



The

Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2026



WelcomeFest

Sunday, September 20

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.

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WORSHIP SERVICES
Sundays
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

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

LIVESTREAM
Sundays
8:30 a.m.
www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Key Fall Dates

September 16

*Wednesday Night Meals and Confirmation Classes Begin
St. John's Chorale Rehearsals Begin*

September 20

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

September 23

Afterschool Programs Begin

October 14-18

MEA Fall Break - No Wednesday Meal or Children & Youth Programming

October 25

Reformation Sunday / Affirmation of Baptism for 10th graders

November 1

All Saints Sunday

Join Us for Worship!

Summer Worship Services

9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 6

8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m., Sundays, Sept. 13, 20 & 27

Livestream

9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 6

8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Sundays, Sept. 13, 20 & 27

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org



Radio Broadcasts

9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 6

8:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 13, 20 & 27

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net



Video

St. John's YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/@StJohnsNorthfield



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,

Almost two and a half years ago now, I wrote a newsletter article about how I had recently started reading the Bible again. As I said then, of course I read the Bible *all the time* as a pastor – for sermons or bible studies. But I had started reading the Bible again just for myself as a spiritual practice and for my own spiritual growth and connection with God.

Well, I confess that over the past year or so, I have lost track of that spiritual practice – again. Life got busy and certain habits and commitments and practices fell to the wayside. I have experienced this many times, where a spiritual practice comes and I find great meaning and appreciate in it and then...it goes. We fall into and out of spiritual practices all the time – which can feel disappointing and like we are failing at the spiritual practice and this thing called faith. I'm guessing you know the feeling.

But here is something I've discovered recently – the coming and going of the spiritual practice, the doing and the failing-to-do of it...all of that *is the spiritual practice*. A spiritual practice is not necessarily doing something over and over again with perfect consistency throughout your life, but rather it is discovering when you are spiritually hungry and then finding something that feeds you. And then once you've been fed, you might take a break for a while to digest and rest. And then, one day, you discover that you are hungry again...and so you go searching *again* for nourishment. *All of that* is the spiritual practice.

I do not know where you are at in that spiritual cycle, but starting this fall, I am excited to share that we are inviting all of us back into the spiritual practice of reading the Bible again. With the help of the Adult Ministry & Education Board, there are two offerings to consider.

First, the St. John's Forum will take us into the story of Moses and the Hebrew people in the book of Exodus. Similar to our series on Genesis a few years ago, we hope to revisit and discover anew the big stories we learned about in Sunday School – like Moses and the Burning Bush, the parting and crossing of the Red Sea, the plagues, and the 10 commandments. You can read more about this on page 5. If you want a head start pick up your Bible and read through the book of Exodus between now and then.

Second, a new small group Bible study is starting called *Come and See*. This study will be led by Julie Zdenek and it will walk us through the Gospel of Mark, over the course of many weeks. This is a great way to deepen your understanding of the historical context behind the gospel stories and the life of Jesus, while also growing in faith and wonder alongside others. You can learn more and sign up on page 5.

I am excited to dig back into scripture together this fall and I hope you will join me!

With joy,
Pastor Jonathan

From Our Pastors



Pastor Pam Fickenscher



Pastor Jonathan Davis



Pastor Katie Fick

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.



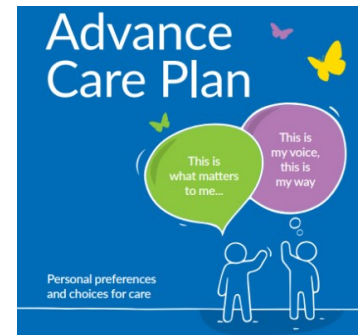
Grief Booklets:

"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.

Advance Care Planning Open House Wednesday, September 2, 4:30-6:00 p.m. Northfield Library, Mezzanine

At this open house session, trained Advance Care Planning facilitators will be available to answer your questions and individually assist you in starting, completing, revising, and/or notarizing your health care directive.

