



The Voice

OF ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2018



Inside this issue:

- 3 From Our Pastors
- 5 Introducing Our New Staff Members
- 6 3rd Graders and Preschoolers to Receive Bibles
- 9 Fall Clean Up Day
- 11 Northfield CROP Hunger Walk
- 12 The Library at St. John's
- 14 News from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod

Tenth Graders to Affirm their Baptism

St. John's gives thanks to God that the following young people in our congregation have indicated their desire to publicly affirm their baptism by participating in the **Rite of Confirmation** on **Sunday, October 14**, at the **10:45 a.m. service**: (front row) **Clayton Garlie, Peder Lindell, Kaylee Malecha, Stefany Perez, Jaida Gehring**; (back row) **Nicholas Boehning, Carl Welbaum, Kai Legvold, Amelia Becker, Elsa Nystrom**; (not pictured) **Gunnar Benson, Will Knutson, Ethan Little**.

This rite follows a seven-year education and reflection program at St. John's beginning with Catechism (CAT) classes in grades three, four, and five; weekday and Sunday classes in grades six, seven, and eight; and classes, retreats, and a mentor relationship in grade nine. The program concluded with a retreat at Gustavus on Saturday, September 22. Please pray for these young people and their faith and life as they make this commitment and affirmation.

WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sundays
FELLOWSHIP
9:30 a.m. Sundays

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

TV BROADCASTS
NTV Channel 187
7:30 p.m. Mondays
7:00 p.m. Fridays

Join Us for Worship!

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

Worship Services

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

Nursery Hours

8:15 a.m. - Noon Sundays

Learning and Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sundays

All Ages from September - May

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.

Live Broadcasts

8:30-9:30 a.m. Sundays

KYMN Radio 1080 AM / 95.1 FM

kymnradio.net

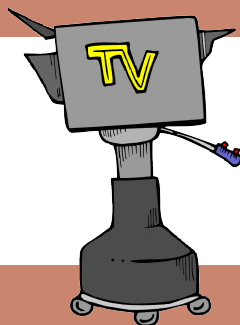


TV Broadcasts

7:30 p.m. Mondays

7:00 p.m. Fridays

NTV Channel 187



Blessing Box at St. John's

“Take something if in need;
leave something when blessed.”



St. John's Sunday school children are supporting a new mission at St. John's this year: "Blessing Box". 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 walking by 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, pacifiers. The box is located in the drive-up on the north side of St. John's.

Dear Fellow Pilgrims,

The Bible often describes people of faith as travelers. The Hebrews, Joseph's descendants in Egypt, were themselves travelers from Canaan, transplanted by famine and then by family. You could say that Joseph's brothers were early beneficiaries of chain immigration. The word Hebrew is not an ethnic designation - it literally just means people who crossed over.

Rescued from slavery in Egypt, the Israelites wander a long time in the wilderness before they come into a land they call their own. The time of relative peace and stability was vanishingly short under David's reign, and then they are conquered or displaced again and again by conquering armies. The Babylonian exile is one of the most formative events of the Bible, the time when God's people learned anew that God is everywhere, not tied to one land.

Jesus himself is referred to as one who has no place to lay his head; the apostle Paul spent years on the road and crossing the sea to spread the Gospel. In the letter to the Hebrews, the early Christians are reminded of this identifier: *"My father was a wandering Aramean..."*

As much as various nations through history have tried to claim the cross as their own national symbol, the confession of the church has been that we are "catholic" – with which a small "c" means "universal", that is, not belonging to any one nationality. That is why our denomination is the Evangelical Lutheran Church *in* America. Not *of* America. As Christians, our faith always transcends our nationality.

Immigration has been both a life-giving reality and a matter of conflict for most of this country's history, and these times are no exception. St. John's has a long history of supporting refugees and migrants, recognizing that most of us are only a generation or two removed from immigration ourselves.

For this reason, St. John's Benevolence Board chose an additional Grace Overflowing project this summer. Your overwhelming generosity allows us to augment an effort already underway in Northfield – namely providing legal advice and aid to low-income immigrants through the Immigration Law Center of Minnesota (ILCM). This group already works in greater Minnesota to advise people of their rights and provide counsel for people who could not otherwise afford it. Our grant will allow ILCM to provide a quarter time staff person working here in Northfield, alongside the Volunteer Legal Network (VLN) which will also be expanding work in Rice County this fall. ILCM and VLN work so that people of all income levels have access to legal advice.

