass while in the registration area.

Please look for the Give Blood Cards at the Welcome Desk for locations and times of American Red Cross blood drives in the Northfield area.

News and Updates

Camp Amnicon Review

In late June, 16 middle school youth, and 4 chaperones went to Camp Amnicon for a 4-day canoeing trip on the Flambeau River. While we survived a handful of thunderstorms at the beginning and end of the week, we also had a couple beautiful sunny and cool days on the river. We saw an eagle launch from its nest and soar over us. We saw deer drinking from the stream. We laughed, we tipped canoes on the rapids, and ate really tasty food around the camp fire each day. The devotional theme for the week was Radical God: Radical Love, Radical Forgiveness, Radical People. Each day began with a morning devotion and each evening closed out with a bible study and group discussion.

Throughout this week, our youth and our adults both grew together in friendship, and grew personally. Each one of us, in our own way, overcame or faced a challenge that we had not experienced before.

Thank you, St. John's, for supporting our youth and trips like this one. We could not do it without you! Also, a big thank you to Barry Becker, Elisha DeGrego, and Anna Weisenburger for giving a week of their time to chaperone this trip!

Here are a couple of comments from our youth:

Camp Amnicon was a really great experience. I would love to do it again. My favorite parts were signing the "Humpty Dump" song, cooking meals over the campfire, and the really big rapids at the end of the trip. Thank you so much for supporting us to go.

-Edy McLaughlin

When Marissa wanted a fishy friend from the river, as she was attempting to retrieve her fishy friend via her water bottle, she dropped her bottle into the river. Nate then proceed to jump in and save the water bottle; he saved the bottle all while keeping his peanut butter and jelly sandwich dry the whole time while in the water. Thanks for this memory and this great trip!

- Gabby Gilpin



Christikon Campers and Chaperones

In late July, 18 high school youth, and 4 chaperones went to Billings, MT, for hiking and camping in the majestic Rocky Mountains.

They just returned Sunday, July 28, so watch for their reflections in the next edition of the Voice.

News and Updates

Hearing Loop Update

On July 23, St. John's installed a hearing loop in our Sanctuary. The downstairs pews - including the back row of chairs - enclose an area where members can tap into our sound system directly through their hearing aids. This allows them to use their particular hearing aid prescriptions and also mitigate ambient noise as they listen to Scripture, prayers, and sermon.

If you have a hearing aid, you may need to have your T-coil activated by your audiologist to make the system work for you. Once the T-coil is on, the loop will work as soon as you enter the Sanctuary.

Need more help? An instruction and Q & A session is in the process of being scheduled.

This project was supported by individual donations and supplemented by funds from the Grace Overflowing Campaign. It is not too late to help pay for the system.

If we exceed the cost of the project in donations, additional funds will be set aside for eventually installing a loop in St. John's Hall as well.



St. John's Seeks a Part-Time Parish Nurse

St. John's seeks a part-time parish nurse to coordinate care for a growing community of seniors, taking part in visitation, needs assessments, and connecting members with community resources. 20 hours/week. BSN required. Parish Nurse certification preferred. Submit resume and cover letter by August 20 to office@StJohnsNorthfield.org. For additional information or questions contact Pastor Pam Fickenscher at 507-645-4429. **Application Deadline: 8/20/2019**

Apple Sunday is August 25!



Search for your favorite apple recipe, whip it up, and bring it to St. John's for our Annual Apple Sunday on August 25.

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 Angie Gehring at sharedministry@stjohnsnorthfield.org or call the church office at 507-645-4429.

From the Benevolence & Social Concerns Board:

Have you been watching the news and wondering what you can do to help immigrant families fleeing violence and extreme poverty? Once cleared by ICE and released from the detention center, these families are dropped off at Peace Lutheran in Las Cruces, NM in order for community members and volunteers to provide hospitality to single parents and children before traveling to meet their sponsors. Border Servant Corp coordinates these efforts and relies on donations.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Amazon Wish List: Purchase supplies and material items needed to support each family we host. Contact Kathy Shea for a link to the list.
- Financial Support: To make gifts of financial support go to www.peacelutheranlc.com. Select Give Online under Ministries, then "Hospitality for Refugee Families" from the fund list. Debit/Credit Cards and Bank Transfers accepted.