A health care directive is a document for putting your health care wishes into writing in the event you are incapacitated in the future. This is a way to make known your values and goals for care, and to gain peace of mind (and a thumbs-up from family members and medical providers!)



Adults of all ages are welcome. Feel free to bring your own blank or partially-completed health care directive; blank documents will also be available. This event is free.

Future open houses:

- Wednesday, October 7, 1:30-3:00 p.m., FiftyNorth - Room 103
- Wednesday, November 4, 4:30-6:00 p.m., Northfield Library

Facilitated by the Northfield-based End of Life Choices Collective.



Monthly trips to Ruth's House happen! Plus, Sara's house uses the same stockroom.

Below is the newly revised "Current Needs List" for Ruth's House. Check often, as we will focus on their changing needs.

- Toilet paper
- Laundry detergent
- Floor cleaner
- Vinyl gloves
- Pillows
- Stainless steel appliance cleaner

For their ongoing needs and/or for you to donate on your own, see their website. Also consider giving checks or Kwik Trip gas cards to the offering plate or take directly to the Church Office. Thanks for all you do!

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

St. John's Forum Fall Series

Exodus: The Shaping of a People

Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in St. John's Hall

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION! This fall, St. John's Forum will return to biblical drama in the pages of scripture with a series on the book of Exodus. A few years ago, we offered a series on the book of Genesis and now we move from Genesis to Exodus, where the story of God and the shaping of God's people follows slaves, midwives, plagues, mid-night escapes, and wilderness escapades.

Many of these you might remember from Sunday School, but we hope to dig deeper into these stories with details you might not have noticed and questions you never knew you could ask. Did you know that two rule-breaking midwives helped to save the Hebrew people? Did you know that Moses was a murderer? Can God really part the waters of the sea and does God really send torturous plagues upon people?

We hope you will join us in opening your Bibles and minds to the rich meaning in these foundational stories that can still speak to us today. Each week will come with a suggested (but not required) reading from the book of Exodus. Check out the October edition of The Voice for a full list of the forum topics and speakers.

- September 27: *A Forget Pharoah, Protesting Midwives, and the Boy Who Lived* with Pastor Jonathan
Suggested Reading: Exodus 1 – 2:10

New Bible Study! Come and See!

A Look at the Gospel of Mark

Wednesdays Beginning September 9

There will be two time options to choose from: either noon–1:00 p.m. or 5:45–6:45 p.m., Fireside Room (15 sessions).



or sign up and get more information on the [website under Congregational life/Adults/Come and see](https://www.stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/adults/come-and-see) or use this QR code.

This curriculum is developed and led by St. John's seminary student Julie Zdenek for her Master's Program capstone project.



Life and Growth

Deaths

August 3, 2026
Kathryn Thompson

August 18, 2026
John Walters



Radio Broadcasts

August 2, 2026
Given by friends of St. John's.

August 9, 2026
Given in memory of
Doris Ellingboe on what would have
been her 98th birthday on August 30
by her daughter and son-in-law
Karen and Dale Schuette.

August 16, 2026
Given in memory of Erik Moe
by David and Martha Brown.

August 23, 2026
Given in honor of the marriage of
Kate Erickson and Cameron Gustafson
by Chris and Martha Erickson.

August 30, 2026
Given by Donna Paulsen
in memory of Burt Paulsen
on their 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 16

5:15 p.m.

Children's Programs Orientation

6:15-7:30 p.m.

First Day of Confirmation

First Day of High School Youth Group

Sunday, September 20

WelcomeFest Between Services

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School Open House

Wednesday, September 23

3:45-5:30 p.m.

1st Wednesday of Afterschool Programming

6:15-7:30 p.m.

Confirmation

High School Youth Group

Sunday, September 27

First Day of Sunday School

First Day of Sunday Youth Group



Register Now for 2026-2027

Registration is officially open for St. John's youth programming next year, 2026-2027. Time to get registered!

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.



