



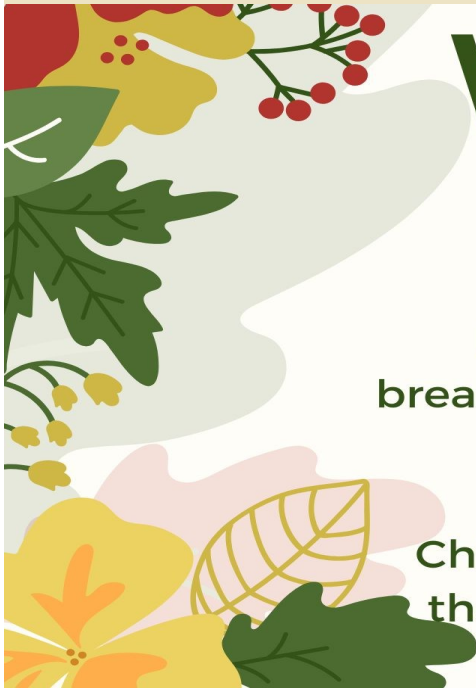
The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 65, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2025



WelcomeFest

Sunday, September 14

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:

- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 Wonders of Worship
- 5 St. John's Forum - Fall 2025
- 6 Register for Children and Youth Programs for 2025-2026
- 8 Courageous Conversations Begins Eighth Year
- 11 Musical Opportunities this Fall
- 12 Wednesday Night Meals Return
- 14 A Free Music Class for Babies and Toddlers
- 16 Fall Worship Schedule

WORSHIP SERVICES

See Page 2

LIVESTREAM

See Page 2

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Key Fall Dates

September 10

*Connections Night for Wednesday Programming
St. John's Chorale Rehearsals Begin*

September 14

WelcomeFest / Change to Fall Worship schedule at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

September 17

Afterschool Programs, Wednesday Night Meals, and Confirmation Classes Begin

October 19

MEA Fall Break - No Sunday School

October 26

Reformation Sunday / Affirmation of Baptism for 10th graders

November 2

All Saints Sunday

RADIO BROADCASTS

9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 7

8:30 Sundays, Sept. 14, 21 & 28

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., Sunday, Sept. 7

8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m., Sundays, Sept. 14, 21 & 28

Livestream

9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 7

8:30 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 14, 21, & 28

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

livestream

Radio Broadcasts

9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 7

8:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 14, 21, & 28

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

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TV Broadcasts

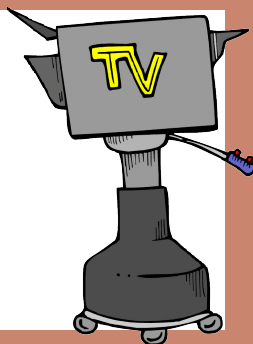
7:30 p.m. Mondays

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 people of St. John's,

What's new?

Although the "new year" is technically January for the civic calendar, and Advent for the liturgical calendar, many of us hit the "reset" button in September. The crisp air of fall brings a sense of renewal even if we are no longer starting up a school year.

This year, we have a number of new initiatives at St. John's that promise growth and renewal for all ages.

- The Adult Ministry & Education Board is sponsoring a series ***Courage, Conversion, Care: Responding Faithfully to Climate Change***. We will hear from many guest speakers and host a congregational read of Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'*.
- We will be experimenting with more **Wednesday** worship opportunities. On **Wednesday, October 1**, and **Wednesday, November 5**, you'll be invited after Wednesday supper to a brief time of prayer and song for the middle of our week.
- In Sunday worship, we will be participating in **Wonders of Worship** – a children's sermon series designed to invite all of us to a deeper understanding of the parts of our worship service.
- Later this fall, we'll all be challenged to remember youth who are not housed in our community. **LOFTY – Lights Out for the Youth** – is a Foundation-funded effort to increase awareness throughout Northfield about precariously-housed youth, and raise funds for the Wallflower House.
- And, because celebrating what has lasted always involves something new, we'll be celebrating **WELCA's 150th year** on October 12 in worship with a newly commissioned hymn!

There's more, always more. But if you're looking for a bit of a spiritual reboot this fall, please check out these opportunities and read more in these pages.

God is never done with us. May we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Peace and love,
Pastor Pam Fickenscher

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 last year in this month.

September 8, 2024
Richard Kleber

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

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.



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).

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:

- Amazon Gift Cards
- Extension cords
- Gallon freezer bags
- Lysol wipes
- Night lights
- Packing tape
- Women's razors and shaving cream

Ruth's House thanks the rice county community for their generous donations which go to provide basic needs to local families.