Border Servant Corps & Peace Lutheran Church are part of the ELCA AMMPARO Network and a Global partner with our SE MN Synod.

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

Beginning in September and occurring now and then throughout the year, the Sunday morning Forums will be focusing on "Sustainability," meaning sustainability of our planet earth. Implicit in that word is the sense of "survival." But for decades we have had an evolving vocabulary about "nature", such as "stewardship of the earth", "ecology", "environmental crisis", or now "climate crisis" and there have been many voices trying to be heard. Some of those voices are heard in books in our library and can be read for background and support for the Forums.

H. Paul Santmire, a Lutheran theologian, wrote a book published in 1985, *The Travail of Nature*, about which he wrote, "This study is written with two sometimes overlapping groups of people in mind: first, environmentalists, students of ecology, humanists, and all others who are concerned about our attitudes toward the natural world; second, those who have self-consciously identified themselves with the Christian faith, and who are concerned to become better acquainted with the teachings of their own tradition concerning the meaning and value of the natural world." The chapter headings make it easy to focus on a particular time in classical Christian theology, keeping in mind the words from Psalm 24:1, "...the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof..."

But is isn't only theologians who focus on creation as a starting point. Madeleine L'Engle in *And It Was Good - Reflections on Beginnings* (1983) begins her wide-ranging view of creation with the experience of a storm on an ocean trip. She writes as one who seems to live through the Biblical stories of God's love and faithfulness toward his human creatures who experience many storms.

Annie Dillard in *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* (1974) says, "This is the truth of the pervading intricacies of the world's detail: the creation is not a study, a roughed-in sketch; it is supremely, meticulously created, created abundantly, extravagantly, and in fine."

Wendell Berry's *Collected Poems, 1957-1982*, reveal his decision to renew his bond with the farm he grew up on, and his commitment to marriage and family as a sacrament. They are a joy to read.

Bill Holm says of Paul Gruchow, author of *Grass Roots - The Universe of Home*, "...he wants to needle us to trust nature, doubt power and look closer." His essays "...God us to think more clearly, feel more honestly and pay more attention to what we see around us."

In 1992, Tony Campolo says of his motivation in writing the book *How to Rescue the Earth - Without Worshipping Nature*, "My main reason for writing this book is that I want to add my voice to an increasing chorus which declares that rescuing the environment from an impending disaster is biblically mandated and that ending the careless selfish life-style that has brought us to this impending disaster is a Christian obligation."

There are many more books that look at some of the many ramifications of the concept of "sustainability." Check them out!

News and Updates



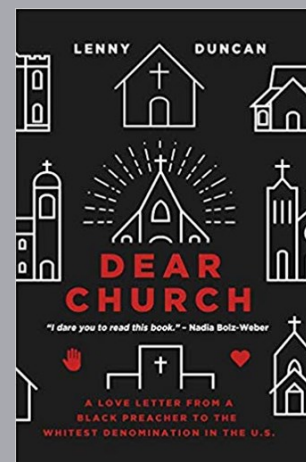
Pub Theology Reads a Book

On August 19th and 26th, Pub Theology will be discussing the new book by Rev. Lenny Duncan, *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US*.

In his book, Duncan tells his story of how he went from being incarcerated to being a black preacher in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

He also confronts the current struggles the ELCA faces, such as shifting demographics and declining congregations, and he challenges the ELCA to consider how theology might be part of the problem and part of the answer. We will discuss Part 1 of this book on August 19th, and Part 2 on August 26th.

We will likely gather at someone's house for these discussions - stay tuned. You can find this book at our local bookstore, Content.



the WOMEN'S page

August Gatherings

Women's Breakfast Group
August 10, 9:00am
Brick Oven

September Gatherings

Baby Boomers
Saturday, Sep 7, 4:30-6:00pm
Jane Rinehart's home
10666 First Timberlane Dr.

Breakfast Women's Group
Saturday, Sep 14, 8:30am
St. John's Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle
Thursday, Sep 12, 1:30p
Contact Barb Walters for
venue: 663-1055

Lydia Circle
Wednesday, Sep 11
Fellowship 9:00am
Bible Study 10:00am
St. John's Hall

Mary Circle
Friday, Sep 13, 1:00pm
Carol Benson's home
670 Green Meadows Ct.