As we celebrate another Reformation Sunday this October, your witness to grace overflowing is evident, and reaching well beyond our church walls.

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Pam

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 this month last year.

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

October 4, 2017
Sherwin Hansen

October 23, 2017
Grace Madson

October 29, 2017
James Scott

Stephen Ministry: Life Transitions Into Fall

Fall is upon us and with it comes a feast for the senses: trees clothed in brilliant shades of red, orange and yellow, pumpkin pie spice lattes, apple cider and doughnuts from the orchard, walking through piles of crunching leaves, and wearing a favorite cozy sweater. It also brings the anticipation and excitement of a new school year, making new friends, and new things to learn.

But Fall also signals the passage of time. The days grow shorter, the weather turns cooler, the trees shed their leaves and branches are soon bare. These changes alone can affect us physically, some even experience something called Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). But these seasonal changes can also remind us of changes in our lives. Empty Nest Syndrome can be felt in many stages. Kindergartners are no longer babes in arms, high schoolers are asserting their independence, and homes become suddenly quiet as the youngest goes off to college. Empty Nest and other losses such as losing health, getting a divorce and even retiring are similar in that they involve challenges to our sense of identity, and a loss of an important role in our lives.

Psychologists encourage us to be open to alternatives to meaningful aspects of our lives in one way or another when we lose them. Possible new roles and interests to explore are all around us. We might even find new ways to connect with others as we look through this publication of the Voice.

"We can be ready for a new phase in life and be sad about things changing. Through it all, what remains steady is the loving presence of God. And when we realize that God's constancy helps us change and adapt to the world, when we expand our understanding of who God is and who we are as God's people, then our fears and anxieties and loneliness need no longer dictate our lives. We can release them to God, trusting that through the tears and worries and doubts, God has always and will always be with us. For us. Loving us and on this journey with us." (Bold Café: Jenna Pulkowski)

If you are experiencing a transition or loss in your life, St. John's has trained Stephen Ministers who are available to walk with you through this difficult time.

Please contact one of the pastors (507-645-4429) or Joan Halvorson (507-645-8445) to learn more.

Introducing Our New Staff Members – Emerson Clay and Arielle Loy

We are pleased to announce to new additions to the St. John’s staff this year.



Emerson Clay will be leading youth programs on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. He is a junior at St. Olaf College, originally from Minneapolis. Emerson has been a fan of making music all his life, and is a music education major with plans to teach orchestra and band some day.

He plays Viola in the St. Olaf orchestra and has been a summer camp counselor at Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp for the past two years. Emerson is look forward to meeting everyone!

Arielle Loy will be directing the Alleluia Choir (Grades K-2). Arielle, her husband Adam, and two sons, Anders and Isaac, are members of St. John’s. She is excited to share her love of music with the children at St. John’s.



Creative Arts Group



The October Creative Arts Group will be a fall-themed paint night on Wednesday, October 17, from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the St. John’s Library! The group will be led by LBSA’s Art Specialist, Bridget Novak.

No experience is necessary - come willing to meet new people and try something new! For questions or to volunteer, please email Bridget (Bridget.Novak@laurabaker.org) or Jenny (Jenny@laurabaker.org) or call and leave a message at 507-645-8866 x.144.

Rejoice Ringers - St. John’s Handbell Choir

Rejoice Ringers is always appreciative of adding members looking to apply their music talents. Regular ringers require the occasional Thursday evening or Sunday morning off. Would you be willing and able to step in? Come join a rehearsal to see what bell ringing at St. John’s is all about. Contact any Rejoice Ringers member or send an email to bells@StJohnsNorthfield.org.



Life and Growth

Radio Broadcasts

September 2, 2018

Given by Brynhild Rowberg in memory of Andrew, Marie, and Leland Rowberg.

September 9, 2018

Given in loving memory of Cora on her birthday & Elmer Schultz and Ken Struss by Marie Struss and Family.

September 16, 2018

Given by Mary White.

September 23, 2018

Given by Anthony Becker and Rebecca Judge.

September 30, 2018

Given in memory of husband, father, friend Fred Gaggioli, Jr. on the first anniversary of his transition to eternal Llife

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 to Remember!

Sunday School Schedule (9:45-10:30 a.m.)

October 7	Sunday School
October 14	Sunday School
October 21	No Sunday School (MEA)
October 28	Sunday School

ROCK - Wednesday Afterschool Programming

October 3	
October 10	
October 17	No Programs (MEA)
October 24	
October 31	No Programs (Halloween)

CATechism - Grades 4 & 5 (4:00-4:15 p.m.)

