

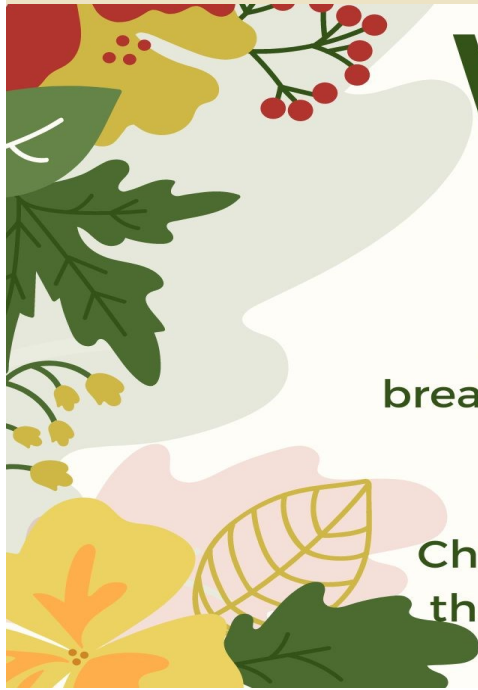


The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 64, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2024



WelcomeFest

Sunday, September 15

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Everyone is invited to St. John's Hall for breakfast, serving pancakes, sausage and fruit. (Hosted by St. John's Youth)

Children's activities begin at 10:00 a.m. after the Sunday School Open House at 9:45 a.m.

Inside this issue:

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Ministry Fair

Sunday, September 22

Wednesday, September 25

The Ministry Fair is coming!

Come and visit with members from many small groups at St. John's. Tables will be set up in St John's Hall and volunteers on hand to answer questions. Meet new people and learn about opportunities for fellowship and service.

There are two opportunities to visit the Ministry Fair:

- Sunday, September 22, 9:45-10:45 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 25, 5:15-6:15 p.m.

Contact Jill Enestvedt (jillenestvedt@gmail.com) for more information or to sign up to represent your group at the event.

WORSHIP SERVICES

See Page 2
LIVESTREAM

See Page 2

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

RADIO BROADCASTS

9:30 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 1 & 8
8:30 Sundays, Sept. 15, 22 & 29

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, Sept. 1 & 8
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m., Sundays, Sept. 15, 22 & 29

Livestream

9:30 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 1 & 8
8:30 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 15, 22 & 29
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org



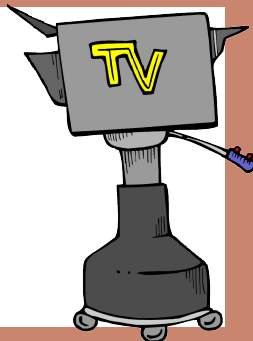
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TV Broadcasts

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

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,

Many people in the workplace are familiar with Gallup's inventory called "Strengthfinder." It's a tool that lets people identify what their strengths are in a range of skills common in the workplace, everything from strategic-thinking skills to the ability to win people over.

One of my top strengths – one that seems to be pretty common among people who have attended seminary – is "input." Input is defined as being inquisitive and enjoying collecting information, experiences or things. It's not surprising that people who have graduate degrees have this as a top strength, since ongoing learning is pleasurable to people with input strength.

We seem to live in a time when everything around us can feed the input impulse. It's never been easier to ask a question and google an answer. The trouble is, the same tools we use to find reliable information are sometimes vulnerable to misinformation. The advent of artificial intelligence means that it can be harder and harder to tell if "news" that you hear is legitimate.

One of the ten commandments says "**Do not bear false witness against your neighbor.**" It's especially important that we seek out truthful information because it is so easy to pass on poor information as if it is true. And when we pass on falsehoods, half-truths, or assumptions about people's motivations, we are bearing false witness.

So how do you get good information?

1. **Check the source.** Just because it is online does not mean it is "news." Just because it is "news" does not mean the writer followed journalistic fact-checking standards. Searching on the Google "news" tab will bring up better sources than the general google search. Checking the "About Us" page of a website will sometimes tell you about the biases and interests of those who run the site.
2. **Wait.** Our 24/7 news cycle means that the media feel obligated to comment and report all the time, even when very little information is known. This leads to speculation and predictions being pitched as "news". Think about whether you need to know more now, or whether you can wait a day or two to make sense of events.
3. Make a habit of regularly listening to **different sources and different models.** If you usually get your news on TV, read a newspaper. If you only watch one channel, change it. Because most major media companies own multiple papers and stations, make sure you are not *only* listening to one point of view.
4. **Beware of relying on social media.** Keep in mind that the algorithms are likely to confirm and deepen your pre-existing beliefs. Some social media protocols actively suppress links to news stories.
5. **Follow the money.** Big corporations spend millions to form public

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 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."*

September 16, 2023
Rev. David Hurtt

September 24, 2023
James Bronson

From Our Pastors

Continued from page 3

opinion. When reading about a "study" or the economic impact of a policy, ask yourself who benefits from it.