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

Thanks for all you do!



Wonders of Worship: Engaging Kids in Worship

This program year, St. John's is one of several congregations around the country piloting an effort to engage children under 10 in the meaning of our worship practices.



Supported by the Nurturing Vocation in Children project and funded by the Lily Endowment, Wonders of Worship provides artwork, music, and a weekly children's sermon about each part of our liturgy.

Starting September 14, children will be provided with a coloring page and a trading card that reminds them of each week's element of worship. The children's message itself will move around during the year to different moments in the service, each time signaled by a musical refrain. Each image from the pages and cards finally fit into a large piece of artwork representing the connections of the liturgy to creation and the seasons.

The Nurturing Vocation in Children project is led by the St. Olaf's Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community. Staff leaders from St. John's will be participating in monthly meetings with other participating congregations to share what we are learning along the way.

St. John's Forum - Fall 2025

Courage, Conversion, Care: Responding Faithfully to Climate Change

As people of faith, what do we need to know and understand about climate change, and how are we called to respond? Underlying these questions is a more basic one: who are we, and what are we called to be? Join us this fall as we explore these questions in a series of forums on responding to climate change.



In her introduction to the series, Professor Kiara Jorgenson applies the concept of conversion to the long and complex process of reorienting ourselves to the natural world and its creatures. Professors Trish Zimmerman and Kathy Shea draw attention to the unique features of our own natural environment in Northfield while modeling habits of attention and care. Professors Kathryn Schifferdecker, Tim Eberhart, and Colleen Carpenter introduce us

to biblical and theological resources for redefining our relationship and responsibility to the natural world and its creatures. Professor Jorgenson and her students, Addie Flesch and Paavo Rundman, bring the series to a close with reflections on our current situation: how, amid the anxiety of dealing with a rapidly changing environment, do we move forward with hope?

Other activities are also planned. On October 5, please join Professor Shea from 4:00-5:00 p.m. for a walk through the St. Olaf Natural Lands

Continued on page 10

Life and Growth

Deaths

August 3, 2025
Erik Johnson



Radio Broadcasts

August 3, 2025

Given in honor of
David and Genevieve Quarberg
by Chuck and Anita Hellie.

August 10, 2025

Given in loving memory of Bob Matta
by Marilyn Matta and family.

August 17, 2025

Given in memory of Erik Moe.

August 24, 2025

Given in loving memory and
celebration of the life of Marlene Engstrom
by Duane Engstrom.

August 31, 2025

Given in honor of Donna and Burt Paulsen's
wedding anniversary.

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

WelcomeFest

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

Wednesday, September 24

4:00-4:45 p.m.

CAT Begins for Grades 3-5



Register for Children and Youth Programs for 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 by using this QR code or click on "Register" on our website.



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/Catechism** at 6:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday Confirmation/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
- 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 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, 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 24 at 4:00-4:45 p.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.
- 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 leaders for Pre K-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!

Children and Youth

Why do we do this?
***"To care for each other
as we learn to live
Christian lives together"***

Wednesday Night Youth Programming Wednesdays 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Middle School Confirmation (Grades 6-12)

The new confirmation year begins this month! For our theme this year, we'll dwell on the parable of the Good Samaritan and the many ways it plays out in our community, in which we are all neighbors with needs and gifts to share.

High School Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

High school starts out with confirmation again this year and then separates to meet with Pastor Jonathan in the Youth Room.

Note for All Youth

On October 1, we will attend Vespers together and then meet downstairs for confirmation.

Celebrating 150 years of St. John's Women

the
Women's page

September
2025

1875-2025



COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS

BEGINS EIGHTH YEAR!

September Gatherings

Baby Boomers

Saturday, Sep. 13, 4:30-6:00
Alison Kavanaugh's home
428 Ford St. SE

Elizabeth Circle

Thursday, Sep. 11, 1:30pm
St. John's Library

Lydia & Paul Circle

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

Mary Circle

Friday, Sep. 12, 1:00pm
Fireside Room

Wellspring

(GenXers & Millennials)

Tuesday Sep. 2, 6:30-8:00pm
St. John's Fireside Room

Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Sep. 13, 9-11:30
Fireside Room

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

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

Evening Knitters

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

Wellspring Craft & Conversation

3rd Wednesday
5:30-7:30pm
Fireside Room

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays
9:00am - noon
Fellowship Hall



At this moment in time, with deep cuts in support systems funding and demoralizing rhetoric, we are called to **create community for common good**. We provide a space for finding common ground across differences and forming relationships to create a more just world for future generations. We believe that the shared principles of dignity and human rights are critical to both our faith communities and our democracy. Our monthly speakers will enlighten us on local and national implications for education, housing, health care, and the environment, along with freedom of expression and equality.