October 3	
October 10	
October 17	No CAT (MEA)
October 24	

3rd Grade CAT Bible Retreat with Parents

Saturday, October 27
9:00-11:00 a.m., St. John's Hall



Children's Communion Instruction Available

Holy Communion is the meal of all the baptized children of God.

If your baptized child has expressed an interest in receiving Holy Communion please contact a pastor.

3rd Graders and Preschoolers to Receive Bibles

3rd graders and parents meet in St. John's Hall on **Saturday, October 27, from 9:00–11:00 a.m.** for a Retreat on the Word - An Introduction to the Bible.

This class will be a primer on the Bible for students who will receive their Bibles at the 10:45 a.m. service on Sunday, October 28. Please call Pastor Pam or Julie Brehmer if your child is unable to attend either day.

4th graders who received Catechisms this year:

Anna Bash, Joshua Faust, Hunter Heath-Williams, Tobias Hebzynski, Genevieve Knutson, Dyson McBroom, Will McLaughlin, Isabelle Paulson, Selius Price, Noah Tracy, John Tracy, Braden Van Sickle

Please contact Julie Brehmer at 507-645-4429 or children@StJohnsNorthfield.org if your child would like to ride the St. John's afterschool bus on Wednesdays to CAT. The bus picks up at Sibley, Bridgewater, Greenvale, and at the Middle School for PCCS kids.

4th and 5th Grade CAT in October

4th and 5th grade Catechism continues in October. The 4th grade class meets in Room 20 (lower level) and 5th grade in the Undercroft (lower level) from 4:00 – 4:45 p.m. (snack is included).

CAT meets Oct. 3, 10, 24.

Please contact Julie Brehmer if your child would like to ride the St. John's afterschool bus on Wednesdays to CAT.

The bus picks up at Sibley, Bridgewater, Greenvale and at the Middle School for PCCS kids.

Toddler Time

Each month, children who are 2 years old (by 9/1/18) and our pre-school Sunday school class, along with their parents, are invited to attend Toddler Time.

Jenny Nystrom leads the children in song, games, crafts and story time. Toddler Time meets at 9:50 a.m. in Room 14 (lower level).



Here is the schedule for the year:
Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 13, Feb. 10,
March 10, April 14, and May 5.

Please feel free to give Julie Brehmer a call if you have questions, 507-645-4429.

Middle School Youth Group

All Middle School Youth (6th-8th grade) are invited to meet in the youth room at 9:45am on Sundays for treats, highs and lows, and interactive faith discussion! These gatherings will be lead by St. Olaf College student, Emerson Clay (our interim youth support staff), and other adults. This month's topics are:

- October 7 - *Nooma* – “Rain”: Storms in the Bible and the Storms in Life
- October 14 - *Nooma* – “Trees”: Why are we here?
- October 21 - *No Youth Group, MEA BREAK*
- October 28 - *Re:Form* – Why are there so many different Christian churches?

High School Youth Group

All High School Youth are invited to attend High School Youth Group on Wednesday nights in the Youth Room, from 6:15pm-7:30pm. 9th grade youth are expected to attend, as this is part of Confirmation for them. These gatherings will be lead by St. Olaf College student, Emerson Clay (our interim youth support staff), and other adults. This month's topics are:

- October 3 – *Can I Be a Christian and Believe in Evolution?*
- October 10 – Ask a Pastor Night
- October 17 – *No Youth Group, MEA BREAK*
- October 24 – Free Night (Games, get-to-know-you activities, etc.)

Get involved with Children's and Youth Ministry at St. John's!

For children and youth to feel connected to their church, it's important for them to build relationships with at least 5 adults, other than their parents.



Please consider volunteering with programming this fall on a Sunday Morning or Wednesday afternoon/evening. We need volunteers to teach and/or help with a variety of activities. Please

talk with [Julie Brehmer](#) or [Angie Gehring](#) at 507-645-4429 or check out the volunteer opportunities on our website at www.StJohnsNorthfield.org.

P.S.: High School students - talk with Julie how you can connect with our younger kids on Sundays and Wednesdays!

Children and Youth

Important Dates for Youth to Remember!

Middle School Youth Group Schedule Sundays, 9:45-10:30 a.m.

October 7
October 14
October 21 No Youth Group (MEA)
October 28

Confirmation (Grades 6-8) Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

October 3
October 10
October 17 No Confirmation (MEA)
October 24
October 31 No Confirmation (Halloween)

High School Youth Group Wednesdays, 6:15-7:30 p.m.