6. For your own self-care, **take breaks** from the information feed. We are not well-equipped to be recipients of world news every hour of the day. Develop a rhythm of paying attention, and then stepping away.

None of us has a perfect, objective handle on the truth. But with care and vigilance, we can avoid letting our emotions and opinions being swayed by misinformation.

*With love,
Pastor Pam*

St. John's Forum in September *Opening the Creation Stories and Finding Meaning* Sunday, September 29, 9:45 a.m., Sanctuary

This fall, St. John's Forum will be exploring the book of Genesis, focusing on some of the most well-known and least-well known stories. The series begins with an exploration of the creation stories in Genesis 1 and 2 that goes beyond the debate of "creation vs. science." Pastor Jonathan will help us consider the poetry of the creation stories and the deeper meaning for a troubled people.

St. John's Reads the Book of Genesis this Fall

This fall, you are invited to join other St. John's members in reading the Book of Genesis (the first book of the Bible). In conjunction with the St. John's Forum series focused on stories from Genesis, there will be suggested readings for each week in the weekly E-voice. Even if you have never read a book of the bible before, give it a try - read the passages and join the St. John's forum for deeper discussion on these stories of our faith.

Bible 101 Class **Sunday, September 22** **12:15-1:45 p.m., Fireside Room**

What is the Bible? How did it come to exist? How do I read the Bible in my everyday life? How do Lutherans read the Bible? If you are asking these questions - you are not alone. The Bible is sometimes an intimidating and even scary book, even though we read from it every Sunday. Many of us just do not know where to begin with it. Pastors Pam and Jonathan would like to invite any and all people, who are curious about the Bible to their Bible 101 class on Sunday, September 22, after the second service. We will meet in the Fireside Room and spend time learning and asking questions together. All are welcome!

Weekly Pub Theology



This summer we will walk through the topics of Sam Wells's 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 ten 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?*

Our last Pub of the summer read is Monday, September 16, from 6:00-7:30 p.m., at The Contented Cow. The group will then take a break until October.

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

Life and Growth

Deaths

August 5, 2024

Carol Solid

August 6, 2024

H.B. "Bernie" Renander

August 15, 2024

Jo Dahlin

August 17, 2024

Wayne Eddy



Radio Broadcasts in August

August 4, 2024

Given in loving memory of Bob Matta by Marilyn Matta and family on what would have been his 92nd birthday.

August 11, 2024

Given in honor of Jim Enestvedt by Chuck and Anita Hellie.

August 18, 2024

Given in celebration of Nathan Proctor's 10 years of ministry at St. John's by Cindy Clauson.

August 25, 2024

Given by Karen and Dale Schuette in remembrance of Doris Ellingboe's (Karen's mother) 96th birthday on August 30.

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

WelcomeFest! Sunday, September 15

St. Johns is excited to welcome children and youth back for the new school year!

Sunday school for children age 3 (by 9/1/24) to grade 5 starts with an Open House at 9:45–10:00 a.m. in the lower level classrooms.

Parents along with children can check out where your classroom is and meet the teachers!

A delicious breakfast, hosted and served by St. John's youth (grades 6-12), happens in St. John's Hall from 9:45-10:30 a.m.

From 10:00-10:30 a.m. there will be fun activities for children in St. John's Hall.

Everyone is welcome!



Register St. John's Children and Youth Programs

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.



Please contact Julie Brehmer or Kristin Partlo at 507-645-4429 if you have questions regarding programming.

Returning members - we appreciate your registrations by Sept. 8

Visitors and new members are invited to register at any time during the year.

Children and Youth Ministries Connections Night Wednesday, September 11 Fellowship Hall

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 and treats too!

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

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

Children Ministries

Sundays...

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. Parents too!

After the Open House, enjoy breakfast along with children's activities from 10:00-10:30 a.m.

On Sunday, September 22, Sunday school begins in the lower level classrooms at 9:45 a.m. PreK-K meets in Room 14, grades 1-2 meets in Room 13, and grades 3-5 meets in Room 11. Sunday school ends at 10:30 a.m. St. John's uses Augsburg Fortress' curriculum, Spark, and Whirl. Both curriculums follow the Lectionary year which means the lessons in worship is also the lesson children learn in Sunday school.