September 11, 2025

7:00pm, St. John's Hall

"Why Public Education Matters"

Dr. Matt Hillmann, Northfield School District Superintendent, will discuss why public education is a cornerstone of a successful democracy, how he stays positive in the face of challenges, and what community members can do to engage with the work of our schools.



2025 Global Health Ministries Symposium

Global
Health
Ministries

"Healing in a Wounded World"

Saturday, September 27, 9 - 11:30 am
Normandale Lutheran Church
6100 Normandale Rd. Edina \$20.00
Register: www.ghm.org/healing

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: September 24

Old Fashioned Norwegian/Swedish Dinner

Help us recreate a night from the past for the congregation at the Wednesday night supper. We need Jello salads, brownies, serving help, clean up help, etc.

Contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli ladylynneg@gmail.com
or women.stjohns500@gmail.com



YOU'RE INVITED!

St. John's WELCA 150th Birthday Bash & Hotdish Hoedown

Saturday, October 11th, 11:00 - 1:30

Come join the fun as we celebrate



Great Entertainment! - The Looney Lutherans will be performing "Hotdish on the Range: All Hat, No Cattle" The show is filled with Lutheran cowboy-ish wisdom and hilarious parodies of classic songs like, "I'm Falling to Pieces."

Great Food!! - Hotdishes, salad, rolls & butter, apple pie & ice cream

And so much more! - Dignitaries & area Lutheran church ladies will also be invited to the birthday celebration.

Tickets on sale now between services: \$15.00 (Tickets at the door: \$20)

2025 SE MN Synodical Women's Organization Convention "Speak Up"

Keynote speaker: Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children

Saturday, September 27, 8am - Noon

Grace Lutheran Church, 300 East Elm Avenue, Waseca

Come enjoy worship, music, lunch, fellowship and mission displays. \$25 registration fee due September 15. Sign Up sheets are available at the WELCA bulletin board. Contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli ladylynneg@gmail.com or women.stjohns500@gmail.com for carpooling.



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!! WELCA Triennial Gathering July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines, IA.

Join us at the 2026 Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa!

The Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering takes place every three years and gathers 1500-3000 women leaders, participants, and newcomers for four days of worship, inspiring speakers, workshops, service projects, and more!

We invite you to join with our ministry as we seek to nourish women's faith and love and to inspire women to proclaim their identity, intent, and actions. The theme for the 2026 Triennial Gathering is "I Am Worthy," based on Psalm 139:14: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." This statement serves as a reminder of God's promise to be with us, even in times of devastation and division. By repeating the phrase "I am worthy," we can recognize the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in our lives. This practice of self-affirmation opens up opportunities for healing and restoration within

ourselves, our church, society, and the world. When we declare, "I am worthy," we align ourselves with God's promises. There is great power in our resolve. Register here:

<https://community.elca.org/women-of-the-elca-13th-triennial-gathering>



july 16-19, 2026 ✨ des moines, iowa

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

St. John's
Women
of the
ELCA

News and Updates

A NOTE ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

“ Being a
good servant
to God and to
St. John's brings
me great joy
and comfort.”

Doug Johnson

“Freely you have re-
ceived; freely give.”

Matthew 10:8

St. John's Forum - Fall 2025

Continued from page 5

(details to follow in *E-Voice* and bulletins). And watch for further information on an online discussion of *Laudato Si'* (Praise be to You), Pope Francis's encyclical on care for Earth “our common home.” This discussion, tentatively scheduled for October 16, 30, and November 13 from 4 to 5:30 p.m., is designed to complement Professor Carpenter's talk on November 16.

Introduction

September 21: *Toward Ecological Conversion* - Kiara Jorgenson, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Religion and Environmental Studies, and Chair, Department of Environmental Studies
St. Olaf College

Models of Attention and Care

September 28: *Entangled Divine. Meeting God through Prairie Habitat*
Trish Zimmerman, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Practice, Department of Religion
St. Olaf College

October 5: *Why Care for the Natural Lands at St. Olaf College?* - Kathleen L. Shea, Ph.D. Professor Emerita of Biology, St. Olaf College

Christian Biblical and Theological Resources

October 19 : *Does 'Matter' Matter? - Biblical Foundations for the Care of Creation* - Rev. Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker Professor and Elva B. Lovell
Chair of Old Testament Luther Seminary