October 3
October 10
October 17 No Youth Group (MEA)
October 24
October 31 No Youth Group (Halloween)

News and Updates

Religion & Politics

**Thursday, October 4,
7:00 p.m., St. John's Hall**



Our guest speaker is Dan Hofrenning, a St. Olaf professor of Political Science, and holds the 2017-2018 Martin E. Marty Chair for Religion & the Academy.

Hofrenning's teaching focuses on American politics including campaigns and elections, environmental politics, and the intersection of religion and politics.

Expect to be challenged concerning our words, actions and boldness as Christians in 2018's volatile political arena.

This event is sponsored by St. John's Women as part of this year's "Courageous Conversations" theme.



Refreshments served.

Open to the public...all are welcome!

Beginnings: A St. John's Forum Speaker Series Continues

October 7 – Beginnings: Creating Christian Liturgical Art with Judy Swanson, Scott Swanson, and Bruce Benson

For many years, Judy Swanson designed and created the art and set for the St. Olaf Christmas Fest, in collaboration with Pastor Bruce Benson (St. Olaf's college pastor at the time) and her son, Scott Swanson. Join us as we enjoy pieces of Judy's art collection and hear from these three about how they began the creative process of envisioning a new Christmas Fest each year.

October 14 – Beginnings: Baptism and the Start of the Christian Life

On this Sunday, when a number of our youth will be affirming their baptisms through the Rite of Confirmation, we will consider the sacrament of baptism and the rich meaning it has throughout the Christian life. Pastor Pam attended a conference on baptism this past spring and will lead us in learning again, or perhaps for the first time, about this central event in the life of a Christian.

Manna & Mercy Video Discussion Group Continues

On **Sundays, October 7, and October 14, from 9:45-10:30 a.m.**, you are invited to join this discussion group in the Fireside Room, where a video will be shared followed by small group discussion. South African pastor and justice activist Alan Storey has created a video series that ask and invite questions of faith on how to read scripture, think about a particular Bible story, or how to think about God. The beauty of this time is that each video stands on its own and there is no experience necessary for each week – just show up on the Sundays that you can make it. You do not need to have attended the previous week.

October 7 – Context Gives Meaning: We need to honor the original context in which the Biblical account is written in order to properly understand the meaning. To learn the context of a passage we must ask: Who is the author? Who is the audience? What is the date and social setting? And what language is being used?

October 14 – By the Rivers of Babylon: Look at Psalm 137 to find the language context for the Genesis 1 creation story. That story tells those who have lost everything that God can create beauty out of nothing. "You are born in the image of that creative God" – a message needed for those in captivity in Babylon.

St. John's Health Fair Sunday, October 21, Between Services in St. John's Hall

The Health Fair will feature information on the following items:

- Northfield Hospital Services and Programs
- Take it to the Box – medication disposal information
- Health Finders
- Blood pressure checks
- Advanced funeral planning
- AED Training
- Healthy Community Initiative
- Hospice/Home Health Care
- Advance Care Planning
- Mental Health/Counseling
- Stephen Ministers
- Northfield Home Care and Hospice



October 28 – Reformation (Root) Beer Pub and Bible Trivia!

As we celebrate the 501st anniversary of the Reformation, all adults and high school youth are invited to join us in St. John's Hall for some Reformation root beer and good ol' Bible trivia. We will join teams and have a friendly competition, with door prizes too!

Clean Up Day



St. John's is a very active facility in a very active community. It takes a lot to proper care for a facility that is as busy as this one. Sometimes, we need help doing this. So, we have decided to have a fall clean up day on the exterior of the property.

This will take place on Saturday, October 13 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. (rain date will be October 20).

We will be sweeping debris from the curbs in the parking lot, sweeping sidewalks and steps to the entry ways, pulling weeds and raking leaves as needed. All who are able are encouraged to join us. Even if all you can spare is an hour, every little bit makes a large difference. Don't be shy! Come out and enjoy fellowship and the satisfaction of a job well done!

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, October 3
Lasagna

Wednesday, October 10
Chicken Alfredo

Wednesday, October 17
Meatloaf

Wednesday, October 24
Chicken Fajita Boats

October 31
No Meal - Halloween





October Gatherings

Baby Boomers
Saturday, Oct, 4:30p
Julie Zdenek's home
2121 Ontario Ln.

Breakfast Women's Group
Saturday, Oct. 13, 8:30a
St. John's Fireside Rm

Elizabeth Circle
Thu. Oct. 11, 1:30p
Marie Benson's home
1509 Water's Edge Cir.