Wednesdays...

ROCK, Reaching Out to Christ's Kids, begins on Wednesday, Sept. 23.

ROCK, our Wednesday afterschool program, is open to children in grades K-5. Wednesday programs, for all grade levels, consists of an after-school snack, recreation, Catechism, Kid's Club (grades K-2), music opportunities, art, and service projects.



St. John's, through Benjamin Bus, provides an afterschool bus to pick up kids from Greenvale, Bridgewater, and Spring Creek elementary schools and from the Middle school for Prairie Creek students who register for Wednesday programs. Make sure to indicate on the registration form if your child would like to ride!

Catechism for Grades 3-5 is part of our Wednesday afterschool program. Catechism, 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.

Confirmation for Grades 6-9 begins on Wednesday, September 16. Join us in Fellowship Hall (lower level) from 6:15-7:30 p.m. Watch for details in the Youth's weekly email.

High School Youth Group for Grades 9-12 begins on Wednesday, September 16 from 6:15-7:30 p.m. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall and move to the Youth Room. 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 Nick at youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org and we will add your email to our list.

Children's Programs Orientation, Wednesday, September 16, 5:15 p.m.

Parents and children are welcome to come and reconnect to get a glimpse of this year's children's program year. We'll meet in the lower level Commons at 5:15 pm. for a brief overview of the year.

Then join us for the first Wednesday Night meal, 5:15-6:15 p.m. in St. John's Hall. All are welcome!

Confirmation and High School Youth Group Begin September 16

It is everyone's first Wednesday night with Nick!

Our first night of confirmation and youth group will include space for parents/guardians to get a peek at how Wednesday nights will look this year. Youth new and returning along with a parent/guardian will get to know Nick, experience our regular rhythm, and start the year as a community.

Grab supper (the first one!) and then come down to Fellowship Hall at 6:15 p.m., and we'll go from there.

Welcome Fest and Sunday School Open House, September 20

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

- **Sunday school** for children age 3 (by 9/1/26) 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.
- **After the Open House**, enjoy breakfast along with children's activities from 10:00-10:30 a.m.
- **From 10:00-10:30 a.m.** there will be fun activities for children in St. John's Hall and or outside.

On Sunday, September 27, Sunday school begins in the lower level classrooms at 9:45 a.m. for ages 3 (by 9-1-26)-grades 5. 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. Spark follow the Lectionary year which means the lessons in worship is also the lesson children learn in Sunday school.

Children and Youth

Get involved with Children's Programs

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 snack on Wednesdays, 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.

Sunday Mornings

- Sunday school team leaders for PreK-K, 1-2 grades, 3-5 grades (on a rotating basis)

Youth! We'd love to have your help too!

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

Get Involved with Youth Programming

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 to everyone involved.

Wednesday Nights

- Provide adult presence downstairs between dinner and programming
- Help set up for confirmation, 5:45-6:00
- Visit to tell part of your story to youth

Events

- Drivers or Chaperones
- Acquiring and preparing snacks

Interested in helping? Please contact Nick Gilbert at 651-792-5573 or youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

the WOMEN'S page



September Gatherings

Baby Boomers

No September gathering
We'll meet again October 3rd

Lydia & Paul Circle

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

Mary Circle

Friday, Sep. 11th, 1:00pm
Fireside Room

Wellspring

(GenXers & Millennials)

Tuesday, Sep. 1st
5:30-6:30 Bagged "supper"
6:30-8:00pm Faith Discussion
St. John's Fireside Room

Women's Breakfast Group

Saturday, Sep. 19th, 9-10:30am
Fireside Room

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)

Thursdays, Sep. 10th & 24th
10:00am Youth Room

Quilters & Bandage Rollers

Thursdays
9:00am - noon
Fellowship Hall



It's working! School supplies coming in! School children will be filling the backpacks Sep. 16, late afternoon. We need preparers at 2:00 and heavy lifters at 4:00!