November 9 : *Called to Be Creatures: Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Ecological Theology for a World in Crisis* - Rev. Dr. Timothy R. Eberhart
Robert and Marilyn Degler McClean Associate Professor of Ecological Theology & Practice Director, Center for Ecological Regeneration
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

November 16 : *Faith Active in Love: Laudato Si' Is Calling You to Climate Justice* - Colleen M. Carpenter, Ph.D. Professor of Theology and Women's Studies, St. Catherine University (2006-2022) Benedict Distinguished Visiting Professor of Environmental Studies, Carleton College (2022-2024)

Courage and Hope in the Present Moment

November 23: *Young Lutherans and the Realities of Climate Anxiety* - Addie Flesch Psychology and Religion major, with minor in Environmental Studies, St. Olaf College Paavo Rundman Ancient Studies and Film and Media major St. Olaf College

November 30: *Troubled Hope* - Kiara Jorgenson, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Religion and Environmental Studies and Chair, Department of Environmental Studies St. Olaf College

WelcomeFest! Sunday, September 14

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

Sunday school for children age 3 (by 9/1/25) 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!

Musical Opportunities this Fall

St. John's Chorale

Rehearsals on Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., September-December and February-May.

- Our first rehearsal is on Wednesday, September 10.

Come join the largest adult ministry group at St. John's! Open to high school youth and up. We sing around three Sundays a month.

Questions: Contact Nathan Proctor (music@stjohnsnorthfield.org).

Rejoice Ringers

Rehearsals on Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m., September-December and February-May.

- Our first rehearsal is on Thursday, September 18.

Come join our handbell choir! If you have basic music reading skills (notes and rhythms), we can teach you how to ring bells. We are in need of one or two more ringers this season. If you are interested but can't commit to a weekly rehearsal, we are always looking for substitute ringers.

Questions: Contact David Sims (davidsims@gmail.com).

Accompany Program Fall Session Begins Sunday, October 19

Accompany is St. John's approach to welcoming newcomers to our faith community through gatherings that provide information, connection with others, and spiritual reflection, along with a sponsor who provides friendly support. If you are new to St. John's, we invite you to join us! Accompany meets at 9:45 a.m. in the Undercroft after worship on the following Sundays: October 19, 26 and November 2, 9, 16, 23. If you would like to sign up for the fall session, please contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

News and Updates

VOICES OF ST. JOHN'S

On Giving & Receiving

“ St. John's provides lots of ways to give—time, talents and resources. I give to St. John's as it is an opportunity to experience joy. As a gardener, I see giving like planting seeds of joy that grow not just in my own life, but in the lives of others. Acts of giving of any size and spreading kindness brings warmth and care to others. I receive joy and gratitude through giving and connect on a deeper level to people around me. These feelings make me want to give more. My well being has in-



Janell Martin

creased and I've made a lot of connections through St. John's. I'm grateful for the St. John's community! ”

News and Updates

St. John's Wednesday Night Meals

Let's get together for Dinner -
Come, share a meal!

All are welcome, it's a fantastic time for
fellowship for ALL ages!

Supper is served from 5:15-6:15 p.m.
in St. John's Hall.

Free will offering appreciated!

Wednesday, September 17
Menu TBD

Wednesday, September 24
Old Fashioned Swedish/Norwegian Dinner

Wednesday, October 1
Menu TBD

Wednesday, October 8
Menu TBD

Wednesday, October 15
No Meal - MEA

Wednesday, October 22
Menu TBD

Wednesday, October 29
Menu TBD

WEDNESDAY
Night Meals
Come share a meal!
Wednesdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m.
St. John's Hall

Wednesday Night Meals Return September 17, from 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall

All are welcome to enjoy delicious food and fellowship at this freewill offering community meal!

Fall 2025 Wednesday Night Meal Dates: September 17, 24, October 1, 8, 22, 29, November 5, 13, 19, December 3, 10, 17.

Dessert is provided by the donations we receive, and can be either homemade or store bought. If you'd like to donate a dessert (any treat you'd like to share), bring it to the church kitchen by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, or it can be dropped off days prior, labeled for Wednesday Night Meal. Interested in assisting with meal set-up or clean-up? We love helpers! Contact Angie Gehring at 507-645-4429 or sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org if you'd like to volunteer!

Director of Ministry with Youth & Families Update

Kristin Partlo is thrilled (along with staff) to share that she will be staying in the Director of Ministry with Youth & Families for one year more than originally planned, through the 2025-2026 program year.