Lydia Circle
Wed. Oct. 10, 9:00a
St. John's Hall

Mary Circle
Friday, Oct. 12, 1:00p
Sharon Flatens home
301 7th St. West
Village on the Cannon

Ruth Circle
Thursday, Oct. 11, 9:30a
Parkview West Fireside Rm

Knitters (Prayer Shawls)
Thu. Oct. 11 & 25
10:00a Fireside Room

Knitters (World Vision)
Tue. Oct. 9 & 23 10:00a
Kathy Vang 645-4849

Quilters
Mon. Oct. 15 & Thu. Oct. 18
9:00a - noon, Fellowship Hall



COURAGEOUS

CONVERSATIONS

SAVE THE DATES:

October 4, 7:00p - Religion and Politics with St. Olaf professor of Political Science and the Martin E. Marty Chair for Religion and the Academy.

October 17, 24, & 31, 6:00p - Book study: Waking Up White

November 1, 7:00p - Social Justice and Lutherans with St. Olaf professor of Religion and Luther scholar, Dr. Anthony Bateza.

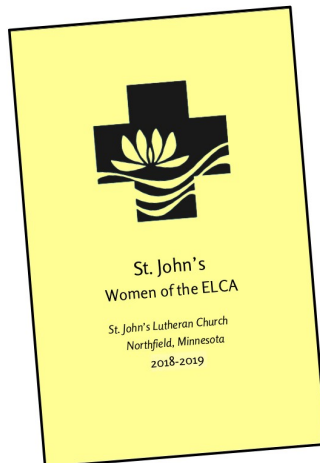
November 7, 14, 6:00p - Book Study: Waking Up White

All meetings are open to the public. Bring your friends.

New to St. John's? Looking for connections?

Check out any of our monthly groups. We have everything from discussions, to Bible Studies, to wine and cheese, to crafting. All contact information can be found on the St. John's Women bulletin board, or in the new booklet (yellow), or on the church website.

Or email women.stjohns500@gmail.com.



Be sure to pick up your 2018-2019 St. John's Women booklet.

And check out our brochure, as well.

Both can be found at the St. John's Women bulletin board in the Commons.



Visit our web page:

<https://stjohnsnorthfield.org/congregational-life/women/>



like us on Facebook: "Women of St. Johns"
friend us @ Kvinner St. Johns
(Kvinner: Norwegian for "Women" 🙄)

Correspondence: women.stjohns500@gmail.com
Publicity: Julie Zdenek

St. John's
Women
of the **ELCA**

Northfield CROP Hunger Walk 2018 - A Community Walk Along the New East River Trail

Sunday, October 28

Registration - 12:30 p.m., Walk - 1:00 p.m.



Northfield CROP Hunger Walk is the only community-wide event to raise awareness for global poverty and hunger issues. This annual event is organized by local congregations with 75% of funds raised going to Church World Service/CROP's mission to empower people

to meet their own needs. CWS/CROP partners with the international development and relief agencies of 37 Christian denominations (including our ELCA) who have built grassroots relationships in local communities around the globe that help ensure that resources are wisely stewarded for greatest impact. The remaining 25% of proceeds go to fight hunger right in Northfield through our Community Action Center. Donate and/or register to walk online at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/northfieldmn/stjohns> or just do so at the Walk.



Habitat for Humanity - October 4 is St. John's Build Day

Volunteers (18 yrs old +) needed to:

- Help with building the House in Faribault (7:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
- Help provide and deliver a meal to the build site by 11:15 a.m., eat with the crew, and cleanup



Please contact Christy Hall-Holt if you are interested in serving with Habitat (connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org).

Shared Ministry

Thank You Sunday School Volunteers!

Sunday School is off to a great start thanks to the dedicated teachers and volunteers at St. John's.

Our teachers:

Preschool

*Barbie Strese
Hannah Williams
Cora McBroom*

Kindergarten

*Erin Gunn
Siri Lindell
Lynette Schroeter*

First Grade

*Sue Brockman
Mia Becker
Dena King
Kylie Faust*

Second Grade

*Melissa Pellinen
Stephanie Almen
Jennifer Paulson*

Third & Fourth Grades

*Amy McBroom
Trish Goodrich
Elsa Hoff*

Fifth Grade

*Kristy Harms
Emily Westerback*

Toddler Time

Jenny Nystrom

Resource Room

Brian Evenson

News and Updates



Pub Theology Moves to Fall Schedule

What is Pub Theology?
It is conversation led by
Pastor Pam and/or Pastor Jonathan
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 on the following Mondays
from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at Froggy Bottoms.