Ruth's House: Toilet paper and cleaning products can be dropped off under the WELCA Bulletin Board!

We are aiming for \$60 worth of supplies each month.

COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS

Sep. 3, 7:00pm, St. John's Hall Bring Change To Mind; Mental Health Awareness at Northfield High School

Led by Northfield High School art teacher, Karna Hauck, oversees a program that empowers youth to end discrimination surrounding mental health issues, and to thrive in a stigma free world. Along with student officers, Karna and artist Rocky Casillas will share their stories, their authentic approaches, and their innovative collaborative work.

Oct. 1, 7:00pm St. John's Hall Supporting Immigrant Neighbors Now

Co-founder Rachel Matney will share the story of Neighbors Supporting Neighbors: how Northfield neighbors supported and protected one another during Operation Metro Surge. She will update us on current needs, actions, and how to get involved. NSN received the Northfield Human Rights Commission's organization award for 2026.



Fridays September 18 & 25 5:30 - 7:00pm

Come to Pam G-G's home for beverages and snacks while conversing and crafting ornaments for the Annual WELCA Christmas gathering. All materials provided.

RSVP to Pam Groves-Gaggioli: ladylynneg@gmail.com (562) 237-3781

Meatball Luncheon Sunday, September 27 Noon - 1:30, St. John's Hall

You asked, we listened & WELCA is going to repeat the ever-popular Meatball Meal.

Proceeds will go to scholarships for our youth to attend the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next summer. If you'd like to help provide desserts, cook, clean, etc. please sign up in the CCB or contact Pam Groves-Gaggioli.

\$5.00 per person
\$3.00 for children 5 - 12 years old.
(payable at the door)





Thank you

200 infant kits were delivered to Global Health Ministries, because of your help!



2026 WOMEN OF THE ELCA TRIENNIAL GATHERING - DES MOINES



"... a thousand women singing "How Great Thou Art!" Goosebumps & tears all at the same time - a very moving experience." – Pam G-G

"Inspirational lifting up the voices of the marginalized, connecting, and worshipping with faith-filled women." – Jo Franklin

"Wonderful speakers and breakout sessions, while meet-ing and visiting with women from all over." – Mary Hoff

"Truly inspirational. I plan to attend in 2029 in Louisville, KY!" – Julie Zdenek

"The best bonus is a chance to spend quality time with some pretty awesome women from St. John's! I am grateful!" – Jo Franklin



"Uplifting and thought-provoking Bible studies given by Gather magazine writer Sarah Olson Smith." – Pam G-G



Sheena Foster
WELCA President



Bishop Curry



Shenanigans with Katie Luther



Hymn 315, Evangelical Lutheran Worship

- 1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night; your face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.
- 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beauty to behold where Moses and Elijah stand, your messengers of old.
- 3 Fulfiller of the past and hope of things to be, we hail your body glorified and our redemption see.
- 4 Before we taste of death, we see your kingdom come; we long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.

Inspired by the words of the above hymn, "How good, Lord, to be here!", the Stewardship Board invites you to reflect on the goodness of being here at St John's and here in God's world, living in the light of Christ.

It's a Sunday habit for me to arrive early for worship, so I often see and hear the final preparations for worship. A cantor may sing through the psalm with the organist. Someone else sets out the bread and wine for Communion; an assisting minister checks the mic switch on the lectern. Ushers are ready with bulletins, the preacher places a sermon manuscript on the pulpit.

As more people arrive and find their seats, they greet one another. Their words seem to float above us around the sanctuary. I frequently hear the word good:

"Good to see you!"

"It's good to be here again...we've been away."

"Good to meet you! I'm glad you're here today."

These greetings remind me of Peter's words when he was on the mountain with Jesus at the Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-8). Seeing Jesus' face and clothing shine like the sun, Peter exclaims, "Lord, it is good to be here!" In hymn 315, the hymnwriter speaks of the beauty of God's presence. We sense God's beauty as we sing together and as we hear God's good and gracious Word for us. We gather as Christ's people, keeping ourselves within earshot of that Word. We live in the light of Christ through fellowship, music, art, study, caring for people of all ages, near and far.