She plans to begin her one-year internship after that in the fall of 2026 with hopes of ordination to follow. Kristin wants to thank everyone for the generous support St. John's has provided to her during her years in seminary and in her role with youth and families.

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!

St. John's Kitchen Gets a Deep Cleaning

Many thanks to Ted Peterson and Craig Schultz for generously volunteering their time this summer to give our kitchen a deep cleaning!



They went above and beyond a general cleaning by also mopping and scrubbing the long forgotten walls behind as well as the floors underneath our large freezers, refrigerators, heavy pots and pans rack, and other large items and appliances that are rarely moved. Their elbow grease and efforts have prepared our kitchen for another year of bustling activity!

We are so grateful for their service!

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 thru September 7. Cash donations are also appreciated. Make checks to St. John's WELCA, and write school kits on the memo line. Checks can be left in the church office or the offering plate on Sundays. Our goal is to pack 200 kits, so many supplies are needed! Bags will be packed in September.

LWR School Kit List:

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

Inspired Pens

St. John's writing group, "Inspired Pens," will meet on Tuesday, September 23, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Inspiration for this season's monthly sessions will come from the book *Ladder to the Light* by Steven Charleston, an indigenous Choctaw Elder and former Episcopal Bishop who has also taught at Luther Seminary. The group will focus on writing as a spiritual practice. Purchasing the book is not necessary. New members are welcome. For more information, contact Barb Kuhlman at (bkuhlman47@gmail.com) or at Chris Engstrom. (revchristea@me.com)

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

A Free Music Class for Babies and Toddlers

The class is 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!



Christikon Update

From July 19-26, thirty-five middle and high school youth and chaperones drove in four vans all the way to Montana for a hiking and backpacking adventure at Christikon. We had an amazing time exploring the mountains, seeing just how much we could carry and how far, avoiding blisters, making and deepening friendships, and discovering Christ wherever we went.

Thank you to everyone for your prayers and support of this ministry with youth and families. We also extend special thanks to Jim Brownlee, Terrence Hassanally, and Jolene Johnson (and their families) for giving a week of their time to chaperone.

Reminder of Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin and E-Voice Announcements:

Wednesday by 2:00 p.m.

The Voice (October 2025 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.

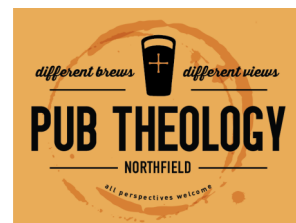
Pub Theology in September

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 Davis at 507-645-4429 or jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



An Update from Rice County Habitat for Humanity

We're excited to share a joyful update from our Faribault build sites! Thanks to your prayers and support - and the hands-on help of our community - we've completed 2 of the 6 homes planned in Faribault. One of those homes was built in partnership with the South Central College Carpentry Program. We are well on our way with 2 more homes, and the final 2 are nearly fully enclosed!

We've been blessed with incredible support from local churches and businesses. Together, you're making a real difference.

We'll continue working on these Faribault homes into September, so there's still plenty of time to sign up for a build day! It's a wonderful opportunity for service.

We'd also love help in other important ways:

- Provide a lunch for our hardworking volunteers
- Bring cold drinks (Gatorade and water)
- Drop off a fun ice cream treat to surprise the crew

Looking ahead, we're also preparing for our next Northfield build, where we'll construct two duplexes on Sumner Street. Applications for homeownership are now open. If you know a family in need of safe, affordable housing, please encourage them to connect with Erin through our website: habitatricecounty.org/housing or directly through their email: erin@habitatricecounty.org or 507-200-1668.

Together, we're putting faith into action and changing lives - thank you for being such a vital part of this work.

Jodi Wagner
Community Engagement Coordinator

Food Packing Event Saturday, September 27, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Northfield Middle School

Kids Against Hunger/Jesus Food invites you to join in the food packing event at Northfield Middle School on September 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We welcome students, parents, college students, and community members' support through prayer, donations, and volunteering to pack food (age 5+ please). Our goal is to raise \$7,500 for 25,000 meals (\$.30/meal). We also anticipate the event will foster unity and camaraderie among participants and start the school year on a positive note which we hope will continue throughout the coming year. KAH/Jesus Food is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, with \$.95 of every dollar going towards food.

What You Can Do:

- Pray for us.
- Support us with donations (\$1 = 3 meals).
- Volunteer to pack food.
- Please share our mission with your friends, family, and colleagues.



SCAN ME

St. John's Staff

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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
Fall Worship*

SUNDAYS STARTING SEPTEMBER 14

8:30 A.M.

10:45 A.M.