October 1

October 15

November 5

November 19

December 3

Feel free to invite family and friends,
neighbors, and strangers.

Each week, the topic will be different and will
be published ahead of time on Facebook,
in the News Blast, and an email list.

Contact Pastor Jonathan
(jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org)
to add your name to the email list.

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

The end of October brings two special days in the church calendar, Reformation on October 31 and All Saints Day on November 1. Our library has many books about or by Martin Luther and some about other "saints" that Lutherans can claim.

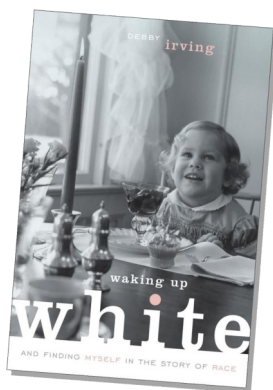
- **Martin Luther**, by Paul Meir with large illustrations by Greg Copeland, making vivid memorable events in Luther's life.
- **Martin Luther**, by May McNeer and Lynd Ward, includes childhood and young adult years as story.
- **Luther's Life** by Ingeborg Stolee, a revision based on "Luther's Life" by O. Nilsen. Includes the 95 Theses and The Augsburg Confession as appendices.
- **Luther - - The Reformer**, The story of the man and his career, by James M. Kettelson. "Luther, a human being who lived in a particular place and at a particular time - - - yet "had a public career that transcended its own time."
- **Martin Luther**, a readable history by Harry Emerson Fosdick, a pastor in early 20th century who was an early pioneer in religious broadcasting.
- **Luther - - A Life**, by John M. Todd, a more thorough treatment of the man, his time, theology, his life, his letters.
- **Bach's Big Adventure**, a book for children about a story Bach claimed was true for him as a child.
- **Pulpit Under the Sky**, by Joseph M. Shaw (a member of St. John's who has written several St. Olaf histories) is the story of Hans Nielsen Hauge (1771-1824). He was born in Norway, where he revitalized religious life by stressing living out one's faith in daily life. Many Norwegian immigrants to our country were influenced by him.

To gain a sense of Lutheranism in the last century in our country:

- **The Story of The American Lutheran Church** by Alvin N. Rogness, written in 1980 about a church that had its birth in 1960, and ended with the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in 1988.
- **The Story of America's Religions**, by Hartzell Spence who says, "To a remarkable degree, the United States is the product of religious impact. In a very real sense, our social patterns are the result of religious beliefs and customs translated into democratic action." Written as a series of articles in Look magazine in the late '50s, it is a stark comparison to our time in 2018.

For our future as a library, we encourage any and all who are interested to join us as sometime volunteers on Sunday morning, or 'taking care of books,' or giving money for the purchase of new books, or for your suggestions on those. Contact Genevieve Quarberg for more information (davidquarberg@hotmail.com).

"Waking Up White" Book Study
Wednesdays, October 17-November 14
6:00-7:00 p.m., Fireside Room



As part of our *Creative Conversations* theme we are hosting a book study, Debby Irving's "Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race." Books are available at Content Book Store for 10% off if you mention St. John's.

Sign up by sending an email to dawn.tommerdahl@gmail.com, or jo_franklin50@yahoo.com, or sign up in the Commons between services on October 7 or 14.

Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel presents "Palestinians: Past, Present and Future."



The conference will be held from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 3, at St. John's.

Addressing the past through discussing the Nakba, or catastrophe, is Dr. Ibtisam Al Atiyat. Al Atiyat is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at St. Olaf Col-

lege in Northfield. She is also a refugee of the 1948 Nakba, when Zionist forces expelled her mother from her native village in Palestine and into Jordan, where Al Atiyat was born and raised.

Jonathan Kuttab, a human rights lawyer in Israel-Palestine, will address the present Palestinian reality of apartheid. Kuttab will examine the legal definition of apartheid under international law and how it impacts Palestinians in the West Bank. Kuttab's family fled Palestine after the Six Day War in 1967.

Dalit Baum, director of the Economic Activism Program of the American Friends Service Committee, will speak to the future for Palestinians through the lens of BDS -- boycott, divestment and sanction. Baum is an Israeli Jew and IDF reservist who has publicly refused to be recalled for service.