This fall, as part of planning your financial commitment to St. John's in 2027, we invite you to identify the things that lead you to say, "How good, Lord, to be here!"-- in this congregation, in our community, and in this world of God's own making.

- Stephanie Frey, Stewardship Board

Pledging for the 2027 church budget begins soon! If you haven't pledged before, consider beginning this year. Sharing your resources with a generous heart is a spiritual practice and gifts of all sizes are welcome and valued.

Stewardship

Wednesday Night Meals Return September 16, 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 2026 Wednesday Night Meal Dates: September 16, 23, 30, October 7, 21, 28, November 4, 11, 18, and December 2, 9, 16.

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!

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 16.

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 24.

Come join our handbell choir! We play in worship once a month. 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 18

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 18, 25 and November 1, 8, 15, 22. If you would like to sign up for the fall session, please contact Angie Gehring at sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org.

News and Updates

Did You Know?

A few facts from Angie Gehring,
Shared Ministry Coordinator...

For things to run smoothly
at St. John's, it takes:

15-23 Volunteers for Sunday Mornings

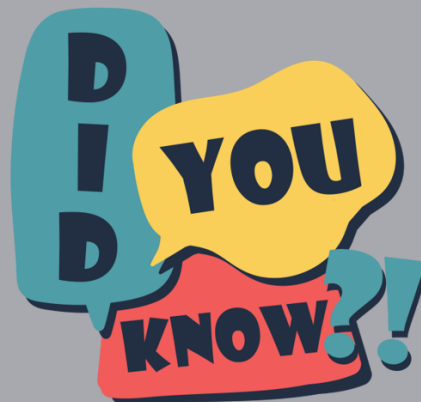
- 4 ushers for each worship service
- 2 people to assist with communion
- 2 greeters for each worship service
- 2-3 coffee hour servers/clean-up helpers
- 5-6 dozen treats for coffee hour

And, during the past 12 months,
St. John's has spent \$6,804.61 on coffee!
Your donations during coffee hour
goes towards helping with that cost.

12-14 Volunteers for each Wednesday Night Community Meal

- 3 cooks (preparation begins at 2:30 p.m.)
- 2 helpers for prep work and setup
- 1-2 food servers
- 2 dishwasher operators
- 2 scrubbers of large pots/pans and other
kitchen clean-up
- 2-3 helpers with dining hall clean-up

A Wednesday Night Meal serves an average
of 125-150 people and costs St. John's
approximately \$350 - \$400 in groceries.
Your free-will meal offering goes
towards helping with that cost.



News and Updates

Meals on Wheels It's Sign-Up Time

St. John's is committed to delivering Meals on Wheels from Monday, September 7, through Saturday, October 3.

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!



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 250 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

Make a Difference, Save a Life.

St. John's has hosted many American Red Cross blood drives in the past few years. 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 14, from 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.



Inspired Pens to Inspired Lens Begins Tuesday, Sept. 15 10:30-noon, St. John's Library

"Photography as a spiritual practice ..combines the active art of image-receiving with the contemplative nature and open-heartedness of prayer. It cultivates..sacred seeing or seeing with the "eyes of the heart" (Ephesians 1:18).

-Christine Valters Paintner, "Eyes of the Heart"

Using Paintner's book with suggestions and reflection questions for discussion and writing, along with our cell phone cameras, this group will meet monthly on the third Tuesdays of September-May. New Members welcome at any meeting.

For questions or to reserve a copy of the book, please contact Chris Engstrom (revchristea@me.com) or Barb Kuhlman (bkuhlman47@gmail.com)

Healing Beyond the Headlines: Building a Movement of Hope for Palestinian Children

Presentation and Q&A with Rami Khader, Founder and Executive Director of Anar for Empowerment & Psychosocial Support

Monday, September 21, 7:00-8:30 p.m., St. John's Hall

This presentation highlights Anar's work with children and caregivers over the past three years through stories, videos, and reflections from Anar's psychosocial accompaniment teams. It explores the challenges facing communities in Gaza and the West Bank, including the impact of conflict, displacement, and settler violence, while also showcasing stories of resilience, healing, and hope.