Ruth Circle
Thursday, Sep 12, 9:30am
Parkview West Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)
Thursday, Sep 12 & 26
10:00am Room 19

Knitters (World Vision)
Tuesday, Sep 10 & 24, 10am
Kathy Vang 645-4849

Quilters
Mon. Sep 16 & Thu. Sep 19
8:30am - noon, Social Hall



**COURAGEOUS
CONVERSATIONS**

St. John's Women are busy preparing for the 2019-2020 year, adding "BOLD ACTIONS" to last

year's successful theme, "Courageous Conversations," providing practical, useful avenues of action and response to pressing issues of our day.

SAVE THE DATES

SEPTEMBER "Immigration: Personal Stories from the Border" September 5, 7 p.m. St. John's Hall

Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Mission/Companion Synods, SE Minnesota Synod, and Kathy Schuurman will share their personal stories from their experiences working with our ELCA partner, Border Servant Corp, in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Learn more about the journey of immigrant families and what they encounter when they arrive at our border. You will also have the opportunity to sign up for a service/learning trip to the border region, coordinated by Kathy Chatelaine, through the SE MN AMMPARO team. Open to the public.

OCTOBER "Is There Hope in Palestine?" October 10, 7 p.m. St. John's Hall

Rev. Mark Brown served for fourteen years in Jerusalem for Lutheran World Federation at Augusta Victoria Hospital, and is currently serving as LWF Senior Advisor for Advocacy and Fundraising for Middle East/Jerusalem in D.C. Mark will share his passion and insights into current Palestinian struggles and advocacy. He will also update us on A.V. Hospital (recipient of contributions from St. John's and many other Northfielders). This program is co-sponsored by NJP (Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/ Israel), who, along with Mark, will offer suggestions on how to be an ally. Open to the public.

Bible Study and Pot Luck Salad Lunch

Lead by Pastor Pam
Wednesday, August 21
10 a.m. St. John's Hall
Bring a salad to share.



Visit our web page:
[https://
stjohnsnorthfield.org/
congregational-life/
women/](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



back 2 school

Provide supplies for Lutheran World Relief school kits and for TORCH college student gift bags.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. LWR School Kits contain essential supplies to help all children – and in some cases, adults – continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Each year LWR spends nearly \$1.7 million to operate its Quilt and Kit Ministries. Those funds, combined with the generosity of quilters and kit-makers throughout the United States in 2018, enabled LWR to distribute \$13.4 million worth of Quilts and Kits to more than 601,144 people in 25 countries.



Same as last year, the St. John's Scout troop will assemble the school kits in September. We're grateful for their participation.

A collection box will be in the Commons August through - Labor Day

St. John's partnered with the TORCH program with a \$40,000 grant, through our 150th Grace Overflowing Anniversary.



This program helps TORCH high school graduates who are going on to college. These students are the first in their families to go on to college, and without this continued follow-up, they are often not able to make it through the first year. These gift bags are an added help and encouragement to them.

The Northfield TORCH program is a collaboration among members of the school district and community partners to address the issues of the achievement gap. Originally TORCH served Latino students, but because of our success, our programs are now available to all traditionally under-served students, including first-generation college students and low-income youth.



LWR school kit list:

1. Spiral 70-sheet notebooks, wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10 1/2"; (no loose-leaf paper)
2. 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with cm on one side and inches on the other
3. Pencil sharpener
4. Blunt Fiskar scissors (must be the Fiskar brand as the other ones break easily)
5. Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
6. Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
7. Box of 24 crayons
8. 2 1/2 " eraser

TORCH kit list:

1. Folders
2. Spiral notebooks
3. College-ruled Paper
4. Pencils/pens
5. Non-perishable snacks (such as granola bars, fruit snacks, etc.)
6. Gift cards: Gas, Coffee, Target, etc.

Cash or checks are also appreciated.

Write checks to St John's WELCA, memo "LWR and/or TORCH school bags"



News and Updates

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals

Northfield Noontime Organ Recitals is in their thirteenth 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

Stephen May

United Methodist Church, 1401 S. Maple St.