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, games, Alleluia Choir and Kid's Club (grades K-2), and Catechism and Jubilate Choir (grades 3-5).



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, taught by our pastors, teaches the foundations of Christian faith that Martin Luther prepared for parents to teach their children. At St. John's, we assist parents in providing classes on key parts of the Catechism as part of our overall Education program. Catechism starts on Wednesday, September 25, at 4:00-4:45 p.m.

If you are not receiving the Children's Ministry Weekly Emails and would like to, please contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@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

9:45-10:00 a.m.

Sunday School Open House

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

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

Confirmation

High School Youth Group

Wednesday, September 25
4:00-4:45 p.m.

CAT Begins for Grades 3-5



Children and Youth

Romans & Christians

On Wednesday, August 21, 32 youth from St. John's, Bethel, and St. Peter filled the halls of St. John's to play several rounds of "Romans & Christians."

Kristin is pleased to report that Jesus was found despite clever hiding places and determined Romans.

Ask a member of St. John's youth if you don't know about this very popular game.



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, 3:45-4:00 p.m.
- Bus Angels - take attendance and see that children are safely on board the bus at either Greenvale, Bridgewater or Spring Creek schools (about 5 minute time frame). Can be on a rotating basis.
- Youth! Lead games and assist with other activities during our programs.

Sunday Mornings:

- Sunday School Team Teachers for PreK-K, 1-2 grades, 3-5 grades (on a rotating basis)
- Nursery volunteers during the worship services

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

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
- Teach a J-Term class on the spiritual aspects of something you know well

Events

- Drivers
- Acquiring and preparing snacks
- Chaperones

Interested in helping out? Please contact Kristin Partlo at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org or 507-645-4429. Thanks!

News and Updates

Thanks to all who served on God's Work Our Hands Day!

Over fifty members of St. John's, Bethel and St. Peter's took part in God's Work Our Hands Sunday on August 25. This inaugural attempt to serve on a common day grew out of a desire for Northfield ELCA churches to connect with this national effort, even though the ELCA churchwide tradition of holding it on the second week of September doesn't work so well for Northfield!

Following worship, volunteers spread out to four service sites:

- At Lions Riverside Park, volunteers worked with Clean River Partners to clean storm drains and apply decals that remind residents that our storm drains connect directly to the Cannon River.
- At Starfish House 2, a large crew completed landscaping and gardening tasks for this newly renovated affordable home.
- At Spring Wind Farm, volunteers harvested food and weeded crops. Spring Wind shares harvest regularly with low-income CSA members as well as providing fresh produce to the Community Action Center food shelf.
- At St. John's, volunteers rolled over 300 cloth bandages. These supplies will be combined with other medical necessities for shipment from the Twin Cities to hospitals in the developing world.
- Also at St. John's, members wrote letters of advocacy through Bread for the World's Offering of Letters and supporting efforts to restore UNRWA funding to victims of the violence in Gaza.

Thanks to all who participated, and to those who helped organize, prepare lunches, and support our volunteers!



the WOMEN'S page

September

September Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Sep. 14, 4:30-6:00pm
Fran Wood's home
1706 Humphrey Ct.

Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Sep. 14, 9:00am
St. John's Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Sep. 12, 1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia & Paul Circle

Wednesday, Sep. 11, 9:30am
Coffee and Conversation
10:00 Bible Study
St John's Library

Mary Circle

*Thursday, Sep. 12, 1:00pm
St. John's Fireside Room

Note change due to Friday funeral

Wellspring

(GenXers)

Tuesday Sep. 3, 6:30-8:00pm
Fireside Room

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

2nd & 4th Thursday
10:00am St. John's Library

Knitters (World Vision)

1st & 3rd Wednesday, 10am
Kathy Vang's home
414 Waterwheel Dr. Dundas

Night Knitters!

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

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays, 9:00am - noon,
Fellowship Hall



Courageous Conversations

Thursday, September 12th, 7:00-8:30 PM.

Faith in Democracy?

"Restoring the Beloved Community"

Kathryn Lozada, lead southern Minnesota organizer for ISAIAH/Faith in Minnesota, will speak on building bridges towards racial, economic, and climate justice. Her presentation is the first in a two-part series examining faith in democracy.