Through Rami's presentation, participants will hear directly from children, caregivers, and frontline staff, gaining insight into the realities they face and the strength they demonstrate every day. The presentation will also feature key highlights from Anar's work, including the impact of its psychosocial accompaniment model, pilot programs and future directions in Gaza, and Anar's first storybook written by children for children.

More information and optional RSVP at
<https://www.healingtohope.org/healing-beyond-the-headlines-tour>.

This event is sponsored by Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel.

News and Updates

Wellspring Circle "Bagged Suppers" and Discussion Time 1st Tuesdays of the Month (beginning September 1) 5:30 p.m., Fireside Room

Wellspring Circle invites women of generations X and Millennials (birth years ranging from 1965 ish - 1996 ish) to meet in the Fireside Room every first Tuesday of the month for a "bagged supper" social time from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

This is like bringing your own "sack lunch" to eat, except it's at dinnertime, while enjoying time to visit with others. The Fireside Room has a large table for eating and is conveniently located next to the small kitchen.

Then, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. we'll have a faith discussion, usually based on an article. Over the past year, we've engaged in many interesting and meaningful conversations during these gatherings!

We invite you to come as early as you like and stay as long as you'd like.

This group is about making friendships and finding support among our peers while exploring faith and life's many questions, frustrations, and joys!

We hope you can come, and we look forward to seeing you!



News and Updates

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 meet on
Mondays, September 14 & 28
from 6:00-7:30 p.m.
at Flaherty's Northfield Lanes.

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 at
(jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)



Habitat for Humanity Build 2026 Saturday, August 22

It was a beautiful, sunny day as St. John's volunteers worked on the Habitat for Humanity duplex home located at 1114 College St. S. in Northfield. The duplex contains 2 family units with 4 bedrooms in each, and is next door to another Habitat duplex also under construction at 313 Sumner St. E. We are grateful for the opportunity to put our faith into action by helping with this important project!

Thank you to our volunteer builders who devoted an entire morning and early afternoon of their time - Adam Gebler, Pat and Margie O'Loughlin, Vern Koester, Justin and Gracie Koester, and to the lunch providers who fed the crew - Amber Gebler, Gerri Licke, and Angie Gehring.

Pictured in the group photo
(back row, left-right):
Amber Gebler, Adam Gebler,
Pat O'Loughlin, Vern Koester,
Gracie Koester, Justin Koester;
(front row): Angie Gehring,
Gerri Licke
(not pictured - Margie
O'Loughlin)



Fun at VBS This Year!

We had a wonderful week at VBS and Day Camp this summer! Thank you to Bethel Lutheran Church and St. Peter's Lutheran Church for collaborating with St. John's this year.

Thank you to our wonderful VBS volunteers from St. John's: Leah Garlie, Arielle Loy, Marin McBroom, Hadassah and Zemirah Smith, Elizabeth Tracy, and Fran Wood.



St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Bridge Pastor

Katie Fick

pastorkatiefick@gmail.com

Director of Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Director of Ministry with Youth & Families

Nick Gilbert

youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

jubilatechoir@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir Director and
Early Childhood Specialist

arielleloy@gmail.com

David Sims - Director of Rejoice Rings

Office Manager / Finance Manager

Leah H. Garlie

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Faith Community Nurse

Sally Lindell

parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry Coordinator

Angie Gehring

sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Custodian Associate

Arturo Rosas

Facility Manager

Steve Harner

facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Congregation President

Paul Beck

pmbeck@gmail.com



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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



*Join Us for
Fall Worship*

SUNDAYS
8:30 A.M.
10:45 A.M.