Registration, which includes lunch, is \$40; \$10 for students. Scholarships are available. Tickets are available at <https://www.PalestinePastPresentandFuture.brownpapertickets.com>. For more information, write to info@njpmn.org.

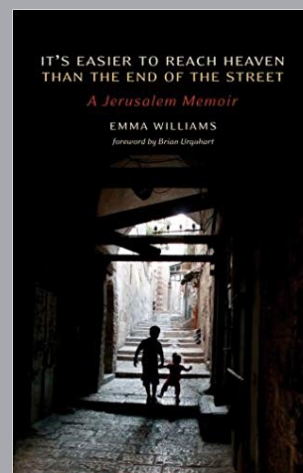
News and Updates

Book Group Reads Account of Doctor and Mother in Tumultuous Palestine/Israel

A first-hand account of life by a doctor and mother during the Second Intifada ("uprising") is the next book for the Northfielders for Justice in Palestine/Israel book study group. "It's Easier to Reach Heaven than the End of the Street: A Jerusalem Memoir," by Dr. Emma Williams, is her story of living in Jerusalem during turmoil that arose between Israelis and Palestinians in the summer of 2000.

The group will hold its first meeting on this book at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 2, in the Fireside Room. The group will meet the first Tuesday of every other month. Future meetings are scheduled for Dec. 4, and Feb. 5, March 5, and April 2, 2019.

No prior knowledge of the subject or of the broader issues surrounding Palestine/Israel is necessary, nor is attendance at previous sessions. Anyone willing to learn, listen and discuss the issue is welcome, including those who have not read the book. Attendance is free but participants are responsible for providing their own book if desired. Contact Darlene Hand at 507-645-5078 for information about the book group.





THE BRIDGE

A Monthly Resource from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod



AN INTERVIEW WITH REV. DEBORAH LYANGA

My name is Deborah Lyanga. I was ordained as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania in 2005. I hold a master's degree in Missiology from Tumaini University Makumira. I have worked as a parish pastor as well as the Woman General Secretary in the Central Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. I am married to Rev. Emmanuel Kaghondi, and we are blessed with two boys, Mercy and Abner.

YOU HAVE BEEN VERY INVOLVED IN PREACHING AND LEADING WORKSHOPS WHILE YOU'VE BEEN HERE IN MINNESOTA. WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST LIFE-GIVING ABOUT THESE EXPERIENCES?

First of all, I am so happy to be among the members of this synod. In every parish that I visited, I have been so welcomed and I feel at home. Pastors and congregants are so kind, I experience love and care. All of the people I visit are eager to learn things. I feel happy and honored to work among brothers and sisters in the synod. Please contact me if you're interested in a visit to your congregation: debo7944@gmail.com.

THE GLOBAL MISSION COMPANION SYNODS TABLE FOCUSES A LOT ON THE ACCOMPANIMENT MODEL. WHAT DOES ACCOMPANIMENT MEAN TO YOU?

I relate the accompaniment model with a couple who was from different families, situations, backgrounds, etc. but decided to live together as husband and wife or partners. What brings them together is the model of accompaniment. They have their differences but they are walking together, sharing their ideas, lifelong histories, and experiences which gives them a way forward to the present and to the future situation. Accompaniment for me is an act of sharing the stories and listening and growing together in strength, understanding and trust.

WHAT DO YOU MOST HOPE PEOPLE IN THE SOUTHEASTERN MN SYNOD WOULD COME TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE IN THE CENTRAL DIOCESE OF TANZANIA?

One of the things that I would like the people of Southeastern Minnesota Synod to experience in Tanzania is the community life. The basis for the 'Ubuntu African Philosophy' is a full recognition of our interdependence. It is the idea that we depend on each other...that we cannot be what we are without other people. So Ubuntu – or humanness - is to know, to understand and to value one another despite of our differences.

WHEN DID YOU BEGIN TO SENSE A CALL FROM GOD TO BECOME A CHURCH LEADER?

Actually my call was from outside, so it was very difficult for me to understand if it was God's choice or my parent's choice. I did not want to be a pastor and I had no peace about it, but I got a little light of my call after four months of joining the theological college. For some reason, I found peace in my heart on becoming a pastor. Every day now I continue to understand and believe in God's purpose in my call through people I serve.