Kathryn Lozada



Angela Denker

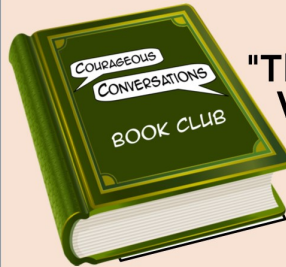


October 3, 7:00pm

Faith in Democracy?
"Christian Nationalism"

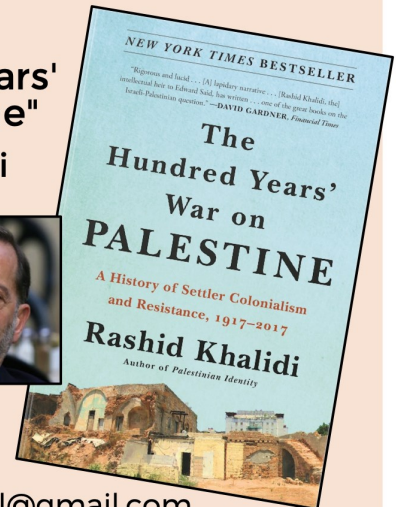
Angela Denker, ELCA pastor and nationally known author of "Red State Christians" will discuss the growing popularity and influence of American white Christian Nationalism, especially its influence on the upcoming presidential election. Co-sponsored by St. John's Adult Ministries.

Courageous Conversations Book Club:



"The Hundred Years' War on Palestine"

by Rashid Khalidi



Thursdays
4:00-5:30pm on zoom
September 19 & 26
October 10 & 24
November 14 & 21

Zoom link-contact: dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com



Like us & Friend us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns"
@ Kvinner St. Johns (Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🇳🇴)

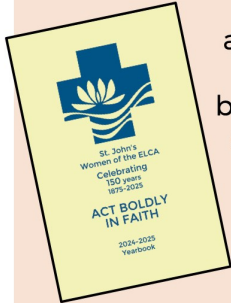
Web pages:

www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/women

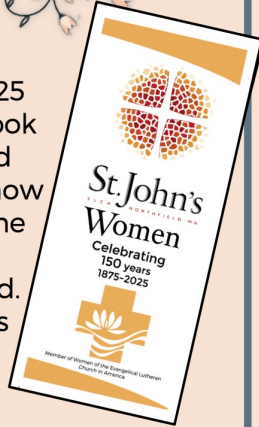
Contact:

women.stjohns500@gmail.com





Our 2024-2025 annual yearbook and updated brochure are now available at the Women's bulletin board. Pick up yours today!












Jesus Sees Women

Six Week Bible Study
Beginning September 5
Thursdays 9:00-10:00
Zdenek's home
women.stjohns500@gmail.com



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF School Kits

Our Wednesday CAT classes will pack school kits on September 18. Please donate supplies to the "schoolbus box" in the Commons.

-  70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled
-  paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf
-  30-centimeter ruler, or with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
-  pencil sharpener
-  pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
-  unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
-  black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
-  box of 16 or 24 crayons
-  2 1/2" eraser



Mission Morning

mocha, muffins, & missions

MISSION MORNING!

Saturday, September 28, 9:00-11:00



Kim Dickey, GHM
Communications Director

Kim Dickey, Communications Dir. for Global Health Ministries (GHM), will kickoff the morning with a short presentation about GHM.

Come meet other St. John's women while putting together kits for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries.



Global Health Ministries



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



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.

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

Cynthia Neubecker at 612-327-0169
or reduncan936@gmail.com

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



Inspired Pens: A Writing Group at St. John's

"I write because to write a new sentence, let alone a new poem, is to cross the threshold into both a larger existence and a profound mystery. A thought was not there, then it is. An image, a story, an idea about what it is to be human, did not exist, then it does. With every new poem, an emotion new to the heart, to the world, speaks itself into being."
—Jane Hirshfield

Inspired Pens is a group of creative people who enjoy writing in any format. We meet monthly during the school year. Each month participants will receive an email with a piece of writing on the theme for that month along with a few questions to ponder. We'll open with prayer or a devotion and check in with the group members. Then we'll discuss the reading on the theme. There will be time for individual free writing, followed by an opportunity to receive feedback if desired. New members are welcome at any time.

The leaders of this group are:

- Chris Engstrom, trained as an English teacher, ELCA Pastor, spiritual director. Views writing as a spiritual practice of awareness of the sacredness and beauty of the world along with a willingness to both celebrate and lament life's joys and sorrows.
- Barb Kuhlman, trained as a therapist, Barb's first degree was in English. Barb discovered the joy of writing some poems as part of the PEEL project at St. John's. Her down to earth approach to life and her fostering of mutual respect help the group stay grounded.