Wednesday, August 14

Janean Hall and Larry Archbold
Bethel Lutheran, 1321 North Ave
Holtkamp Organ, 11, 13 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 rkcollman@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?

- Come find out at the Newcomer Welcome Lunch with St. John's staff after second service on Sunday, September 22.
- Brings newcomers and longer-time members together approximately on Sundays between services for coffee, treats, and time together.
- Invites the sharing of life experiences, asking questions, and reflecting on scripture through *lectio divina*.

During the 2019-2020 program year, we will have two sessions of *Accompany*, one in the fall and the other beginning in February.

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.

Bible Study on the Book of Esther Led by Pastor Pam on Wednesday, August 21, 10:00 a.m.

Again this Summer Lydia Circle is hosting a Bible Study for all St. John's Women on the Book of Esther as published in the Gather magazine. Ladies who attended last summer's study on Prayer indicated that they would like to meet again for a summer study.

Pastor Pam will lead us in the study of the Book of Esther. This Bible Study was published in the June/July/August issue of the magazine. Be sure to bring your Bibles and enjoy this interesting study.

In addition to bringing your Bibles, we hope that you will plan to bring your favorite summer salad to share for a pot luck luncheon. If you aren't able to bring a salad, please don't let that stop you from coming to enjoy the day with others for a morning of study and fellowship.

Questions? Please contact Anita Hellie or Marilyn Calcutt if you have any questions or need a copy of the study from the Gather Magazine.

Questions? Contact:

- Marilyn Calcutt at 507-645-2814 or merilyn.calcutt@gmail.com
- Anita Hellie at 507-301-3609 or ahellie@charter.net

From the Peace & Justice Group

International Day of Peace

Climate Action for Peace is the theme chosen by the UN General Assembly to celebrate the 2019 observance of the 71st International Day of Peace.

The Northfield Human Rights Commission once again is stimulating the participation of organizations and individuals in Northfield in presenting the importance of the topics for us as individuals, citizens of the city, state and nations. Currently there are many who are already active locally.

For further information on action for groups and individuals contact Mar Valdecantos at 507-645-9603 or Judith Stoutland at 50-645-7842.

The Power of Nonviolence

Encouraging News: Attention to and action in the ways of using the power of nonviolence to promote the resolution of conflicts in the world reveal the power of such approaches.

If you wonder what positive signs there are for this, check out the presentation on the first day of each month at the Culture of Peace News Network (CPNN). Each month has a new topic and specific examples of success.

The July 1 issue focuses on efforts in Russia, Algeria, Kazakhstan, Czech Republic, and Serbia. At times there was violence against the protesters, but the protesters themselves were nonviolent which was especially important.

An earlier report in CPNN of the 1945 to 2000 study of Nonviolent Resistance in 101 democracies found that nonviolent resistance is more effective than violent resistance in both the long term and short term.

Check out earlier and continuing focus on success in many parts of the world each month at <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/?shva=#inbox> and adjust the date.

Meals on Wheels

St. John's is responsible for distributing Meals on Wheels from Sunday, September 15, through Saturday, October 12.



Many volunteers are needed. You can sign up for this important ministry of care for elderly and disabled members of our community on Sundays in the Commons.

For further information contact Christy Hall-Holt at 507-645-4429 or connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org or Nancy Kluver at 507-581-0896 or mkluver@gmail.com.

St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Facility Manager

Tim Byers

facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Financial Manager

Bernie Renander

finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

Carol Benson - Jubilate Choir

caroldbenson@gmail.com

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir

arielleloy@gmail.com

Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers

bells@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Office Manager

Leah H. Garlie

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry

Christy Hall-Holt

connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Angie Gehring

sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Emmanuel Kaghondi

youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Congregation President

Ruthie Neuger

rneuger@engageprint.com



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 36
NORTHFIELD MN

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
500 Third Street West · Northfield MN 55057

PHONE

507-645-4429

EMAIL

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Looking Ahead to October...

Sunday, October 13

Confirmation

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday, October 16 - MEA Weekend

Wednesday Night Meal Served from 5:15-6:15 p.m.

There will not be Wednesday After School Programs,
Confirmation, or High School Youth Group.

Thursday, October 24 - Sunday, October 27

St. John's 150th Anniversary Celebration

(See page 8 for additional information.)