Bread for the World Sunday is October 21

A Lectionary Study (excerpt) on Mark 10:35-45 by Rev. Amy Reumann, Director of Advocacy for the ELCA and a member of BFW Board of Directors:

The shortest sermon I know is only ten words. It was preached by my grandfather to a small country congregation on the story of the Good Samaritan. He read the account of an outsider who demonstrates true neighbor love by stopping on the road to care for a bleeding and badly injured man. This Samaritan's compassion stands in stark contrast to religious types who passed by without offering aid. After reading the text, my grandfather mounted the pulpit and said, "We all know what this means. Just go do it." Then he sat down, sermon over.



Samaritan. He read the account of an outsider who demonstrates true neighbor love by stopping on the road to care for a bleeding and badly injured man. This Samaritan's compassion stands in stark contrast to religious types who passed by without offering aid. After reading the text, my grandfather mounted the pulpit and said, "We all know what this means. Just go do it." Then he sat down, sermon over.

The simplicity of "just go do it" reminds us that sometimes all the words we use to describe and explain Jesus may get in the way of his core message. We really do know what he means. Love God by serving your neighbor.

The simplicity of "just go do it" reminds us that sometimes all the words we use to describe and explain Jesus may get in the way of his core message. We really do know what he means. Love God by serving your neighbor.

It appears to be a hard lesson for James and John to learn. When the brothers sidle up to Jesus to put in a word for themselves as "Disciples of the Year," Jesus tells them they don't know what they are talking about. The brothers' request to sit in places of honor flies in the face of everything Jesus has been modeling and teaching about servant leadership.

In Jesus' kingdom, greatness is achieved by stopping to attend to the wounds of those around you and by addressing the hunger and hurts of our world. And when faith moves into action alongside those who are hungry or hurting, then we already are by Jesus' side.

Ending hunger requires charity and justice - binding the wounds of those who are hurt but also addressing those with power to lord it over others. The role of those who govern is to make sure the needs of all are met for the sake of the common good. Sometimes those who govern need a firm reminder of this responsibility. And if we do not remind them, then who will?

We can't afford the luxury of passing by or pretending a policy that would increase hunger has nothing to do with you or me. When bad policies will deepen poverty or make it harder to feed a family, we need to "just go do it" - by serving, yes, but also by speaking up and speaking out. When we do, we may find ourselves a bit closer to Jesus and his glory.

Bread for the World Sunday is an opportunity to join others in praying for those who struggle with hunger - and to rededicate ourselves to efforts that create hope and opportunity for those in need. More information and directions for action at bread.org.

St. John's Staff

Senior Pastor

Pam Fickenscher

pfickenscher@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Associate Pastor

Jonathan Davis

jdavis@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Children's Ministry

Julie Brehmer

children@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Facility Manager

Tim Byers

facility@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Financial Manager

Bernie Renander

finance@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Ministry

Nathan Proctor

music@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Music Staff

Carol Benson - Jubilate Choir

carolbenson@gmail.com

Arielle Loy - Alleluia Choir

arielleloy@gmail.com

Zack Pelletier - Rejoice Ringers

rejoiceringers@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Office Manager

Leah H. Garlie

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Parish Nurse

Melissa Berthelsen

parishnurse@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Shared Ministry

Christy Hall-Holt

connect@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Mary Kelvie

sharedministry@StJohnsNorthfield.org

Youth Support Staff

Emerson Clay

Angie Gehring

youth@StJohnsNorthfield.org



St. John's
ELCA NORTHFIELD · MN

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

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

PHONE

507-645-4429

EMAIL

office@StJohnsNorthfield.org

WEBSITE

www.StJohnsNorthfield.org

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Bring Back the Hearing Devices!

FACTS:

- There are a significant number of St. John's members who live with hearing loss.
- St. John's provides special hearing devices into which audio from the Sanctuary sound system (or St. John's Hall are broadcast), and can be heard via earphone.
- There are several St. John's hearing devices missing at this time.
- Only one device remains that has the ability to hear in St. John's Hall.
- On any given Sunday, as few as two devices are working properly.



SOLUTIONS:

- **EVERY DAY IS AMNESTY DAY!!** If you inadvertently brought home a St. John's hearing device, you may return it any time. No questions asked!
- St. John's Women, in conjunction with this year's theme of *Courageous Conversations* will provide an avenue to purchase new hearing devices, repair old ones and purchase new ear plugs and batteries during the 2018-2019 school year. One new hearing device costs about \$120 (tax & shipping).

If you feel so inclined, please consider donating to this effort. For \$120 you can provide a new device. Smaller amounts will purchase new ear phones and batteries. Write a check to WELCA. Write "Hearing Device" on the memo line. Drop it in the offering plate, hand it to an usher, or bring it to the church office.