Overall topic this year: *Thresholds* * (topics borrowed from Sarah Rose Nordgren's poetry workshop which Chris participated in this summer.) We will meet on the following Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m.-noon, in St. John's Library

- September 24: Theme - Possibility
- October 22 & November 19: Theme - Risk
- December 17 & January 28 : Theme - Betweenness
- February 25 & March 25: Theme - Choice & Loss
- April 22 & May 20: Theme - Transformation

* For our purposes, a "Threshold" involves movement into any kind of a new space or stage of life and circumstance in your own life, faith journey, or in the life of the world around us.

Nathan Proctor Sabbatical Update

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to participate in the Cambridge Choral Summer Course held in Cambridge, England. I first applied for this course back in 2020 and wasn't able to go due to the pandemic and then scheduling conflicts in the years following. So, it was a surreal moment to finally get to spend time in England. While I completed the majority of my sabbatical in the summer of 2023, this was the final piece that was long awaited.



The goal of the course is to be an immersive experience in the current choral scene in Cambridge. Each day was filled with lectures, rehearsals, and then attending as many worship services as the schedule would allow. We participated in Sunday services, Compline, and many Evensong services. We heard excellent music sung by the top choirs in

England. Our lecturers were conductors (like Daniel Hyde and Barry Rose), composers (like John Rutter), organists, and singers (like members of Voces8). We spent time learning new ways to warm up and experience breath support when singing, the complexities of proper English diction (especially when trying to understand text in cathedral acoustics), organ registration ideas, and repertoire suggestions from their historic tradition.

We had the chance to be in incredible spaces such as Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral in London, and King's College Chapel and St. John's College Chapel in Cambridge. If



you ever listen to the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve from King's College, we stood at the back door where the famous solo on "Once in Royal David's City" happens each year. The English really know how to do beautiful chapel spaces and amazing acoustics! One of the highlights of the trip was singing as the choir for an Evensong service at Ely Cathedral. It's one thing to study the Evensong tradition and a whole different

experience to help lead it as a member of the choir. In leading, you gain a much deeper understanding of the flow and context of the service.

The course was extremely well run and all the participants were very supportive of each other. It was fun to spend time with other church musicians from across the country, learning about their context and challenges. I am so grateful for the opportunity to be away from St. John's and attend this course. Be on the lookout for new English choral and organ pieces sprinkled in throughout the year. Thank you for being a congregation that supports sabbaticals and the learning and growing that comes from that time.

*In gratitude,
Nathan*

News and Updates



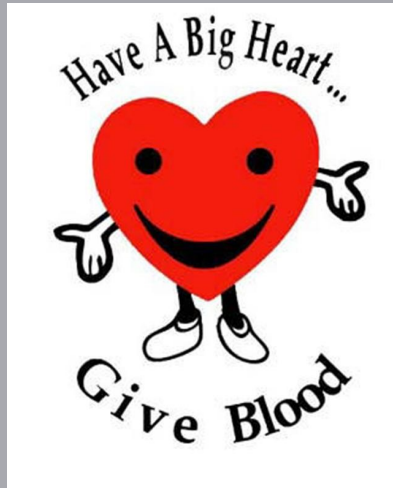
A NOTE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP BOARD

With gratitude

As another autumn begins, the routines of the school year return. Young voices and busy bodies fill choir rooms and classrooms. How do our children learn and grow in this place? With the help of many hearts and hands. We are teachers, singers, camp leaders and confident. We are vacation bible school, prayer buddies, bus angels and afterschool safe spaces. From the nursery to confirmation.

We are St. John's

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 or by calling 1-800-733-2767.

Music Opportunities this Fall

The St. John's Chorale begins another exciting season on Wednesday, September 11. Our first rehearsal starts at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room. Rehearsals are weekly on Wednesdays from 7:00–8:30. The Chorale sings around three Sundays a month from September–May. Anyone is welcome to join us, whether you have little choir experience or you've sung your whole life. Come join us!

The Rejoice Ringers handbell choir begins a new year on Thursday, September 19. Our first rehearsal is at 6:00 p.m. in the balcony. Rehearsals are Thursday nights from 6:00–7:00 and we ring in worship one Sunday a month. We can teach you to play bells, but it is helpful to already know how to read notes and rhythms! New ringers and people willing to sub on occasion are welcome!

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

Update on Solar Panels

We are awaiting the final connection of the solar panels. Watch for information regarding a celebration date.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Sustaining Grace to make this work possible.



Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (October 2024 Edition):

September 15

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

News and Updates

Senior Pastor

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Associate Pastor

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Early Childhood Specialist*

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David Sims - Director of Rejoice Ringers

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WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

*Join Us for
Fall Worship*

SUNDAYS STARTING SEPTEMBER 15

8:30 A.M.

10:45 A.M.